

# AMERICAN★HUMANE

*FIRST TO SERVE®*

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER





# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Friends –

The summer of 2020 has been extraordinarily challenging for both people and animals. The coronavirus pandemic not only made it logistically more difficult to carry out our usual work of saving and improving the lives of the creatures with whom we share the Earth, it also presented new threats to animals around the globe, from household pets facing abandonment as a result of unfounded fears to wildlife made more vulnerable to poaching.

American Humane, you will be glad to know, stepped up to the challenge. We debunked untrue rumors about COVID-19 that were causing owners to abandon their pets, undertook a successful national media blitz to encourage people to adopt or foster a “pandemic pet” during the crisis, and launched a major campaign to feed one million animals left behind in shelters during this national crisis.



And because this global catastrophe was the result of terrible animal cruelty in unhygienic and inhumane “wet markets,” we unveiled a new global manifesto – *A New Deal for Animals, People and the World We Share: A 10-point Plan to Build a Humane and Ethical World* – calling on the peoples of the world to renew and strengthen the social contract human beings must have with the Earth’s animals. We strongly urge you to go to our website and add your support.

To cheer your soul and lift your spirits, we are also celebrating a remarkable “baby boom” at American Humane Certified™ zoological facilities with new life helping replenish the world’s remarkable and endangered species. Inside, you’ll find just a few of the thousands of survival stories we’re helping bring about through our worldwide humane conservation program, including the debuts of a baby giraffe, an adorable California sea lion pup, and a spunky little tapir calf, who, because of his endearing oval-shaped body and horizontal stripes just had to be named “Watermelon.”

And because we have all lived through such a trying year, which separated so many friends and families and made us value the animal heroes in our lives even more, you will be thrilled by the premiere of our 10th annual American Humane Hero Dog Awards®, airing on Hallmark Channel on October 19. This hero- and star-studded celebration of animals is just what we all need right now. Check your local listings for changes and exact broadcast times.

I hope you enjoy our latest stories of compassion, hope and love. Please follow American Humane on social media for the latest breaking news and inspiring tales from the animal world. On behalf of each and every one of the beautiful creatures we help every day, thank you for your care and support!

Sincerely,

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

# RESCUE TAILS

For more than 100 years, wherever and whenever animals are in need, American Humane makes a difference – saving, sheltering, speaking up and caring for the most vulnerable in their times of greatest need. Here are a few of the most recent stories of hope and help you made possible:







## HELPING ANIMALS DURING THE PANDEMIC

The global pandemic has affected all of us... including the animals with whom we share the world. As the virus – and dangerous misinformation – rapidly spread, American Humane sprang into action. We and our scientists began combatting untrue rumors about companion animals spreading the disease, which were increasing the danger of abandonment. Our CEO took to the national airwaves and press to encourage people to adopt or foster a “pandemic pet” from a shelter – a massive effort that led to a surge in adoptions and helped empty many refuges for lost and abandoned animals, especially in wealthier, urban areas.







## PROFILE: JEAN SHAFIROFF

Jean Shafiroff, philanthropist, humanitarian, activist and author of the book *Successful Philanthropy: How to Make a Life By What You Give*, is a national ambassador for American Humane and the spokesperson for our Feed the Hungry campaign. An ardent animal lover, Jean has been instrumental in the effort to provide one million meals for animals abandoned during the pandemic. In addition to her work for American Humane, she serves on several charity boards: Southampton Hospital Association, NYC Mission Society, French Heritage Society, Couture Council, Global Strays, Jewish Board (honorary trustee), and Southampton Animal Shelter Foundation Honorary Board. She is a New York Women's Foundation Board alumna who remains very active with this foundation and women's issues. Jean holds two degrees: a BS in physical therapy from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University and an MBA in finance from Columbia Business School at Columbia University. Jean and her family reside in Manhattan and Southampton.



Then, to help the many struggling rescues and shelters in less well-funded and more remote areas serving millions of animals across the country, we launched our “Feed the Hungry” campaign. With the leadership of philanthropist Jean Shafiroff (see *profile*), this lifesaving effort is working to deliver 1,000,000 meals to animals abandoned during the pandemic. Already, we’ve delivered support for more than half a million nutritious and comforting meals to animals from New York to California. If you would like to help our best friends in their worst times, please visit [www.AmericanHumane.org](http://www.AmericanHumane.org).





# A NEW DEAL FOR ANIMALS, PEOPLE AND THE WORLD WE SHARE

Cruelty hurts all of us. The COVID-19 pandemic began as a result of the inhumane treatment of animals in notorious, so-called “wet markets,” and has since had worldwide consequences for both people and animals on every continent. To combat cruelty in all its forms and renew the world’s commitment to the belief that being kind benefits us all, American Humane not only took a leadership role in advocating vigorously against these cruel, unhygienic, and unregulated markets, but stepped forward to ask all of humanity to re-examine and re-think how to rebuild our broken social contract with animals in every area of life – from the ways animals are treated on farms to the need to protect them in the wild.

Below are the key elements of the international call to action we created, entitled, ***A New Deal for Animals, People and the World We Share: A 10-point Plan to Build a Humane and Ethical World.*** We encourage every animal lover to read the full version of this important declaration at our website ([www.AmericanHumane.org/NewDeal](http://www.AmericanHumane.org/NewDeal)), and support these long-needed changes:

- 1. End the World's Wet Markets
- 2. End the Global Cat and Dog Meat Trade
- 3. Immediately Stop Unnecessary Taxpayer-Funded Testing on Animals
- 4. Ensure Independent Humane Inspections of Farms Worldwide and Related Biosecurity Measures for Animal Agriculture
- 5. Ensure Independent Humane Oversight of Animals in All Forms of Entertainment
- 6. Ensure Independent Humane Inspections of Zoos and Aquariums Worldwide
- 7. End the Highly Lucrative, Organized Poaching and “Bush Meat” Trade That Is Decimating Wild Species and Spreading Devastating Diseases
- 8. Enforce Ethical Standards for Global Animal Tourism
- 9. Enforce Safety Standards for Animals in All Forms of Transportation
- 10. Expand the Use of Service and Therapy Dogs

American Humane has been working on many of these issues for years – some, starting from our founding in 1877! As the world wakes up to the cost resulting from the continued abuse of animals, we ask you to add your voice to this important effort to achieve a more humane and ethical world. Thank you.



RONNIE CHUA / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM







## NEW PSA SEEKS HEROES FOR ANIMALS

Our animal friends face a variety of dangers, from abandonment to hurricanes, floods and wildfires. To help more animals languishing in shelters or lost in natural disasters, **actress and producer Vivica A. Fox** ("Kill Bill," "Independence Day") teamed up with American Humane to create six national television and radio spots asking Americans to become heroes to animals in need by adopting from a shelter or volunteering as members of the national American Humane Rescue team. The spots are now airing on some 1,300 television stations and 10,000 radio stations across the country. A big thank-you to our friend and animal lover, Vivica A. Fox!

*Actress, producer, and animal lover Vivica A. Fox*

## KEEPING THOSE WHO PROTECT ANIMALS SAFE

American Humane now works to protect and improve the lives of some one billion animals each year. But without our people – our rescue team members, our animal welfare experts, our scientists and our Certified Animal Safety Representatives – we couldn't protect any of them. So, during the COVID-19 crisis, keeping our staff, board, and volunteers safe has been extremely important for us and the animals we serve. At the outset of the pandemic, we officially closed our physical offices and put structures in place to allow for everyone to be able to telework. We provided masks to all staff and maintain a stock of Personal Protective Equipment (masks, face shields, gloves, hand sanitizer) for staff who will be going back into the field and who will return to the offices at a future time. To keep communication robust and reduce the sense of isolation, we instituted regular Zoom Town Halls with staff to discuss what was happening, tips for staying safe (using PPE, social distancing, etc.), and various resources available to help during the pandemic. Our CEO launched a series of national "Fireside Chats" for staff and supporters across the country to share news and achievements. And we created an organization-wide "Community Cheer" group email where we could all share interesting or informative personal news and photos. Executive staff and HR are working together to ensure we are hearing staff concerns, working on a case-by-case basis to allow for flexibility in schedules to accommodate child/family care needs, and offer Employee Assistance Programs and other wellness resources to staff. Because of these actions, almost all of our operations have continued to run smoothly and we have been able to keep helping animals in need across the country and around the world.







## HELPING AMERICA'S HEROES

Since 1916, American Humane has been *First to Serve*® those who serve our country by helping support our nation's veterans and the military animals who work for the cause of freedom. Through our Lois Pope LIFE Center for Military Affairs, we reunite retired military working dogs with their handlers, find animals in need of forever homes and train them to become life-saving service dogs for veterans, advocate for these heroes and much more. Here are just some of the most recent efforts we have made on behalf of both our two- and four-legged veterans.

## SERVICE DOGS BRING HOPE DESPITE PANDEMIC

American Humane is celebrating the graduation of two veteran and service dog pairs from the Pups4Patriots™ program. Through the heat of a southern summer and the challenges of an international pandemic, the American Humane trainers, mental health professionals, veterans and, of course, courageous pups, worked diligently to train well and safely.

The Pups4Patriots™ program provides specially trained service dogs for veterans with post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain injury. Once trained, service dogs can help mitigate symptoms associated with trauma.

Chico, a United States Air Force veteran who resides in South Carolina, found the program through his VA counselor. After training for a week with Maxie, a female German Shepherd, Chico admitted that while the work had been a "tough experience for someone who doesn't know anything about dogs," already his new companion felt like "one of my kids." Looking forward, Chico is excited to have "another companion, getting me through my day-to-day."

In light of the novel coronavirus, all of the training was conducted outdoors and with masks.



According to Joni, a United States Navy veteran who resides in Florida, this wasn't "an easy thing to do," but the bond she formed with her dog Bella made the process "totally worth it."

Joni drove seven-and-a-half hours for this training. According to her, "There were triggers all along the way... I would not have done that if it weren't for the hope of a service dog."

After ten days of training with Bella, a female Labrador Retriever, Joni said she feels, "like I can already walk through a park without looking over my shoulder and my anxiety is almost nonexistent." Joni is looking forward to Bella empowering her to live a life that she is passionate about: "I love to travel and I have been all around the world. I like to be out and be active and to be in shape and I think Bella is perfect because she is going to help me to do that – she's got my back."

Service dogs perform a variety of tasks, including grounding and creating space. When a service dog responds to a grounding cue, they rest their entire body against their handler. Just the dog's physical touch can ground the veteran and help de-escalate their anxiety. For those who are uncomfortable in large crowds, or with people being in their personal space, upon the handler's cue, a service dog will position him/herself in front or behind the handler to create space between the handler and other people.

While service dogs are an invaluable asset to veterans with trauma, there are significant obstacles to receiving one. Properly training a dog so they will remain calm and unobtrusive in crowds, public areas and help a veteran with trauma symptoms is expensive – costing up to \$30,000 per dog. Even when cost isn't an obstacle, wait times can still be prohibitively long.

Through the Pups4Patriots™ program, American Humane provides service dogs to veterans at no charge to them. The training of Bella and Maxie was made possible through a generous donation from Zoetis Petcare, a longstanding supporter of American Humane. To learn more or support this lifesaving effort, visit [www.americanhumane.org/program/military](http://www.americanhumane.org/program/military).







## HEROES REUNITED IN MISSISSIPPI

Neither the Pacific Ocean nor the novel coronavirus could keep these two heroes apart forever. This summer, American Humane carried through on its commitment to reunite U.S. Army Specialist Traveon Gayden with Military Working Dog Tshaar. Both traveled long and far, navigating the roadblocks to Tshaar's reunification with his good friend and retirement into his forever home.

At just 6 years old, MWD Tshaar is notably young for a retired MWD. The Belgian Malinois, trained in bomb detection, developed an unknown skin pathology that inhibited his ability to work. As a result, Tshaar was sidelined from service and put into veterinary care at his base in Korea. While there, Tshaar formed a close bond with his caregiver SPC Gayden, a veterinary technician charged with overseeing our sick hero's health.

During their time together in Korea, SPC Gayden grew to love the pup's energetic and goofy personality. According to SPC Gayden, Tshaar won over everyone who interacted with him, becoming the clinic's de facto "mascot." When Tshaar's retirement became official due to his medical conditions, SPC Gayden jumped at the opportunity to adopt his four-legged friend.

Transporting a canine from Korea to the United States, however, is no easy task, so SPC Gayden enlisted American Humane's help in flying his friend to Biloxi, Mississippi. Our team, which has worked alongside the U.S. military for more than a century, was happy to oblige.



# SAVING EARTH'S ANIMALS

Species around the world are disappearing at an alarming rate in what scientists are calling the “Sixth Mass Extinction.” To help stem this terrible tide and protect the world’s beloved animals, we launched the American Humane Certified™ program, the first such independent certification for the world’s zoological facilities. You can support the vital rescue, rehabilitation and conservation work being done at these institutions by visiting American Humane Certified facilities. This summer, we’re proud to report on what at our many zoos and aquariums can only be called a...

## BABY BOOM!

Conservation of the world’s beautiful and endangered animals is a key part of modern zoos’ work. Lately, we’ve been seeing a gratifying number of births in our American Humane Certified zoological facilities. Just a sampling includes the heartwarming arrivals of:

- Baby “Beacon” was born to Bea, a 14-year old reticulated giraffe at **Busch Gardens Tampa** just in time for World Giraffe Day. In addition to being adorable, such births are essential as there are only about 15,000 giraffes left in their natural habitats. Giraffe populations have declined more than 50 percent in the last 30 years because of habitat loss and hunting. Welcome to the world, Beacon!
- “Watermelon,” an adorable, 18-pound baby tapir, born at **Woodland Park Zoo** to Ulan and Bintang. The spunky, spotted and striped youngster is an especially welcome addition as populations worldwide are decreasing and several types are endangered. To keep Watermelon safe, zoo officials have made sure to “tapir baby-proof” her habitat. **Fun fact:** Did you know that tapirs’ closest relatives are not pigs but horses and rhinos?
- “Smiley,” a California sea lion, was born to Kelilah at **Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium**. We applaud Smiley on a successful debut and Smiley’s mom for her patience during her 11-month pregnancy. Latest reports are that Smiley’s first swimming lessons are going...swimmingly.



JEREMY DWYER-LINDGREN/WOODLAND PARK ZOO





# THE HUMANE CONSERVATION FAMILY GROWS

As animal lovers around the world rightly demand that the remarkable and endangered creatures living in zoos, aquariums and conservation centers be ensured good welfare and humane treatment, increasing numbers of the world's leading zoological institutions are stepping up to become American Humane Certified. Today, top institutions in 12 countries in North America, Central America, Europe and Asia have earned this distinction after undergoing rigorous audits by independent animal welfare experts that are unique to the American Humane Certified program. Please join us in welcoming the newest members of our humane conservation family:

## DENVER ZOO

Situated on 80 acres in Denver's City Park, Denver Zoo boasts state-of-the-industry facilities and care for its nearly 3,000 animals, which include 450 species such as African lions, Amur tigers, Asian elephants and Sumatran orangutans. The city's oldest and most passionate advocate for the natural world, the zoo is visited by nearly two million people per year. With a mission of *inspiring communities to save wildlife for future generations*, Denver Zoo dedicates almost \$2 million annually to zoo-led programs aimed at protecting animals within their natural habitats around the world.

"Providing the highest quality care for our animals is our top priority and fundamental to our mission to save wildlife," said Brian Aucone, Denver Zoo's senior vice president for animal sciences. "American Humane Certification provides yet another way for us to measure how we care for the amazing wildlife that call Denver Zoo home and serve as ambassadors for their wild counterparts."

For more information or to arrange a visit, please go to: [www.DenverZoo.org](http://www.DenverZoo.org).



## OCEANOGRÀFIC

This summer, Oceanogràfic, the largest aquarium in Europe, also earned our Humane Certified™ seal, joining top zoological organizations around the world in passing rigorous audits designed to demonstrate adherence to a comprehensive list of science-based animal welfare indicators.

"We commend Oceanogràfic for voluntarily opening their doors and undergoing exhaustive examinations including in-depth comprehensive assessments of actual animal welfare conditions and practices for some 15,000 animals and more than 600 species, and intensive on-site assessments by a team of independent auditors," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, American Humane president and CEO.

Located in València, Spain, Oceanogràfic contains large aquariums that reproduce the Earth's most important marine ecosystems. Among other creatures, they care for penguins, sharks, jellyfish, crocodiles, sea lions, and many species of fish from around the world.

To learn more or visit, go to [www.oceanografic.org](http://www.oceanografic.org).

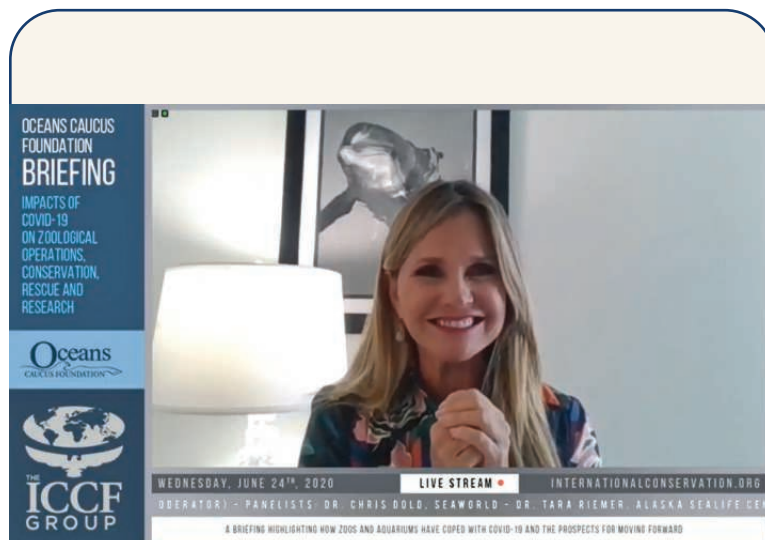


## USA TODAY: AMERICAN HUMANE CERTIFIED FACILITY IS "BEST ZOO IN NORTH AMERICA!"

American Humane Certified **Fort Worth Zoo** was named the "Best Zoo in North America" in *USA Today's* "10 Best" Readers' Choice Travel Awards! Making this victory even sweeter, we had two other winners, as well: Both **Georgia Aquarium** and **Mystic Aquarium** made the "10 Best" list for aquariums in North America, demonstrating the fine work being done by American Humane Certified zoological facilities in caring for remarkable and endangered animals. When you next visit a zoo or aquarium, be sure that it is certified by American Humane! For a full list of certified zoological facilities, visit [www.HumaneConservation.org](http://www.HumaneConservation.org)







## CONSERVATION BRIEFING

Because the pandemic affects animals all around the world, American Humane President and CEO Dr. Robin Ganzert moderated a briefing with the International Conservation Caucus Foundation and top animal scientists to discuss the impacts of the crisis on the millions of creatures living in zoos and aquariums around the world. This invaluable forum focused on the effects of COVID-19 on zoological operations, conservation, rescue and research as a result of the temporary shutdown of so many facilities and what is being done to keep the animals safe and healthy. Key speakers included Dr. Tara Riemer of the Alaska SeaLife Center, Dr. Chris Dold from SeaWorld, and Thane Maynard of the Cincinnati Zoo.



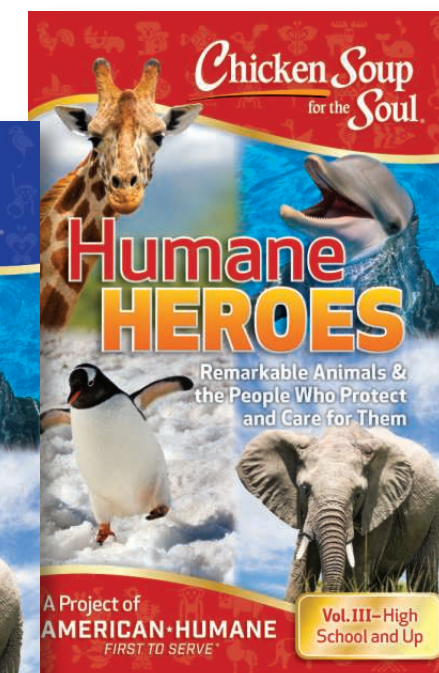
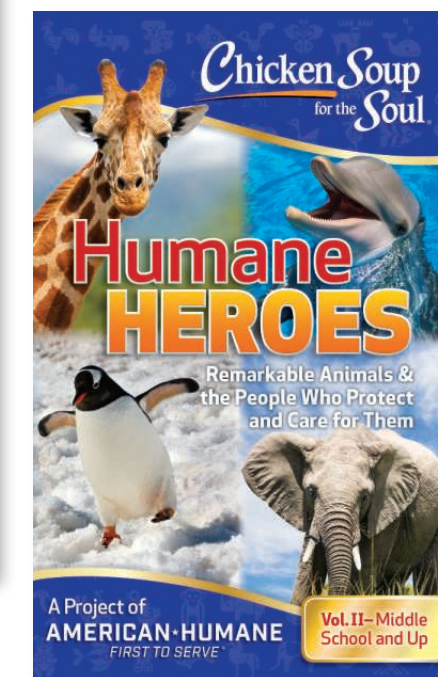
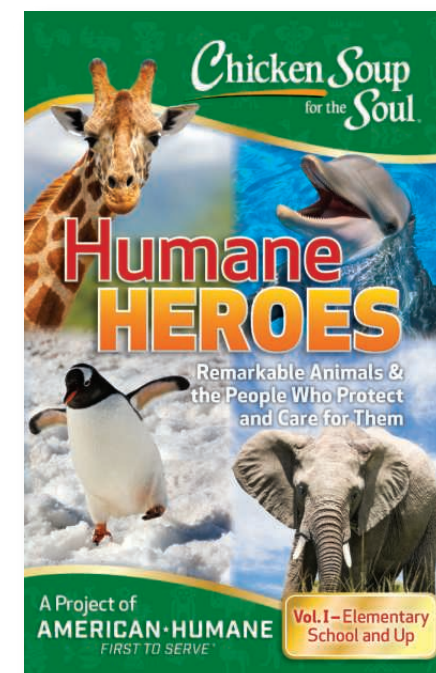
## NEED A PANDEMIC PARENTING BREAK?

The scene is becoming all too familiar: Parents trying to get work done at home during the pandemic while their kids are bouncing off the walls with boredom. And with the long summer and uncertainty about the return to school, parents are starting to worry that their kids will start falling behind in their studies.

What better way to give parents a break and keep kids engaged, happy and learning than by giving them the present of an exciting, free series of animal stories and lessons, designed to boost their reading skills, while encouraging them to care for and help conserve the remarkable, endangered and disappearing creatures of the Earth?

The award-winning “Humane Heroes” series of free e-books for elementary, middle-school and high-school students were created by American Humane and the publishers of the popular Chicken Soup for the Soul series of books. Through inspirational stories of animal rescue, rehabilitation and humane conservation being performed at the world’s leading zoological institutions, and professionally developed lesson plans, “Humane Heroes” makes learning fun and teaches children compassion at the same time.

Parents who homeschool or who are looking for a way to spend quality time together during this period of isolation will also enjoy reading and going through the easy-to-follow downloadable lesson plans with their children. Among the animals they will meet are a baby cheetah who was orphaned and found a special friend, a penguin who was able to walk again with the help of a 3-D printer and an abandoned baby dolphin who was saved. To download free copies of the Humane Heroes e-books, visit any of the major online book sites such as Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble. To download free copies of the Humane Heroes book series and their companion curricula, visit: [www.ChickenSoupForTheSoul.com/AH](http://www.ChickenSoupForTheSoul.com/AH).



And for younger children, a free video of American Humane President and CEO Dr. Robin Ganzert reading stories from Volume I is available at [www.AmericanHumane.org/StoryTime](http://www.AmericanHumane.org/StoryTime).

“American Humane has been teaching children about the value of treating animals well for more than a century,” said American Humane president and CEO Dr. Robin Ganzert, who conceived the project. “We hope that during this time when children are out of school and looking for things to do that our *Humane Heroes* books, curricula and video can bring families together with enjoyable activities, keep kids’ learning on track and help cultivate a new generation of animal advocates for the beautiful creatures with whom we share the world.”





# MAKING HUMANE CHOICES

At American Humane, we believe that all animals – including those on farms and ranches across the country – deserve humane treatment. That's why American Humane created the country's first, largest, and most trusted farm animal welfare program, now covering some one billion animals. Our American Humane Certified™ seal of approval allows consumers to support the humane treatment of animals when they buy eggs, milk, cheese, meat and poultry, and make purchases in line with their values. If you care for farm animals, read just a little about the people and producers who are working to put food on America's table...and do right by animals.



## HUMANE SPOTLIGHT: EGGLAND'S BEST

Development of Eggland's Best began in the late 1980s with an international review of scientific advances in egg quality and human nutritional needs. A product development team made up of professionals in the medical, dietetic, agricultural and business fields set out with a firm commitment to improving egg quality, nutrition, safety and taste. A key objective was creating a product superior to standard commodity eggs that would help alleviate consumer concerns regarding egg cholesterol. The new product that was developed was subjected to rigorous clinical trials and was awarded patent #5,246,717 "Eggs compatible with cholesterol-reducing diet and method of producing the same." Two patents have since been awarded to Eggland's Best for technological advances related to reducing cholesterol in eggs. Additionally, US Patent #10197543: "Method for the Production of a Verified Enriched Shell Egg" was awarded for verification program that confirms that Eggland's Best shell eggs are produced according to a unique program created for nutritional enrichment, food safety measures, and other exceptional egg qualities, including shell strength and yolk color.

We asked them recently about their work, their passion for animals, and what inspired them to become American Humane Certified™ producers of cage-free eggs. Here is what they told us:

*A critically important aspect of developing the Eggland's Best program was selecting exceptional egg producers with a deeply instilled culture of quality and genuine commitment to conscientious care of their hens. Our nationwide network was created with the additional objective of providing local production to ensure dependable delivery of eggs with consistently superior quality, freshness, and safety.*

*There are a lot of specialty eggs on the market that promote improvement of a single attribute in comparison to regular eggs (such as "omega-3 egg") that can be used simply for marketing purposes. In contrast, the Eggland's Best approach is very comprehensive. In addition to a substantial increase in omega-3's, Eggland's Best eggs have less saturated fat, and significantly improved levels of lutein, iodine, selenium, folate, and vitamins D, E, B2, B5 and B12.*

*Years of dedicated effort have paid off. Eggland's Best eggs have been proven superior for product quality in multiple independent evaluations conducted by university poultry scientists, regulatory*

*agencies and other industry professionals. Eggland's Best has received many awards for their superior nutritional value for today's consumers. National awards for superior taste have been received for many years. Over 45,000 annual internal and independent tests verify consistent compliance with all nutritional claims as well as our quality and safety standards. Veterinarians and two independent organizations audit our facilities to ensure proper care of our hens.*

*We pride ourselves on this combined effort to ensure consistently better nutrition, better taste, and in every way – better eggs.*

*Animal care is of utmost importance for Eggland's Best. All of our producers share in this genuine concern and commitment. We all feel a strong sense of responsibility for providing a good quality of life for animals in our care.*

*We value very highly all members of the Eggland's Best team. Animal care certification organizations have auditors who are experienced and trained in animals' welfare needs and can join efforts with our veterinarians and animal care specialists in our continual effort to be EB (Even Better). Third-party certifiers provide credible verification that our producers' hens are being given proper care.*

*American Humane is held in very high regard and has a long-standing reputation for ensuring the proper treatment of animals in a variety of settings. They are strongly science based and have established standards and guidelines that are more focused on the needs of animals than purely on the appeal to consumers.*

*We believe that American Humane certification inspires in consumers a comforting peace of mind and an assurance that their purchase of our products supports ethical animal care. We pride ourselves in nationwide uniformity of standards and American Humane strongly supports this effort for our company. We firmly believe that our program is better for consumers of our products and is better for the well-being of our hens, and American Humane is a key element in ensuring that our company values reach every dimension of our program.*

*Compared to ordinary eggs, Eggland's Best eggs contain six times more vitamin D, 25% less*

*saturated fat, more than double the Omega-3s, ten times more vitamin E, and more than double the vitamin B12. The superior nutrition of Eggland's Best is due to its*

*proprietary all-vegetarian hen feed that contains healthy grains, canola oil and a wholesome supplement of rice bran, alfalfa, sea kelp and Vitamin E. In addition, independent testing has revealed that Eggland's Best eggs have stronger shells than ordinary eggs, which leads to less breakage and helps them stay fresher longer. Eggland's Best's patented method of production and verification ensures that every Eggland's Best egg has these superior qualities. Eggland's Best eggs have been the recipient of more than 100 awards and honors for the product's superior taste, nutrition, freshness and variety.*

*For more information on Eggland's Best eggs as well as delicious recipes, visit [www.egglandsbest.com](http://www.egglandsbest.com) and follow them on Instagram and Facebook.*

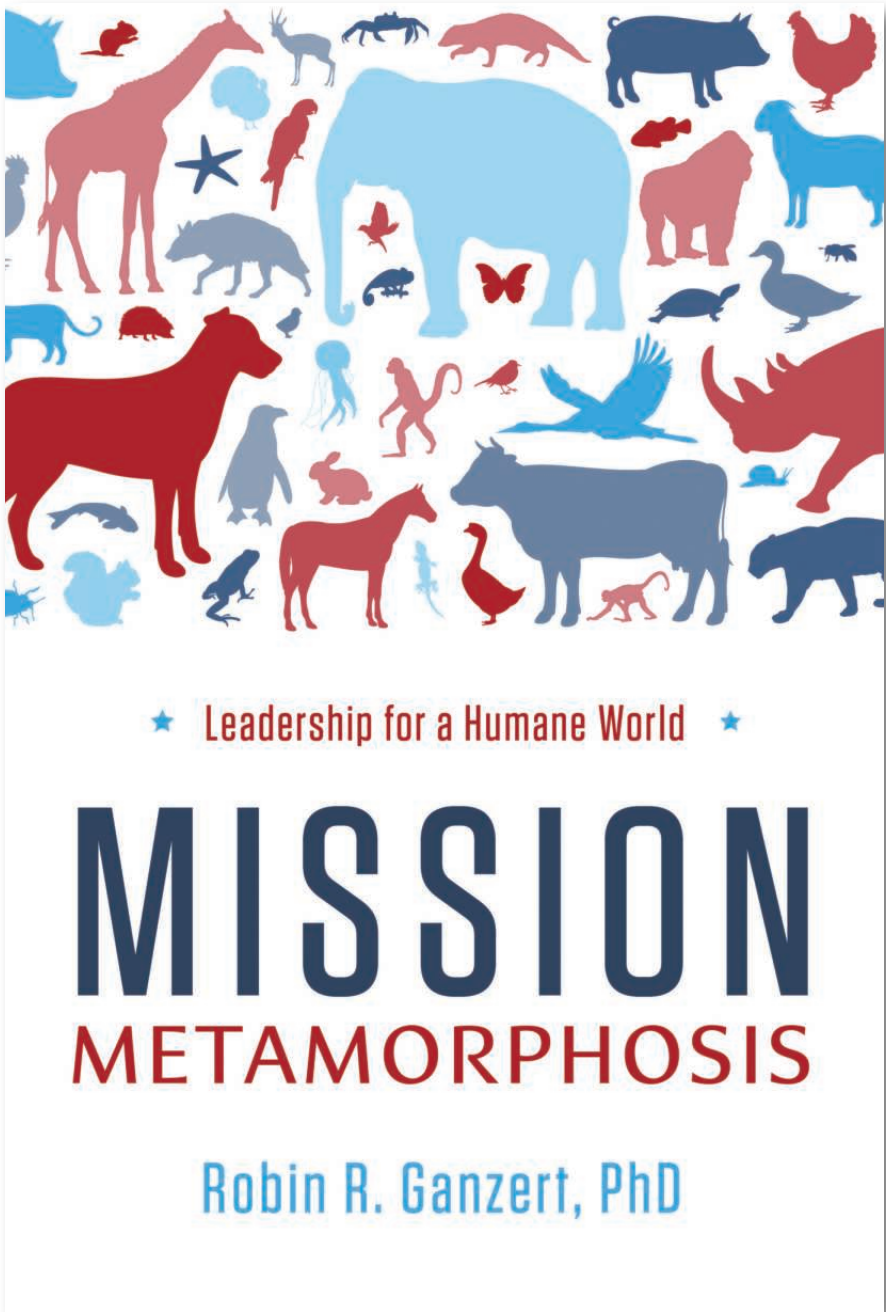




COMING THIS FALL!

FILM: “ESCAPE FROM EXTINCTION”

American Humane’s inaugural 90-minute documentary throws a vitally important spotlight on critical efforts that may be among the last, best chances to save one million species on the verge of a catastrophic mass extinction. Narrated by Academy Award, Tony and Emmy-Award-winner Helen Mirren, the film examines the work of the major zoological organizations that are racing against the clock to preserve the million species disappearing in today’s Sixth Mass Extinction.



BOOK: MISSION METAMORPHOSIS: THE TRANSFORMATION OF AMERICA’S FIRST NATIONAL HUMANE ORGANIZATION

(© 2020, Fast Company Press, 167 pages, \$22.95): In this new book coming out this fall, American Humane president & CEO Dr. Robin Ganzert reveals the remarkable efforts to rescue, restore and retool the historic American Humane organization for its leading role in today’s humane movement.



# HUMANE HOLLYWOOD: LIGHTS, CAMERA, ANIMALS!

The American Humane Hollywood program has been *First to Serve*® in the protection of our beloved animal actors for more than 80 years. In that time, we've certified the safety of some **one million** animal actors through our famed No Animals Were Harmed® program, using rigorous, species-specific protocols that are defined, reviewed and regularly updated by a Scientific Advisory Committee of leading independent animal scientists, animal behaviorists and animal ethicists.

The safety of animals always comes first with us, so we take all the necessary steps to ensure their care, starting in the early stages of production and continuing all the way to the on-set action itself to ensure the well-being and humane treatment of all animals involved in the production. Here are just a few hits that have earned our coveted **No Animals Were Harmed**® certification and are sure to earn the animal-loving public's hearty acclaim:



## PALM SPRINGS

What better place to bask in the summer heat than the desert? Make yourself a cup of hot cocoa and have a blast with Adam Sandberg and Cristin Milioti as they're forced to relive the same day over and over again in the Sundance Festival winner, **Palm Springs**. American Humane was on set to make sure the goat was kept cool and treated like desert royalty. Palm Springs is streaming on Hulu now.

## THE OLD GUARD

Getting bored at home? Just switch over to Netflix and watch superhero Charlize Theron help protect humanity in **The Old Guard**. Filmed in London, Paris and Morocco, American Humane was there in a more humane capacity to protect the horses, goats and camels. Look for some amazing sequences in the deserts of Morocco. And, yes, we can assure you the camels had plenty of water to drink.



And has there ever been a better time to binge all your favorite shows than while in quarantine? American Humane protected all the animals in the following shows: HBO's crime drama, **Perry Mason**; the hilarious satirical take on Russia's Tsarina Catherine I, in Hulu's **The Great**; and, of course, the exciting third season of **Ozark** on Netflix. Relax and enjoy them all!

## DA 5 BLOODS

Check out Spike Lee's newest flick, **Da 5 Bloods**, the story of five Vietnam Vet buddies who are lured back to the jungle to retrieve bars of gold originally intended to fund resistance to the Vietcong. We're proud to announce that American Humane was on location in Thailand and Vietnam to make sure every animal was treated like gold, including a water buffalo, a snake, and all those chickens in the background.





# MEET AMERICA'S TOP DOGS!

## SEVEN REMARKABLE CANINES HEADLINE 2020 AMERICAN HUMANE HERO DOG AWARDS®

America has spoken and following nearly a million votes cast by animal lovers across the country and a celebrity panel of dog lovers and experts, seven remarkable canines have been named finalists in the 2020 American Humane Hero Dog Awards®, which will be hosted by irrepressible actor and television personality Carson Kressley and broadcast nationally October 19 on Hallmark Channel. The two-hour special, now in its 10th year, is being aired in conjunction with the network's pet adoption advocacy initiative, Hallmark Channel's Adoption Ever After, which aims to empty shelters and end this country's epidemic of pet homelessness.

"The American Humane Hero Dog Awards celebrate the tremendously important roles dogs play in our lives," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, American Humane president and CEO. "We hope that every animal lover in the country tunes in on October 19 to see the remarkable stories of hope and heroism displayed by these courageous canines."

All seven finalists took top honors in their individual categories from an initial field of 408 nominees. Here are brief descriptions of this year's finalists, written by the hero dogs' owners/handlers:



## 2020 THERAPY DOG OF THE YEAR CATEGORY SPONSORED BY WORLD PET ASSOCIATION

**Olive (Jefferson City, Missouri)** – From hopeless and homeless to living her purpose, Olive (pictured left) was rescued from the streets of Los Angeles by Brandon McMillan, host and animal trainer of the Emmy Award-winning CBS show, Lucky Dog. Lisa Groves Bax, a child advocate volunteer for abused/neglected children in the judicial system in Missouri, saw the need for a resource to assist the scores of children facing the daunting task of appearing or testifying in court. After extensive training with Brandon McMillan, Olive was united with her forever family in Missouri, and ready to live her purpose as a certified therapy dog. Olive was tested and evaluated by Therapy Dogs International. Through no fault of their own, vulnerable children are facing unknown proceedings because an adult failed to care properly for them. Olive's mission is to make sure that no child walks alone through the courtroom doors, and provides comfort throughout the unknown journey that the child faces against their abuser or neglecting adult, which in most cases is their very own parents. Olive has served more than 300 children since beginning in the court system in 2016, and continues to assist children with extremely difficult criminal trials in order to get a conviction against the abusers. Olive is an American Hero Dog to the children she serves, and deserves to add this title to her endless endeavors advocating for the awareness of child abuse/neglect and serving children in the courtroom.

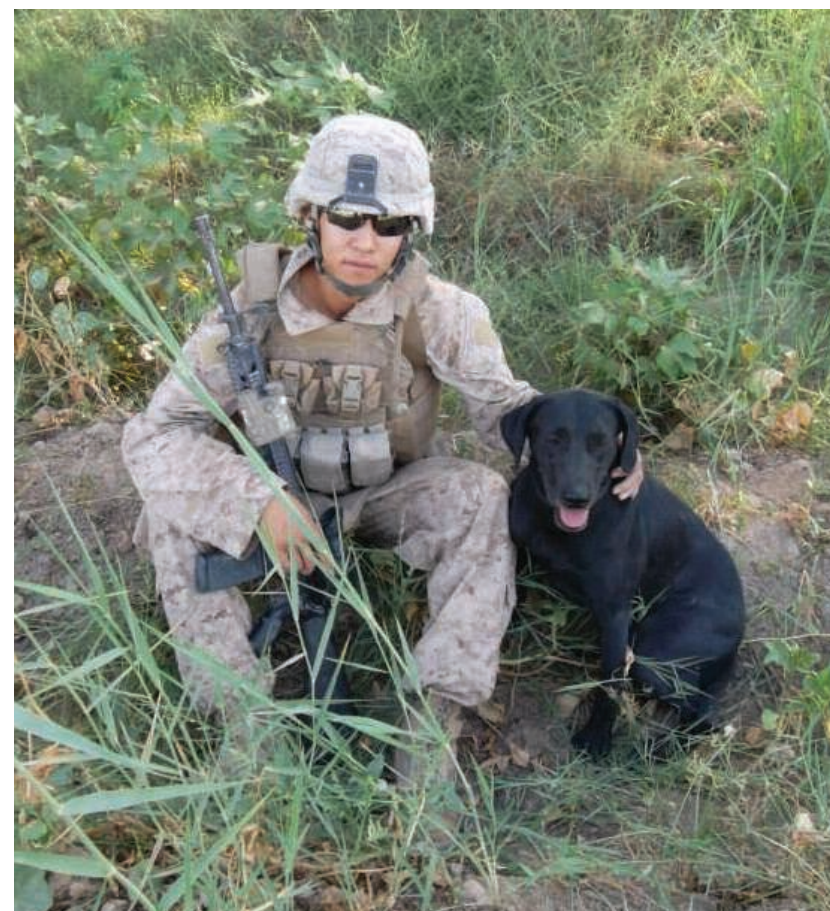
## 2020 SERVICE DOG OF THE YEAR CATEGORY SPONSORED BY LULU'S FUND

**Dolly Pawton (Naples, Maine)** – Dolly Pawton is my cardiac alert dog, trained to alert if my blood pressure drops or heart rate rises to an unsafe level. Being confined to a wheelchair due to multiple medical conditions has been difficult, to say the least. At times, my body will physically not allow me to do everyday tasks. I try to remain as active as my body will allow. With Dolly's help I am able to do that. Before having a service dog, I went out very little but Dolly changed that. She helps me to function without having to depend on others. Dolly helps in every aspect of my life, including reducing my social anxiety. I was a victim of domestic violence which caused PTSD. I struggled to get out of bed not just because of my health but because my self-confidence was horrible. Because of my fears, it was much easier and safer for me to stay home. People have no idea the pain I was in before Dolly. Living with so many medical issues along with PTSD takes a real toll on me both physically and emotionally. I wake up with nightmares, terrified to go back to bed but now I have Dolly right by my side to keep me safe. Dolly gave me the self-confidence and inspiration to write and illustrate a children's book called Pawsibly the Best Medicine. It is a biography of Dolly told with a bit of humorous fiction. We bring her book to schools to educate children about service dogs. She is truly my most crucial medical equipment with a loving, beating heart. I don't know what I would do without her in my life and she is my hero.



## 2020 MILITARY DOG OF THE YEAR

**Blue II P491 (Lawrenceville, Georgia)** – Blue served our country valiantly from 2011 to 2018. I served as her first handler on my second deployment to Afghanistan, which was her first deployment as an Improvised Explosive Device Detector Dog. While deployed, Blue and I went on over 300 combat missions. She found many IEDs, saving me, along with many Marines and Sailors during our deployment. Once we parted ways, I vowed to find her and adopt her one day. Six years later, she came up for review on her disposition while she was stationed in Okinawa, Japan where she served as an SSD. After seven years of honorable service, she retired in November 2018 and made her way from Japan to Georgia. She's been enjoying her retirement with my family and me ever since. Blue is our own personal hero and deserves to be recognized as one in her life.







## 2020 GUIDE/HEARING DOG OF THE YEAR

**Aura (Brunswick, Maine)** – Aura is a trained hearing service dog. She became my ears after I lost my hearing in a rocket attack in Afghanistan. I was in despair after my injuries. I needed a helper. What I received was a fur guardian angel. She has restored my independence. I went from being a blown-up deaf person to a person who now feels safe and secure in the world. She never has a day off and I rely on her to keep me safe. She provides me with the confidence I need to interact in the world. She has allowed me to pursue my passions and purpose in life. I have no regrets about losing my hearing, I would trade my ears for Aura any day. She is happy to work for me, displaying undying loyalty. She knows I am deaf but loves me anyway. Always by my side, head up and ready for anything. She is my hope. I am forever grateful to her. There is not a medication or a therapy that could do for me what Aura does for me every day. The photograph of Aura was taken on the very first day I received her. I immediately felt her love flow through her leash right into my heart. She looks at me like I am the best person in the world. We hope to continue to be ambassadors for people with hearing loss. She has changed how I see and feel about the world. Aura is the epitome of a hero, putting others before herself, ensuring my safety over hers, and providing her constant service to me, asking nothing in return. We will continue to hike, explore, travel and enjoy all the world has to offer. She is my most sacred companion.



## 2020 SHELTER DOG OF THE YEAR

**MacKenzie (Hilton, New York)** – MacKenzie uniquely represents a rescue hero because she went from being a rescue dog to helping hundreds of other rescue dogs. She provides care for baby animals with birth defects and educates people of all ages. On December 31, 2013, an amazing dog named MacKenzie (Kenz for short) was born with a cleft palate. She was tube-fed from day one for almost a year and survived bouts of aspiration pneumonia. I have never seen such a will to live. She was sick, but more concerned with the baby animals at the rescue. At almost one year of age, she had her life-saving cleft palate surgery. She could eat and drink on her own and focus on what she was born to do. Most of the animals that we rescue are babies that can't stay with their mother due to their medical needs. Kenz takes an interest in each baby from day one, regardless of species or size. She plays nurse and cleans, comforts, and cuddles them. She also acts as their mom and teaches them how to socialize, play, and have good manners. Kenzie's other important hero role is to interact with children at schools, so they learn to be open-minded toward animals and people with physical differences. They learn kindness, patience, and that you can make a difference in the world no matter how small you are. Kenz also raises awareness about animals with disabilities. She may have lost her ability to bark, but she still makes herself heard and speaks for other animals born with a defect. She's a shining example of how rescue saves more than just one life.

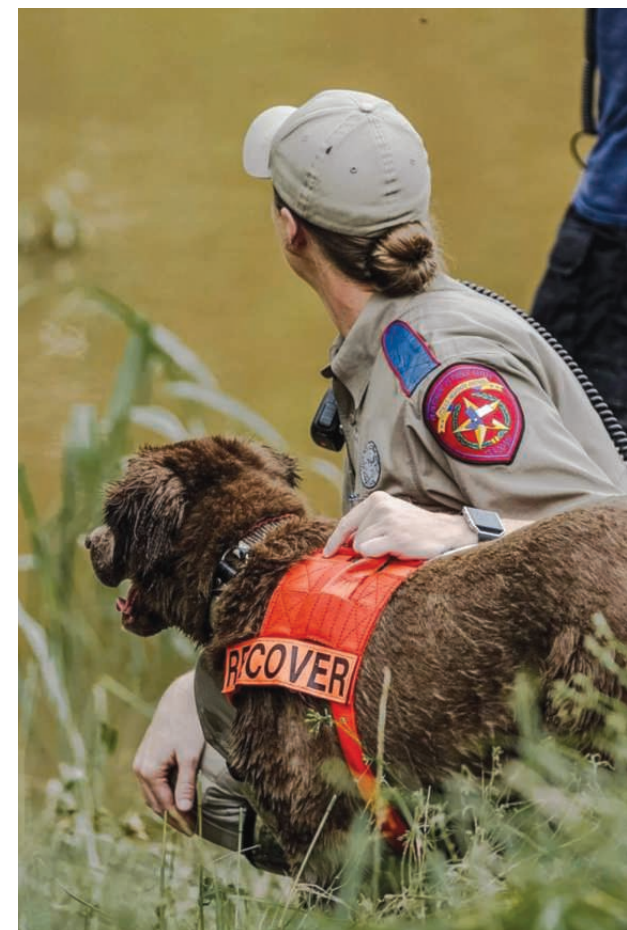
## 2020 LAW ENFORCEMENT DOG OF THE YEAR

**K-9 Cody (Newport News, Virginia)** – K-9 Cody started her career in explosives detection in Iraq, working hard to keep U.S. personnel safe at the U.S. Embassy. K-9 Cody was transferred back to the United States, where she continued her explosives detection career working at the Mall of America. She quickly stood out as a phenomenal K-9, and not just because of her ability to detect explosives, but also because of her calm and loving demeanor. K-9 Cody was transferred to her current position in Virginia, helping to safeguard such places as Busch Gardens and events for the LPGA, NBA, and the Fourth of July parade in Bristol, Rhode Island. She also helps the local agencies with bomb threats. In her off-time, she can be found doing demonstrations at local schools, churches, and festivals. She loves people and loves to say hi by walking up and leaning against their legs so she can enjoy a few scratches behind the ear. One story that sticks out about Cody and her gentle spirit was an incident that happened while she was working at an amusement park doing explosives detection. A young girl, around 8 or 9 years old, was in the park enjoying the day with her family. She was in line for a ride when a service dog bit her on the leg. She was traumatized and scared. Knowing how gentle Cody is, they called her to the aid station. When Cody saw the little girl, she immediately walked over, licked the girl's hand and then laid at her feet. Almost immediately, the little girl stopped crying, and was soon smiling, thanks to Cody.



## 2020 SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG OF THE YEAR

**Remington (Montgomery, Texas)** – K9 Remington is more than just a retired search and rescue K9; he is a cancer fighter and survivor, an advocate for retired K9s and for dogs to be in the fire service. Remi was nationally certified in human remains detection and worked many cases across the United States with Special K9s SAR. Remi has spent his entire life fighting for those who could not fight by assisting law enforcement in locating remains or evidence. His deployments range from missing people, cold cases, and Hurricane Harvey. When not on searches, he was at the New Caney Fire Department and later with Navasota Fire Department. He was a constant figure at public relations events, allowing people to learn about search and rescue, as well as fire safety. He brought comfort to firefighters after long shifts and rough calls. On June 19, 2019, Remi was medically retired after unexplained lameness. He was diagnosed with a puerperal nerve sheath tumor. Due to the financial burden, and his low chances of quality of life, euthanasia was advised. That's when Jason Johnson, of Project K9 Hero, stepped in. He stated, "You let me worry about the money. Your job is to give Remi the fight he deserves." Doctors with TAMU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital were able to save his life. All vet bills were paid by Project K9 Hero Donors. He still has cancer and is now a tripod, but he continues to live his life representing Project K9 Hero at events to raise awareness and funding for other retired K9s. Remi is more than a search dog; he is a HERO!





# AMERICAN★HUMANE HERO DOG AWARDS™

10TH ANNIVERSARY



## DON'T WATCH ALONE! JOIN OUR VIEWING PARTIES!

For animal lovers, it's the biggest night of the year. The Hero Dog Awards are a must-see every fall and this year, as we celebrate the 10th anniversary, the show promises to be more exciting than ever.

So that you can enjoy the added thrill that comes with sharing the drama, the laughs, and the tears behind these courageous canines' stories, we've created a special Viewing Party package to make Hero Dog night special, whether solo or with your own best friends and family. Popcorn and dog treats are included (of course!), along with a viewing ballot that profiles the seven finalists, an American Humane pen to keep score of your favorites, a bandana (for safety), an American Humane leash, a dog-themed coloring sheet, and a "Save My Pet" window decal. Best of all, your participation will help support American Humane's lifesaving efforts to help save more heroic pets and animals around the world.

You'll have a wonderful time meeting the seven Hero Dogs, and a star-studded cast of celebrity presenters. Hosts, judges, award presenters and entertainment acts over the years have included Jay Leno, Billy Crystal, Betty White, Ariel Winter, Vivica A. Fox, Rebecca Romijn, Alison Sweeney, James Denton, Beth Stern, Bindi Irwin, Derek Hough, Richard Marx, Katharine McPhee, Michelle Beadle, Whoopi Goldberg, Denise Richards, Lisa Vanderpump, Chelsea Handler, Martin Short, Jewel, Wilson Phillips, John Ondrasik, Carson Kressley, Miranda Lambert, Pauley Perrette, Kristin Chenoweth, Naomi Judd, Eric Stonestreet, Danica McKellar, Shannen Doherty, Sarah Michelle Gellar and many, many more.

Don't miss the show October 19 on Hallmark Channel and be sure to order your Viewing Party package by September 28 at [www.herodogawards.org/2020viewingparty](http://www.herodogawards.org/2020viewingparty)

## HONORING THE HEROES BEHIND OUR HEROES



For millions of Americans, animals are not just their best friends, but their heroes. Whether they are lending eyes to the unsighted, ears to the deaf, protection to the sleeping family and the soldier, or providing a welcoming lick at the end of a hard day, animals affect us in so many different ways. We also know that behind almost every hero pet (and millions more animals) is a hero veterinarian or hero veterinary nurse. These benefactors save and improve the lives of our two- and four-legged best friends in many ways, and for seven years, one awards ceremony has honored the tremendous achievements of America's veterinarians and veterinary nurses.

During our annual Hero Dog Awards on October 19, we will reveal the winners of the 2020 **American Humane Hero Veterinarian and Hero Veterinary Nurse Awards™**, sponsored by Zoetis Petcare (a U.S. business unit of Zoetis). Following the review of nearly 300 nominations from animal lovers across the country, a blue-ribbon judging panel of veterinary professionals and animal care experts selected 10 of the country's top veterinarians and veterinary nurses as finalists. Animal lovers across the country cast tens of thousands of votes to select one of these veterinary heroes:

## AMERICAN HERO VETERINARIAN FINALISTS

**Dr. Daniele Knight (Alpena, Michigan)** – Dr. Daniele not only treats all pets as if they were her own, she also trains all of her staff to be as thorough as possible. She and her husband, Dr. Ryan Knight, donate tens of thousands of dollars' worth of services every year to local shelter adoptees for free spays, neuters, and exams. They also participate in a "Trap, Neuter, Return" program, where they spay/neuter feral cats that are trapped by community members and brought in for the procedure, for the cost of only \$50. They have recently had the practice AAHA accredited, and they apply these standards not only on regular patients, but also on every shelter/TNR animal that has a surgery performed there. Dr. Daniele has been on our local news several times, unpaid, to promote animal welfare points including not declawing cats, getting annual testing for heartworm and tick-borne diseases, and the dangers of essential oils in homes with pets. Dr. Daniele is also vegan and she really cares about the environment, as well. She has designated areas in the clinic for recyclable items. She has worked very hard to train her staff to be "fear-free" in handling pets. Her clinic does absolutely everything right, and she deserves to be recognized, not only for her love of animals, but for her donations to the community, and also her standards of care!

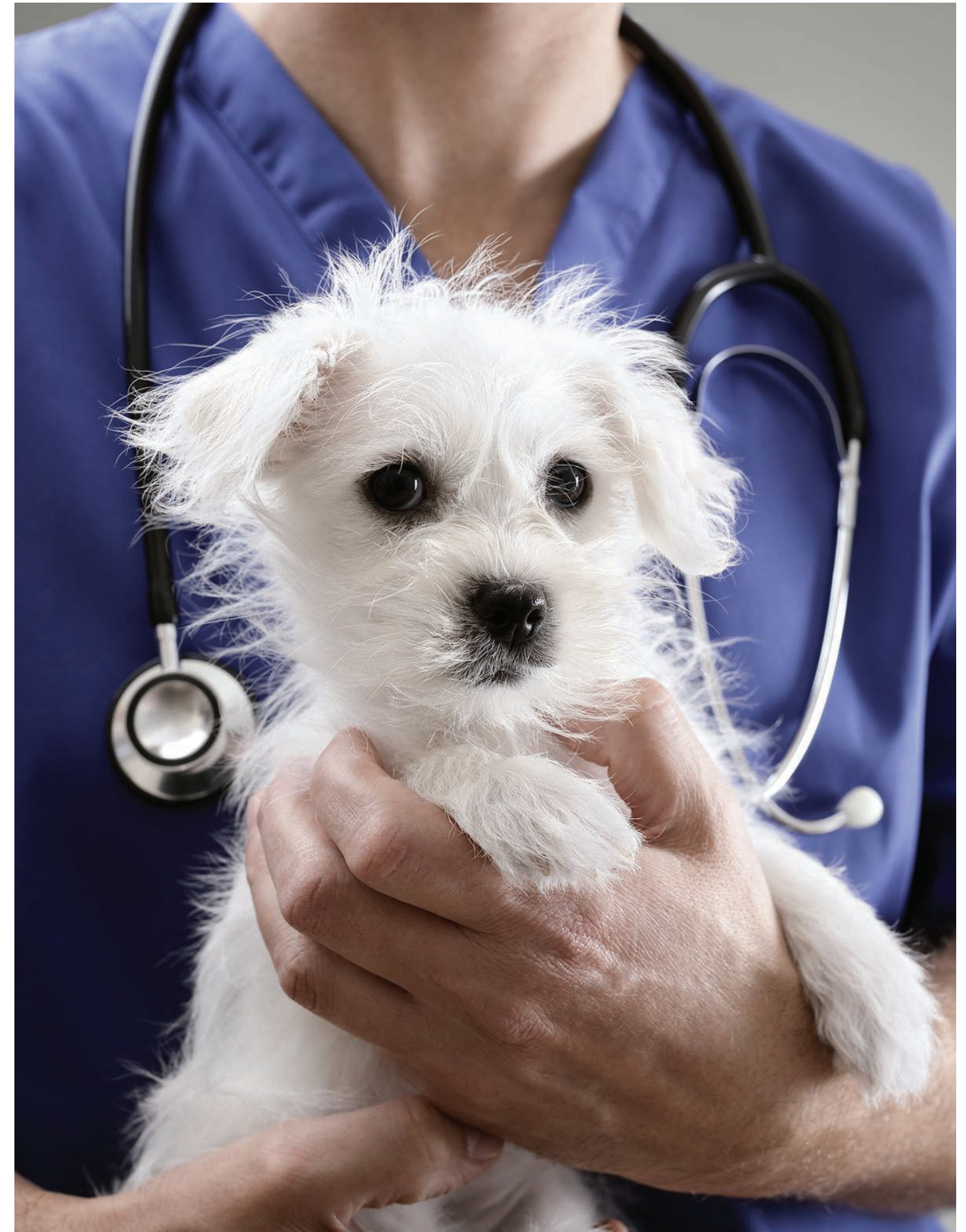
**Dr. Katherine Polak (Boston, Massachusetts)** – Dr. Katherine Polak is dedicated to animal welfare, both in the United States and around the world. Her work spans borders, helping animals in need, improving veterinary training, and campaigning against the most severe issues facing companion animals today. A specialist in shelter medicine and an Iowa State grad, Dr. Polak works for FOUR PAWS, an international charity active in 15 countries. She manages a variety of stray animal care programs throughout Southeast Asia, most notably against the cruel dog and cat meat trade. She has established a unique partnership program in the region that provides capacity-building support to local charities in Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand. One such program in Vietnam is the "Cats Matter Too" program, which provides medical care for thousands of cats in addition to education programs for children. Previously, she was the medical director at Soi Dog Foundation in Thailand, where she trained local vets and launched a program in Bangkok to neuter upwards of 80,000 dogs per year. She is also the founding medical director of Spayathon in Puerto Rico. This groundbreaking initiative will neuter more than 85,000 dogs and cats over the next three years. In an effort to improve veterinary training, she also teaches in the Maddie's Online Shelter Medicine program at the University of Florida, and conceived and co-edited a textbook, "Field Manual for Small Animal Medicine," for vets working in limited-resource environments. Her dedication is inspiring!



**Dr. Mike Adkesson (Brookfield, Illinois)** – Mike Adkesson, DVM, DACZM, DECZM, has dedicated his veterinary career to the conservation of wildlife and nature. He passionately believes modern zoos and aquariums play a pivotal role in educating and inspiring people to protect vanishing species and habitats around the globe. As vice president of clinical medicine for the Chicago Zoological Society, Dr. Adkesson works tirelessly to ensure that the thousands of animals under his care are healthy, happy and thriving. Leading a team of caring professionals, he advocates for pushing the boundaries of what is considered possible in zoological medicine and continually elevating the standards of care. Whether that means a CT scan on a rhinoceros or knee surgery for a gorilla, Dr. Adkesson focuses on how to make it happen! Dr. Adkesson is committed to the success of those around him. He is past president of the American Association of the Zoo Veterinarians and an adjunct assistant professor with the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, where he has shared his knowledge, skills and compassion with hundreds of veterinary students, interns and residents over the years. For the past decade Dr. Adkesson has led marine conservation programs in Peru that focus on protecting wild Humboldt penguins, fur seals and sea lions. Through his work in the field as a wildlife veterinarian he helps ensure the population health of these endangered species and shares his expertise with Peruvian veterinarians and marine biologists.

**Dr. Sam Dover (Santa Barbara, California)** – Sam Dover D.V.M. is the founder and chief veterinarian of Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute (CIMWI), a nonprofit organization dedicated to positively impacting conservation through marine mammal rescue, rehabilitation, research and education to promote ocean and human health. Dr. Dover utilizes his 31 years of experience to care for wounded and stranded marine life along Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Last year alone, the Institute responded to 3,363 rescue hotline calls, which culminated in rescuing 165 California Sea Lions, 10 Northern elephant seals, two Pacific harbor seals, two sea otters, two common dolphins and one Ridley sea turtle. Dr. Dover also collected scientific data on 201 dead stranded marine mammals and disentangled a gray whale from fishing gear. Dr. Dover supports a variety of research projects around the world, providing samples and information used to track diseases, health patterns and the effects of pollution in the ocean. He is actively involved with researchers studying the effects of anthropogenic influences on marine mammals, which ultimately impact human health. Dr. Dover and his CIMWI team provide medical care and rehabilitate marine mammals with the goal of releasing the rehabilitated, healthy animals back to the wild. These animals have a second chance at life because Sam Dover is living his dream.

**Dr. Stephanie Jones (Oakland Park, Florida)** – Pets and foster youth. In Ft. Lauderdale, when you hear these words spoken together with amazement you know that people are talking about Dr. Stephanie Jones. A partner at the Animal Hospital of Ft. Lauderdale (AHOFL), Dr. Jones has delivered outstanding veterinary care for over 20 years, specializing in reproductive medicine and soft tissue surgery. Her passion for surgery, innovative medicine, and optimal patient care makes AHOFL one of the few hospitals in South Florida offering stem cell therapy. Dr. Jones also serves as president of the Broward County Veterinary Medical Association. Her platform promotes the welfare of animals, community involvement, and continuing education and self-care for veterinarians. Dr. Jones has worked to advance an understanding of the human-animal bond and its role in society by establishing Pets Help the Heart Heal, Inc. This non-profit is dedicated to using the human-animal bond to improve the social, physical, and emotional health of underserved and foster youth by promoting veterinary medicine, animal industry career exploration, and healing from trauma through events and activities. Dr. Jones mentors teens, conducts career day presentations, and provides a shadow program for high school students. The board and volunteers of the organization believe that her love for animals and her career inspire today's youth to reach for their dreams. Throughout our community, Dr. Stephanie Jones is bringing hope and healing to youth and animals.







## AMERICAN HERO VETERINARY NURSE FINALISTS

**Kenzie Ergen (Hutchinson, Minnesota)** – Kenzie Ergen grew up with a love for veterinary medicine. Her mom has been a technician since 1985 and as a child Kenzie loved going to work with her on days she didn't have school. She remembers watching surgeries, comforting patients, observing appointments and talking to clients about their pets. Today, Kenzie is a hardworking, reliable, steadfast veterinary nurse. Kenzie shows up early and leaves late each day. Kenzie is very efficient and performs many tasks solo. Need a feral cat on the x-ray table? Kenzie's on it. Need to premedicate an angry dog for surgery? No problem for Kenzie. She plays a vital role in the success of Lifelong Veterinary Clinic and is a perfect complement to the head veterinarian, Dr. Gearey. She acts as a main point of contact for many clients because of her extensive knowledge of the profession. I can recall many times clients calling and asking for Kenzie with questions regarding symptoms and signs their animal was displaying. Animal care is Kenzie's top priority at all times. I worked with Kenzie last summer when I interned at Lifelong Veterinary Clinic. Kenzie taught me an exceptional amount about diagnostics and medications. She even would write up study guides and folders of information for me to utilize when I was assisting with appointments. Kenzie opened my eyes to and exemplified the dedication and drive you must have to be a great veterinary nurse and that is why she deserves the Hero Vet Nurse award.

**Lacey King (Biloxi, Mississippi)** – Lacey King is my wife of five years but has been my best friend for 15 years. Not only does she work full time at a veterinary hospital, but she has also been a volunteer for Friends of Jackson County Animal Shelter Pets. We also foster many animals and she prepares numerous health certificates so foster animals can go up north to their fur-ever homes. Every other Sunday (on her day off), she helps the rescue vaccinate foster pets, place them on heartworm and flea preventative, and educate the foster parents. The clinic she currently works at is Beachview Veterinary Animal Hospital. She explains the different heartworm and flea preventatives with clients in the clinic and out of the clinic. She's been devoted to taking care of any animal's needs since she was a small child. Currently she is bottle feeding nine orphaned raccoons for Wild@Heart. She has so much patience for very aggressive animals, and some owners, and eventually ends up winning their trust. This is her passion and has been in the vet world since she was 16. My wife is amazing at what she does and tells me at least once a week, "It's not work if you love what you do." All of this on top of being a mother of three and our own five dogs, three cats, and lots of chickens and turkeys.

**Julie Nettifee (Raleigh, North Carolina)** – The word that comes to mind describing Julie in her profession and her life in general is compassion. She has an abundance of it and shows it in every aspect of her life, from the patience and care that she gives to the animals in her care, as well as their owners, to the dogs she fosters until they find their perfect forever homes. Julie has an extensive history with rescues, wildlife, animal shelter work, veterinary medicine and animal-based nonprofits including animal-assisted therapy, and she applies her passion, skills and interests to continue to benefit animals and their caregivers through her life's work. As a volunteer after one of the hurricanes here on the east coast, she befriended an elderly couple whose house had gotten flooded and had lost one of their two dogs when they were moving families to interim hurricane housing. They were being temporarily housed in Raleigh; however, Julie offered to take them back to where the little dog had last been seen, which was an hour away. They searched and talked to people and searched some more until they were finally able to rescue that little dog. Needless to say, this meant the world to that couple who had already lost so much. This is typical of who Julie is. With a can-do spirit, combined with a bright and bubbly attitude, Julie always has a smile for everyone. She deserves to be recognized for the humanity and compassion that she shares with those who are lucky enough to know her.

**Heather Czerpak (McMurry, Pennsylvania)** – Heather is the kind of veterinary nurse everyone in the field should strive to become. She is a certified veterinary technician (CVT) and a VTS in ECC. She never lets her patients down and is a constant voice for them. She is always striving to better herself and everyone around her, so that they may become the best that they can be. Heather travels to local general practice hospitals to provide continuing education and teach RECOVER CPR to everyone there, and regularly holds continuing education talks at our hospital. When I think of a hero in the field, it's always Heather. She is a training mentor and is always pushing others to strive to be better. If there is something someone doesn't know, Heather is always willing to help them understand without judgment. She makes learning fun and brings life back into her coworkers after long and hard shifts. To me and many others, Heather truly is a hero, not only for her patients but for her coworkers, as well.

**Kerry Schaefer (Mount Joy, Pennsylvania)** – Kerry is a vet tech at Companion Animal Hospital. One of her many responsibilities is kitten adoptions. Occasionally, boxes of kittens are left on the doorstep or are brought to the hospital by a concerned citizen. Kerry takes on the monumental task of getting these babies healthy and finding them good homes. This can include bottle-feeding tiny kittens every few hours overnight, a task she does on her own time without compensation. While the kittens live at the hospital, Kerry makes sure they get the socialization they need in addition to getting them seen by a doctor and vaccinated. Adopting a kitten that is already social, litter trained and vaccinated is so great for the adoptive family! Then she tackles the most difficult task of all, sorting through applications, making phone calls, and setting up visits to ensure that the adoptive family is the perfect forever home for the kitten. In the rare event the home does not work out, she takes the cat back and finds it yet another home. Homing an adult cat is significantly more challenging. She completes all these tasks with great love and compassion. In addition to her tasks at work she takes tremendous care of her three cats, her recently adopted shelter dog, her beta fish and her husband. She also keeps bees. Beekeeping is so critical for our world! She is well deserving of this award and more.

"These 10 finalists are inspiring examples of the veterinary community," said Tara Bidgood, DVM, PhD, DACVCP, executive director, Zoetis Petcare Veterinary Professional Services. "The American Humane Hero Veterinarian and Hero Veterinary Nurse Awards are Zoetis Petcare's way of helping to put a spotlight on their vital work. Congratulations to these extraordinary finalists and all veterinary professionals who work so hard every day to protect and help provide better, healthier lives to beloved pets."

"Animals are often heroes to us, and we need to honor and recognize those who are heroes to them," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane. "These dedicated professionals work behind the scenes to keep our best friends happy and healthy, and for that we thank them."



# HOW YOU CAN HELP



For more than a hundred years American Humane has been the first to serve, wherever and whenever animals need rescue, shelter, protection or security. More than 91 cents out of every dollar spent 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](http://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.

- 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](mailto:plannedgiving@americanhumane.org).

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



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