

AMERICAN★HUMANE
FIRST TO SERVE®

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER



IN THIS NEWSLETTER



4
REUNITING TWO MILITARY WORKING
DOGS WITH TWO BEST FRIENDS

9
ESCAPE FROM EXTINCTION
REWILDING

10
RELEASING AFRICAN PENGUINS

12
SAVING A MOTHER CHEETAH
AND FOUR CUBS

15
ADDRESSING A CRISIS IN
EAST TEXAS

18
ELEVATING HUMANE
CONSERVATION

20
RAISING THE BAR
FOR OUR PETS' FOOD

22
PROVIDING A SECOND CHANCE

24
SAFEGUARDING YOUR
PET'S WELLNESS

26
14TH ANNUAL
HERO DOG AWARDS

Friends –

It's hard to believe summer is almost behind us. While this season is often marked by a slower pace, full of sunshine and relaxation, I am struck with immense pride as I look back on all we have accomplished at American Humane in just a few short months.

American Humane successfully paired five veterans and first responders with lifesaving service dogs through our Pups4Patriots program. We reunited three retired Military Working Dogs with their former handlers, including a heartwarming double reunion with Poker & Aida, which received a feature segment on CBS News. Our Rescue Team deployed to East Texas to save 50 dogs in need of critical care and new homes. Through American Humane Certified™ and Global Humane Certified™, we granted certification to more than 31 animal agriculture, zoological, and tourism facilities. We also shared our expertise on the film sets of HBO's *House of the Dragon* and movies like *Bad Boys: Ride or Die* and *A Quiet Place: Day One*, helping animals and audiences alike enjoy these summer shows and blockbusters.

In June, we were thrilled to announce the launch of our 14th annual Hero Dog Awards! This nationwide competition searches for and recognizes America's most inspiring dogs. Winners are often ordinary four-legged companions that do extraordinary things—including saving lives on the battlefield, aiding their human best friend with sight or hearing, and contributing to the overall well-being of people. Nominations are now closed but stay up to date on this year's finalists and get ready to vote for your favorites by following @herodogawards on Instagram, Facebook, or X and our webpage at herodogawards.org!

Throughout this newsletter, we share incredible stories of rewilding and conservation, including the announcement of our newest documentary, *Escape from Extinction Rewilding*, narrated by Award winning actress Meryl Streep. In features ranging from pet preparedness tips and animal rescues to the impressive tale of Nykaniso, a cheetah in South Africa—American Humane's impact has never been more apparent, and none of our work would be possible without you.

From all the amazing animals we help every day, thank you for your kindness and support! May you draw delight and inspiration from these stories that reflect the compassion and love for animals we all share.

Sincerely,

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

Robin R. Ganzert, Ph.D.
President and CEO



TWO TAILS ARE BETTER THAN ONE



Pictured left to right: Aida, Sgt. Dalton, Sgt. Isaac, Poker

We recently reunited two retired Military Working Dogs, Aida and Poker, with their former U.S. Marine Corps handlers and best friends, Sgt. Dalton and Sgt. Isaac during a touching homecoming in Tyler, Texas.

Dalton and Isaac met while serving overseas in Japan, where they worked as K-9 handlers and formed unbreakable bonds with each other and their four-legged counterparts. However, when Dalton left the Marine Corps and Isaac was reassigned to another base in 2022, they had to separate from their beloved German Shepherds.

Flash forward two years and the friends—who now live just a few hours apart in Texas—were thrilled to learn that both of their dogs were being retired from military service, making them available for adoption. Even better, Aida and Poker were retiring at the same time, allowing Dalton and Isaac to welcome their dogs home and experience the life-changing moment together.

Learning of American Humane's Military Working Dog Reunification Program, the pair worked with American Humane to help transport Aida and Poker to their forever homes.

"We've reunited dozens of retired Military Working dogs with their former handlers, but this special reunion was still a first for American Humane," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, President and CEO of American Humane. "It was an honor to help two best friends bring their other best friends home. All four of these military heroes deserve our gratitude and support after serving our country."

Aida and Poker joined the Marine Corps Military Working Dogs Program in 2019, serving their country for four and a half years. At six years old, they have many heroic stories under their collars and years of life ahead.

As a narcotics-detection patrol dog, Aida worked with Dalton to perform health and comfort inspections throughout Japan, search buildings, and support criminal investigations involving drugs and overdoses. Reflecting on his favorite memory with Aida, Dalton said: "Anything and everything we did together." He looks forward to welcoming Aida into his family with his wife, their newborn daughter, and their French Bulldog.

Poker served as an explosives detection and patrol dog, working with Isaac to perform security sweeps in Japan. The pair also protected President Biden during a special mission in Korea, where they swept flights, hotels, vehicles, and buildings for explosives. Before their reunion, Isaac hadn't seen Poker in over a year, but fondly remembered, "Every day with Poker was a great day."





As part of our Military Working Dog Reunification program, American Humane will cover these furry heroes' veterinary bills for the rest of their lives, ensuring Aida and Poker can enjoy the retirements they deserve in the comforts of Dalton's and Isaac's loving homes.

A special thanks to Lois Pope and the Lois Pope Life Center for military affairs. The Center builds on American Humane's 100 years of work with the U.S. military by providing life-changing, life-saving programs.



Lois Pope and Liberty Belle

★

CBS News highlighted this heartwarming story, interviewing Dalton and Isaac and sharing a first-hand look at their reunion with Aida and Poker. View the full segment here by scanning the QR code:

This inspired story was featured on:





ESCAPE FROM EXTINCTION REWILDING

It is currently estimated that 1 million species are at risk of becoming extinct, with more than half of all species becoming extinct by 2050—a risk that will impact current and future generations. But a transformative conservation practice has emerged as a beacon of hope, already successfully increasing animal populations and improving their ecosystems, worldwide. It is called rewilding.

American Humane’s second documentary, *Escape from Extinction Rewilding*, is a powerful and timely film that delves into this critical conservation practice and examines the far-reaching impacts it can bring to our daily lives.

Through compelling storytelling narrated by Meryl Streep and breathtaking cinematography, the documentary showcases the tangible successes and ongoing challenges in the field of rewilding. It highlights how humanity, when armed with knowledge and compassion, can halt the decline of countless animal species and restore the environments we call home.

“This documentary not only brings the importance of rewilding to the forefront but also emphasizes that you can’t protect what you don’t love, and you can’t love what you don’t know,” shared Dr. Robin Ganzert, President and CEO of American Humane and the film’s executive producer.

The film releases nationwide on September 27, 2024. To learn more, visit: americanhumane.org/rewilding.



RELEASING AFRICAN PENGUINS WITH SANCOBB



If you picture a penguin, more than likely, an image of a bird with tuxedo-like coloring and an endearing waddle will immediately come to mind. But did you know that penguins are often indicator species?

African penguins, who call the coast and waters near southern Africa home, provide insights into the ecosystem's health—from the shore to the marine life in the surrounding ocean and beyond. When their numbers decline, it is a sign that the environment is in trouble.

The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) is a Global Humane Certified™ facility based in Cape Town dedicated to reversing the decline of seabird species. Since 2015, they have reported a 90% drop in the African penguin population at St. Croix Island in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, meaning they could be functionally extinct by 2035. This staggering decline highlights the urgent need to conserve the local penguin population and restore balance to their marine environment.

In one of our first rewilding efforts through the Global Humane Conservation Fund of Africa, we partnered with SANCCOB to release 12 African penguins back into the wild.

Betty's Bay, located near Cape Town, South Africa, is home to one of the few African penguin colonies on the mainland. This vital reserve supports the penguin population and plays a crucial role in maintaining the broader ecosystem, including the nearby marine protected area. Volunteers and staff from SANCCOB, and members of our team, including Dr. Robin Ganzert, aided the release.

“We just released 12 precious African penguins back into the wild. Many of these birds were raised from chicks, having been rescued from eggs found on this beautiful beach,” Dr. Ganzert shared. “They were rehabilitated at SANCCOB, and today, we had the privilege and honor of returning them to their natural habitat.”

Global Humane’s Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Kashyap Choksi shared, “What we experienced today is just one example of our proud and rich legacy—145 years strong—of ensuring the safety and security of animals.”

The collaboration between SANCCOB and Global Humane exemplifies the power of compassion and cooperation in wildlife conservation. Dr. Choksi continued, “This is just one example of the collaborative work that we do in Africa. We have provided grants and project funding, and we hope to continue to do the same in other program areas and for other species. SANCCOB’s research, conservation, and rescue reflects ideals and values that Global Humane always wants to align with.”

As these 12 African penguins waddled into their wild, natural environment, they symbolized hope and the enduring impact of dedicated conservation and rewilding efforts.



SAVING A MOTHER CHEETAH AND HER FOUR CUBS



In 2023, a four-year-old cheetah named Nkanyiso arrived at the Nyosi Wildlife Reserve, an animal reserve not far from the coast of South Africa.

In the first two months following her arrival, Nkanyiso acclimated to her new environment. Once she was prepared to move from a lifetime of captivity to the wild, she took her first steps as a wild cheetah on Nyosi Wildlife Reserve. Within three months, Nkanyiso became a self-sufficient and independent hunter—a key signifier in a rewilding success story.

Nkanyiso’s new life in the wild was made possible through a collaborative effort between the Nyosi Wildlife Reserve, The Metapopulation Initiative, WeWild Africa, and the Global Humane Conservation Fund of Africa to conserve and rewild cheetahs. This initiative, called the Cheetah Metapopulation

Initiative, seeks to aid the survival of cheetahs, which, depending on the subspecies, are considered vulnerable or critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation for Nature (IUCN).

Nearly a year after her arrival, Nkanyiso was found with a serious injury to her front right leg. The team secured a portable X-ray machine to learn the extent of her injury and also discovered she was lactating, meaning she had recently given birth to a litter of cubs somewhere on the reserve.

The X-rays confirmed that her leg was broken, so releasing her would be extremely risky, but there was growing concern for the fate of the cubs. The team sent two of Nyosi’s guides to attempt to find the small cubs on the 6,200-acre reserve—a feat they knew would not be easy.



Incredibly, they found four cubs and spent two hours working to safely catch them in the rough thicket of the Eastern Cape before bringing them back to their mother in the enclosure.

A few days later, Nkanyiso received surgery at a local veterinary clinic, where her care team placed a metal plate to help heal her broken leg, and she is now able to walk on it again. Nkanyiso’s cubs will remain in the enclosure with her while the team continues to look after the welfare of all five cheetahs, with the hopes of rewilding them all when the time is right.



Stories like these would not be possible without the outstanding collaboration of organizations leading the way in science-based animal welfare, conservation, and rewilding efforts. These joint endeavors underscore our shared responsibility to protect and preserve our planet’s precious wildlife. We are proud to contribute to their efforts and continue growing our impact through the Global Humane Conservation Fund of Africa. Learn more at globalhumane.africa.

ADDRESSING A CRISIS IN EAST TEXAS



American Humane’s Rescue team was recently on the ground in East Texas to respond to a dire situation that involved 50 dogs in need of immediate care and new homes. Following a medical diagnosis, the dogs’ owner was unable to care for the pets properly, leading to most of the dogs becoming emaciated.

Our expert staff worked with local, regional, and national organizations and officials as part of a coordinated effort to care for the dogs and transport them to shelters so they could recover safely. Additionally, American Humane brought in a vet to visit the dogs and conduct health examinations.

Despite the conditions the dogs had endured, these Lab, Shepherd, and Hound mixes remained sweet and welcoming. All the dogs were open to interacting with American Humane rescue staff, gently taking treats from the team members who provided them with such critical care.

Approximately 25 of the dogs that were rescued are being fostered by generous volunteers locally. Additionally, thanks to support from the Bissell Pet Foundation, we were able to air transport the remaining 25 dogs to partner organizations and shelters in the Northeast where they will have more resources and support to find their forever homes.

This work is made possible through the generosity of our donors who share our commitment to being the First to Serve animals in need. Learn more about our rapid response rescue efforts at americanhumane.org/rescue.



April 2, 2024

Congress Should Throw Service Dog Programs a Bone

By: Dr. Robin Ganzert

Congress has averted another government shutdown. But often lost in the shuffle during these multi-trillion-dollar budget battles are appropriations for lifesaving veteran programs that employ wagging tails to heal invisible wounds of war. Policymakers should consider throwing these types of initiatives a bigger financial bone. Current funding for veteran service dog initiatives is scant.

For example, the 2021 Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) for Veterans Therapy Act created a five-year pilot program in select cities where service dogs would be implemented into veteran treatment programs. However, the initiative has been plagued with funding hiccups, and eligibility remains extremely limited. Although good in theory, the program has so far fallen short.

More veterans need help now — not years down the line.

Veterans are navigating a crisis of epic proportions. Untreated or undertreated mental health conditions are leading former service members to an early grave. In a particularly sobering statistic, more veterans have died of suicide than from combat since the September 11 terror attacks. Meanwhile, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 24 former military members take their lives daily.

A growing body of research confirms what former service members have anecdotally said for years: specially trained service dogs can act as a lifeline in these cases. A wagging tail can play a significant role in helping veterans recover and readjust to a more normal life after returning from the battlefield.

A 2022 study published in *Frontiers in Psychiatry* found that veterans — as well as first responders — suffering from post-traumatic stress demonstrated fewer symptoms when

accompanied by service dogs. In addition to companionship and emotional support, these animals can help detect and then interrupt flashback episodes — stopping panic attacks, intense shaking, and heart palpitations early on.

At American Humane, we've seen firsthand how service dogs can benefit former men and women in uniform.

Through the Pups4Patriots program, dogs in search of forever homes are trained to be lifesaving service animals for veterans suffering from the mental wounds of war — all free to the veterans. Success stories are plentiful. Last year, for example, an Army veteran who participated in the program graduated from college after being paired with a lifesaving service dog.

Unfortunately, the current level of government resources committed to programs like these — even when combined with the generous support of private donors — is not cutting it. The problem is just too big. Fortunately, a path forward has already been introduced. The Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act is legislation establishing an annual \$10 million grant program to support nonprofit organizations that train and pair service dogs with veterans.

It is through private-public partnerships like these that we can truly make a difference in the lives of veterans struggling with mental health.

Lawmakers in Washington continuously butt heads about funding the federal government. Amid the debate, Congress should consider appropriating a small fraction of that money to provide veterans with a healing leash. In the grand scheme of a \$6 trillion federal budget, it is a small price to pay to save heroes in uniform.

Dr. Robin Ganzert is president and CEO of American Humane, the country's first national humane organization.

July 17, 2024

Epidemic of High-Profile Animal Cruelty Cases Warrants Action

By: Dr. Robin Ganzert

An alarming uptick of high-profile animal cruelty cases is hitting America. A group of Oregon teenagers recently shot a family cat — subsequently filming the animal's agony. Earlier this year, a Wyoming hunter paraded a wounded wolf around a bar before killing it. And weeks later, an Alabama man was charged with hanging a dog from a tree and beating it.

This unacceptable trend should be a wake-up call for policymakers and the public. Elected officials have a responsibility to explore better approaches to protect animals. Parents have a role to play.

Similar to an amendment passed in the United Kingdom last year, social media platforms should be encouraged to aggressively monitor and remove pictures, videos and other content that promotes animal abuse. Punishments for cruelty violations should be intensified to discourage bad behavior. And more law enforcement resources should be allocated to better investigate and enforce animal crimes.

Some states are taking steps in this direction.

This year, Arizona considered legislation to expand the definition of pet cruelty to include “intentionally, knowingly or recklessly failing to provide the medical attention necessary to prevent unreasonable suffering to any domestic animal under the person's custody or control.” Meanwhile, a series of bills is being pushed in New York that could make penalties more severe, among other elements.

In Kentucky, one of my organization's animal ambassadors has helped push a proposal nicknamed Ethan's Law over the finish line. The law harshens the sentence for torturing cats and dogs. Ethan, a rescue dog who won the 2022 American Humane Hero Dog Awards, was previously left starving in the parking lot of a Kentucky animal shelter and is the legislation's namesake.

Policymakers nationwide should continue pursuing proposals that get tough on animal abuse. But that won't remedy the stomach-churning trend alone. Proactive efforts at school and home to educate and introduce animals into the lives of children at an early age can be a complementary strategy that prevents cruelty before it even takes root.

Frequenting zoos and aquariums, for example, is one great way for young Americans to connect with the wonders of nature. Communing with animals ranging from curious otters to agile Pallas Cats can help create an emotional connection that influences behavior down the road. Not only do the experiences give children a healthy appreciation for animals, but they can also inspire them to become part of the next generation of animal welfare champions.

Many zoos and aquariums have educational — and fun — programs for families. And for families that don't have easy access to institutions like these, there are plenty of other opportunities to socialize children with animals.

One example is taking youngsters to visit a local animal shelter — and perhaps volunteering when old enough. And having a family pet for them to love is another. Research consistently shows that children raised with family pets experience various social, emotional and developmental benefits, including more self-esteem and less loneliness.

Recent high-profile cases of animal cruelty are heartbreaking. Policymakers have a responsibility to ensure laws reflect the seriousness of these crimes, while parents should expose children to the love of animals at a young age. Together, we can suffocate this epidemic of animal abuse.

Dr. Robin Ganzert is president and CEO of American Humane, the country's first national humane organization.

ELEVATING HUMANE CONSERVATION

Our Humane Conservation team diligently certifies the welfare and humane treatment of animals in zoological facilities around the world, impacting the lives of more than one billion animals across 16 countries and counting.

American Humane’s certification program provides visitors a way to recognize excellent zoos, aquariums, and animal parks around the world. To be recognized as Humane Certified™, these sites pass a rigorous independent assessment that reviews the well-being of animals and demonstrate overall excellence in

animal care and welfare practices. The unique process is guided by the latest science and best practices and is informed by a Scientific Advisory Committee comprised of respected veterinarians and experts in animal welfare, animal science, zoology, and ethics with decades of experience.

Humane Conservation recently recognized Global Humane Certifications™ to the following facilities:

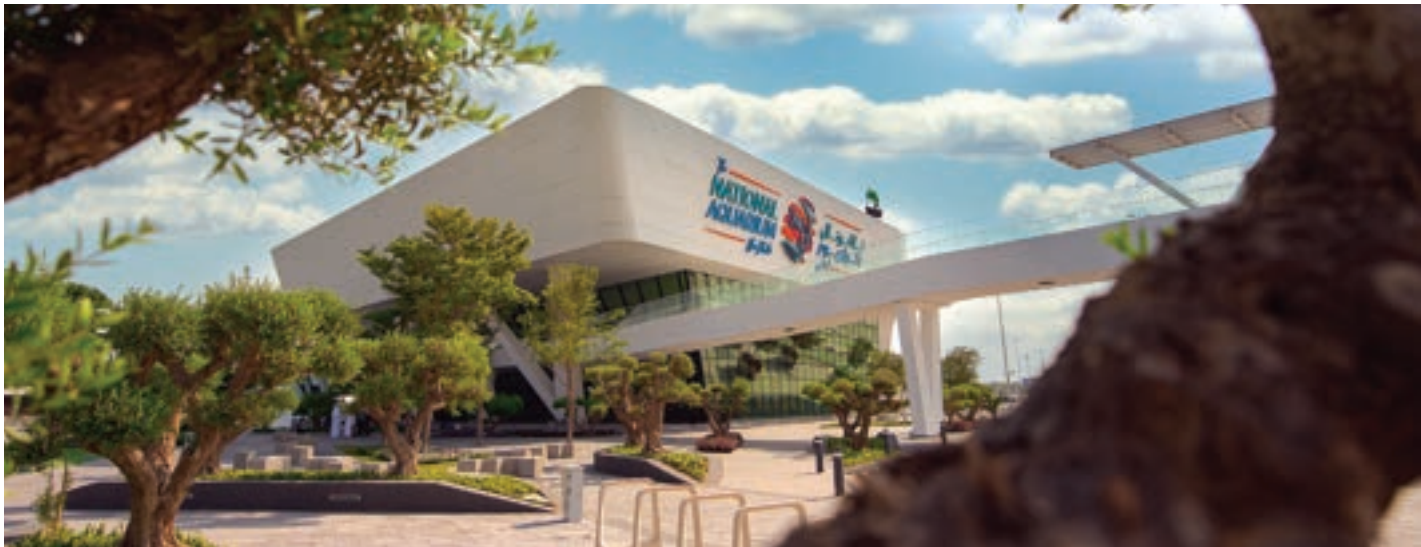


SANCCOB Gqeberha Centre | The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds Gqeberha Centre, located in Eastern Cape, South Africa, works to reverse the decline of seabird populations—especially endangered species like the African penguin. Learn more about SANCCOB’s mission on page 10.



Majid Al Futtaim Entertainment's Ski Dubai, Ski Egypt, and Snow Oman | Majid Al Futtaim Entertainment's indoor snow resorts Ski Dubai, Ski Egypt, and Snow Oman house Chinstrap, Gentoo, and King penguins and offer encounters for visitors to learn about the animals.

The National Aquarium Abu Dhabi | The National Aquarium is one of the largest facilities of its kind in the Middle East, hosting 46,000 animals dispersed across ten zones with environments that prioritize each species’ well-being and provide immersive, educational experiences.



Cologne Zoo | Cologne Zoo, one of the most diverse zoos in Germany and all of Europe, emphasizes tradition, innovation, and conservation throughout their impeccable care of approximately 12,000 animals, representing nearly 800 species.



Dr. Robin Ganzert, President & CEO of American Humane, presents Global Humane Certification to Prof. Theo B. Pagel, board member of Cologne Zoo.

Wild Hearts African Farm in Lewisburg, Ohio and **Oceanogràfic València** in Spain recently achieved recertification, continuing their commitments to animal safety, welfare, and well-being.

RAISING THE BAR FOR OUR PETS' FOOD



grade pet food brand, even earning B Corp Certification, meaning they have met high standards for performance, accountability, and transparency in factors related to social and environmental impact. Their decision to use American Humane Certified chicken in their products further signifies their commitment to animal welfare and well-being, allowing them to meet shifting customer expectations.

To receive the American Humane Certified seal on its products, The Honest Kitchen's chicken suppliers undergo annual independent audits to help ensure adherence to American Humane's rigorous, science-based farm animal welfare standards.

"As a producer of 100% human grade foods for animal companions, we're passionately focused on helping pet parents improve the lives of their dogs and cats, through our healthy, whole food offerings. Sourcing proper ingredients is pivotal to our mission, and the humane treatment of animals and using our business for good has been at our core since we began. We're proud to work with American Humane to help ensure the impact of our food goes beyond the bowl." Lucy Postins, Chief Integrity Officer.



Since the beginning of this year, our Farm Program has certified the animal welfare practices of more than 20 new farms, producers, and other agriculture businesses. In grocery stores and restaurants across the United States, our American Humane Certified™ seal continues gaining recognition as a leading, science-based animal welfare certification.

Recently, American Humane Certified has caught the attention of the pet food industry—an industry known for limited transparency when it comes to ingredients. As more pet owners search for the best food for their companions, pet food companies are beginning to take note and seek ways to assure customers of their commitment to the well-being of all animals, one of the first being The Honest Kitchen®.

Founded in 2002 by Lucy Postins in San Diego, CA, The Honest Kitchen's mission is to help as many pets as possible get on the road to good health through good food. The Honest Kitchen has long enforced stringent standards for their suppliers as a human-



PROVIDING A SECOND CHANCE



A local rescue group learned about Mia and sprang into action as quickly as they could, but by the time they reached her, Mia's six puppies had arrived, turning their rescue mission for one into a mission to save a family. To make circumstances even more dire, Mia was also suffering from mastitis, a ruptured mammary gland, and gastrointestinal issues—signs of the long-term hardship she had endured.

But thanks to our Second Chance Grant program, and the valiant efforts of the local rescue group, Mia and her pups received the urgent and critical care they needed to recover and lead the lives they deserve.

Each year, countless animals suffer heart wrenching abuse and neglect, often requiring local rescue groups and shelters to step in to save these animals in desperate need.

American Humane's Second Chance® grants provide critical funds to help offset the costs of rescuing animals who are victims of abuse or homeless, expenses that can quickly become insurmountable and leave lives in the balance.

These grants are made possible through the generosity of individual and corporate donors, giving animals like Mia and her Siberian Husky pups a fighting chance at a new chapter of life.

As a two-year-old dog who had only known of a life of neglect with little shelter from harsh weather, Mia's future looked dim as she prepared to give birth to a litter of puppies.

"The Honest Kitchen® is proud to support American Humane's Second Chance Grants program. This initiative aligns with our mission of 'putting pets on the path to good health' and allows us to do our part to help lighten the financial burden various rescues and shelters bare when rehabilitating animals who have been abused or abandoned."

Miki Dosen, CMO,
The Honest Kitchen.

The Honest Kitchen®, proudly supports American Humane's Second Chance Grants program, sponsoring one grant recipient per month for the coming year. Their pledge demonstrates their commitment to improving a pet's health so they can lead their best lives.

Once the local rescue team retrieved Mia and the puppies in South Carolina, the dogs were transported to a rescue organization in New Jersey, where they received immediate veterinary care and were quickly embraced by a loving foster family before successfully finding their forever homes.

At American Humane, we stand firm in our belief that all animals deserve compassion and humane treatment. Second Chance grants help facilitate lifesaving efforts for animals who have nowhere else to turn—animals just like Mia.

Through every step in her journey, despite suffering unimaginable cruelty, Mia displayed remarkable strength and resilience. Against all odds, she and her six puppies are now thriving, finding compassion and love through a second chance at life.

For more stories like Mia's and to learn more about the criteria for applying for a Second Chance grant, visit americanhumane.org/secondchance.



SAFEGUARDING YOUR PET’S WELLNESS WITH ZOETIS

Taking care of your pet’s wellness is an ongoing commitment. From regular flea and tick medication to emergency vet visits, pet parents want to help our pets lead the best lives they can, and especially as we approach the height of hurricane season, it’s crucial to ensure the health and safety of our beloved pets.

American Humane is proud to partner with Zoetis, a world leader in animal health that generously contributes their time, resources, and expertise in support of our mission. Zoetis’ Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Richard Goldstein, recently joined Dr. Robin Ganzert for an episode of our podcast, Robin’s Nest, to share tips for preparing for a natural disaster as a pet owner. Read the highlights below or listen to Robin’s Nest wherever you get your podcasts.



Scan the QR code to listen to this episode of Robin’s Nest with Dr. Richard Goldstein, Chief Medical Officer, Zoetis.



How to Help Keep Your Pets Safe During Disasters

PLAN AHEAD

“Having a plan is essential,” Dr. Goldstein shared, urging pet owners not to wait until the last minute to act. Dr. Goldstein advises creating a comprehensive plan that includes essential items for pets, just as we would for any other family member. This plan should encompass food, water, medical supplies, and copies of medical records. “Pets are family members, so their needs must be organized and taken care of,” he explains.

BE PREPARED TO IDENTIFY YOUR PET

In the chaos of an evacuation, pets can become separated from their owners, so another important aspect of pet preparedness is identification. Dr. Goldstein stresses the significance of having pets microchipped and ensuring they wear proper identification tags.

Additionally, Dr. Ganzert recommends having recent photos of you and your pet to provide additional proof of ownership, recalling stories of reunions facilitated by such preparations during past disasters.

DR. ROBIN GANZERT’S PET PREPAREDNESS KIT

As a Florida resident, Dr. Ganzert shared what she always has on hand, stored in an easy-to-grab plastic tote, for her family’s cats and dogs in the event of an emergency:

- Bottled water
- At least a week’s worth of food for each pet
- Extra leashes and harnesses for each pet
- Medical supplies, including heartworm pills and other medications
- Up-to-date medical records for each pet
- Pre-made litter boxes for cats
- Comfort items such as toys, treats, and a blanket

Keep in mind each pet’s needs are different. Always consult your vet or local shelter for more recommendations. Remember: the key is to plan ahead.



Lastly, Dr. Goldstein highlights the role of Wellness Clinics. These efforts offer essential services to pets during and after disasters, ensuring they remain healthy and receive necessary treatments even when regular veterinary services are disrupted.

“We don’t want dogs getting infectious diseases because they are late for their vaccines or because they have been separated from their normal veterinary care,” Dr. Goldstein shares.

Earlier this year, American Humane and Zoetis hosted a pet Wellness Clinic in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. Located just 60 miles southeast of New Orleans, this community is all too familiar with the impacts of severe weather, but natural disasters are not the only risk to a pet’s health in remote and rural areas like Terrebonne Parish. Across the country, many communities lack access to convenient and affordable veterinary care.

Pet parents brought cats and dogs to American Humane’s mobile clinic where veterinarians provided rabies vaccinations, species-specific combo vaccinations, flea and

tick treatments, and microchipping free of charge. They also received Pet Preparedness Kits.

The clinic, which provided care for more than 250 pets, empowered local pet parents by providing the tools and resources they needed to protect the overall health and long-term well-being of their cherished companions.

One pet parent shared that the clinic “means the world to her” given the high cost of veterinary services. Another pet parent told the story of her family’s new dog, Snowball, whom they rescued after he was found as a stray in her neighborhood. They were grateful to be able to give Snowball a forever home and the care he needs.

Safeguarding your pet’s health is not just about preparedness and survival. It is about ensuring their well-being and maintaining the precious bond we share with our pets in the face of emergencies and throughout the course of their daily lives.

14TH ANNUAL HERO DOG AWARDS

Each year, we host a nationwide competition to recognize America's most inspiring dogs, and the American Humane 14th annual Hero Dog Awards are officially underway!

"Through the Hero Dog Awards, we honor and celebrate the immense hope, courage, and quality of life that dogs bring to our lives," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, President and CEO of American Humane. "We look forward to sharing inspiring stories of these canines so we can give our hero dogs the recognition they truly deserve."

For more information about the American Humane Hero Dog Awards®, including our sponsorship opportunities, visit HeroDogAwards.org or email herodoginfo@americanhumane.org.

- This year's five categories include:**
- Law Enforcement and First Responder Dogs
 - Military Dogs
 - Therapy Dogs
 - Service and Guide/Hearing Dogs
 - Emerging Hero and Shelter Dogs

Each category finalist is recognized at a star-studded gala awards show, where the Hero Dog Award winner is crowned. Celebrities who have participated in the past include Carson Kressley and Christie Brinkley, among many others.



More than just an Award...



Being a Hero Dog extends far beyond any award or title—sometimes it means walking the halls of Congress to advocate for fellow four-legged heroes.

With the help of some of our Hero Dogs, American Humane hosted an event, to educate lawmakers and their staff on two bipartisan bills to protect animals: The Working Dog Health and Welfare Act and The PETSAFE Act. These bills will make great strides in the care of federal working dogs and the well-being of dogs impacted by natural disasters. The courageous canines signaled their endorsement for the two bills, stamping each with a paw print of approval.





PROVIDE HOPE AND HEALING

Your generous donation rescues the helpless victims of natural disasters. It enables the lifechanging reunions of retired Military Working Dogs with their former handlers. And it puts healing leashes into the hands of veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress, and all of our live saving and impactful programs.

For the animals and people whose lives you touch, thank you.

AmericanHumane.org/donate



Donate today so that we are prepared tomorrow.



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[f](#) [i](#) [X](#) [in](#) @AmericanHumane