

# AMERICAN★HUMANE

*FIRST TO SERVE®*

WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER





## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Friends –

The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate what is best in life and take stock of all we have accomplished. This past year makes us especially appreciative of what is truly important as we grappled not just with a deadly global pandemic but the greatest number of hurricanes and wildfires in U.S. history, affecting millions of people and animals, and making our humane work more vital than ever.

Thankfully, with your help, we were able to make the world a substantially better place for all of us. We provided critical food and supplies to more than 650,000 abandoned animals living in shelters during the pandemic and led a movement to adopt and foster these homeless pets. We rushed our rescue teams to care for the victims of the historic number of California wildfires and deadly hurricanes battering the Gulf Coast, and provided free, lifesaving service dogs to veterans grappling with physical and emotional traumas. In addition, we launched a best-selling new book and a full-length documentary. All of these critical initiatives are designed to help build a more humane world for animals everywhere.

The past 12 months have been difficult and we all need a brief period of refreshment and renewal. One of the best presents of holiday cheer you can give yourself is to read about the victories we are celebrating at our American Humane Certified zoological facilities, which are bursting with new life as they work to 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 births of endangered baby turtles, some fierce-looking but friendly fellows who like to puff themselves up and squirt blood from their eyes to scare predators, and an adorably cute little critter known as a "puggle."

And because we ourselves need all the love and inspiration we can get, you will be thrilled to read more about the winners of our 10th annual American Humane Hero Dog Awards®, including the four-pound Chihuahua who walked off with the biggest prize.

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 our 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.







# INTO THE HEART OF THE INFERNO

Once again, America was burning. This year alone, more than eight and a half million acres of land have gone up in flames. The terrifying conflagration created a mass exodus of families seeking shelter, leaving behind burned-out homes, ravaged communities, and lost animals fighting for their lives.

Wildfires terrify animals and, as their families evacuate, their instincts kick in, causing them to bolt in search of safety. These frightened animals seek shelter where they can, lasting on what food and water they can find before rescuers come to their aid. Many are injured, hungry and, if found, often dangerously close to death. Families that have lost pets do not know if their animals have made it to safety. To help families and pets, temporary shelters are set up as part of the disaster response effort to care for and heal, both physically and emotionally, animals who have suffered untold trauma during the disaster.

American Humane Rescue teams began arriving in hard-hit California in September, responding to a call to help animals in Butte County. In the town of Oroville, where we deployed before in 2018, we worked two animal shelters,



caring for more than 200 animals, including dogs, cats, chickens, rabbits and exotic birds. With the support of generous grants from PetSmart Charities and PEDIGREE Foundation, American Humane was able to work from sunrise to sundown to ensure animals pulled from the flames were safe, well fed, cared for and loved as they waited for their owners to return.

## FINDING HOPE IN THE ASHES

On one typical night, rescuers found two animal refugees, cattle dog mixes who were likely brother and sister, who were so traumatized that each dog needed to be sedated before they could be taken to the shelter. Their fur was matted and dirty, their eyes looked vacant. We can only imagine the horrors these animals experienced.

At first when their kennels were opened, they would lie on the floor, ears drooping, too scared to move. One of our veteran American Humane Rescue responders, Corie, patiently sat with these dogs, whom she named Bosco and Dakota, talking to them, petting them softly and showing them love. It wasn't easy, but she gained their trust, and convinced them to step outside into the sun. Within a few days, the spark returned to Bosco and Dakota's eyes and they began eating and acting normally again. Seeing the change is what makes the 14-hour days worth all the effort.



# OUT OF THE EYE OF THE STORM

Extraordinary circumstances call for extraordinary measures. In the face of a record hurricane season and a looming killer storm, American Humane and the Marta Heflin Foundation worked together to keep the most vulnerable among us – our animals – safe. As Hurricane Laura approached, the foundation provided the financial means to help American Humane transport 36 abandoned kittens and cats more than 1,200 miles from the Lake Charles, Louisiana area to our friends at the Larimer Humane Society in Longmont, Colorado, where they could find their forever homes.

“American Humane is thankful to the Marta Heflin Foundation for helping our team get these precious cats and kittens out of harm’s way,” said Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane. “Only through consistent support from partners can our rescue team continue saving and improving the lives of at-risk animals.”

The lives of so many animals were uprooted by Hurricane Laura, which threatened communities with 150-mile-per-hour winds in late August and devastated the Gulf Coast region.

As families and cities are forced to evacuate, animals can be forgotten. Shelters and other local resources often lose power, resources and, ultimately, the ability to care for animals during disasters. For young kittens, shelters can be volatile environments in which they are extremely vulnerable and getting them into foster homes is paramount for their long-term health. Thanks to those who know and care, dozens more of these beautiful animals are now safe and loved.







## PAWING IT FORWARD....

Sometimes, one good deed leads to another. When Hurricane Laura struck the Gulf Coast, our friends at the Enid SPCA in Oklahoma generously agreed to accept a shipment of cats transported by American Humane to free up room in Louisiana shelters, which were overflowing with animals displaced by the storm. In return, when they needed help, American Humane offered to bring its giant 50-foot animal rescue vehicle back to Enid to help transport 23 abandoned dogs to the Larimer Humane Society in Colorado, where there is a greater demand for pets than there are unwanted animals. After a 10-hour-long, 600-mile journey, the pups were ready to find new lives and also freed up room for other animals in need back in Oklahoma.

"It allowed us to send animals who have been here for weeks, and have been, for whatever reason, overlooked, to a place where people are waiting to adopt them," said Vickie Grantz, executive director of Enid SPCA.

"So many shelters and rescues struggle to help local animals and avoid euthanasia of healthy dogs," said Dr. Lesa Staubus, the American Humane veterinarian overseeing the transport. "This transport achieved two things: It allowed us to get adoptable animals to families waiting to welcome a dog into their homes and opened up space for the Enid SPCA to take in more unwanted pets. It was truly a win-win situation."

## FEED THE HUNGRY COVID-19 UPDATE!

Like every other business or organization in America, rescues and shelters are struggling in the face of the coronavirus crisis, working around the clock to help homeless animals in desperate need of food and supplies. Natural disasters, including a historic number of hurricanes in the Gulf and wildfires that have burned millions of acres in the west, have made an already terrible situation even worse. In response to the overwhelming number of calls received from animal rescues and shelters, American Humane launched **the Feed the Hungry COVID-19** campaign to help feed and care for animals across the country who have been abandoned during the coronavirus crisis.

In the first few months of the campaign, American Humane delivered support for more than half a million meals, and in just the past few weeks, we've provided another 100,000, bringing the total to more than 650,000 meals in 35 states! Here are just a few of the latest recipients of our Feed the Hungry grants:

### EAST BAY SPCA

Serving Alameda and Contra Costa Counties in Northern California, the East Bay SPCA has helped injured, lost and abandoned animals since 1874. In 2019, the East Bay SPCA facilitated 3,041 adoptions. The team operates spay/neuter centers as well as a full-service veterinary clinic near some of the most under-resourced neighborhoods in the Bay Area that have few options for quality, affordable veterinary care. The shelter recently mobilized to offer free pet food and supplies at evacuation sites for pets and their families who have been displaced by the California wildfires.

The East Bay SPCA is committed to the welfare of cats and dogs in the communities it serves. It strives to eliminate animal cruelty, neglect and overpopulation by providing programs and education that support people and companion animals.



### MARIN HUMANE

Marin Humane in Novato, California served more than 13,000 animals in 2019 and facilitates adoptions for homeless dogs, cats and small companion animals including rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, birds and turtles. Providing support to all citizens and animals in Marin County through many robust programs and services, Marin Humane also promotes humane education in the community through programs that engage children by raising their compassionate awareness of – and respect for – both animals and people.

"We just put together a delivery of pet food for food banks all over the County," said Julia Sudlow Cole, Humane Education Coordinator at Marin Humane. Your generous grant has helped us feed hundreds of hungry animals in Marin County, keeping animals in homes with their guardians who love them."





## KAUAI SPCA

Kauai SPCA in Hawaii is an open-admission animal rescue organization formed in early 2017 to help with a terrible animal hoarding case in Kapa'a. Shortly after, an epic flood engulfed the north shore of Kauai. Fifteen landslides fell across the highway completely cutting off the areas of Hā'ena and Wainiha from civilization. The KSPCA organized and delivered food and medical supplies for the animals by boat. Since then, the KSPCA has become a full-service animal rescue organization providing resources, like affordable spay and neuter, to locals in Kauai; reducing feral cats; and, facilitating rescues and nurturing adoptions.

"We want to thank American Humane for sending us your Feed the Hungry grant," said Lauren Havlick, a volunteer at the KSPCA. "Your generous donation is helping to feed many of Kauai's dogs and cats. We distribute the dog and cat food at several locations on the island where food banks are supplying those in need. We work hard to find loving homes for our rescued cats and dogs and at a time when the future is uncertain for many, keeping food in the dishes of these treasured pets makes a world of difference. So again, American Humane, mahalo from the bottom of our hearts for your generous contribution to our organization and our beloved Kauai island pets."

## NORTHEAST OHIO SPCA

Northeast Ohio SPCA in Parma, Ohio is a non-profit organization focused on giving shelter pets a second chance at life. They provide a safe haven for abandoned, homeless and adoptable pets until they can find a home. Through adoption, education, spay and neutering, the shelter saves lives to help make euthanasia of healthy animals unnecessary. Since opening in April of 2004, the team has adopted out more than 20,500 pets to loving homes in the community.

"On behalf of our shelter, I would like to extend a huge thank you to American Humane," said Stefanie Merkosky, Development Director at the Northeast Ohio SPCA. "This wonderful organization has helped shelters like ours for many years, and they've again stepped up during this time of crisis with their Feed the Hungry grant program. This program allows us to replenish food and supplies for the homeless animals in our care. It also helps us stock our public, low-cost gift shop with food, treats, litter and more. Our gift shop allows pet owners of all financial means to continue to feed and care for their furry family members. We are so thankful for American Humane's assistance and are honored we can work together to keep pets with the families that love them so much. Thank you, American Humane, for all you do to help animals each and every day."

"Animals have a special place in my heart, and I am saddened to see so many being abandoned and left hungry as a result of this sweeping COVID-19 pandemic," said Jean Shafiroff, national spokesperson for the Feed the Hungry COVID-19 campaign and renowned philanthropist. "We must ensure that rescue organizations have the basic resources necessary to care for these defenseless animals who are in dire need of a forever home."

"Our work to help animals in need is more important than ever," said American Humane president and CEO Dr. Robin Ganzert. "We are asking everyone who truly loves animals to help us support the front-line organizations caring for hundreds of thousands who are now in their time of greatest need. Thank you!"

To help shelters continue to save lives during this unprecedented crisis, consider donating today. Learn more at [www.americanhumane.org/feedthehungry](http://www.americanhumane.org/feedthehungry).





# Nylabone®

CHEWS BEST™

NYLABONE GIVES  
HOMELESS ANIMALS  
LOTS TO CHEW ON

We want to give a big thank-you to Nylabone, which has made a generous grant to support American Humane's **Feed the Hungry COVID-19** campaign. American Humane launched the effort to feed and care for animals across the country who have been abandoned during the novel coronavirus crisis. Through our grant program to rescues and shelters, the fund has already delivered more than 650,000 meals to animals in need.

In addition to providing basic necessities such as pet food, comfortable bedding and litter, our Feed the Hungry grants can be used for crucial veterinary services and to help lower-income pet owners who may lack needed resources to care for their pet.

"We must continue to take action to ensure organizations that are housing animals left by the wayside during this sweeping pandemic have the basic resources needed to ensure the safe and humane treatment of animals in their care," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane.

"These animals rely on us to provide lifesaving shelter and relief from the dire circumstances they face. We are so grateful to Nylabone for helping us answer their calls for help."

# Leave a Legacy of Compassion



American Humane has helped animals in need since 1877. A gift through your will or other estate plan means we'll always be there when needed. More than 91 cents of every dollar spent goes directly to our programs, and American Humane is the only national humane organization with Charity Navigator's highest "4 Star Rating." For information, call 1-800-227-4645 or email Kay Quillen JD, Director of Planned Giving at [kayq@americanhumane.org](mailto:kayq@americanhumane.org).

**AMERICAN HUMANE**  
FIRST TO SERVE®

<https://giving.americanhumane.org>







## BUILDING A DIVERSE NEW GENERATION OF VETERINARIANS

Caring, understanding and love are universal attributes that transcend every boundary and are basic requirements for keeping our pets happy and healthy. Yet participation in the very field responsible for this key task is far from universal, with African Americans making up fewer than three percent of all veterinarians in the United States.

To help build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive new generation of medical professionals committed to caring for our animals, American Humane, the country's first national humane organization, has created the "American Humane Scholars Fund" to support students of color in their quest to become veterinarians. An inaugural grant of \$40,000, sponsored by leading animal health company Zoetis, was made to the historic Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. The announcement was broadcast nationwide during the American Humane Hero Dog Awards®: 10th Anniversary Celebration on Hallmark Channel.

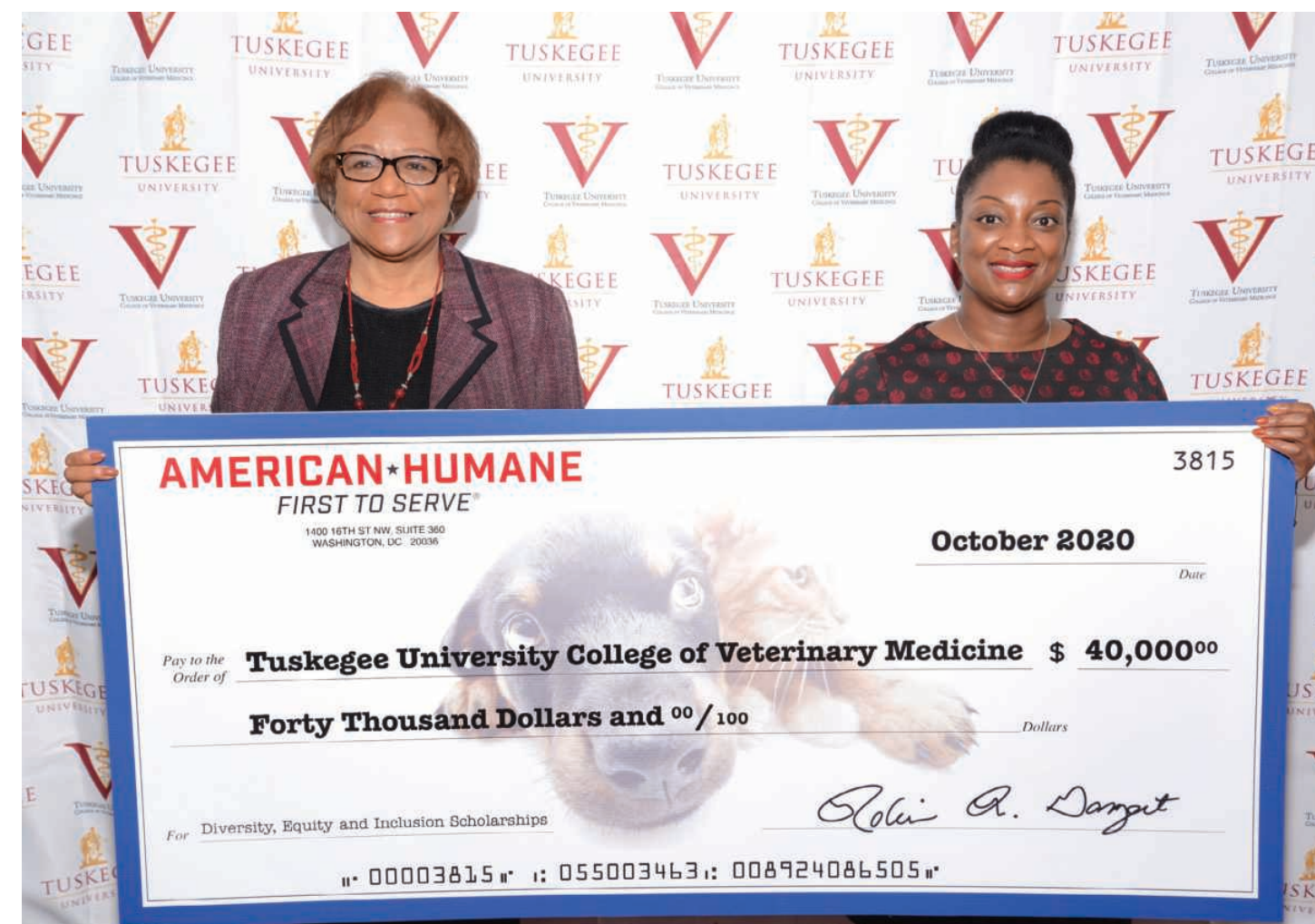
The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine is the only veterinary medical professional program located on the campus of a historically black college or university in the United States. Tuskegee has educated more than 70 percent of the nation's African-American veterinarians and is recognized as the most diverse of all accredited schools/colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States.

Veterinarians play a key role at American Humane as their knowledge informs the organization's scientific standards and guidelines protecting nearly one billion animals on farms and ranches, in zoological institutions and on film sets around the world. American Humane veterinarians are also hard at work in the field, staffing free medical clinics for pets in under-resourced areas, rescuing animals in disaster zones and transporting shelter animals across the country.

"We couldn't do the work we do around the world without veterinarians," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, American Humane president and CEO. "We also know that becoming a veterinarian can be costly, and for many aspiring students that financial hurdle may be the only thing standing in the way of their dream to help animals. That's why, as CEO of American Humane, I am proud to announce, in partnership with inaugural sponsor Zoetis, that we are presenting our first American Humane Scholars Fund grant of \$40,000 to the historic Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine."

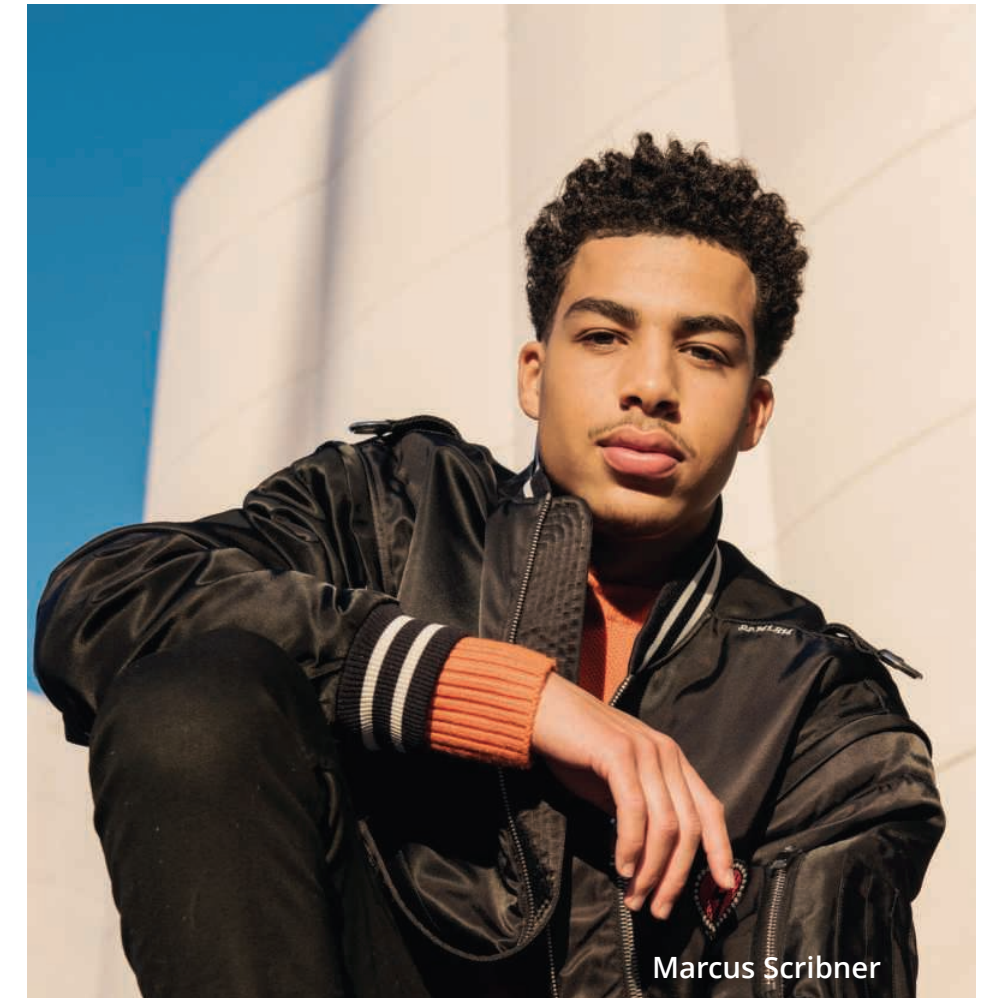
"Zoetis has had a long-time commitment to supporting veterinary medical students and university diversity initiatives. Our Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship Program, has awarded over 3,600 scholarships totaling more than \$7 million over the past 12 years," said Christine Jenkins, DVM, DACVIM, Vice President and U.S. Chief Medical Officer at Zoetis. "We are pleased to partner with American Humane to provide additional scholarship opportunities for Tuskegee veterinary medical students."

"We are very grateful to American Humane and Zoetis for partnering to support our students in the American Humane Scholars Fund. Their vision and generosity in this endeavor will support our deserving students seeking careers in veterinary medicine. Our alumna, Dr. Christine Jenkins, has been a consistent proponent of veterinary medical education opportunities for our students in which we are appreciative as well. We at Tuskegee focus on our students being career-ready veterinarians when they complete the curriculum to pursue the many employment opportunities in the veterinary profession," said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine.





## NEW PSA SEEKS NEW DEAL FOR ANIMALS



Marcus Scribner

The way we treat others affects us all. And that includes the way we treat animals. Cruel treatment of animals overseas led to the pandemic crisis, killing a million people worldwide. Environmental destruction, pollution and poaching have killed endangered wild species. As a result, our world today is a poorer and less humane place to live for both people and animals.

To fight back, American Humane created a PSA starring “Black-ish” actor Marcus Scribner asking people to sign and support our “New Deal for Animals, People, and the World We Share,” a 10-point plan to stop systemic animal abuse around the globe. The plan includes everything from ending the dog and cat meat trade to enacting universal humane standards for farms, zoos, ecotourism, entertainment and animal transport.

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, Marcus Scribner!

And if you haven't yet signed the New Deal for Animals, please go to [www.AmericanHumane.org/new-deal/](http://www.AmericanHumane.org/new-deal/) today and do so. You can help make a kinder, safer and healthier world... for all of us.





DOREE AND DUKE

## 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 a forever homes and train them to become lifesaving service dogs for veterans, advocate for our nation's 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.

### AMERICAN ★★★★★★★★ HUMANE PUPS4PATRIOTS™

#### TEAMS...FOR LIFE

For many brave members of the armed forces, coming home is only the beginning of another daunting battle. The invisible wounds of war, including Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury, can cause debilitating symptoms in veterans, leading to depression, social isolation and, far too often, suicide.

To help, American Humane created the Pups4Patriots™ program, which finds dogs in need of forever homes and trains them as lifesaving, free service animals for veterans in need. Meet five of our most recent graduates and their new best friends, all of whom are now looking forward to healthier, happier and better lives together:

#### DOREE AND DUKE

Doree, a U.S. Navy veteran who served as a drug and alcohol counselor, was paired with Duke, a male Giant Schnauzer. According to her, life before Duke was difficult: "When I applied for this program, I was struggling. I had barricaded myself in my room for 10 days without sleep. Fear controlled me."

Doree's story is not uncommon. One in five veterans who served in either Iraq or Afghanistan has been diagnosed with PTS, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. When therapy or drugs fail to help, properly trained service dogs can make a difference.

Duke has brought vigor and hope into Doree's life. She says that he alerts her when an episode is coming and can help her cope through panic. After graduating the program with Duke, Doree said,

"He has helped give me something to focus on, which has enabled me to do things I had stopped doing. My life wouldn't be the same and I owe it to Duke!"



JESSICA AND LUCY

Jessica is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served from 2017 to 2019. She lives in California and is now paired with Lucy, a female black Labrador Retriever. Their training was made possible by the generous support of Adtalem. Following her graduation, Jessica said, “I decided to apply for a service dog when I realized how small my world had become. I couldn’t step foot into a restaurant or even a grocery store anymore, and I was completely isolating myself at home. Since being paired with my dog Lucy, I have been able to experience so many new places that I never could have even imagined before. Lucy is everything to me, and our partnership wouldn’t be possible without your support.”



MATT AND BOGIE

Matt is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served from 2000-2004 and was deployed to Iraq. He now lives in Oklahoma and is paired with Bogie, a male German Shepherd. According to him, “Having Bogie will allow me to be in public with far less fear of someone walking up behind me. Bogie will also be instrumental in helping me regulate my moods and avoid panic/anxiety attacks by giving me something to focus on and ground me. Training alongside Bogie helped strengthen the bond between us, and better prepared us for working together.”



MICHAEL AND BAM BAM

Michael is a U.S. Air Force veteran who served from 2004 to 2009. He served as a military police officer and completed three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He lives in Florida and is now paired with Bam Bam, a male Samoyed mix, thanks to a sponsorship by DAV/Dixie Gleave. After his graduation, Michael wrote us, saying, “I cannot begin to thank you, my trainer Ann, American Humane, and the donors who sponsored the training enough. For them, I am a faceless, unknown stranger. But for me, you all have helped me in ways that I can never repay and will always hold a special place in my heart.”



Service dogs can help veterans living with invisible wounds of war, but the path to obtaining a properly trained dog is fraught with obstacles, including excessively long waiting lists and substantial up-front costs. American Humane is committed to equipping veterans with service dogs at no cost to them with the help of our donors.

KYLE AND NOVA

Kyle is a U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran who retired in 2020 after serving our country for 16 years. He was paired with Nova, a male German Shepherd, thanks to a generous sponsorship from Zoetis Petcare, a longstanding supporter of American Humane. According to Kyle, “I have suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder due to combat since 2006. Before having Nova, my service dog, in my life, I never went out in public alone. When I did go out, I relied heavily on my wife to help me calm down and navigate me through the public. I was used to having no emotional connection with anyone – human or animal. I am now able to go out more in public, find joy in life, all with the help of my service dog. My training not only helped my relationship with Nova and my outlook on life, but also helped me realize there are still people out there that care about us. For that I will always be in their debt.”



To learn more, and fund the training of more lifesaving service dogs for our veterans, please visit [www.americanhumane.org/program/military](http://www.americanhumane.org/program/military).





## MILITARY HEROES REUNITED ON 9/11

This year on 9/11, American Humane helped reunite two military heroes. Military Working Dog Ramos was stationed in Japan when he retired, but his former handler, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Brendan Cabey, was already back home in Boston.

Sergeant Cabey spent two years with the Belgian Malinois who is now 8-1/2 and needed help in getting Ramos home. American Humane, through its military affairs program, which has been supporting the members and animals of the U.S. Armed Forces since World War I, arranged and paid for MWD Ramos to fly the 6,700 miles back to the States. They then contacted the National Park Service, which helped them set up an adoption ceremony in front of the USS Constitution, the world's oldest commissioned warship still afloat.

John Curwen, Director of Visitor Experience and Engagement with National Parks of Boston and an Iraq War veteran, spoke on the anniversary of 9/11 about the role of working dogs in the Armed Forces, and Michael Cancelliere, a Park Ranger with National Parks of Boston swore

in MWD Ramos as a B.A.R.K. Ranger, part of a program to help companion animals have a safe and fun time at national parks.

"It was an honor to participate in the [reunion] ceremony," Anne Grimes Rand, President and CEO of the USS Constitution Museum, said. "Military Working Dog Ramos and so many military working dogs have played a vital role serving our country." She then presented MWD Ramos with a Guerriere the Terrier plushie as part of the ceremony. Guerriere the Terrier was a sea dog serving aboard the U.S.S. Constitution who once spotted a ship his fellow sailors failed to notice!

"When military dogs retire, their path home isn't always clear," said American Humane president and CEO Dr. Robin Ganzert. "Whenever those who fight for our nation need aid in bringing their retired military dogs home, American Humane stands ready to serve. We salute Sergeant Cabey and his brave military dog Ramos and invite the public to support our efforts to bring about more reunions like this one."

Learn how you can help at [www.AmericanHumane.org/military](http://www.AmericanHumane.org/military).



## GOING THE EXTRA MILE . . . FOR OUR VETS



Eleanor Brason and Louie

staffer Eleanor Brason who managed the event with her colleague Akshay Khullar. “I loved that the entire event was virtual, and I could complete the miles at my own pace. My sweet pup, Louie, is a ‘tri-pawd,’ and so while fast runs are not our thing, we really enjoyed going on short walks each day. I am so grateful for my family and friends who supported my Pups4Patriots 5K and helped me reach my goal. The Pups4Patriots program saves lives on both ends of the leash, and I am happy to have contributed in some small way.”

“From my first day of training to the completion of my race and meeting my fundraising goal, I found the Pups4Patriots 5K to be one of the most rewarding experiences I’ve participated in,” said American Humane staffer Emily Sparks. “I shared my plan with all of my friends and family in person,

Here’s a story to warm your heart and get your pulse racing! American Humane has always gone the extra mile for our military men, women and animals, and this year they went even further. During the week surrounding Labor Day, American Humane held its first-ever Pups4Patriots 5K. This military mini-marathon took place in dozens of cities across the country and raised funds to train service dogs for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury.

Because of the pandemic, the race was a virtual one, with participants signing up friends and family as sponsors for their solo jaunts. Starting out with American Humane staff and donors with a special interest in our military programs, the inaugural race attracted 85 participants who garnered 273 donations as they walked, ran and ambled along for more than 338 miles to their individual finish lines. But win, place or show, the best part (even better than getting some welcome exercise and fresh air) was that we reached our goal of \$30,000 – covering the costs of the entire year-long process of identifying and training a special service dog in order that s/he may be paired for free with a veteran in need.

“I was so excited to participate in American Humane’s Pups4Patriots 5K,” said American Humane



Amber Batteiger and Misty

over the phone and through social media. They were excited to learn that by donating to my fundraising effort, they were helping American Humane pair a service dog with a veteran. On the day of the 5K, I even had a friend who had donated run half of the route with me while capturing photos. I will definitely be signing up to participate in the Pups4Patriots 5K next year. This entire experience was a win-win for the veterans in need, my mental and physical health and everyone who donated to know they are helping create a more compassionate world for America’s heroes.”

“I had an amazing experience completing the Pups4Patriots 5K,” said American Humane’s Amber Batteiger. “In total, I was able to complete 20.5 miles within the time period. Many of those miles were logged while trail running with one of my own dogs beside me, Reeba or Misty. As an American Humane Rescue first responder, it is important to me to be physically fit and ready to meet the very physically demanding challenges of disaster response deployments. It was an opportunity to combine my love for running with the Pups4Patriots cause, raising funds to train service dogs, free of cost, for veterans in need.”

American Humane would like to thank all those who made our first Pups4Patriots 5K a success and recognize the event’s top fundraisers both inside the organization – Ailsa Moseley, Eleanor Brason, Kerry Rod, Mark Stubis, Emily Sparks, Stephanie Carmody and Amber Batteiger – and those who are a dear part of our extended American Humane family – Jessica Markham and the Markham Law Firm Team, Kevin Nixon, Barbara Niven, Karen Duet and Team Carmody.

“American Humane is committed to putting healing leashes into the hands of more veterans in need, and we couldn’t do it without your support,” said American Humane President and CEO Dr. Ganzert. “Our sincerest thanks to everyone who took part in our first run and stay tuned to join our next Pups4Patriots 5K, raise awareness, and run, walk or jog to help a veteran – it will be good for your heart, in more ways than one.”



Emily Sparks



# 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. Here are just some of the latest victories they have achieved to help preserve Earth’s magnificent and disappearing animals:



## TURTLE POWER!

Just thirty years ago, there were only 150 western pond turtles in all of Washington state following loss of their natural habitats and predation and competition by invasive species. Luckily, American Humane Certified **Woodland Park Zoo**, which has been working for more than two decades to help the noble animals, recently released more than 40 turtles into the wild. Today, successful reintroduction has brought their population up to more than 1,200!



JEREMY DWYER-LINDGREN/WOODLAND PARK ZOO



BUSCH GARDENS TAMPA BAY

## WHAT'S A "PUGGLE"?

Never heard of it? Not too many people have. It's the name for a baby echidna, an egg-laying mammal that is an Australian relative of the platypus. One of these rare youngsters, named “Sydney,” was recently born at American Humane Certified **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay**, boosting the chances of this remarkable species to survive.

## GREAT JUMPIN' HORNY TOADS!

Recently, 58 baby Texas horned lizards (also known as horny toads even though they are not actually toads) hatched at the American Humane Certified **Fort Worth Zoo** as part of its conservation breeding program. Over the years, the population of these curious animals, who can puff themselves up and squirt blood from their eyes to alarm predators, has dropped to the point that these fierce-looking but gentle creatures are now endangered, making Fort Worth Zoo's efforts to breed and reintroduce the animals ever more important.







## 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:

## INSTITUTE FOR MARINE MAMMAL STUDIES

Established in 1984, the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies is the premier stranding organization in the Mississippi-Louisiana-Alabama region of the Gulf Coast with the capability and expertise to care for sick and injured marine mammals and sea turtles. IMMS serves as an important educational outlet for the Mississippi Gulf Coast, incorporating programs for conservation, education and research of marine mammals and their environment. Their outreach program, Ocean Adventures, allows guests to interact with ambassador animals to create a personal connection to conservation attempts and stewardship. Research at IMMS covers a broad range of scientific disciplines including population dynamics, underwater acoustics, health, genetics, microbiology, endocrinology, behavior,





biomagnetism and ecology. In addition, IMMS is actively involved in the rescue, rehabilitation, release and research of many stranded marine animals, including those affected by catastrophic events such as Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill.

“We provide a vital home for stranded marine mammals and sea turtles, including the most critically endangered sea turtle in the world,” said Dr. Moby Solangi, IMMS president and executive director. “All of the animals that come to us for rehabilitation are looked after by our excellent vet staff, who are dedicated to their health and wellbeing. We are honored to receive the prestigious American Humane Certified™ seal, providing confidence that we meet the humane standards rightly demanded by the public.”

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

## LIVING EXHIBITS

The Stingray Cove exhibit at Denver Zoo is Living Exhibits’ newest location certified by American Humane, joining Stingray Cove exhibits at Fort Worth Zoo, Memphis Zoo, and Saint Louis Zoo. This new interactive exhibit gives people a chance to touch and feed an array of stingrays and sharks, at their discretion, while they swim carefree in a state-of-the-art habitat. Stingray Cove is home to safe-to-touch species, including cownose and southern stingrays, and bonnethead, white-spotted bamboo and brown-banded bamboo sharks, and features a 15,000-gallon saltwater pool.

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

# LivingExhibits







## AMERICAN HUMANE FILM DEBUTS AS #1 DOCUMENTARY

*Escape from Extinction*, American Humane's powerful new conservation film, opened as the nation's #1 documentary in 94 theaters across the country. Narrated by Academy Award winner Dame Helen Mirren, the film takes viewers on a dramatic trip around the world and through time to explore the roots of the wholesale disappearance of species in our forests and oceans, described by scientists and journalists as a "Sixth Mass Extinction." Importantly, however, the film also shows people that there is hope as animal experts, conservationists, animal scientists, veterinarians, bioethicists, and others at leading zoological organizations across the globe work to pull endangered and disappearing species back from the brink.

*Escape from Extinction* has already become a favorite at leading film festivals and forums, winning the 2020 "Best Environmental Film Award" at the DOC LA Los Angeles Documentary Film Festival and receiving hundreds of requests for screenings by conservation organizations, universities and private groups. Dame Helen Mirren was also honored with the Parajanov-Vartanov Institute Award for her narration of the film. Past recipients of the award include Martin Scorsese and Emma Thompson. Film festivals featuring our documentary include the International New York Film Festival, Doc LA, the San Diego Film Festival, Boulder Environmental Film Festival, Martha's Vineyard Environmental Film Festival, Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, Social Change Film Festival, Breckenridge Film Festival, Ojai Film Festival, and Nature Without Borders Film Festival, among others.

Proceeds from the beautifully shot 90-minute documentary, which was directed by Emmy Award-winning Matt Brady of MRB Productions and features music by Grammy winner Lisa Loeb, will go back to American Humane, helping to further its work to protect animals around the world, including saving, sheltering, and improving the lives of some one billion animals annually.

"We were excited to share *Escape from Extinction* with theatrical audiences across the country," said American Humane President and CEO Dr. Robin Ganzert, who conceived and spearheaded the documentary and served as its executive producer. "We hope this important film will inspire people to take action to protect and preserve critical species on the brink of disappearing."

## AMERICAN HUMANE BOOK DEBUTS AS #1 BESTSELLER

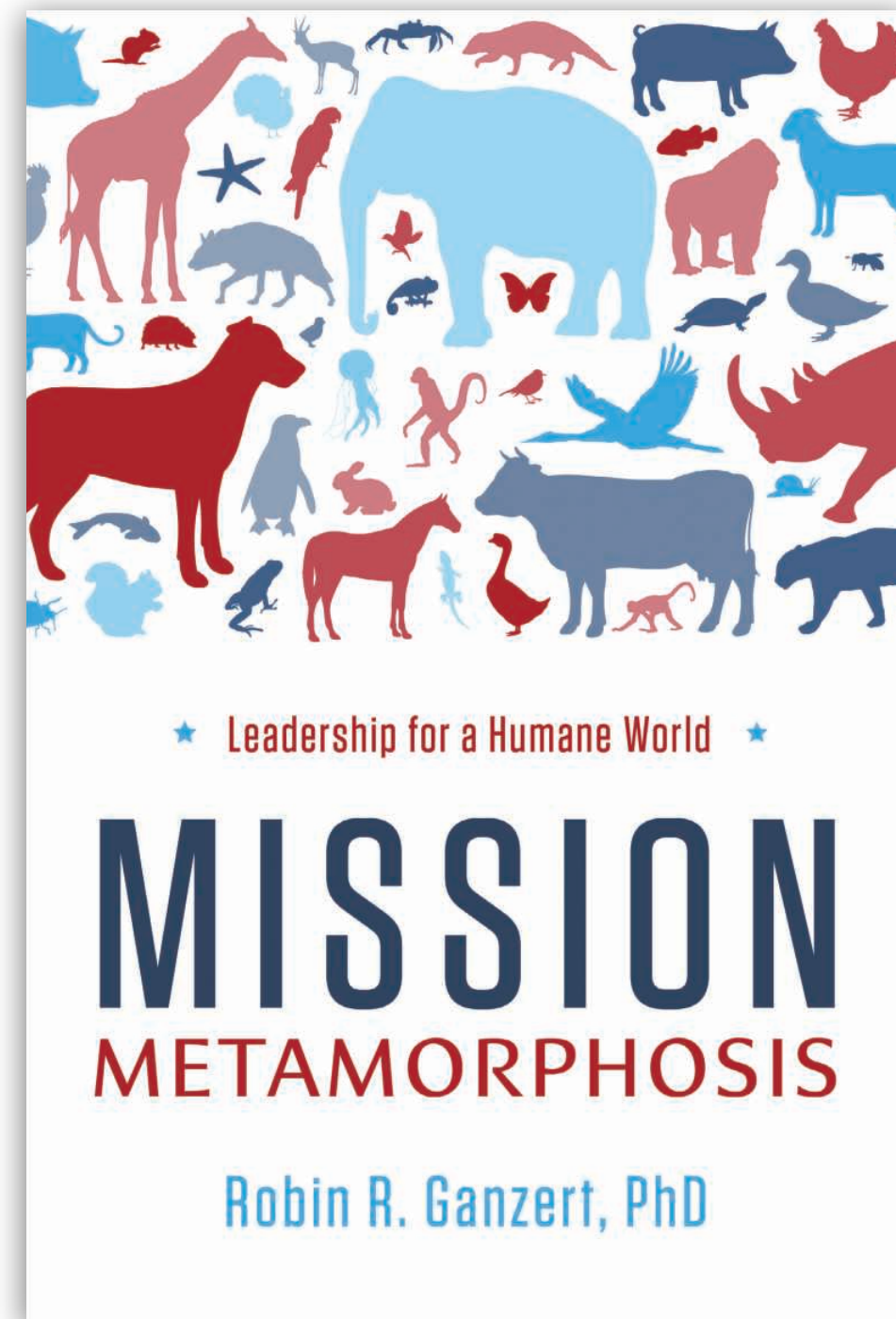
*Mission Metamorphosis*, the new book from Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane, is now available at bookstores across the country. The book, which debuted as the #1 New Animal Rights eBook on Amazon, tells the dramatic and inspiring story of rebirth and renewal at American Humane, the country's first national animal welfare organization.

*Mission Metamorphosis* serves as both a 10-year retrospective of Dr. Ganzert's time at American Humane and a how-to guide for business leaders interested in achieving programmatic success. When Dr. Ganzert assumed her current role in 2010, our storied and influential non-profit known for its rescue work was in need of a rescue itself.

By focusing on the mission – saving animals whenever and wherever they are in need – and allowing everything to flow from that goal, Dr. Ganzert set American Humane on course for another century of lifechanging work.

When Dr. Ganzert began drafting the book, no one realized how timely it would be. As hundreds of millions are grappling with the political and economic ramifications of the novel coronavirus, both non-profit organizations and for-profit companies are struggling to prepare for an uncertain future. The lessons contained in *Mission Metamorphosis* provide a roadmap and inspiration for these unprecedented times.

Proceeds from book sales will go back to American Humane to further its critical work to protect animals around the world. *Mission Metamorphosis* is published through Fast Company Press and available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million or your local bookstore.





# 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: RED BARN FAMILY FARMS

Red Barn Family Farms was founded by Terry Homan DVM and Paula Homan in 2008 and they are now among the increasing number of producers committed to the humane treatment of their animals. We asked them recently about their work, their passion for animals, and what inspired them to become American Humane Certified™ producers. Here is what they told us:

*Red Barn Family Farms was founded with a mission to advocate for humane animal care and to give small dairy producers a place in the market. We carefully select small family-owned and operated dairy farms that adhere to our high standards for humane animal care and milk quality. Our innovative fair-trade model provides our farms with steady, above-market pay for their milk that rewards excellence and helps them remain sustainable business models. This eliminates the drastic pricing downturns of the commodity market that can often mean the end of a small family farm. Red Barn gets top quality milk to make award-winning cheese.*

*We began with two small farms. One farmer was a rotational grazer; the other used organic practices. As we grew, we didn't make our farms bigger, we just added more small-scale producers who know and care for their cows as individuals and put their health and welfare first. Our farms milk an average of just 55 cows, all known and cared for by name. Our animals live longer lives than the industry average. We believe we have an ethical responsibility to the health and welfare of the animals that produce food for us. We also believe they should be cared for as individuals with unique personalities rather than as production widgets in a commodity system. Because our farmers have such small herds, they know each cow individually and can provide tailored care for each animal on their farm.*





Customers looking to purchase humanely produced cheeses can find the American Humane Certified seal on our products. It gives us a way to differentiate our brand and provides transparency for customers who want to know that their cheese is produced with milk from animals that are allowed to spend significant portions of each day outside, weather permitting.

We are proud to have a young, first-generation female farmer as one of our Red Barn producers. Olivia Hennes, who is 28, milks 40 pasture-raised cows. Olivia is able to earn more for her milk with Red Barn's innovative fair-trade pricing scale that rewards excellence and provides steady, sustainable pay without the drastic fluctuations of the commodity market. This helps to ensure a bright future for Olivia as a small-scale dairy farmer. Olivia is currently revitalizing and upgrading a beautiful century-old barn. Our fair-trade model is intended to preserve multi-generation farms and to make it possible for new producers to join the industry.

For more information on Red Barn and their excellent cheeses, visit [www.redbarnfamilyfarms.com](http://www.redbarnfamilyfarms.com).



## WELCOME OUR NEWEST HUMANE PRODUCERS!

More than nine in 10 Americans say they are very concerned about farm animal welfare, so it is extremely gratifying to see more and more enlightened farmers, ranchers, and producers choosing to uphold and verify rigorous standards for the treatment of animals in agriculture through the American Humane Certified™ program. The program is the first, largest, and most trusted certification effort of its kind in the country with more than 8,000 farms, overseeing nearly one billion farm animals. Please join us in welcoming and supporting our newest producers:

### MPS EGG FARMS

The history of MPS Egg Farms dates back to 1875, when Daniel Strauss built a water-powered grain mill along the Eel River in North Manchester, Indiana. Today, this sixth-generation, family-owned cage-free producer prides itself on its commitment to food safety, animal welfare, and exceptional customer service. Visit [www.mpseggfarms.com](http://www.mpseggfarms.com).



### SUPREME EGG PRODUCTS

With decades of experience, Supreme Egg Products has been certified for its cage-free eggs and has a mandate to provide its customers with high quality products that meet the high expectations of today's customers and consumers.

### WAYNE COUNTY EGGS

This Manhattan, Kansas producer is now certified by us for their cage-free eggs.

### VENTURA FOODS

Ventura Foods makes mayonnaise from American Humane Certified cage-free eggs under the Monarch brand.



To qualify for our American Humane Certified seal, these producers underwent rigorous, comprehensive, and science-based third-party audits to verify compliance with some 200 science-based welfare standards, covering everything from adequate space to proper heating and cooling, lighting, air quality and humane treatment.

To learn more and find a complete list of American Humane Certified producers, please visit [www.HumaneHeartland.org](http://www.HumaneHeartland.org).





## LITTLEST DOG WINS BIGGEST PRIZE AT THE 2020 HERO DOG AWARDS!

Based on more than a million votes by the American public and the deliberations of a panel of celebrity animal lovers and dog experts, MacKenzie, a Chihuahua who weighs only four pounds but gives away tons of love, has been named the country's most heroic canine, besting 407 other competitors across the country and capturing the top title at the American Humane Hero Dog Awards®: 10th Anniversary Celebration, which was broadcast nationwide on Hallmark Channel.

"The American Humane Hero Dog Awards were created to honor some of the world's most extraordinary heroes," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane, the country's first national humane organization. "These heroic canines have gone above and beyond the call of duty, saving lives on the battlefield, comforting the ill and aged, and reminding us of the powerful, age-old bond between animals and people. All seven category winners exemplify what it means to be a hero, and we hope that their stories – including

MacKenzie's – will inspire people to value our animal friends and recognize how much they do for us every day."

Born with a cleft palate and contracting aspiration pneumonia which nearly took her life, this rescue dog epitomizes what it means to be a hero, overcoming her birth defect and going on to help hundreds of other rescue animals and provide children with world-changing lessons in empathy. Her job is to provide love and care for baby rescue animals born with birth defects. Most of the rescued animals are babies who cannot stay with their mothers because of their medical problems. MacKenzie takes an interest in each baby from day one, no matter the species or size. She plays nurse and cleans, comforts, and cuddles them. She acts as their mother and teaches them how to socialize, play, and have good manners. It's been said that MacKenzie could mother anything from an ant to an elephant, nurturing countless puppies, kittens, a goat, a turkey, a squirrel, birds, a mouse, and despite her tiny size, even a Great Dane. MacKenzie's other important 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. MacKenzie may have lost her ability to bark, but she still makes herself heard and speaks for other animals born with defects and she is a shining example of how rescuing animals often helps save more than just one life.

For her extraordinary good works, MacKenzie, who comes from Hilton, New York, first won the top title in her individual category, becoming the country's Shelter Hero Dog of the Year, and then in the last round winning the American Humane Hero Dog Awards' top title of 2020's American Hero Dog.

The star-studded, nationally broadcast awards were hosted by television personality, actor and designer **Carson Kressley**, accompanied by a galaxy of celebrity stars and presenters including

**All-for-One, Mayim Bialik, AJ Buckley, Kristin Chenoweth, Erik Estrada, Danielle Fishel, Vivica A. Fox, Lizzy Greene, Jack Hanna, Faithe Herman, Naomi Judd, Keltie Knight, General Spider Marks (Ret.), Richard Marx, Debbie Matenopoulos, Cameron Mathison, Barbara Niven, Ross Mathews, John Ondrasik, Melissa Rivers, Marcus Scribner, Alison Sweeney and Ariel Winter.** Grammy-winning singer **Lisa Loeb** performed, and **Larissa Wohl** and **Nick and Joanna Swisher** presented a special award to **Lance Bass** for his humane efforts.

The Hero Dog Awards were created to celebrate the powerful relationship between dogs and people and recognize extraordinary acts of heroism performed by ordinary dogs. The program was aired as part of Hallmark Channel's cross-platform advocacy campaign designed to celebrate the joy and enrichment animals bring to our lives. During American Humane's annual "Adopt-a-Dog Month" this October, the organization teamed up with Hallmark Channel's "Adoption Ever After" campaign to help get more of the millions of beautiful animals left in shelters each year into forever homes.

The final winner is chosen through public voting after passing through previous rounds in which candidates must prevail through a combination of public votes and voting by a panel of animal advocates and celebrity judges, including **Jamie Chung, Erik Estrada, Danielle Fishel, Daniel Henney, Wendi McLendon-Covey, Marcus Scribner, Alexa and Carlos PenaVega** and **Ariel Winter**.

### ***All Finalists Are Winners***

MacKenzie was the one chosen as 2020 American Hero Dog, but all seven finalists were the nation's top winners in their categories, and we salute them for their courage, service and compassion. Here are the official nominations of the other winners, as told by their handlers and owners:





### 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 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 (TDI). 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 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 PGA, 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!

### ***And Thanks to Sponsors***

Finally, American Humane recognized those who support the Hero Dog and Hero Vet Awards and made them possible. "We thank the many generous sponsors who have helped shine a light on these heroes," said Dr. Ganzert. "Our deepest thanks to our broadcast partner Hallmark Channel, Hero Veterinarian and Hero Veterinary Nurse Awards sponsor Zoetis Petcare, Therapy Hero Dog sponsor World Pet Association, and Service Hero Dog sponsor Lulu's Fund. Dogs may be our best friends, but these caring organizations are theirs."



# HEROES TO AMERICA'S ANIMALS: 2020'S HERO VET & VET NURSE

Heroic canines were not the only honorees at the American Humane Hero Dog Awards®: 10th Anniversary Celebration. America's first national humane organization also honored a couple of human beings – with the **American Humane Hero Veterinarian and Hero Veterinary Nurse Awards™** -- presented by Zoetis Petcare (a U.S. business unit of Zoetis). After a nationwide search and tens of thousands of public votes, Dr. Katherine Polak from Boston, Massachusetts was named 2020's American Hero Veterinarian, and Julie Nettifee from Raleigh, North Carolina was declared 2020's American Hero Veterinary Nurse. They received their awards in a special ceremony during the Hero Dog Awards, which was broadcast nationally on Hallmark Channel.

The American Humane Hero Veterinarian and Hero Veterinary Nurse Awards were born out of the idea that behind almost every hero pet (and millions more animals) is a hero vet or veterinary nurse. These often-little-known benefactors save and improve the lives of our two- and four-legged best friends in many ways, and it is time to honor their achievements. Hundreds of worthy nominees were considered by a special blue-ribbon panel of celebrities and renowned veterinary and animal care professionals. After narrowing down the field to the top five in each category, the American public made the final determination through online voting. Here are their stories, as told by those who nominated them:

## 2020 AMERICAN HUMANE HERO VETERINARIAN: DR. KATHERINE POLAK

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.



## 2020 AMERICAN HUMANE HERO VETERINARY NURSE: JULIE NETTIFEE



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.

“We are honored to recognize two outstanding veterinary professionals who go above and beyond to provide essential veterinary care to animals in need across the country and internationally,” said Tara Bidgood, DVM, PhD, DACVCP, Executive Director, Veterinary Professional Services, Zoetis Petcare. “Dr. Katherine Polak has an extraordinary commitment to animal welfare around the globe, as well as to improving veterinary training so more animals can be cared for and more lives saved. Similarly, Julie Nettifee demonstrates exceptional care and compassion for the animals she dedicates her life to every day. They are both truly heroes.”

“To us, veterinarians and veterinary nurses are heroes and we want to recognize the best of the best,” said Dr. Robin Ganzert, American Humane president and CEO. “Dr. Polak and Ms. Nettifee are remarkable animal welfare advocates, and we are proud to spotlight their work in aiding the animals living in their communities and beyond. Special thanks go to our friends at Zoetis Petcare for sponsoring this national campaign because we know how committed they are to recognizing the achievements of the veterinary community.”



## WHAT'S NEW (AND GOOD) TO WATCH

The theaters might be closed, but there are plenty of great new TV shows and movies to experience in the safety and comfort of your own home. American Humane is proud to say that we kept all of the animals safe in the following movies and TV shows, so sit back and enjoy these terrific diversions from real life, worry free!



### THE WITCHES

Director Robert Zemeckis helms this hilarious and raucous adventure, based on the 1990 film and famed Roald Dahl novel. With a cast featuring Anne Hathaway, Octavia Spencer and Stanley Tucci, The Witches concerns a young orphan boy and his grandmother who stay at a resort at the same time the Grand High Witch has gathered her followers to carry out her grand scheme. The Witches features a lot of rollicking mice, most of which are created through CGI. However, the real mice were treated like VIPs. The movie also features chickens, horse, cats, and a mule and American Humane was there to cast a protective charm over all of them. The Witches is now streaming on HBO Max.



### ENOLA HOLMES

Stranger Things' Millie Bobby Brown plays the little sister of the famous 19th Century sleuth Sherlock Holmes in Netflix's, "Enola Holmes." Based in 1884 England, the production features a plethora of animals such as horses, sheep, chickens and dogs. American Humane was on set in London to make sure all the critters were comfortable and sipping their tea in the shade! We're happy to report that Enola Holmes received our highest honor, the No Animals Were Harmed® certification and is now streaming on Netflix.

### HUBIE HALLOWEEN

In Netflix's "Hubie Halloween," Adam Sandler plays Hubert "Hubie" Dubois, the butt of everyone's derision in his hometown of Salem, Massachusetts. When Hubie investigates a murder, he stops becoming a joke and starts becoming the town's savior! American Humane was on set in Massachusetts to make sure nothing was ever scary or harmful to the equine, canine and rodential co-stars.

### ON THE ROCKS

Sophia Coppola's newest comedy only features one animal, a cute dog at a cocktail party, but American Humane was still there to keep him safe and happy. Featuring Bill Murray and Rashida Jones as a hilarious father/daughter duo that chases down her husband to find out if he's cheating. On the Rocks is streaming on Apple TV now.

### THE GOOD LORD BIRD

This seven-part series about abolitionist John Brown, features Ethan Hawke as Brown, leading a band of rebels across the South on a mission to take down slavery. With his young compatriot, Henry (Joshua Caleb Johnson), in tow, The Good Lord Bird, which was produced by Blumhouse Television, features a ton of animals and American Humane was there every inch of the way to protect all the beautiful creatures on set. The Good Lord Bird is streaming on Showtime now.





# 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.



**AMERICAN HUMANE**  
FIRST TO SERVE®

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[www.AmericanHumane.org](http://www.AmericanHumane.org)