

AMERICAN HUMANE

FIRST TO SERVE®

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Friends,

As the dog days of summer are gone, we are reminded that our favorite season is upon us – the season to celebrate heroes on both ends of the leash! The 13th Annual American Humane Hero Dog Awards will be held on November 10 where America's Top Dog will be honored and unconditional love will be celebrated. This annual event holds a special place in my heart, as it recognizes the exceptional achievements of our canine companions – ordinary dogs who do extraordinary things. This year's event will be our best year ever with amazing dogs and their stories of courage, heroism, and love. The festivities will be broadcasted nationally on A&E and fyi, during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Our very own "Oscars® for Canines" is the ultimate way to celebrate man's best friend. I invite you to join us for the event, or tune in to our national television special!



And while summer is now over, storm season threatens our communities, our families and our precious animals. The summer months were marked by record-breaking temperatures and natural disasters across the globe including the heartbreaking devastation in Hawaii and Guam. These are indeed unprecedented times, and I am always immensely proud of the heroic endeavors undertaken by our rescue teams who deploy in times of disaster. In Guam, following Typhoon Mawar, our dedicated team of first responders exhibited unwavering commitment to safeguarding the voiceless and vulnerable. Amidst the chaos, our team fearlessly executed animal rescues, reunited families with their beloved pets, and addressed animal control concerns including the plight of stray dogs. We also embarked on long-term initiatives to conserve Guam's endangered ko'ko' bird, an indigenous species on the brink of extinction. To remind us all of the threats of natural disasters, our Chief Veterinary Officer and Animal Ethicist, Dr. Tom Edling, provided valuable insights to major media outlets and networks, guiding pet owners on caring for their animals during the widespread heat advisories that impacted nearly every state in the U.S.

In exciting news, Global Humane, the international brand of American Humane, which is the world's largest animal welfare certifier, announced the certification of both SeaWorld Abu Dhabi and Yas SeaWorld Research and Rescue. This achievement represents the first Global Humane certification in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, highlighting the exceptional level of animal care offered at the marine life theme park and its adjacent rescue facility.

Lastly, I want to introduce Dr. Nelva Bryant, a new member of the American Humane Board of Directors. Dr. Bryant exemplifies unwavering dedication and passion within the realm of veterinary care, leaving a positive impact on both animals and humans. As she continues her mission to enhance pet travel and advocate for animal welfare, her invaluable contributions to the industry remain unparalleled.

I hope you enjoy this informative newsletter, filled with stories of heroism, optimism, and most importantly unconditional love. Your steadfast support of American Humane is genuinely appreciated, as it enables us to continue to promote the welfare and safety of animals and strengthen the bond between people, animals, and the world we share.

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin A. Ganzert".

Robin Ganzert, Ph.D.
President and CEO



GLOBAL HUMANE ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST CERTIFICATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

On May 16, 2023, a historic milestone was achieved in the realm of animal welfare as Global Humane, the international brand of American Humane, joined with SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment and Miral in Washington, D.C. to announce the certification of SeaWorld Abu Dhabi and Yas SeaWorld Research & Rescue. This event marked the first-ever Global Humane certification in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, underscoring the exceptional standard of animal care provided at these marine life theme park and rescue facilities. This certification highlights a significant step toward promoting animal welfare and conservation efforts on a global scale.

Global Humane operates under the umbrella of American Humane, which is recognized as the world's largest certifier of animal welfare. With a robust reputation for setting rigorous certification standards, American Humane works to help ensure that animals receive the utmost care and protection in various settings, including zoos, aquariums, and conservation parks. The certification program focuses on the safety and well-being of the animals through high standards of healthcare, treatment and optimal living conditions.

SeaWorld Abu Dhabi and Yas SeaWorld Research & Rescue earned their Global Humane certification after undergoing a meticulous third-party assessment that



spanned years of preparation. This comprehensive evaluation, guided by the latest scientific knowledge, received input from esteemed veterinarians, animal welfare experts, zoologists, and ethicists with extensive experience in safeguarding animal well-being.

This independent validation process establishes a higher benchmark for animal care, boosting visitors' confidence in the institution's dedication to animal welfare. The evaluation entails an in-depth review of various factors, including animal housing, nutrition, lighting, environmental enrichment, staff training, and more, tailored to each species' specific needs.

Dr. Robin Ganzert, President and CEO of American Humane, expressed her enthusiasm for SeaWorld Abu Dhabi's Global Humane Certification, emphasizing its potential to inspire the next generation of conservationists. SeaWorld's venture into Abu Dhabi marks the organization's first location abroad, showcasing the global reach of the animal welfare movement.

Dr. Chris Dold, Chief Zoological Officer of SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment, echoed Dr. Ganzert's sentiments, emphasizing the importance of maintaining exceptional standards of animal care. This certification further solidifies SeaWorld's commitment to the welfare of marine life, extending their mission to the United Arab

Emirates and supporting the conservation of the vital Arabian Gulf ecosystem.

Julien Kauffman, CEO of Miral Experiences, highlighted the significance of the Global Humane certification for SeaWorld Abu Dhabi and Yas SeaWorld Research & Rescue. This achievement aligns with Miral's dedication to offering world-class attractions that educate and engage guests while showcasing the organization's commitment to animal welfare. By providing an immersive and educational experience, SeaWorld Abu Dhabi aims to inspire guests to become lifelong advocates for marine life and environmental conservation.

The certification of SeaWorld Abu Dhabi and Yas SeaWorld Research & Rescue by Global Humane is a monumental achievement in the field of animal welfare. This historic event sets a new standard for animal care and protection in the MENA region, affirming the commitment of SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment, Miral, and American Humane to the well-being of marine life and the preservation of vital ecosystems. With this certification, SeaWorld Abu Dhabi and Yas SeaWorld Research & Rescue are poised to make a lasting impact on both local and global efforts to promote animal welfare and conservation. As these institutions continue to lead by example, they inspire a brighter future for both marine animals and the environment.



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS FOR YOUR PETS

When disaster strikes, it is crucial that you and your family stay safe – and that includes your pets. By having a plan and practicing it, you can be prepared to act at a moment's notice should a major storm come your way.

BEFORE THE STORM

- Microchip pets or put a tag on their collar with your name, address and cell phone number so they may be returned quickly in case you are separated from your pets. Be sure that any microchip information is up to date.
- Tie down or anchor outside objects that might fly about and injure someone.
- Have a plan already established on which family member is responsible for your pet's needs (who will grab the pet, the food, medications, water, disaster preparedness kit, carrier, etc.).
- Know a safe place where your pets can go if you need to evacuate or seek shelter. Evacuation destinations may include a friend or family member's home, going to a pet-friendly hotel, or temporarily housing your pet(s) at a boarding facility. Plan multiple routes to your safe destination. Review your evacuation plan and double-check emergency supplies – including, medications, bowls, water, and food.
- Evacuate your family and pets as early as you can and remember to take your disaster preparedness kit for your pets (i.e. First Aid kit, leashes, and pets' carrying cases, bowls, sanitation materials, medications, chew toy, minimum 3 days, ideally 7-10 days of food, meds, water, your veterinarian's contact information, and a photo of your pet).
- Bring outdoor animals inside with a carrier large enough for them to turn around and lie down comfortably.



- Have a carrier ready. Portable carriers should be ready to go at a moment's notice. Practice loading cats and dogs into pet carriers before you have to.
- If your family must evacuate, **take your pets with you.**

DURING THE STORM...IF YOU CANNOT EVACUATE

- Choose a safe room for riding out the storm – an interior room without windows – and take your entire family there, including your pets.
- Stay with pets. If crated, they depend on you for food and water. Don't leave pets in vehicles.
- Keep your emergency kit in that room with you (food, water, medications, litter, meds, etc).
- Know your pet's hiding places. That's where they may run, so make sure to keep them with you.
- Secure exits and cat doors so pets can't escape into the storm.
- Do not tranquilize your pets. They'll need their survival instincts, should the storm require that.

AFTER THE STORM

- Make sure the storm has fully passed before going outside and assess damages before allowing children or animals out.
- Keep dogs on a leash, cats in a carrier, and children close at hand. Displaced objects, downed power lines, and fallen trees can disorient or injure pets, and sharp debris could harm them as well.
- Give pets time to become re-oriented. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and cause a pet to become confused or lost. Familiar bedding will many times help alleviate some of the stress related to being displaced.
- Keep animals away from sitting water that may be contaminated.
- Uncertainty and change in the environment affect animals, too, presenting new stresses and dangers. Your pet's behavior may change after a crisis, becoming more aggressive or self-protective. Be sensitive to these changes and keep more room between them, other animals, children, or strangers. Animals need comforting, too. Comfort your pet with kind words and lots of pats or hugs. If possible, provide a safe and quiet environment, even if it is not their own home.

PUPS4PATRIOTS SUCCESS STORY: *First Responder Christina & Service Dog Freja*

The transition from military service to civilian life can be a challenging battle for many veterans. To support these brave individuals, the American Humane's Pups4Patriots™ program plays a pivotal role.

This impactful program seeks out dogs in need of forever homes and transforms them into lifesaving service dogs for veterans dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress or Traumatic Brain Injury. To ensure the best standards of training and effectiveness, all dogs undergo training based on American Humane's newly developed service dog standards. These standards were carefully crafted by a Scientific Advisory Committee, comprising scientists, veteran experts, mental health professionals, animal welfare specialists, veterinarians, dog trainers, and other advocates.

American Humane provides these exceptionally trained service dogs to veterans free of charge, recognizing the importance of this invaluable support. The program goes beyond just matching a dog to a veteran; it focuses on cultivating a strong bond between the two through intensive hands-on training sessions. This connection between the veteran and their new service dog is vital for the program's success.

The latest success story of the Pups4Patriots program features First Responder Christina and her service dog, Freja. Christina has a remarkable background serving as a First Responder, Wildland Firefighter, and EMT. Residing in Idaho, she was thoughtfully paired with Freja, a Standard Poodle.

Through the Pups4Patriots program, American Humane continues to make a significant impact on the lives of veterans and their service dogs, providing them with unwavering support and a brighter future as they navigate their post-service lives.

NOTE FROM CHRISTINA:

My life has greatly improved by having Freja as my service dog. During the last few years with the pandemic, and all the unknown, I decided to pursue a partnership with a service dog. It has been both challenging and one of the best things I have ever done. Having Freja has helped me immensely.

Congratulations to recent Pups4Patriots graduate, and our first First Responder, Christina and her service dog, Freja!



OUR MOST RECENT OP-EDS:

*from The Palm Beach Post,
Stars and Stripes, Florida Today,
and Orlando Sentinel*

The Palm Beach Post

August 4, 2023

Culture no excuse for animal cruelty

By: Robin Ganzert

Passengers aboard the cruise ship *Ambition* recently were horrified by a bloody scene unfolding off the Faroe Islands. More than 40 pilot whales—which can grow to 24 feet in length—were being hunted and slaughtered. The hunters drove the whales into the shallow bay where the animals were beached and then killed with fishing knives.

The tragic event was not a result of illegal fishing but was a government-sanctioned activity. Roughly 650 pilot whales have been killed in the area this year alone. More than 500 dolphins have fallen victim to the same hunting practice since May.

The local government argues the practice is part of the community's cultural heritage, saying the "Faroese have eaten pilot whale meat and blubber since they first settled the islands over a millennia ago." But this is the 21st century and culture is no excuse for animal cruelty. It's a lesson that needs to be taught on a global scale.

Around the world, smokescreens of tradition and culture are used to justify the inhumane treatment of animals.

Japanese fishermen kill hundreds of whales annually—a practice that dates back to the 12th century and is subsidized by the government. Bullfighting lives on in Spain, where matadors slowly kill bulls for public enjoyment. And rather than petering out, the number of bullfights taking place in the country is at a seven-year high.

Likewise, wet markets remain a commonality in parts of Asia — notably in China. Not only do the poor conditions and lack of oversight at these types of operations lend themselves to animal cruelty but the markets are breeding grounds for disease and perhaps the next pandemic.

In countries across Asia, including South Korea, China, and Vietnam, the cruel dog and cat meat trades persist. With much of this horrific industry operating in the shadows, the

inhumane treatment of dogs and cats is too often the rule rather than the exception.

Keeping in touch with one's history and culture is important. But that does not mean tradition is immune from the evolving moral standards of a modern society, our collective moral compass. We do not celebrate the Taliban's archaic treatment of women, or the ritualistic sacrifices of ancient civilizations. Time ticks on and traditions need to evolve.

The United States and our allies not only have the responsibility to look inward and audit our own practices and traditions but to export the humane treatment of animals well beyond our borders. Animal welfare knows no geographical boundaries and should never be negotiated. Urging governments to outlaw whaling, unregulated wet markets plagued by cruelty, and forms of entertainment that leave animals dead or in severe distress would be a good first step.

International pressure campaigns should be another component. Historically, these efforts have been an important ingredient in baking lasting, positive change into a society. Global initiatives have helped spread democracy, fight pollution, promote women's rights and even marshal opposition to unwarranted military aggression.

Now, governments and other influencers have the opportunity to embark on another campaign, for the sake of the animals with which we share the planet.

Tradition is a basic building block of society. We would be lost without it. But culture is no excuse for cruelty. Policymakers and cultural leaders need to take note. The time is now to end cruelty and abuse for people, animals, and the world we share. A world where we celebrate what it is to be humane is our hope.

Robin Ganzert, Ph.D., a Palm Beach resident, is president and CEO of American Humane. She is the author of "Mission Metamorphosis: Leadership for a Humane World."

The best medicine for veterans with PTSD can be a wagging tail

By: Robin Ganzert

As we prepare to celebrate the Fourth of July, the invisible wounds of war affecting our returning military heroes should be top of mind. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) — which can manifest as anxiety, depression or nightmares, among other symptoms — is a battle that veterans face long after they have left the theater of war.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, up to 29% of military members who served during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom will struggle with the condition.

Fortunately, service dogs have emerged as a beacon of hope for veterans battling PTSD. These remarkable animals provide a unique form of companionship and support, offering a bridge to healing that traditional medicines often cannot achieve alone. The bond between a veteran and their service dog goes beyond the surface; it is built on trust, unconditional love, and a profound understanding of the companion's invisible scars.

The impact of service dogs on veterans' lives cannot be understated. Countless veterans have found solace, purpose and renewed hope through their bond with a service dog.

Consider Raul, a 20-year U.S. Navy veteran who suffers from PTSD. Raul now lives in California with his service dog Sunny, who has greatly improved Raul's quality of life.

"The training of my companion Sunny has given me the tools to better understand what triggers my PTSD

by redirecting my attention to Sunny," said Raul. "I now look forward to my daily activities and the time I spend with my loyal companion. He has taught me one life lesson in particular — patience and control of my emotions, especially in a public setting."

One of the most significant contributions of service dogs to PTSD treatment is their ability to mitigate anxiety and panic attacks. These loyal companions are trained to recognize the early signs of distress and intervene, providing a sense of security and grounding in stressful situations. They can detect changes in heart rate, body temperature, and even cortisol levels, providing invaluable support to their handlers. With their calming presence, service dogs offer a lifeline to veterans, enabling them to regain control over their emotions and navigate daily life with newfound confidence.

Service dogs also play a crucial role in facilitating social reintegration for veterans with PTSD. Those struggling with the condition often feel isolated and struggle to form connections with others. Service dogs act as a bridge, breaking down barriers and enabling veterans to engage with their communities. These pups serve as icebreakers, fostering a sense of belonging for their handlers. They accompany veterans in public spaces, providing a buffer between their owner and the external world — helping to ease anxiety.

The benefit service dogs provide to veterans suffering from PTSD is undeniable. But unfortunately, the demand for these miracle animals far outweighs the supply, and the cost can be prohibitive. Training the animals can take more than a year and cost tens of thousands of dollars.

That is why my organization, American Humane, operates a program called Pups4Patriots. The initiative finds dogs in search of forever homes and trains them to be lifesaving service dogs for veterans, free of charge.

But we cannot do it alone. In addition to the amazing work done by organizations like American Humane, policymakers and government officials must do their part as well. More money is needed from Congress to fund these lifesaving programs. And for government agencies like the VA, leaders should reallocate existing funding to better prioritize the healing power of a wagging tail.

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, let us take tangible steps to support our veterans. We must invest in comprehensive programs that prioritize the mental health of those who have selflessly served

our nation. This includes expanding access to service dogs, improving mental health services, and removing stigmas associated with seeking help.

Our veterans deserve our utmost gratitude, respect and unwavering support. Let us honor their sacrifices by acknowledging the struggles associated with PTSD and recognize the vital role that service dogs can play in their journey to recovery. Together, we can ensure that no veteran walks alone, and that their path toward healing is paved with compassion, understanding, and the unwavering love of a furry best friend.

Robin Ganzert is president and CEO of American Humane, the country's first national humane organization. The organization manages the program Pups4Patriots.



(continued)



June 28, 2023

Make sure to have a plan for your pets now that hurricane season is here

By: Dr. Tom Edling and Dr. Mike McFarland

Furry family members often have the uncanny ability to know when a natural disaster is about to hit. Sometimes, a pet will run away and hide — making finding them in time to hunker down or evacuate an uphill climb. So, with natural disaster season upon us, it's critical to consider the risks that hurricanes and tropical storms pose to our animal companions.

While there are often heartwarming stories of reunited owners and pets in the aftermath of a storm — frequently with the help of organizations like American Humane — these stories are often sadly outnumbered by tragic ones. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and when it comes to the safety of our four-legged friends, a little precaution goes a long way.

The primary tool in an animal lover's toolbox is a pet disaster kit.

Just as we set aside essentials in the case of an evacuation for ourselves and human family members, we should do the same for our pets. It's important to include a copy of the pet's veterinary records, including important information like vaccinations and rabies certificates. Pictures and descriptions of a pet, a contact phone number, and microchip information should also be included — all sealed within a watertight box.

These tools will dramatically raise the chances of being reunited with a family dog or cat in the event of an emergency. The collection of documents will make it easier for rescue teams to identify, locate, and process a missing pet, and then to hopefully call the owner with the good news.

While having these records is a good first step, it is only one of many responsible pet owners need to take to prepare for a potential natural disaster.

Storms can destroy a family's stock of pet supplies or make it impossible to visit a pet store to purchase more. So, a disaster kit should also include at least a two-week supply of food, water, and necessary medication for a pet. And make sure to also include a first aid kit and even tools like a can opener. There is no telling what equipment shortages there could be during a serious storm.

Finally, a pet disaster kit should include some other pet essentials. Think a leash, collar, bedding, toys, and more. Only an owner will understand the unique needs of their furry companion.

And if there is enough advance notice of a serious natural disaster, it may also be worth considering boarding a pet with an organization based outside of the danger zone. While it may be difficult to temporarily part ways with a furry family member, sometimes it is the safest option for everyone.

Natural disasters, whether it be floods, tornadoes, or hurricanes, threaten humans and animals alike. Being prepared with a pet disaster kit will not only increase the chances of survival while riding out a storm, but if the worst comes to pass, it will help ensure a smooth reunification process.

Storm season is upon us. Make sure you are prepared, so when the unthinkable happens, you avoid a family tragedy.

Dr. Tom Edling is the Chief Veterinary Officer at American Humane. Dr. Mike McFarland is the Chief Medical Officer at Zoetis and an American Humane Board member.

Florida's Marine Parks Help Save Endangered Species

Orlando's SeaWorld among the parks fighting to rescue endangered marine life including manatees, sea turtles, dolphins, and whales

By: Robin Ganzert

Marine parks provide people with the opportunity to experience the wonders of the ocean. SeaWorld Orlando is a prime example. The facility attracts millions of visitors every year and is home to marine life ranging from stingrays to orcas. Given it was recently World Penguin Day, it is also notable that the park houses six different species of penguins.

But in addition to showcasing lovable arctic birds and helping to inspire the next generation of animal enthusiasts, these parks facilitate critical conservation work.

For example, the SeaWorld Conservation Fund—which celebrated its 20-year anniversary in February—has contributed more than \$20 million to help rescue animals, restore habitats, and fund research and education initiatives around marine life. New grants made this year are helping to save dolphins, whales, seals, and sea turtles, among other animals, as well as restore coral reefs.

The Georgia Aquarium is another example of a world class facility that is actively promoting conservation and animal welfare.

The facility is in the unique position of being the only aquarium in the western hemisphere to house a whale shark—a fish that averages more than 30 feet in length. The gentle giant provides huge research opportunities that are critical to the conservation of the species in the wild. Since 2004, the aquarium and its partners have also studied and tracked the movement of more than one thousand whale sharks off the coast of Mexico.

The whale shark is far from the only focus. The aquarium, in partnership with the Coral Restoration Foundation, works to restore healthy habitats for fish, as well as rehabilitate other marine life. In 2016, the aquarium famously rescued

six sea lion pups that were stranded on a California beach. And this is only one initiative that grabbed headlines.

The positive impact of responsible zoos and aquariums cannot be overstated. Globally, these certified facilities spend more than \$350 million annually on wildlife conservation and help to introduce people to thousands of species they would ordinarily never get to experience. After all, you cannot protect what you do not love, and you cannot love what you do not know.

This work could not be more important.

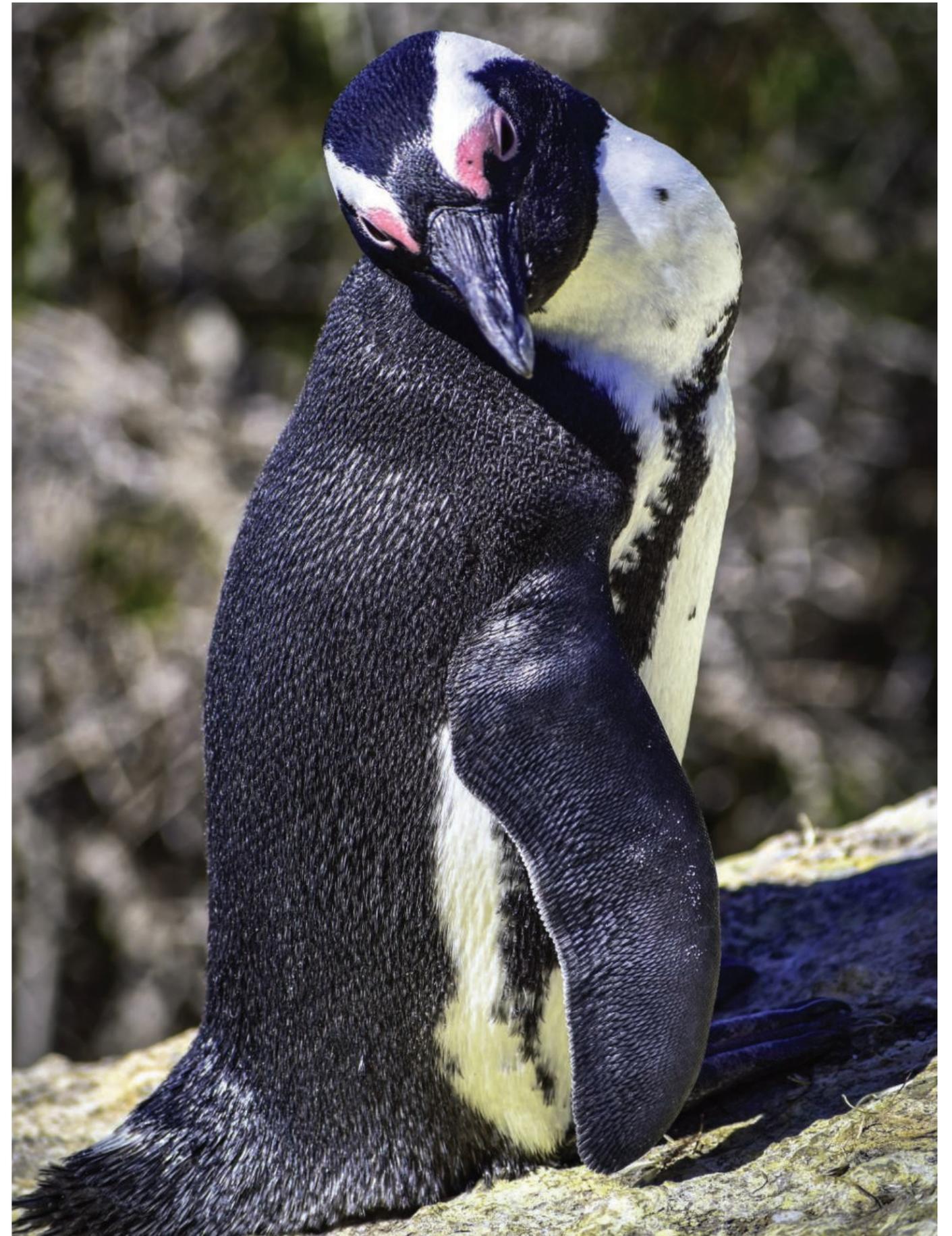
Earth is in the midst of the sixth mass extinction, with the possibility of more than 75 percent of animal species disappearing within the next 300 years. Over the past decade, 367 species have already gone extinct with many others on the chopping block in the short run. In fact, a recent Reuter headline warned, "Extinction crisis puts 1 million species on the brink."

The threat is on full display right here in the Sunshine State. And with one of the most diverse ecosystems in the United States, there is a lot to lose.

Florida—home to the world renowned Everglades—enjoys more than 7,000 species of plants and animals. Many are in danger of vanishing. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, roughly 135 species in the state are currently "threatened" or "endangered."

The world is facing an extinction crisis—and we all have a role to play. Responsibly run zoos, aquariums, and other animal sanctuaries is one piece to the conservation puzzle. Orlando should be proud it has a starring role.

Robin Ganzert, Ph.D., is president and CEO of American Humane, the country's first national humane organization and a certifier of zoos and aquariums. She is also a Florida resident.



13TH ANNUAL HERO DOG AWARDS



This year's "Oscars® for Canines" will be bigger than ever before. Make sure to save the date Nov. 10 for the star-studded gala, or watch this year's awards at home Thanksgiving weekend on A&E and fyi.

The American Humane Hero Dog Awards® is an annual, nationwide competition that searches for and recognizes America's Hero Dogs – often ordinary dogs who do extraordinary things – whether it's saving lives on the battlefield, lending sight or hearing to a human companion, or simply providing the tail-wagging welcome a pet owner relishes at the end of a hard day. It encompasses a months-long, cross-country search to find the most awe-inspiring, selfless acts of canine courage. The canine contenders never cease to amaze and inspire with their brave acts of unconditional love. After the public votes for America's Top Hero Dog, the campaign culminates in a gala awards show which will be broadcast on A&E and fyi, during Thanksgiving weekend. Known as the "Oscars® for Canines," the annual campaign to honor America's top dogs has been a television hit for twelve years running. For millions of Americans, animals are not just their best friends, but their heroes. Join us this year as American Humane brings the nation together to celebrate and honor these heroes who represent the very best of our furry friends. Every one is a bona fide hero in our book, underscoring the life-changing, life-saving power of the connection between people and animals.

Here's a peek at some of the extraordinary Hero Dogs. You can view them all at herodogawards.org

MAVERICK:

Maverick came into this world with a clear purpose: to uplift the spirits of our American troops and their loved ones through his incredible work with the USO. As a six-year-old, 150-pound Great Dane, he carries the weight of our nation's heroes' traumas, emotions, and injuries, offering solace and comfort.

Maverick possesses a remarkable ability to bring comfort to others with a simple touch of his paw. On a daily basis, you can find him welcoming our troops at the USO, providing them with a taste of home that they yearn for. His exceptional intuition allows him to empathize with their emotions, and he actively works with the military in suicide watch, demonstrating the true essence of unconditional love and guiding them toward healing.

When Maverick is not supporting our troops, he dedicates himself to the most courageous individuals of all – our military children. He accompanies them during the burial ceremonies of their fallen family members, serving as a steadfast source of strength during these challenging





times. Within schools, he has become a beloved presence, lighting up the faces of children who eagerly shout his name with excitement when they spot him in the corridors. Maverick cherishes spending time with children, offering support as they practice their reading skills and providing a compassionate ear to help them navigate difficult situations such as deployments, loss, illness, and more.

Whether it's the darkest hours or the happiest moments, Maverick is there for our troops and their families. He is their hero, making him an exceptional candidate to be the next American Humane Hero Dog, following in the footsteps of those who came before him.

POPPY:

In a world where safety and security are paramount, there exists a remarkable labrador retriever named Poppy, who possesses skills in detecting firearms and explosives. Poppy's impact extends beyond her exceptional detection skills. She holds a significant place in the heart of law enforcement detection and community engagement and service. Throughout her dedicated tour of duty, Poppy stands as a companion and a living embodiment of what it truly means to be a hero.

Each day, Poppy embarks on her mission, approaching her work with enthusiasm and a heartwarming smile. She roams the sprawling University of

Southern California campus, allowing students the opportunity to interact with her, while providing safety resources, presentations, and a comforting presence. Poppy becomes an integral part of safety presentations, ensuring that every USC student is well-equipped with knowledge and empowered to face any challenges that may arise. Furthermore, she is a constant presence at community events, whether it be food drives, sporting events, or engaging with students in schools.

Poppy's exceptional capabilities have garnered well-deserved recognition, establishing her as one of the finest working canines in the country. The medals she proudly bears are a testament to her dedication and outstanding performance. Over the past two years, Poppy has triumphed in the United States Police Canine Association trials, securing second place twice, as well as third and fourth place. These accolades serve as a testament to her skills and tireless commitment to her craft.

Canine Poppy, a true embodiment of bravery and devotion, has touched the lives of many. In a world where safety is cherished, Poppy stands tall, reminding us that heroes come in many forms.

MOXIE:

Throughout her five years of existence, with four of those years dedicated to being a service dog, Moxie has consistently provided invaluable assistance in various ways. One remarkable incident exemplifying her exceptional support occurred when her owner urgently needed an ambulance but couldn't locate their phone. Despite her owner's immobilization on the steps and enduring severe pain, Moxie diligently searched the house and successfully retrieved the phone, enabling her owner to contact emergency services. Remarkably, Moxie went above and beyond by fetching her owner's shoes and opening the door for the paramedics. This extraordinary event highlights Moxie's unwavering dedication and unwavering support.

Moxie, a symbol of courage and spirited determination, serves as an inspiration in overcoming obstacles. Her owner, deeply grateful for her impact, has now committed themselves to a greater purpose: providing service dogs to those in need and delivering education and awareness on service dogs to schools and various groups. Through this noble service, Moxie not only transforms her owner's life but also positively influences the lives of numerous individuals.

As a trusted teammate, Moxie faithfully accompanies her owner wherever her presence is required. Whether it involves coaching tennis, engaging in pool-based physical therapy sessions, or simply running errands, Moxie stands by her owner's side as a steadfast companion, always ready to offer assistance whenever it is needed. Moxie's unwavering loyalty and unwavering dedication unquestionably make her a hero in the eyes of her owner and all those whose lives she touches.



RESCUE IN THE STORM:

*American Humane's Heroic Efforts in Guam
After Typhoon Mawar*



Amidst the wreckage left behind by Typhoon Mawar, the largest storm ever recorded in Guam, a team of dedicated heroes emerges, working tirelessly to protect the voiceless and vulnerable. American Humane, the country's first national humane organization, deployed its rescue team to the typhoon-ravaged island to provide critical relief efforts for the displaced animals in several communities.

With a focus on safety and well-being, American Humane's rescue team members fearlessly dove into the chaos, performing animal rescues, reuniting families with their beloved pets, and addressing animal control issues, including the plight of stray dogs. Collaborating with the Department of Agriculture Animal Health division and local animal control officers, the team was on-site July 24-Aug. 2.





Dr. Robin Ganzert, President, and CEO of American Humane, expressed her pride in the team's unwavering dedication. "Amidst the chaos, there are animals in need, voiceless and vulnerable. We've rescued many dogs and are also working on permanent measures to help the island's endangered ko'ko' bird, an endemic species teetering on the brink of extinction."

As part of their mission, American Humane's experts provided advanced training to local animal control staff, to enhance their effectiveness and safety in the field. Through their collaboration with the Guam Animals In Need program and the Petco Love Lost reunification initiative, efforts to reunite pets with their families are well underway, bringing hope and joy amidst the devastation.

The challenges faced in these moments of crisis are formidable, but American Humane draws strength from the support of compassionate individuals across the globe. The generosity of donors enables these heroic efforts, giving hope to the most vulnerable and innocent animals in Guam.

To learn more about American Humane's life-saving mission and support their vital work, visit AmericanHumane.org. Together, we can make a difference and bring comfort and aid to those who need it the most.



PET FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that approximately 750 accidental home fires annually can be attributed to the actions of pets or wild animals. These incidents frequently involve everyday household items, such as cooking equipment, fireplaces with chimneys, space heaters, lamps, bulbs, wiring, and even candles. The NFPA further estimates that nearly half a million pets are impacted by these home fires each year in the U.S. Tragically, around 40,000 pets lose their lives to these fires, primarily due to smoke inhalation.

PREPARING FOR A FIRE

- Include your pet into your family emergency plan and practice taking them with you. Talk with your family members to determine who is responsible for grabbing your pets and who should grab their supplies (food, medication, photo, leashes and carriers, medical records) during an emergency so you can reduce scrambling and redundancy when speed and efficiency are needed.
- Put a decal in your home's front window indicating the number and type of pets you have – Providing this information can cut down on the time responders spend searching your home in the case of a fire. If you can evacuate with your pets, remove the sticker on your way out, this minimizes 1st responders looking for pets that are no longer there.
- Make sure your pet's updated contact information is reflected on their ID collar and in the microchip database – If your pet gets lost during a fire, this will help rescuers get him or her back to you.
- Use monitored smoke detectors that are connected to emergency responders – Should a fire start while you are away from your home, you'll rest assured that your pet has access to emergency response services even if no one is home to call them.
- Know your pets' hideaways and create ways for you to easily access them in case of an emergency – It's nice that your pet can get away if he or she wants to, but in an emergency, you need to be able to locate and extract your pet as quickly as possible.

DURING A FIRE

- Attempt to grab your pet and exit the home as quickly as possible, but if it takes too long to locate or secure them, leave. You should never delay escape or endanger yourself or your family. Once responders get there, immediately inform them your pet is still inside so they can enter your home and continue looking for your pet.
- Grab leashes and carriers on your way out of the house. Outside, it may be chaotic and that could cause your pet to try to escape to a calmer, safe area.
- Never go back inside a burning house. If you can't find your pet, leave, open the door, and call to them repeatedly from a safe distance away. Let firefighters take over the task of locating your pet.

CONGRATULATIONS PETCO, TWO YEARS CERTIFIED



In 2022, Petco became the first pet retailer in history to be awarded the coveted American Humane Certified™ seal of approval.

American Humane convened an unmatched, independent Scientific Advisory Committee comprised of highly respected experts in animal welfare, science, behavior and ethics, that outlined and directed a comprehensive audit at Petco's pet care centers and vendor locations. Following rigorous examinations administered by American Humane inspectors over the course of several months, American Humane proudly awarded Petco the coveted American Humane Certified™ seal of approval.



INTRODUCING DR. NELVA J. BRYANT:

The Newest Addition to the American Humane Board



Meet Dr. Nelva J. Bryant, the newest board member of American Humane. We are so excited to bring Nelva on board to share her professional expertise and guidance. Throughout her impressive 27+ years of experience in the field of veterinary medicine, Dr. Bryant has developed a diverse set of specialties, including international and domestic travel of companion animals, expertise in the Center for Disease Control's dog importation regulations, infectious and zoonotic diseases of animals, veterinary public health, animal welfare, veterinary consulting, and small animal medicine.

Her journey began as a licensed veterinarian in 1993 practicing in both Georgia and New York, after earning her Doctor of Veterinary

Medicine degree from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. Early on, she faced a tough decision between pursuing small animal clinical practice or veterinary pathology. After a year in clinical practice, she chose to venture into veterinary pathology, receiving additional training and then serving in the U.S. Army for three years. Driven by a passion for animal and public health, she later transitioned to the U.S. Public Health Service, where she spent over a decade at the CDC. During her time at the CDC, she held crucial positions such as Quarantine Veterinary Medical Officer (Dog Importation Subject Matter Expert), Veterinary Public Health Consultant, and Chief Veterinary Pathologist.

To further enhance her skill set, Dr. Bryant pursued a Master of Public Health degree through the University of Iowa's MPH for Practicing Veterinarians program. Her commitment to learning and dedication to her field led her to become a U.S. Department of Agriculture Accredited Veterinarian (Category 1 and 2).

Presently, Dr. Bryant is making her mark in the airline industry as the industry-first, in-house veterinarian at Delta Air Lines. Her mission is to promote animal welfare, education, and veterinary oversight to improve pet travel. In this role, she reviews and revises policies related to the transportation of live animals, bringing her expertise to ensure the well-being of furry companions during air travel.

INTRODUCING DR. KASHYAP CHOKSI

Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Kashyap Choksi is Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at American Humane, where he oversees the organization's Humane Certification programs, rescue efforts, and Pups4Patriots service dog program. Dr. Kashyap Choksi joined American Humane in 2023, bringing with him a strong background in establishing strategic partnerships, fundraising, and public policy.



Prior to joining American Humane, Choksi was the Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, where he successfully leveraged congressionally mandated matching dollars in research funding. Prior to this, he worked as the Assistant Dean for Development at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland, where he focused on alumni engagement, donor relations, and individual, corporate and planned giving for the college. In addition to this, Choksi worked as the Managing Director for Conservation International Singapore, and in various other capacities in nonprofit development and management including roles at Harvard University, National 4-H Council and Equal Justice Works.

Dr. Kashyap Choksi received a doctorate in public administration and policy from Virginia Tech. He also earned a master's degree in international affairs and a Master of Public Administration from Ohio University. He received his law and economics degrees from the University of Madras, India.

HOW YOU CAN HELP



For 146 years American Humane has been the first to serve, wherever and whenever animals need rescue, shelter, protection or security. More than 92 cents out of every dollar goes directly into lifechanging, life-saving programs for animals.* Please consider donating to help American Humane continue our life-saving work.

Help us today:

- To make your cash gift for animals now, please call us at (866) 242-1877, or give online at www.AmericanHumane.org/Support.
- It's easy to electronically send securities to American Humane directly from your brokerage account. With a charitable gift of securities, you pay no capital gains taxes and you may be able to deduct the full fair market value of appreciated stocks or mutual funds held longer than one year. Call us at (866) 242-1877 for transfer instructions.
- Consider a gift from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). A popular tax provision allows those aged 70½ or older to make charitable gifts, in any amount up to \$100,000 per person per year, directly from an IRA to qualified charities free of federal income tax. These gifts count toward required minimum distributions and the income tax laws of many states allow tax-free treatment as well. Check with your IRA administrator or tax advisor now to see if you could benefit.

*FY22 audited financial statement

- Many types of real estate can be gifted to American Humane. Assets may be given outright, as part of a trust arrangement, or in the case of a personal residence, be given with the right of lifetime tenancy by the donor and/or spouse. Gifts of real estate may eliminate the burden of selling a property, reduce the size of your estate, or allow an immediate charitable deduction to the donor. Please contact us to learn more about our real estate gift acceptance policies.

Help us tomorrow:

- When you take the simple steps to include American Humane in your will or estate plan, you help us continue to lead the way with kindness and compassion. It's easier than you think. If you would like to make a bequest, here is some sample language to consider: "I give, devise and bequeath (the residue of my estate, a percentage of my estate, or a specific dollar amount) to AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION, 1400 16TH STREET, NW, SUITE 360, WASHINGTON, DC 20036, to be used for its general support."
- Many people have bank and investment accounts. You can leave them directly to family, friends, or American Humane at the end of your lifetime with a simple beneficiary designation. Use a "pay on death" (P.O.D.) provision for a bank account or certificate of deposit (CD) or use a "transfer on death" (T.O.D.) provision for certain other investment accounts. You retain full ownership and control the assets during your lifetime. The beneficiary receives only what is left at the end of your lifetime. Some states even allow the transfer of real estate in this way. Ask your bank manager, financial advisor or attorney for assistance.

Any way or amount you give, we are grateful for your generous support and your compassionate spirit which enables us to continue our important work. American Humane is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization (Federal Tax ID 84-0432950) located at 1400 16th Street NW, Suite 360, Washington, DC 20036. Please contact our Philanthropy Department directly with any questions at (866) 242-1877 or email us at plannedgiving@americanhumane.org.

Any information provided does not constitute personal tax or legal advice. Please consult your advisor.



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