



## New On NCRAOA Website

**Brochures & Handouts:** *Traveling with Pets – Checklist & Tips*

**Dogs/Training Page:** *Touch and Treat – Hand Shy Dogs.* Steps for reconditioning a dog to accept a hand coming at their head/collar in a quick motion.

**Articles/Pet Population Issues:** *The Myth of Over Population in Regard to Shelter Animals.*

Why are breeders the first to be blamed for animals in shelters?

## Heartworm Survey

Merial and the American Heartworm Society (AHS) surveyed 12,000 veterinary clinics in 50 states, revealing more than 250,000 dogs and cats tested positive for heartworm infection nationwide in 2004, a rise in cases since the most recent survey in 2001. AHS President Dr. Tom Nelson noted that the number could be even more than double the survey figures.

According to a Gallup survey and B&R Tracking, about 59 percent of dogs in the United States are receiving heartworm preventative, a statistic down from 66 percent in a 1998 survey. While clients are conditioned to vaccinate pets, it is apparent that many do not understand the vital role heartworm preventative plays.

Believing that educating children will be the key to increasing owner responsibility and reducing heartworm disease in the future, AHS has introduced a Grammar School Section on their website with coloring pages and puzzles about healthy pets and heartworm prevention. For more information, visit [www.heartwormsociety.org](http://www.heartwormsociety.org).

## Window to cat's overall health – a beautiful coat

Sleek, shining fur is a great indicator that your cat is in good health. But what if your cat looks unkempt? seems to be losing interest in grooming himself, or is losing hair in patches and clumps? Changes could be an indication of a problem brewing, and a visit to the veterinarian for a checkup is in order.

Causes for hair loss — called alopecia — include skin parasites (fleas and mites) and internal parasites (tapeworms or roundworms). These parasites rob your cat's body of nutrients. Bacterial, viral and fungal infections can also cause skin eruptions. Anything that irritates your cat's skin may be responsible for thinning fur.

Cats can also suffer from allergies to proteins from grasses, molds, pollens, dust mites, and also to medications and even foods. An allergen doesn't have to be something new that your cat has just been exposed to; it can be something that your cat has been around for a long time, and an internal change makes the cat begin to react.

## **PETS & PARASITES**

The Companion Animal Parasite Council launched a Web site, [www.petsandparasites.org](http://www.petsandparasites.org), as a resource on zoonotic parasites in dogs and cats for pet owners. The Web site provides information on 10 common internal and external parasites of dogs and cats. The site, which is divided into "Dog Owner" and "Cat Owner" sections, offers answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about pets and parasites, including how parasites affect human health. The site also lists behavioral descriptions and signs, but directs pet owners to consult a veterinarian for proper diagnosis and treatment.

The CAPC is an independent organization with a membership that represents broad expertise in parasitology, internal medicine, public health, veterinary law, private practice, and association leadership. CAPC has developed this Web site as an information resource and starting point for discussions with your veterinarian. To keep your pets healthy and your family safe, talk to your veterinarian about how you can prevent parasites year-round.

NCRAOA has provided links on our site to CAPC for your future convenience.

## **JAVMA News**

AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference and House of Delegates Informational Assembly, Chicago - Jan. 13-15, 2006. Four hundred leaders of the veterinary profession gathered for the event. Representatives from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, veterinary and governmental organizations, and AVMA entities assembled for the event.

Wes Jamison, PhD, spoke about how veterinarians are the only credible authorities able to mediate the complex human-animal relationship in a culture struggling to understand the moral value of animals. Dr. Jamison, associate professor of agriculture at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, characterized society as "schizophrenic" in its thinking about animals. A moral dissonance exists within a society that deems some animals as companions and others as food and subjects for biomedical research. "Is a pig a pork loin or a lifelong companion?" Dr. Jamison asked, summing up the dilemma.

The modern animal rights movement is simply a natural outgrowth of an urbane, rights-centric populace inclined to believe animals are similar to people in many ways, including being capable of determining right from wrong, Dr. Jamison noted.

Veterinarians must help people make sense of these competing attitudes about animals, according to Dr. Jamison, adding that surveys show even die-hard animal rightists see veterinarians as authorities on the subject. "As veterinarians, you and only you can help bridge the gap between perception and reality," Dr. Jamison said. "You must reconcile where possible, counsel when necessary, treat when called for, and adjudicate competing perceptions of reality." <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/mar06/060301f.asp>

## **Where is the draft??**

February 1, 2006 Senator Santorum's office invited PAWS cosponsors to meet and discuss suggested revisions to PAWS, i.e. third party inspections. February 9<sup>th</sup> AKC announced on their website "The Discussion Draft of PAWS will be made public after input from the USDA and the co-sponsors is reviewed. Senator Santorum's staff has told us they expect this to be accomplished in the next few days."

February has come and gone.....where is the draft?



**No PAWS**

## **Penn State Study**

**Having a sympathetic owner did not lower the stress reaction of dogs that become anxious or fearful during noisy thunderstorms but living in a multi-dog household did, a Penn State study has found.**

The study is among the first to measure, non-invasively, the production of a specific stress hormone produced by both the dog and its owner in response to stress in their home. The technique offers a new tool to assess animal welfare in a wide variety of non-laboratory settings, including high stress environments such as search and rescue and police-related pursuit.

Dr. Nancy Dreschel, a veterinarian who conducted the study as part of her work toward a doctoral degree in biobehavioral health, says, "There were no effects of the owners' behavior or the quality of the dog-owner relationship on the stress hormone response that we measured in the canine. However, the presence of other dogs in the household was linked to less pronounced stress reactivity and more rapid recovery of the thunderstorm-phobic animal."

The study is detailed in the (December) issue of the journal, *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, in a paper, "Physiological and Behavioral Reactivity to Stress in Thunderstorm-phobic Dogs and Their Caregivers." The authors are Dreschel, who is also an instructor in the College of Agricultural Sciences, and Dr. Douglas A. Granger, associate professor of biobehavioral health.

Thunderstorm-anxious dogs not only suffer classic signs of fear, including pacing whining and hiding, during a storm but also experience a 207 percent spike in the production of cortisol, a hormone also produced by humans during stress, the new study has shown. Dreschel notes, "Thunderstorm anxiety in dogs is a very common problem with reports of 15 to 30 percent of pet dogs affected. The prevalence likely varies depending on location and the frequency and intensity of storms."

To measure the cortisol response in both the dogs and their caregivers, the researchers asked 19 dog-owner pairs, in which the dog had been diagnosed as storm-phobic, to listen to a 5-minute recording of a thunderstorm in their own home. The dog and its owner were both videotaped during the listening session. The dogs included five purebred golden retrievers, four other purebreds, including a corgi, a keeshond, a border collie and a Labrador retriever, and 10 mixed breed dogs over 15 pounds each.

Immediately prior to the listening session, both the dog and its owner provided a saliva sample in which the cortisol could be measured. The owner put a small cotton plug in his or her mouth to absorb saliva and the dog chewed on a small, absorbent cotton rope, which became saturated with saliva. Twenty minutes after the 5-minute exposure to the storm recording, saliva samples were collected again from both owner and dog and, then once again, forty minutes after the listening session.

Dreschel says, "On average, the cortisol levels of the caregivers did not increase. The owners probably did not show signs of stress because they knew that the thunderstorm they were hearing was a recording. The dogs probably did not know it was a recording; although, one dog did fall asleep on the couch during the listening session."

Dogs that lived in multi-dog households had significantly less overall change in cortisol compared to dogs that lived in single-dog households. This finding corresponds to a less extreme reaction in dogs from multi-dog households and more rapid and complete return to normal following the listening session. However, dogs in multi-dog households started out with slightly higher cortisol levels, which could indicate that dogs living with other dogs are under more stress.

Dreschel does not recommend that the owners of dogs with thunderstorm anxiety get additional dogs. She notes that there was no difference in the behavioral response of the dogs in multi-dog households vs. dogs in single-dog households.

After the study, Dreschel offered behavioral recommendations to the participants. She notes that it is possible to de-sensitize dogs to storms but that it doesn't always work. Efforts to reduce the anxiety should be made, however, because of the toll on the dog and the owner. The behavior of storm-phobic animals can cause owners to experience lack of sleep, destruction of household items and furnishings as well as worry about their dog's physical and mental health.

## **California declawing ban struck down**

City of West Hollywood, California. Animal rights activists made West Hollywood a "Guardian" city, changing legal terminology from pet "owner" to pet "guardian". Following this success, the City of West Hollywood as guardian passed a Resolution condemning the practice of animal declawing, followed by a full ban in April 2003 when the city council outlawed the surgery as inhumane.

Although both the California VMA and the Cat Fanciers' Association do not approve of declawing, they consider the decision to be a private matter between the veterinarian and cat owner.

The California VMA sued West Hollywood, asserting the city had infringed on veterinarians' state-granted rights to practice within the scope of their licenses. The Los Angeles Superior Court agreed and ruled against the West Hollywood prohibition on November 30, 2005.

CVMA President, Dr. Eric Weigand was quoted as saying, "(The judge's) ruling sends a clear message to West Hollywood and all other California cities that local municipalities cannot pass ordinances that ignore the authority of California's state licensing and regulatory oversight boards."

## **Dog food recall**

According to a government report, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found that Diamond Pet Foods allowed tainted corn into its Gaston plant and failed to properly test for the naturally-occurring poison aflatoxin. The federal agency began an investigation after the company recalled about 1 million pounds of dried dog food on December 20, 2005, said FDA investigator Phil Campbell. The report represents the agency's findings but reportedly does not penalize the company. According to a statement from Diamond, the company cooperated fully with the investigation and supports the findings that were released. Prior to the product recall, the company had stringent guidelines in place to test incoming shipments of corn for aflatoxin exposure. It was apparent by the FDA report that those guidelines were not followed. The company has taken the necessary actions to prevent these oversights from happening in the future. In addition, Diamond also has strengthened its testing procedures on incoming shipments of corn, and initiated final product testing as an additive step to its procedures. This additional step will provide an extra layer of protection prior to the bagging and shipping of products.

### **Mycotoxicosis: Better ways for preventing and treating**

Recent research has found new and better ways to detect and detoxify mycotoxins. Much of that research has come from the lab of Professor Timothy Phillips of Texas A&M. It is possible that, even after ingestion of the Diamond Pet Foods contaminated with aflatoxins, currently-available methods could have saved the lives of dozens of dogs. Dr. Phillips will be a speaker at the Petfood Forum 2006, Chicago, Illinois, USA, April 3-5, 2006.

## HSUS Chronicles

### **Animal Welfare or Animal Rights organization?**

Established in 1954, HSUS began as an animal welfare organization. Through effective marketing and campaigns directed at the public's natural love of animals to solicit funds, HSUS has grown to be a household word and an industry giant worth close to \$120 million. What drives this mammoth organization? Is it animal welfare goals of humane treatment and stewardship or animal rights philosophy which would eliminate from our lives the use of animals in any fashion? To understand the goals, you must examine the beliefs of the leaders, not the campaigns that claim to be for the protection of animals.

**Wayne Pacelle.** President, Humane Society of the United States; former Executive Dir. & National Dir., the Fund For Animals; former president, Animal Rights Alliance; former chairman, Animal Rights Network Inc.; former editor, *The Animals' Agenda* magazine. Pacelle, a strict vegan who converted to the animal rights philosophy after reading Peter Singer's "Animal Liberation", joined HSUS in 1994 after working at the anti-hunting group the Fund for Animals for six years. There he helped Paul Watson and his violent Sea Shepherd Conservation Society raise money for ships, and assisted Alex Pacheco and PETA as they ran an undercover investigation of a primate research lab.

**Dr. Michael Greger.** Director of Public Health and Animal Agriculture, Humane Society of the United States; BSE issue coordinator, Chief Medical Investigator for Farm Sanctuary; proprietor, "Vegan MD" website, publisher of "Atkins Exposed" website. Dr Greger is author of *Paratuberculosis and Crohn's Disease: Got Milk?* in which he makes a case against the dairy/milk industry for spreading disease from cattle to humans, concluding: "This potential crisis is also an indictment of an industry that continues to risk public safety and a government that seems to protect business interests over those of the consumer."

**Miyun Park.** Staffer. Washington, DC activist hired by HSUS in 2005, was acknowledged in 1999 as a financial benefactor of *No Compromise* magazine, a self-described "militant, direct action magazine" for ALF supporters. In the investigation leading to the 2005 animal-enterprise terrorism trial of six SHAC (Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty) activists, Park was among those named in at least six federal wiretap warrants.

**Leslie Alexander.** HSUS board member. In 1998 the Alexanders were guests of honor at PETA headquarters. Quoting PETA: "This year, the Alexanders helped PETA with one of the most generous gifts we have ever received. The gift came when we were facing a lawsuit from Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS); their generosity enabled PETA to persevere and win our battle against HLS, as well as making other victories possible. The Alexanders have our deepest appreciation. Leslie and wife Nanci are owners of the Houston Rockets; wife Nanci also runs the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida.

**John P Goodwin.** HSUS grassroots coordinator. Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade; former Animal Liberation Front member arrested and convicted for arson and vandalism of fur retailers in multiple states during the 1990s.

**Finally quoting Michael Markarian.** Executive VP Humane Society of the United States; Past President, Fund for Animals; Board member Institute for Animals and Society:

"..your everyday meat-eaters and cosmetics users; they are not vivisectioners, they are not slaughterhouse operators, and they have basic feelings of compassion. But they are accustomed to eating, wearing, and using animal products, and they need to be convinced to give them up. They can be won over—slowly but surely they are being won over—....."

## **Film Your Issue**

Wayne Pacelle, CEO of the Humane Society of the United States certainly gets around these days. A new venture for Pacelle is serving on the VIP Jury for Film Your Issue. Also serving on the VIP Jury are such notables as Walter Cronkite, George Clooney, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Senator Barack Obama, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Brian Williams, Amy Gross, Anderson Cooper, Gillian Sorensen. Film Your Issue ([www.filmyourissue.com](http://www.filmyourissue.com)), is an unprecedented "issue film" competition inviting young Americans 18 to 26, including 7 million college and university students on 1200 campuses nationally, to add their voice to the public dialogue on contemporary issues via 30-to-60 second films, launched January 24, 2006 at the Sundance Film Festival.

The competition will be promoted to the 440 million monthly users of MSN and the 104 million users of MSN SPACES, as well as to readers of USA TODAY, the largest U.S. circulation newspaper, and Entertainment Weekly, the largest-circulation entertainment consumer magazine.

Films 30 to 60 seconds in length can be submitted on any issue; however films submitted in the following five topics bring additional presentation platforms to the finalists: (2) UN Millennium Development Goals/ Global Issues; (3) **Animal Welfare**; (4) The Arts as Global Diplomat; (5) Music-driven; (6) Integration of Film and New Media.

Top finalists in the category of Animal Welfare will be posted on the website of The Humane Society of the United States.

## **Humane Society's Geoff Handy Recognized as One of America's Top Fundraisers Under 40**

Fundraising Success magazine recently named Geoff Handy, Director of eCommunity for HSUS, one of its 2006 "Top Fundraisers Under 40." Since April 2003, Geoff has helped build HSUS's online database from 32,000 names to more than 650,000 and increased HSUS's online income (excluding crisis donations) from \$155,000 in 2002 to over \$2.1 million in 2005. Including donations made to support the organization's disaster relief programs, The HSUS raised more than \$20 million online in 2005.

## **Litigation**

The HSUS Animal Protection Litigation Section has a staff of eight full-time lawyers, numerous law clerks, administrative staff, outside counsel, and pro-bono attorneys, making their section the largest in-house animal protection litigation department in the country. The Animal Protection Litigation Section also serves as a training ground for the next generation of animal lawyers and law students. As part of that mission, the section operates the Animal Law Litigation Project in Washington, D.C.—a joint-venture with George Washington University School of Law. The project, the first such joint animal law clinic in the country, offers highly qualified law students a chance to work with HSUS's legal staff.

HSUS is currently working on over 3 dozen animal cases throughout the U.S., including suits against Ringling Brothers, the California State Board of Equalization, the State of New Jersey Department of Agriculture, U.S. Park Service, and 5 suits against USDA.

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