

AMERICAN*HUMANE

FIRST TO SERVE®

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Friends –

Fall is the time to harvest all the good things that sustain us. This year, with your help, we planted many seeds of hope and are happy to report the world's animals are reaping the rewards of your kindness, as you will see in this issue's many stories of rescue, reunions and renewal. Thanks to your support, we met our goal of 1,000,000 meals delivered to abandoned shelter animals during the pandemic; protected 400,000 rare and endangered species around the world; helped ensure better lives for hundreds of millions of farm animals; and, gave a new leash on life to our human and K-9 military heroes by bringing home retired war dogs and supplying veterans with lifesaving service dogs.



Autumn also brings with it a welcome new crop of adorable youngsters being born at American Humane Certified zoos and aquariums around the world, helping replenish the stocks of Earth's most remarkable and endangered species. In the pages that follow, you will meet three wallabies, a rescued elephant seal, and an adorably tiny creature called a "duiker."

And as temperatures cool, our annual competitions to name the country's top hero dogs and veterinary heroes are heating up. Be sure to tune in to our national television broadcast of the American Humane Hero Dog and Hero Vet Awards on Hallmark Drama (October 20 from 9-11 pm ET/PT) and join us at our star-studded Hero Dog Awards gala in Palm Beach on November 12. You won't want to miss the fun!

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,

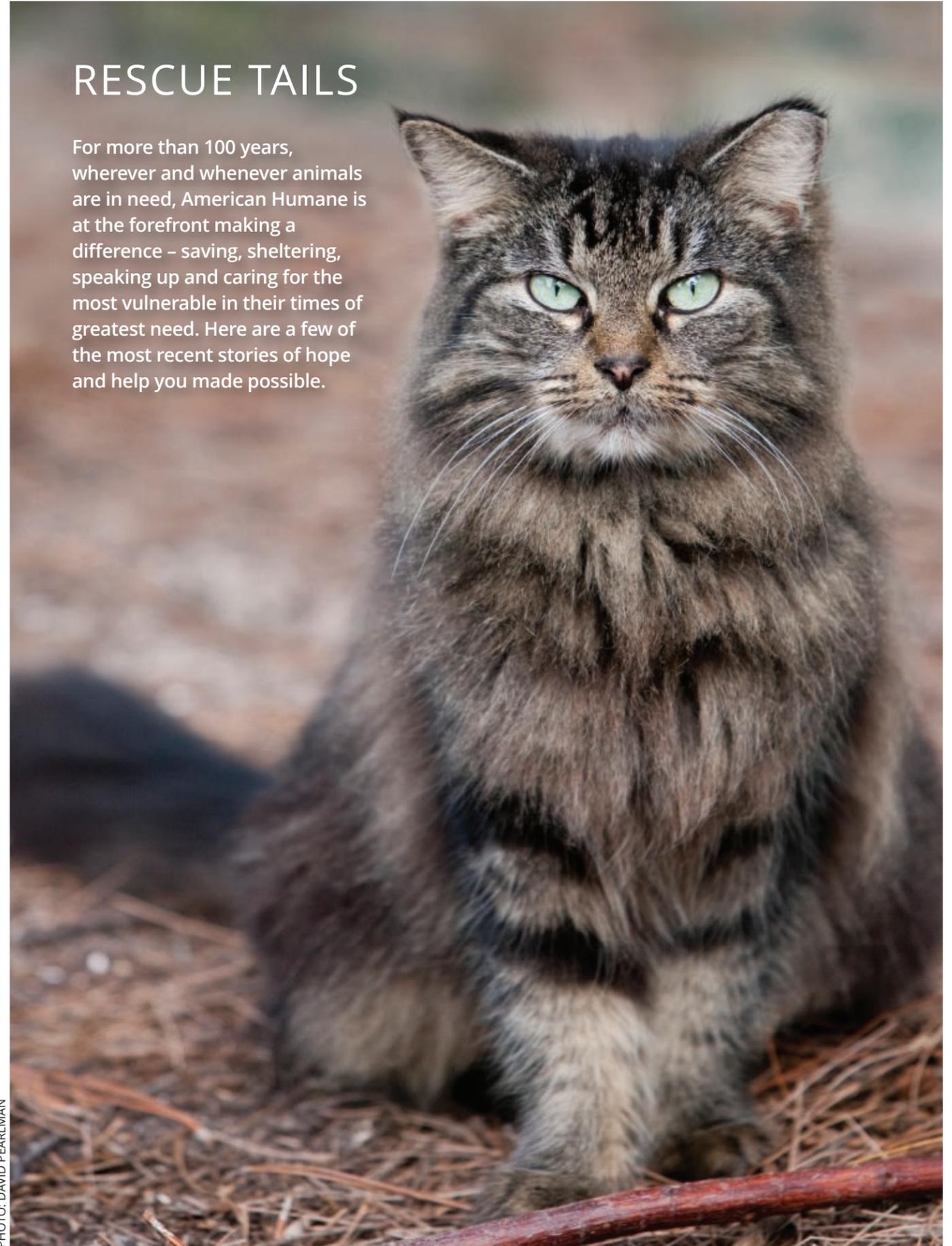
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin R. Ganzert".

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

RESCUE TAILS

For more than 100 years, wherever and whenever animals are in need, American Humane is at the forefront making 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.

PHOTO: DAVID PEARLMAN





SAVING LIVES: 1,000,000 PANDEMIC MEALS FOR SHELTER ANIMALS

The crisis came swiftly and silently. As millions of Americans across the country began to take refuge indoors last year to avoid the growing COVID-19 pandemic, visits to shelters dwindled, adoptions dropped and critical funding dried up. Huge numbers of abandoned animals faced uncertain futures and volunteers at the nation's rescues and shelters wondered how they would ever provide for them all. To help, American Humane launched a successful nationwide campaign to "Adopt a Pandemic Pet" which helped get abandoned animals into homes and launched an ambitious effort to take care of those left behind. Our **Feed the Hungry COVID-19** campaign was created to provide one million meals to hungry animals in need, as well as provide critically needed supplies and medicine. During the course of the campaign, we helped shelters, rescues and wildlife sanctuaries in 43 states, and reached our lifesaving goal.

"I am honored to stand by American Humane and call attention to the critical need to help pets across the country," said philanthropist and board member Jean Shafiroff, who serves as the national spokesperson for the Feed the Hungry COVID-19 campaign. "Animals will forever hold a special place in my heart and I am grateful that we reached our goal of one million meals, making a tremendous difference for animals who are struggling throughout the nation. Thank you to all who supported this worthy cause."

Reaching this goal, however, doesn't mean the end of the effort. Immediately after hitting the one million meal mark, American Humane announced five more grants and 37,500 more meals to shelters and rescues including The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. in New Haven, Connecticut; The Ruffian Foundation Cat Sanctuary in Castle Hayne, North Carolina; Chesapeake Cats and Dogs, Inc. in Queenstown, Maryland; Positively Cats Sanctuary in Carencro, Louisiana; and, The Feline Fix in Commerce City, Colorado.

"When the deadly coronavirus pandemic hit, American Humane sprang into action to help our best friends in their worst times," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane. "But many rescues and shelters are still struggling to maintain basic services and care for their animal residents, so while we are pleased to have reached our goal, the need is still there."

If you would like to help more animals in need, please visit www.AmericanHumane.org and make a donation. You will help us to continue saving lives as we all try to return to a sense of normalcy.

THE LAST FRONTIER: TRIBUTE TO AN EXTRAORDINARY ANIMAL LOVER



Over the past 144 years, American Humane has saved, sheltered, fed and protected billions of animals. We could not have done this, however, without the help of passionate, committed animal lovers who have volunteered thousands of years' worth of their time.

Walt Tremer was one of these remarkable people: a NASA-trained astronaut, translator and teacher who joined our rescue deployments when national disasters struck and the call went out for heroes. Read our American Humane Rescue team member Amber Batteiger's touching tribute to someone whose eyes were on the stars but always had plenty of space in his heart for animals.

In September 2018, our Rescue team responded to assist with a horrific puppy mill case in Northeast Washington. During this deployment, I met a new volunteer, a man whose grace and fortitude I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Walt Tremer was soft, demure and gentle, but wildly intelligent and wickedly witty. He treated each broken-spirited dog with careful consideration and a healing touch. I can say with complete certainty that Walt was the most accomplished and interesting person I have met in my lifetime. Walt trained with NASA, studied Chinese language at Yale, was fluent in over half a dozen

languages, was a Chinese and Russian interpreter for NSA, an archeologist, a beloved teacher... the list never ends. He deeply loved his wife, Janet, his daughter, Shana, and his dog Jackie. He had an affinity for Alaskan Malamutes and huskies and told me elaborate stories about the Iditarod races. Walt managed to live 50 lifetimes, and he spent every second of his existence making the world beautiful.

Looking back on past text exchanges with Walt, I wanted to share a message he sent while I was deployed on a particularly grueling response and told him I wasn't sure if my body or heart could take much more. He said, "My dearest Amber, be safe. And in these days, after long and exhausting hours, when your muscles ache, and your heart hurts from the disaster you are lessening, as you lay down in your cozy tent, know that there are warm, comforting thoughts that are surrounding you and holding you, and there is a mind and heart that loves you. With your heart and soul, you have brought in life a slicing, intense dedication to serve all animals. You are wonderful, and you are strong, and you are brilliant."

Walt, I promise that I will never stop fighting for the voiceless that you loved so purely, and I will forever carry your presence with me. Thank you for living 50 lifetimes so that those you touched can know what it means to be loved by someone like you. I will hold every rescued animal extra close and tell them stories of a man who would have loved them so completely. Until our next adventure brings us together again, my sweet friend.

Walt Tremer is now exploring the final frontier, but he spent his time here improving our own world. All of us at American Humane ask you to join us in saluting one of our personal heroes, Walt Tremer.



NEW PSA IS NSYNC WITH OUR MISSION



If you're anything like us, your pets aren't just your best friends . . . they're family.

Disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes, however, can tear families apart, and leave pets and other animals injured, abandoned or lost. Lack of planning to protect pets not only puts animals at risk, but also endangers people, as many families refuse to evacuate unless their pets can join them – something that is sometimes difficult or impossible without preparation.

To help, NSYNC singer, producer and animal lover **Lance Bass** filmed a national public service announcement for American Humane, sharing some simple, life-saving tips from our animal rescue experts. These new spots were sent to 1,300 television and 5,000 radio stations nationwide and should be airing soon in your area. Be sure to watch and listen for them and check out [AmericanHumane.org](https://www.americanhumane.org) for more tips on ways to keep our best friends safe in every way. Thank you, Lance!

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.

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<https://giving.americanhumane.org>

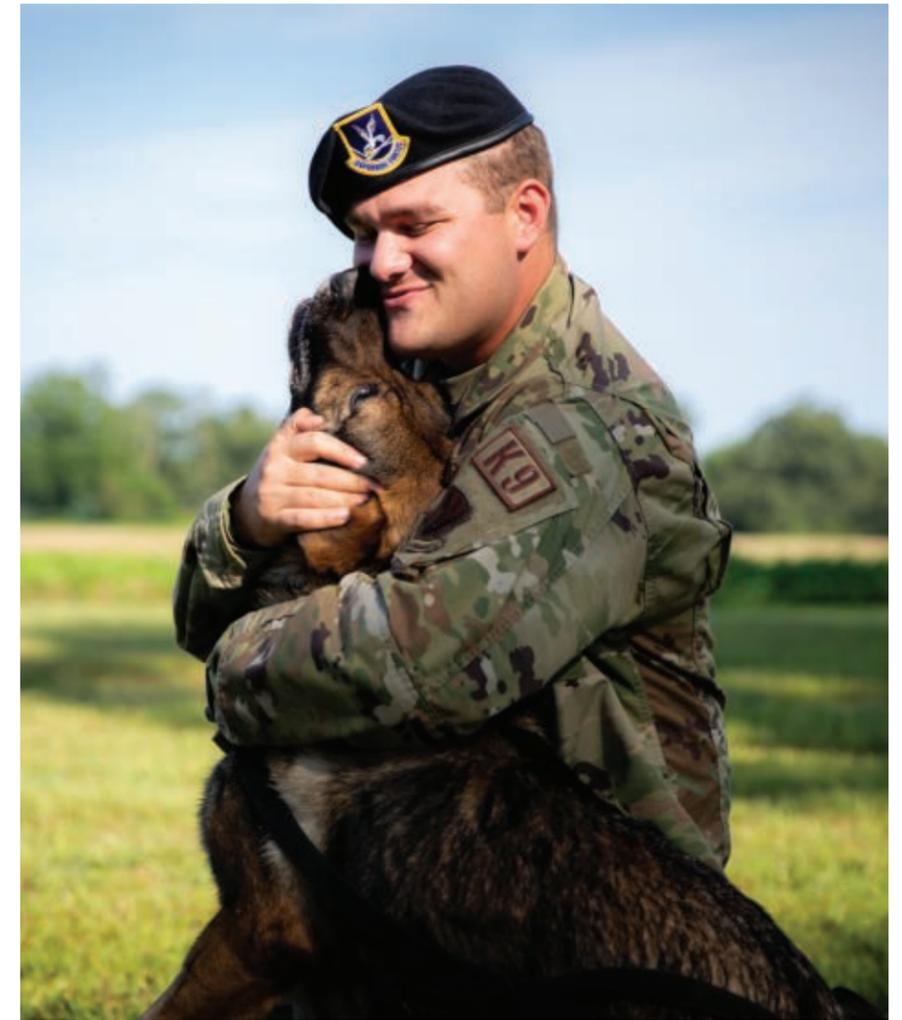


HELPING AMERICA'S HEROES

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.



PHOTO THIS PAGE AND COVER: KAI CASEY



BEST FRIENDS, TOGETHER AGAIN!

It was a heartwarming sight, one seen by millions of Americans.

As shown on *ABC World News Tonight with David Muir*, retired Military Working Dog Chickel rushed into the arms of U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Kyle Johnson, after being separated for far too long following their work together overseas. Chickel served with Johnson at Osan Base in Korea, where he not only worked as a patrol dog but also was an invaluable helper to many of the servicemembers there, providing comfort and companionship when they were going through stressful or difficult times. But Johnson missed Chickel most of all.

To help, American Humane, which has supported the U.S. military for more than 100 years, arranged to have Chickel flown back and reunited with SSgt Johnson, who is now stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Once stateside, our rescue veterinarian



Dr. Lesa Staubus traveled with Chickel to monitor his health and safety during his long journey home. Dr. Staubus was joined by our friend and volunteer Cheryl Friedman in personally delivering Chickel.

SSgt Johnson's family, including his wife and two young children, welcomed Chickel home with open arms as the four-footed hero covered them with enthusiastic licks.

"He's more than a military dog to me, he's family," said SSgt Johnson. "I'm just happy to have him home – happy to show him what a regular dog's life is like."

"American Humane is dedicated to ensuring a healthy, happy retirement for MWDs on American soil," said Dr. Robin R. Ganzert, president & CEO of American Humane. "We are honored to reunite SSgt Kyle Johnson with Chickel, and hope this courageous canine enjoys a restful retirement."

Retired MWDs often have medical issues stemming from their very physical and dangerous jobs, so American Humane recently launched the **Military Working Dog Reunification Fund**, which will make it possible to bring even more of our K-9 veterans home and help provide free specialty and preventative medical care to make retired MWDs as healthy and comfortable as possible during retirement.

Learn how you can help at www.AmericanHumane.org/military.



STRONGER TOGETHER

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 trains pups, at no cost to the veteran, to become lifesaving, service animals for those in need. Meet just three of our most recent graduates and their new best friends, all of whom are now looking forward to healthier and happier lives together:

JONATHAN AND PEARL

Jonathan served in the U.S. Navy from 2002-2010, both active duty and in the reserves. During his service, he was deployed to the Mediterranean, Japan and Spain. He lives in Florida and was paired with Pearl, a mixed breed female. Their lives together were made possible by the charitable support of Margaret and Gerry Kazma.

***Jonathan:** I adopted Pearl at eight weeks old from the shelter. She was one of eight puppies in the litter. She is a very special dog to me with the white heart-shaped marking on her face that reminds me of how much she loves me. She is a super active and happy dog. It took patience to train, but with the help of American Humane, it was a complete success. Pearl helps me by hugging me to help me with grounding when needed and with the buffering when we are standing in lines. She helps calm me when I'm anxious and is a true blessing. Now I can feel confident to go out without fear – with my best friend Pearl.*





OSBALDO AND OAKLEY

Osbaldo is a U.S. Army veteran who served from 2001-2015. He was deployed twice to Afghanistan and once to Iraq. Thanks to a generous sponsorship from John & Marilyn Goesling, Osbaldo was paired with Oakley, a male Labrador Retriever.

Osbaldo: *I would like to thank American Humane for their work in helping veterans like me get paired with a service dog. My journey started back in 2001 when I joined the Army and it was filled with honor, sacrifice, joy, and scars not visible, but always present. Then fast forward to 2015 and my release from the Army. I was in denial, not wanting to admit I was not the same person. I found the courage to finally break free from denying I needed help and contacted American Humane. Oakley is now helping me conquer my anxiety, nightmares and is always by my side. I must say that I'm beyond blessed to have been paired with him. I have noticed a difference, and my anxiety and nightmares – even though they are present, are much easier to control.*

DIANA AND SAM

Diana is a U.S. Air Force veteran who served from 2013-2015. She lives in Texas and was paired with Sam, a male Labrador Retriever.

Diana: *I just want to thank all the amazing people working with American Humane and all the donors for bringing Sam into my life. Having a service dog that I have truly bonded with made me come back out into the world. The rough days when I couldn't get myself up and moving don't happen anymore with Sam always there to help me through it. I know that there are lots of other veterans out there that would benefit from having a service dog and having a dog placed in a loving home.*

There are many obstacles in the way of veterans in need of service dogs, including long waiting lists and exorbitant costs. Here at American Humane, we are honored to harness the healing power of the human-animal bond to train pups as service dogs for our nation's brave warriors. We are able to save lives on both ends of the leash through the generous support of our donors.

To learn more and help fund the training of more lifesaving service dogs for our veterans, please visit www.AmericanHumane.org/program/military.





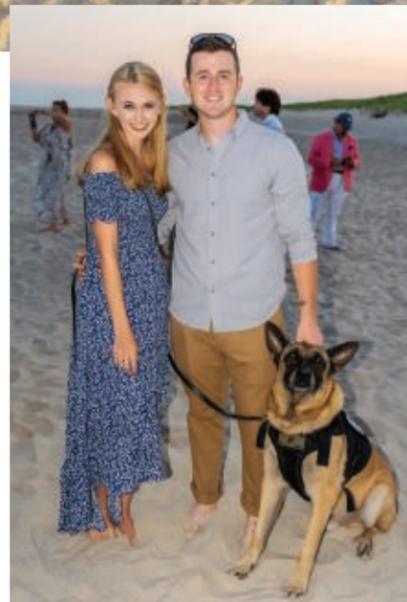
“DOGS ON THE DUNES” LAUNCHES MWD REUNIFICATION FUND

As the sun set over Dune Beach in Southampton, New York, American Humane hosted a special event to honor and support our brave heroes on both ends of the leash. Military working dogs, who so valiantly serve alongside our troops to keep them safe from IEDs and other dangers, are too often retired overseas and are not able to be brought home to the loving homes of their former handlers. American Humane stands first to serve to reunite Battle Buddies who have so bravely served our country.

“American Humane is honored to have brought together so many fabulous people in support of our efforts to reunite American’s brave military K-9s with their beloved handlers,” said Dr. Robin Ganzert, American Humane’s president & CEO. “Every dog who serves in the U.S. Armed Forces deserves our thanks and a restful retirement, which is why we were thrilled to launch our **Military Working Dog Reunification Fund** at our inaugural Dogs on the Dunes Clambake. This critical fund will make it possible to bring even more of our K-9 veterans home thanks to the generous help of our donors and ambassadors.”

The fund will also allow American Humane to provide free specialty and preventative medical care to make retired MWDs as healthy and comfortable as possible during retirement.

A highlight of the evening was meeting and hearing the story of retired Sgt. Brendan Cabey and Military Working Dog Ramos, who were reunited by American Humane, and listening to philanthropist, board member and national ambassador for the Feed the Hungry COVID-19 campaign Jean Shafiroff reveal that American Humane reached its goal of delivering support for one million meals to shelter animals during the pandemic, sparking a hearty round of applause.



ON THE FRONTLINES ONCE AGAIN: ENLISTING DOGS IN THE WAR ON COVID-19

Once a hero, always a hero.

Former U.S. Army Sergeant James Overton and K-9 Cody both served our country in the War on Terror. Overton was a security contractor in Iraq and Afghanistan for the Department of State, and Cody was an explosives detection dog in Iraq. When they came back home, they continued to serve by working together to keep our public spaces safe. In recognition of their remarkable work, K-9 Cody was named the top Law Enforcement Dog of the Year at the 2020 American Humane Hero Dog Awards.

Today, as Cody helps his handler cope with the lingering impact of military service that affects so many veterans, Overton is working on a new mission involving another sort of war: the battle against COVID-19. Overton’s company, American K-9 Interdiction, which trains dogs to sniff out explosives, drugs and bedbugs, has teamed up with Sentara Williamsburg Regional Hospital, the Bon Secours Health System and the Eastern Virginia Healthcare Coalition to find out if dogs can use their remarkable sense of smell to detect the COVID-19 virus.

Three dogs have been training since the spring and early results are very encouraging. In their first week of the study, the dogs were able to spot the COVID-positive sample every time. The dog detectives will undergo further testing and the entire project will be peer-reviewed. If all goes well, we may soon start seeing COVID-scenting dogs in airports, train stations and concert venues.

“We see this trial program, if successful, as another tool in the toolbox to help reduce the spread of the virus and help our communities more quickly return to some sense of normalcy without the fear of becoming infected when attending large gatherings,” said Overton. “Once again, our four-legged friends have proven that the nose knows, and dogs are truly man’s best friend.”

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR K-9 HEROES: THE AMERICAN MILITARY HERO DOG MONUMENT

There are some 2,700 dogs currently in active military service and about 700 deployed overseas. For the most part, however, these courageous K-9s – like the countless thousands who served in the military dating back to the Civil War – have not been given the credit due to them for their heroic acts on and off the battlefield.

To remedy this situation, the nationally prominent philanthropist and champion of disabled veterans and animals, Lois Pope, and American Humane president and CEO Dr. Robin R. Ganzert worked together to create and dedicate the American Military Hero Dog Monument, a national tribute to the K-9s who serve in the five branches of the Armed Forces.

Sculpted by Austin Weishel, the monument was unveiled in front of Tri-County Animal Rescue, home to the Lois Pope Pet Clinic, in Boca Raton, Florida in a ceremony that included the participation of U.S. Representatives Lois Frankel and Brian Mast, former U.S. Rep. Donna Shalala, and Florida State Attorney Dave Aronberg, as well as Mrs. Pope, Dr. Ganzert, sculptor Austin Weishel, Tri-County Humane president Suzi Goldsmith and military veterans.

“There are 4.2 million living American veterans who have permanent physical and/or psychological disabilities, and they now have a memorial in Washington, D.C. to recognize their service and sacrifice,” Mrs. Pope said, referring to the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, which she created. “But dogs have also served and sacrificed alongside our troops in wars and conflicts around the globe for more than a century. While a handful of these animals have been decorated, I felt it was time that they, too, had a permanent monument to honor them for their heroism.”

“On the battlefield and off, our four-legged heroes have proven time and again they are our warriors’ best friends,” said Dr. Ganzert. “From highly trained war dogs who save lives on the front lines of

freedom to lifesaving service dogs who help our veterans win their battles with Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury here at home, we owe these courageous K-9s a deep debt of gratitude.”

To ensure our human heroes don’t go into debt while trying to keep their K-9 protectors and companions safe and healthy, American Humane made a \$25,000 donation to the Lois Pope Pet Clinic at Tri-County Animal Rescue to help veterans and those in need within our community obtain critically important veterinary care for their beloved best friends.

“We are humbled by the opportunity to provide healthcare for these heroes and are honored to join Lois Pope in dedicating this permanent tribute recognizing their invaluable service to our service men and women . . . and our nation,” Ganzert said.



AMERICAN HUMANE P4P5★K



This Fourth of July, Americans found a new way to celebrate our nation’s freedom. In addition to the usual frankfurters, fireworks and fun that make up so much Independence Day fanfare, American Humane asked people to lace up their sneakers and run, walk or even march to support those who have served our country and sacrificed so much to keep it free.

American Humane’s national **Pups4Patriots 5K** is an annual, weekend-long event, raising funds to train lifesaving service dogs for veterans coping with Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury.

“American Humane is committed to putting healing leashes into the hands of more veterans in need,” said Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO and president of American Humane. “This virtual event serves as a rallying point to bring us together to provide veterans in need with the healing power of our four-legged friends.”

The 5K drew enthusiastic support from all over the country. In addition to remarkably generous support from sponsors Domino’s, Monster Energy and Rhoback, animal-loving celebrities (including TV star Alison Sweeney, who agreed to serve as the event’s national spokesperson), staff, board members and patriotic Americans everywhere got involved as soon as they heard about it. Supporter

Susan Meyers said, “My dog, Clara, and I enjoyed our walk even more knowing we were doing something to help our nation’s veterans and homeless dogs. It is a great way to honor those who have sacrificed so much for the freedoms we enjoy. My Dad was a WWII veteran and this walk was a way for me to honor him on the July 4th holiday. I truly believe in your mission.” Bill Winhall, who serves as an auditor for the American Humane conservation program, laced up his sneakers and raised funds to help our veterans. And when American Humane’s Emily Sparks told her gym owner, Karah Bunde, about the event, she rallied 28 members to participate. Said Bunde: “Creating a gym-wide Pups4Patriots 5K was to me a no-brainer as Heirloom Athletics’ member base includes a number of veterans, active-duty first responders and many animal lovers. We had overwhelming enthusiasm for Heirloom’s 5K on July 3rd and far surpassed our fundraising goals thanks to our generous and compassionate members and the greater Dorchester County Maryland community. It was truly a perfect way for Heirloom to honor those who fight for our freedoms and the animals who bring so much joy to our lives while celebrating the benefits of a lifestyle of regular fitness.”

We couldn’t have said it better. Be sure to sign up for the July 4 Pups4Patriots 5K next year!

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:



**HUMANE
CERTIFIED**
A PROGRAM OF AMERICAN HUMANE

WALLABY WANNABES

Things are really hopping at American Humane Certified **Brookfield Zoo** – with wallabies that is. Three Bennett’s Wallaby moms – Becky, Marion, and Talia – all gave birth to joeys. When born, a joey is about the size of a bumblebee and weighs less than 0.03 ounces. Babies are born blind and hairless and migrate to the mother’s pouch, where they remain for about 280 days! Wallabies, which inhabit coastal areas, woodlands, and grasslands in Australia, are marsupials—mammals best known for their abdominal pouches. There are more than 270 different marsupial species found around the world. Wallabies have a stable population in their range. However, they are sometimes killed as an agricultural pest and hunted for their meat. Fully grown, wallabies can reach up to three feet in height and weigh between 24 and 59 pounds, depending on their gender. Wallabies are hardy all-weather animals and when it gets too hot, they like to lick their arms and hands, cooling themselves off. To read more, please visit www.czs.org.



Jill Gamsby, a senior care specialist for the Chicago Zoological Society, interacts with Whitney, a Bennett’s wallaby joey, who is being handreared at Brookfield Zoo.



A Bennett’s wallaby joey and its mom, Becky. The two can be seen at Brookfield Zoo’s Hamill Family Wild Encounters.

PHOTOS: JIM SCHULZ/CZS-BROOKFIELD ZOO

WAIT . . . WHAT'S A "DUIKER"?

The baby boom continues at American Humane Certified organizations with the birth of a baby blue duiker at the American Humane Certified San Antonio Zoo. Animal Care Specialists named the baby Viazi, which means "potato" in Swahili. Blue duikers are a small species of forest-dwelling antelopes found in central, eastern, and southern Africa. The calf is the fourth born to parents Stumpy and Kate. Blue duikers weigh only up to 20 pounds as full-grown adults. The blue is named for the color their fur appears in the dense forest shade, and duiker is an Afrikaans word for "diving buck," which describes its behavior in the forest as it dives into bush and brush undergrowth. San Antonio Zoo has a long history of working to preserve species worldwide. You can learn more about their work here: www.sazoo.org. The zoo's Center for Conservation and Research seeks to fulfill the zoo's Mission Statement through various approaches, including fieldwork and captive husbandry of rare and threatened species. The scope of efforts includes projects on three continents, transnational research, and projects throughout the United States.



SAN ANTONIO ZOO



WONDER IF HE'S GOT A MEMORY LIKE AN ELEPHANT?

One thing's for sure: If an elephant seal has a memory anything like an elephant, this little pup is going to remember his rescuers gratefully for a long time. In June, the SeaWorld San Diego Rescue Team rescued the little fellow off the California coast, making him the 12th elephant seal they saved in 2021. The team assessed his health through blood work and observations and estimated he was about six to seven months old. The team later returned him to the sea, along with two Guadalupe Fur Seals.

Northern elephant seals spend nine months of the year in the ocean. They're able to float to conserve energy and only gather in colonies on sandy beaches during the breeding season. For more information on elephant seals and the 38,000 other animals SeaWorld has saved, please visit www.seaworldsandiego.com

AWARD-WINNING FILM CONTINUES TO SWEEP GLOBE

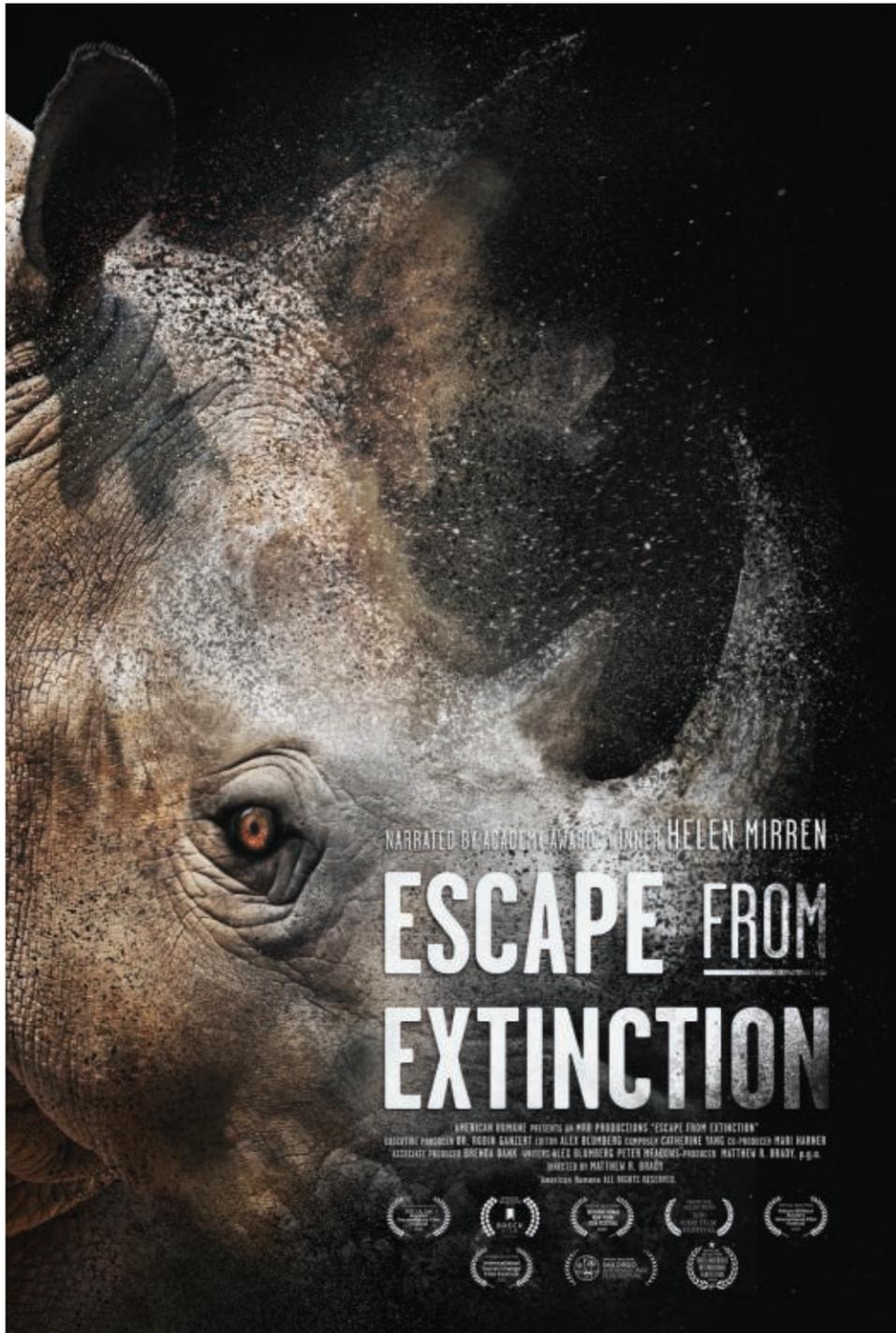
Escape from Extinction, American Humane's award-winning conservation documentary film narrated by Academy Award winner Dame Helen Mirren, is now available to buy or rent on demand on most streaming services. The movie takes viewers on a dramatic trip around the world to explore the imminent disappearance of one million species during the "Sixth Mass Extinction" now taking place. Despite these threats, the film also shows 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.

The film was named the "Best Environmental Documentary" of 2020 at DOC LA Los Angeles Documentary Film Festival and has already become a favorite at leading film festivals, receiving hundreds of requests for screenings by conservation organizations, universities and private groups.

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 support

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 are excited to share *Escape from Extinction* with audiences everywhere," 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."

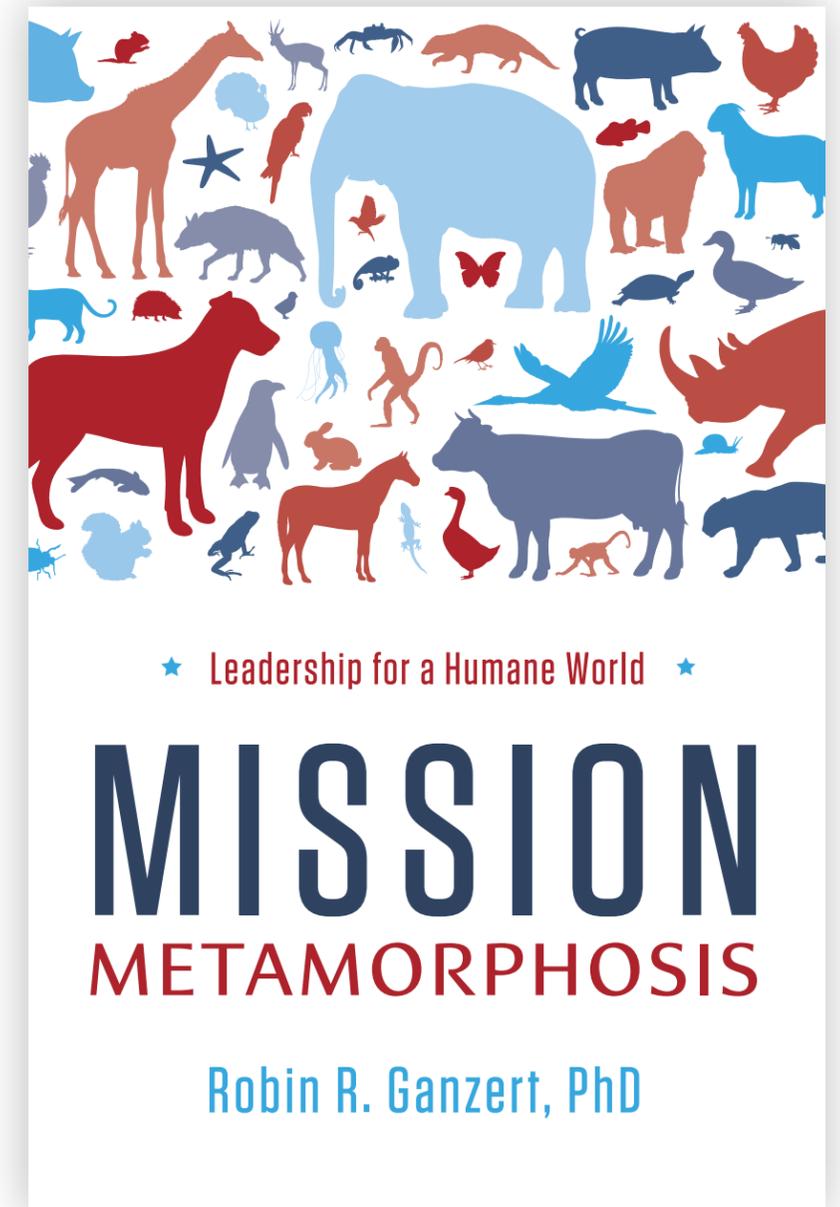


INSPIRATIONAL READING

Whether you're the leader of an organization, someone who loves motivational stories, or just a passionate animal lover like so many of us, there's one book you really should add to your reading pile this fall. *Mission Metamorphosis*, the inspirational guide from American Humane CEO Dr. Robin Ganzert, tells the story of how she not only helped save the world's leading animal charity but increased its reach in helping rescue, shelter, feed and protect vulnerable creatures in every area around the globe by nearly 2,000 percent! *Mission Metamorphosis* debuted as the #1 Animal Rights eBook on Amazon's bestseller list and Goodreads fans gave it an impressive four stars.

The Nonfiction Authors Association gave *Mission Metamorphosis* its Silver Award, saying, "*Mission Metamorphosis* is more than the inspirational story of Ganzert's notable achievement of rescuing an important non-profit organization from insolvency by making dramatic changes in the face of truly significant resistance. . . it also strives to be a guide to taking a business approach to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), providing great insight into successfully choosing and creating programs that will transform any business into a focused, sustainable environment. Even readers not in leadership roles will find value in the book's pages and may be enlightened as to how to adapt the model presented to the mission of their own organization."

The book, which is filled with poignant stories as well as sound advice for nonprofit leaders on how to achieve mission-driven success, has been included in *Texas CEO Magazine's* monthly roundup of notable books, highlighted on Just Jenny, a nationally broadcast Sirius XM radio show, and included on the 2020 Porchlight Business Book Awards longlist. Best of all, proceeds from book sales 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. Be sure to get your copy today!



FACES OF COMPASSION

Last year, we told you how we are continuing to work toward building a more diverse, equitable and inclusive new generation of veterinary professionals through the “American Humane Scholars Fund,” supporting students of color. An inaugural grant of \$40,000, sponsored by leading animal health company Zoetis, was made to the historic Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, which 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.

Today, we want you to meet eight of the inspiring young people who received support from this grant and who are devoting their lives to building a better world for animals:



Aaliyah E. Johnson

Aaliyah E. Johnson is originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She achieved her undergraduate education at Tuskegee University, and is now in the process of obtaining her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine as a member of the class of 2023. Ms. Johnson has obtained experience in the fields of emergency medicine, zoo and exotic animals, and small animal medicine. Currently, she is looking to gain experience in the field of large animal medicine and equine medicine. When Ms. Johnson was in Louisiana, she volunteered as a junior zookeeper at BREC’s Baton Rouge Zoo. Ms. Johnson enjoys being a part of and being a positive addition to this field.



Christina Darthard

Christina Darthard is a member of the class of 2022 and has been active while in veterinary school. She has served on the Veterinary Business Management Association Executive Board as the secretary, as well as serving as the student representative for a mentoring program. After graduating from Tuskegee with her DVM, Ms. Darthard plans to go into general small animal practice and eventually own her own clinic.



Jasmine Bogan

“For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future,” is a verse from the Bible that Ms. Bogan fully embraces. She is a student in the class of 2022 in the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. Ms. Bogan was born and reared in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Fayetteville State University and a Master of Science degree in Animal Science from Fort Valley State University. Ms. Bogan believes that veterinary medicine is her calling. Her love for animals is her motivating force and she believes that diversity and inclusion are important. She hopes to mentor young, underrepresented students and says she chose the career of Veterinary Medicine not just for the sake of animals, but for the advancement of human development through research and service.



Natassjia Ragbeer

Natassjia Ragbeer is a veterinary student in the class of 2022. She grew up in south Florida and attended Florida State University for her undergraduate studies, majoring in biology. At the age of 16, Ms. Ragbeer started her first job working as a kennel attendant. She had always known that veterinary medicine was the path she wanted to take and made it a priority at a young age to seek out opportunities to get her foot in the door. Upon finishing veterinary school, Ms. Ragbeer intends to work as a mixed animal general practitioner and one day acquire her own clinic treating both small and large animals. Natassjia is honored to be a recipient of an American Humane Scholarship and says she is beyond grateful for organizations like this one that support veterinary students in pursuing their dreams of becoming veterinarians.



Sandra Suarez

Sandra Suarez was a veterinary student in Tuskegee University’s College of Veterinary Medicine’s class of 2021. Originally from Lima, Peru, Ms. Suarez started attending veterinary school at Tuskegee and volunteered with a spay and release program back in her home state of Delaware that worked with their local shelter. Due to that experience, Ms. Suarez became a true advocate of adopting pets instead of purchasing them. She has a strong interest in surgery and plans to work in a general practice. She also plans to continue volunteering with a spay and release program at a local shelter. Ms. Suarez’s lifelong dream is to own a clinic/shelter.



Sheridan Barajas

Sheridan Barajas is a student in the class of 2022. After graduation, Ms. Barajas plans on becoming a small animal general practitioner either back home in Texas or in a new location that she has yet to explore along the east coast. During time here at TUCVM, Ms. Barajas has held the position of SAVMA Secretary and has learned through classes and experiences that she has a strong interest in veterinary dentistry. Once in practice, she also hopes to get the opportunity to volunteer her time with shelters and low-cost clinics both in and out of the country.



Willie Graham

Willie Graham is from Bel Air, Maryland. He received his Bachelor of Science in Animal science from Tuskegee University in May of 2018 and then joined the entering class at his Alma Mater for the professional DVM program. Upon completing veterinary school, Mr. Graham's career hopes to become a small animal and exotics veterinarian working in general practice. While in veterinary school, Mr. Graham served as a member of the canine club and shelter club and held the office of co-historian in the student chapter of the Veterinary Business Management Association from 2018-2019.



Ty'Sheona Cook

Ty'Sheona Cook is very grateful for being awarded the American Humane Scholarship. She is a veterinary student from Virginia in the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine's class of 2022. She has served as a member the Student American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, Surgery Club, Shelter Medicine Club, and Dentistry Club. Ms. Cook completed internships with Banfield, Houston Humane Society and Blue Pearl to learn more about small animal practice and was able to perform spays and neuters and enhance her technical skills. Sustainable food is her primary field of interest and Ms. Cook has gotten rewarding and valuable experience working for the USDA. She also worked with the ARS agency on a project to provide sustainable food across Africa.

"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 was proud to announce, in partnership with inaugural sponsor Zoetis, to present 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," said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. "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."



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, fish 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: GIROUX'S POULTRY FARM

American Humane regularly spotlights the good work of American Humane Certified producers and products that reflect an enlightened commitment to the welfare of animals. Today, we are focusing on Giroux's Poultry Farm, which is nestled in the Champlain Valley in the small town of Chazy, New York. Established in 1929 by Wilfred Giroux, it has evolved from a small truck route selling eggs and dressed chickens to the company it is today supplying eggs to customers in the Northeast. Third-generation owners Craig and Willie Giroux are now welcoming a fourth generation of Giroux's into the business.

How do you feel about the animals in your care and why does Giroux's Poultry Farm believe animal welfare is important?

Providing good care for our birds is one of the foremost goals of our Giroux's poultry team. It's the right thing to do not only for our animals, but also for our business. If we don't have a healthy flock, we don't have a healthy business.



Some companies are self-reporting welfare outcomes. Why did you decide it was important to work with an independent third party?

We want our customers to trust our audit results and welfare outcomes. We feel that having an independent third-party monitor our animal welfare practices help us build and maintain that trust between us and our customers.

Why do you value American Humane certification?

American Humane certification is how we communicate our farm's decision to prioritize our birds and their welfare/safety to our customers.

How have your customers responded to your earning the American Humane Certified seal and how does it set you apart from other producers in your field?

Our customers have been very pleased with our choice to become American Humane certified. More people are becoming concerned about how their food is raised and cared for, being American Humane certified satisfies this need.

Is there anything else you would like food consumers to know about you, your company or your love of animals?

At Giroux's Poultry Farm we also grow and mill our own corn. Being able to control our birds feed from start to finish makes us feel very confident in their nutrition.

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:



WENNING POULTRY FARM

Wenning Poultry Farms is a first-generation farm that is owned and operated by James and Mary Wenning and their five sons in rural Fort Recovery, Ohio. They strive to produce high-quality and safe eggs while keeping hens safe and comfortable.



ORGANIC WEST MILK

Based in Ripon, California, Organic West Milk is at the front of the herd because of their small family farms. They are not only kind to their animals but run an operation that is 100% pasture-based using no additives. They are proud to be antibiotic-free, GMO-free and rBST-free.

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.



WHAT'S COOKING THIS FALL

The Humane Table: Seasoning by the Seasons is the forthcoming new cookbook from American Humane's president & CEO Dr. Robin Ganzert. Published by Fast Company Press, this approachable guide to seasonal cooking will empower families to make humane decisions on a daily basis.

Now, more than ever, people are conscious of where their food comes from. Drawing inspiration from the farmers and ranchers certified through the American Humane Farm Program, *The Humane Table* takes a holistic approach to setting a humane table year-round. American Humane urges everyone to help make a better world by choosing foods that have been humanely raised under ethical, commonsense, and scientifically demonstrated standards. That is why today, and every day, we celebrate the Humane Table. Look for your copy just in time for the holidays!

HUMANE HOLLYWOOD

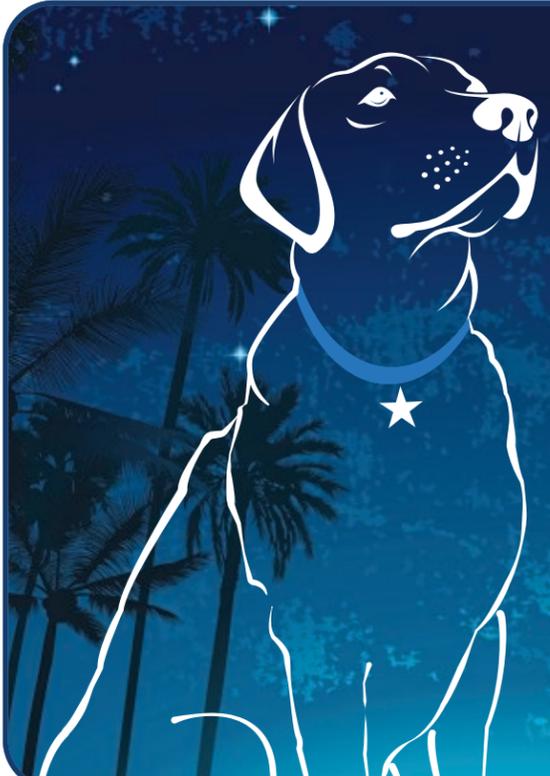
MEET AMERICA'S TOP DOGS! SEVEN COURAGEOUS CANINES TO HEADLINE 2021 HERO DOG AWARDS

America has spoken and following more than 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 2021 American Humane Hero Dog Awards®. The awards are sponsored by the Lois Pope LIFE Foundation and will be broadcast as a two-hour television special on Hallmark Drama this October 20 from 9-11 pm ET/PT.

"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 wish the best of luck to these remarkable finalists as they enter the final round because all of them have displayed exemplary courage and compassion."

"The Hero Dog Awards celebrate America's often unsung heroes," said philanthropist and Platinum Presenting Sponsor Lois Pope. "From those who defend our country to those who help us heal, guide us, protect us, and help find the lost, every single contender exemplifies the courage and heroism we seek to spotlight in this campaign. Our goal is not only to honor these magnificent dogs but to inspire America to reflect on the outsized contributions that animals make in our lives each and every day."

All seven finalists took top honors in their individual categories from an initial field of more than 400 nominees and will take part in the star-studded Hero Dog Awards gala in Palm Beach on November 12. The top winner will be determined through a combination of ballots from the public and a special, blue-ribbon panel of animal experts and celebrity animal lovers.



**DON'T MISS THE 2021
HERO DOG GALA!**

Birthdays, anniversaries and graduations come and go, but you don't want to miss this year's Hero Dog gala on November 12 in Palm Beach! This exciting extravaganza will be held at the fabulous Eau Palm resort and will feature America's most courageous canines competing for the top spot and the animal-loving celebrities you adore. For more information about the 2021 American Humane Hero Dog Awards and tickets to the November 12 gala, please visit www.herodogawards.org/tickets or contact Mari Harner at marih@americanhumane.org or 1-800-227-4645.

Meet the seven remarkable Hero Dog Awards finalists

Here are brief descriptions of this year's finalists, written by the hero dogs' owners/handlers:

2021 SHELTER DOG OF THE YEAR

(SPONSORED BY LULU'S FUND)



Deputy Chance (Cape Coral, Florida) – Chance was a victim of animal abuse in Lee County, Florida. The Lee County Sheriff's Office investigated the animal cruelty case and used forensics evidence to identify a suspect and subsequently get a conviction. Chance was adopted by Lieutenant Castellon and deputized by Sheriff Carmine Marceno. Deputy Chance is the spokesdog for the public affairs unit at the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Chance was also named a Good Will Ambassador by the county commissioners. He regularly visits schools, hospitals, and community events. He promotes good will, has become an advocate against animal cruelty and helps promote adoption of shelter pets. Deputy Chance is the face of the Deputy Dogs Person Patrol program in Lee County, Florida.

2021 MILITARY DOG OF THE YEAR



SSG Summer (Mt. Airy, Maryland) – My retired canine partner's name is Staff Sergeant Summer, a 10-year-old female Labrador. Summer retired from the Marines Corps in 2013 as a Military Working Dog and proud war dog. She most recently retired as a Police Explosive Detection Dog after serving proudly for seven years. While deployed, she conducted a substantial number of routine patrols, searching for and positively identifying countless weapons caches and improvised explosive devices, swept and cleared routes for the troops and was involved in numerous fire fights with insurgents. Summer put her life on the line to protect, defend and save the lives of countless troops. As a result of these exposures in war zone environments and other traumatic events that Summer experienced in Iraq and Afghanistan, she was diagnosed with canine PTSD in December 2015. She copes with this condition daily. For her heroic, extraordinary valor and service to our country, Staff Sergeant Summer received the PDSA

Commendation Award in July 2017 and the Lois Pope K9 Medal of Courage on Capitol Hill the following year. In retirement, SSG Summer continues to serve her country and fellow veterans by visiting them at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, located in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The veterans who reside at that location truly admire her story of service and enjoy the love and pats as she walks through their rooms.

2021 THERAPY DOG OF THE YEAR



Boone (Hookstown, Pennsylvania) – Boone survived heartbreaking cruelty as a puppy, which resulted in the loss of his back legs. His life changed when he was adopted by a family with a soft spot for special needs pets. His family had him fitted with a wheelchair to improve his mobility, and he has been a dog on a mission ever since – a mission to spread his joy to others with his infectious smile and story of resilience. Despite his challenges, his sweet nature and enthusiasm for life make him a perfect fit for his new profession as a therapy dog. They say that when you love what you do, you never work a day in your life, and that is the truth for Boone. Children light up when he enters the room. Boone is an ambassador for the nonprofit Joey's P.A.W. (Prosthetics and Wheels). So far, the charity has provided mobility devices to over 700 dogs in need in Pittsburgh, across the country, and even internationally. Boone and Joey's P.A.W. hope to

improve both the outcome for dogs with mobility issues in shelters and rescues across the country, as well as perceptions about their adoptability. Boone deserves the title of American Hero Dog because he inspires those around him every day to overcome the obstacles that life throws at them. When he is not spreading joy as a therapy dog, he is working to make life better for dogs with mobility issues in shelters. Just look at his smile. He is going to change the world!

2021 SERVICE DOG OF THE YEAR



Sobee (Holt's Summit, Missouri) – Once living hopelessly and suffering from human neglect with only two days left on the euthanasia list in an overcrowded shelter in Georgia, Sobee is now living a purposeful life with her combat veteran in Missouri. Sobee was rescued in 2016 by K9s on the Front Line and began her training as a service dog for a veteran seeking rescue to complete the daily tasks that each of us commonly engage. Jason Howe, a disabled combat veteran in Missouri, was secretly fighting the internal demons of PTSD and addiction after returning from two deployments in the U.S. Navy. While Jason spiraled into a dark place, he found himself in Maine, talking with a high school friend who introduced him to Dr. Hagen of K9s on the Front Line, a non-profit organization that rescues/trains service dogs for combat veterans. Sobee and Jason were paired together in 2016 and an instant bond was built between them. Jason began to feel the

weight lift off his chest and he now had a sense of responsibility with Sobee by his side. Jason would put two feet on the ground each day instead of covering up in bed and self-medicating. Sobee is trained to assist Jason with panic attacks and watch over Jason when he is in public places. Sobee has also been the reason Jason found himself assisting and training service dogs for K9s on the Front Line's Missouri chapter. The bonded pair are paying it forward by successfully training service dogs for veterans.

2021 GUIDE/HEARING DOG OF THE YEAR



Henna (Albuquerque, New Mexico) – I am deaf and legally blind. Henna, my amazing guide dog, has given me the freedom of travel and saves my life on a daily basis. She is an extension of my body, becoming my eyes and ears. Last year, while simply crossing a familiar intersection, I was nearly crushed by the trailer of an 18-wheeler. It was a sunny warm spring day and I was waiting with Henna to cross the road. After a few moments, Henna's ear flick indicated it was our turn. I gave the forward command and we started crossing towards the opposite corner. We had reached the midway point when Henna suddenly backed up. She reversed so fast I knew instantly something was wrong. Her movement was strong, sure and deliberate, while ensuring I was not going to trip or fall. When Henna slowed enough for me to take in my surroundings, I could see a large truck was now completing a left turn in front of us. No more than five feet away, the trailer

wheels rumbled where Henna and I were only moments ago. After the trailer passed, she guided me safely across to the opposite curb without me prompting her. Despite me being in shock from almost being hit, Henna continued to perform her job perfectly. To this day, I can still see the trailer's reflective strips in front of me and know that this was only one of many times she saved my life, while allowing me freedom. She continues to confidently guide me and acts as if it had never happened. I can almost see in her face and hear in her voice, "I got you, mom! Just follow me."

2021 LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DETECTION DOG OF THE YEAR



K-9 Hansel (Millville, New Jersey) – K-9 Hansel was only 7 weeks old when he was seized from an alleged dog-fighting ring in Ontario, Canada. He never fought. He along with 20 other pit bulls were slated for euthanasia. After a 2-year-long battle with the Ontario courts, Hansel was then transferred to the Dogs Playing for Life shelter down in Florida. Throw Away Dogs project was then notified of a potential working dog candidate for their program. Hansel was accepted into the program for more training. The Millville Fire Department was looking for an accelerant detection K-9 and Hansel was a perfect fit. Hansel and I went through 16 weeks of scent training and we were later certified as an arson detection team. I believe that Hansel is the first pit bull certified in accelerant detection in the United States. Hansel can recognize 14 different ignitable liquid odors. He really is the best partner and a rock star. He was also honored as one of the dogs of the year featured on the CW network. If you Google K-9 Hansel you can see all the obstacles he has overcome and learn about his story in more detail. Thank you for reading and considering Hansel.

2021 SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG OF THE YEAR



Little Man (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) – All dogs are heroes, but Little Man takes it to a new level. NASAR-certified, he ranges off-leash for a specific human scent, articles or human remains. His joyous spirit and amazing work ethic have won him friends with law enforcement and SAR personnel in multiple states. But his story did not begin well. In 2013, a monster tornado ground the city of Moore, Oklahoma into rubble. The carnage was terrible. Molly Gibb, a professional SAR volunteer, worked with animal control and the American Humane Rescue team to meet the animal response needs. Five days after the storm, a tiny pit bull puppy was found buried. It was a miracle that he survived. He came to be known as Little Man. When he went unclaimed, Molly adopted him as she thought he had something special. His intelligence, drive, curiosity, athleticism and upbeat nature made him a great candidate for search and rescue work. Little Man's trainability, determination and affinity for people epitomizes just what can make many pit bulls great working dogs. He balances SAR training and deploying

with participating in youth programs and serving as a neutral helper dog for shelter and adjudicated dogs in need. For him, searching is a great game, but in reality it can mean life or death. In 2020, he found a missing traumatized assault victim alive, bringing his life full circle. He has grown from tornado survivor to hero and has fully blossomed in public service, eagerly paying it forward by helping families and communities in crisis and graciously welcoming their love in return.

During the past 11 years, Americans have cast millions of votes for thousands of dogs seeking the coveted title of American Hero Dog. The program reaches billions of people each year and draws the support and participation of top celebrity dog lovers from all over the world. Hosts, judges, award presenters and entertainment acts have included Jay Leno, Billy Crystal, Betty White, Ariel Winter, Vivica A. Fox, Rebecca Romijn, Alison Sweeney, James Denton, Beth Stern, Faithe Herman, Marcus Scribner, 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, Kristen Chenoweth, Naomi Judd, Eric Stonestreet, Danica McKellar, Bailee Madison and many more.

Be sure to catch all the action on Hallmark Drama on October 20 from 9-11 pm ET/PT!

AMERICAN★HUMANE
HERO DOG AWARDS™



CELEBRATING THOSE WHO CARE FOR ANIMALS

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 broadcast on Hallmark Drama, October 20 (9-11 pm ET/PT), we will reveal the winners of the 2021 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:

Here are the nomination essays written by their supporters:

AMERICAN HERO VETERINARIAN FINALISTS

Dr. Priya DeSoyza (Lebanon, New Jersey) – When I think of Dr. DeSoyza, I think of incredible strength and compassion. I first met Dr. DeSoyza when she began working at Crown Veterinary Specialists. Her love and passion for the animals was clearly evident right from the start. Our relationship sprouted as we got to know each other at work. What we didn't know was that six years prior, Priya underwent a radical mastectomy for breast cancer. She battled through taking chemo and working. Shortly after beginning at Crown Vet, Dr DeSoyza took a special interest in the dogs from Outcast Rescue, knowing firsthand the horrible conditions the dogs would come in. She then volunteered to be the rescue's medical director. Shortly after, Priya received the horrific news that the cancer was back and her new diagnosis was metastatic breast cancer. Priya is one of the strongest women I have ever come across. To be diagnosed with cancer is horrible enough but to learn the cancer has metastasized is catastrophic. She has not once let her diagnosis stop her from the love and care she gives to every patient who comes through the door of the emergency room. Priya may not always feel well, especially on the weeks she receives her chemotherapy, but that vibrant smile and contagious laugh is always there. Priya is the same old Priya who is fighting an uphill battle. Her love for the animals and her constant will to help them keep her going. Not only is she a great ER doc, she is a great co-worker and friend. She is a HERO, our HERO!

Dr. Rob Coke (San Antonio, Texas) – Innovation is the trademark for Dr. Rob L. Coke, San Antonio Zoo Director of Veterinary Care. A 1996 Texas A&M University graduate, he leads an 18-person team at the 501c3 non-profit zoo, which had to make fundamental changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. His work is critical to the Species Survival Plan Program and, specifically, to the lives of Komodo dragons. He serves as a veterinary advisor to the Komodo Dragon SSP, in which he aids other zoos with Komodo Dragon medical consulting. Locally, he has been using new techniques to treat the zoo's 27-year-old

dragon, Bubba. Bubba has severe degenerative joint disease in his elbows and knees. At the beginning of treatment, he could not walk very well, but after several months of weekly therapy, he has been able to walk much better and increase his appetite. During the recent winter storm, the worst to hit San Antonio in four decades, Dr. Coke's steadfast attitude, unwavering commitment and leadership were instrumental in ensuring the zoo's animals were safely cared for in record-setting temperatures. In total, the zoo's herculean effort resulted in the temporary rehoming of 14 crocodilians, more than 50 turtles, three giant Thai catfish, and 300 birds. His team also answered the call when a local animal sanctuary suffered a devastating crisis, and is responsible for saving many primates and other animals' lives. Dr. Coke has been with the zoo since 2002 and is an incredibly deserving recipient of the hero veterinarian award.

Dr. April Gessner Deddens (Fuquay Varian, North Carolina) – Dr. April Gessner Deddens is passionate about veterinary volunteer work both internationally and locally. She has volunteered in several impoverished countries in Central America, the Caribbean, South America, and Asia. She was the campus coordinator for Volunteers for Intercultural and Definitive Adventures (VIDA) in Central America and volunteered in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala during veterinary school. She then founded Ross VIDA on the island of St. Kitts while still in veterinary school so that students could gain hands-on experience while also helping the less fortunate with their pets. The organization is still providing free veterinary care to pets of the island ten years later. Dr Gessner Deddens is currently a member of World Vets and has volunteered in Paraguay, Cambodia, Nepal, and Laos, providing free veterinary care and high-volume spay/neuter clinics in some of the most poverty-stricken villages in the world. She was also awarded the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from Ross University for her international volunteer work. Most recently, she started a 501c3 nonprofit called DEGA Mobile Veterinary Care (Determined for Everyone to Gain Access to Veterinary Care). She provides free basic veterinary care to low/no-income and homeless pet owners whose pets would otherwise not see a veterinarian. By working with other charitable organizations, she is able to identify those most

in need of free basic veterinary care, which helps prevent disease and therefore decreases the number of pets surrendered to shelters. Her nonprofit has helped almost 600 pets in not quite four months!

Dr. Mary Kate Lawler (Houston, Texas) – Dr. Mary Kate Lawler has graced the Spay-Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) with her proficient leadership—as chief surgeon in San Antonio since 2006, and as Executive Director since 2015. Her tireless work and dedication allow her to perform as many as 8,500 spay/neuter surgeries per year. When the last surgery is finished each day and the patients are recovering, she deftly shifts to her role as executive director. Her exemplary veterinary skill, business acumen, and compassion keep the SNAP team focused on our mission. Dr. Lawler is a 1995 graduate of NYSCVM at Cornell University. Throughout her veterinary career, spay/neuter surgery has been her focus. She has traveled extensively and has participated in spay/neuter clinics in India, Mexico, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, American Samoa, Hawaii, and on the reservations in the American Southwest. She has led the SNAP team to perform over 20,000 spay/neuter surgeries and 8,500 veterinary wellness visits annually. Her unwavering dedication to the well-being of the people and pets of our community has pushed her to persevere through hurricanes, fires, and pandemics—keeping SNAP thriving in spite of the challenges. She is a hero in the eyes of those she leads and the vast number of companion animals whose lives she has improved.

Dr. Keri Sanders (Stayton, Oregon) – I have taken my pets to Dr. Sanders for years. Not only is she a very kind, caring and compassionate person, she is also very giving. She is always there when we need her not only for her clients but for others, as well. During the devastating fires in the Santiam Canyon last September there were many pets, mostly cats, who got scared and ran or their families had to flee without them. Without hesitation Dr. Sanders and her staff opened their doors and accepted many very badly burned cats and injured dogs. Some who had owners and many that people brought in to ask for help. They took care of these animals and nursed them back to health, sent the ones home who had families and helped find the families for the others who were brought in by people who

found them – all of this at no charge to the families, many of whom were homeless at this point. When the word got out as to what she was doing, donations to her SOS account climbed to help her with the expenses for these injured pets. On one day, she had a completely free clinic for anyone to come for veterinary care if they had been impacted by the fires. She continued that free care for another month, and then on a case-by-case basis. She also offered a free clinic a few years back where veterans with pets who needed care and vaccinations could come in and they took care of their needs. Most of these people seeking help were not her regular clients. I feel Dr. Sanders is a true hero to our community and a fabulous veterinarian in many clients' eyes.

AMERICAN HERO VETERINARY NURSE FINALISTS

Marisa Constantino (West Seneca, New York) – Marisa demonstrates the characteristics of an American Hero Veterinary Nurse on a daily basis. She demonstrates the perfect balance of professionalism, compassion, logic, curiosity and reason. Marisa approaches each animal she is presented with as if that animal is the only one she will treat that day, and may not see again. For a large, open admission, multi-species shelter and public-facing clinic, Marisa does the work of three technicians. She has taken on the role of trainer and mentor to a large number of fourth-year veterinary students on a regular shelter rotation. She does so as she herself was influenced by mentors and strives to pay it forward with the knowledge that these future veterinarians will depend on the talents and skills of technicians as they settle into their career. She believes that knowing how to navigate that partnership with grace and professional respect is crucial. As animal welfare shifts to a true social service initiative, the ability to serve people with the same respect as animals is a skill that Marisa demonstrates without even trying. She sees the big picture and works to undo much of the oppression and discrimination that many clients seeking services have experienced at some point in their lives. Marisa sees only solutions, not barriers. The animal welfare field needs to care about people as much as it cares about animals, and Marisa is a perfect vision of that goal.

Laura Gerard (Hooksett, New Hampshire) – Laura Gerard is the head tech for Northside Animal Hospital and is beyond knowledgeable. She is a can-do-everything type of person. Beyond that, she also is an amazing supervisor, teacher, caring individual and mother. She goes above and beyond for pets, their owners, staff members, and her job. The year 2020 was difficult for everyone due to the COVID pandemic. Laura went through a lot with this and still showed up to work every day with a smile on her face and a “Let’s do this!” gleeful attitude. Oh, and did I mention that the vet clinic was under construction/renovation through most of 2020 and at this moment as well? The clinic did not close down at all. Laura is a core member and contributor to this hospital. She is a sturdy beam helping hold everything together, as well as the clockwork that keeps the gears turning. She does not know I entered her, but I feel she is beyond deserving of this acknowledgment and award for her excellence, knowledge and positive attitude. Everyone loves Laura. She works so hard every day and wears so many hats. I thought of so many fellow vet tech friends that I could nominate, but given all Laura has done in her career and continues to do at Northside, I believe she is the most deserving. She is just an amazing individual all around.

Jill Elston (Milan, Pennsylvania) – Jill is the embodiment of an “American Hero Veterinary Nurse.” Since college, shelter medicine has been her passion and a couple years after graduation she found her true purpose working at Animal Care Sanctuary, serving and caring for those who had no home. protecting the wounded and abused and giving a chance to souls everyone else gave up on. She courageously leads a team of veterinary professionals who provide veterinary care in an underserved rural area, and Jill herself has become the St. Jude of ACS, “Mama Jill’s Home for Lost Souls.” She is always first in line to take home the sad, broken, sick, abused, or neglected creature. She regularly rehabilitates fearful dogs and helps sick animals to recover. Her special project, though, is being a hospice for older dogs and cats who aren’t candidates for adoption, but who still deserve the dignity of a home and a family at the end of their lives. For all cats and dogs, she offers up her home, giving them a chance to flourish under comfortable (dare I say lavish) conditions, receiving the best of food and healthcare, a lively lifestyle, and a

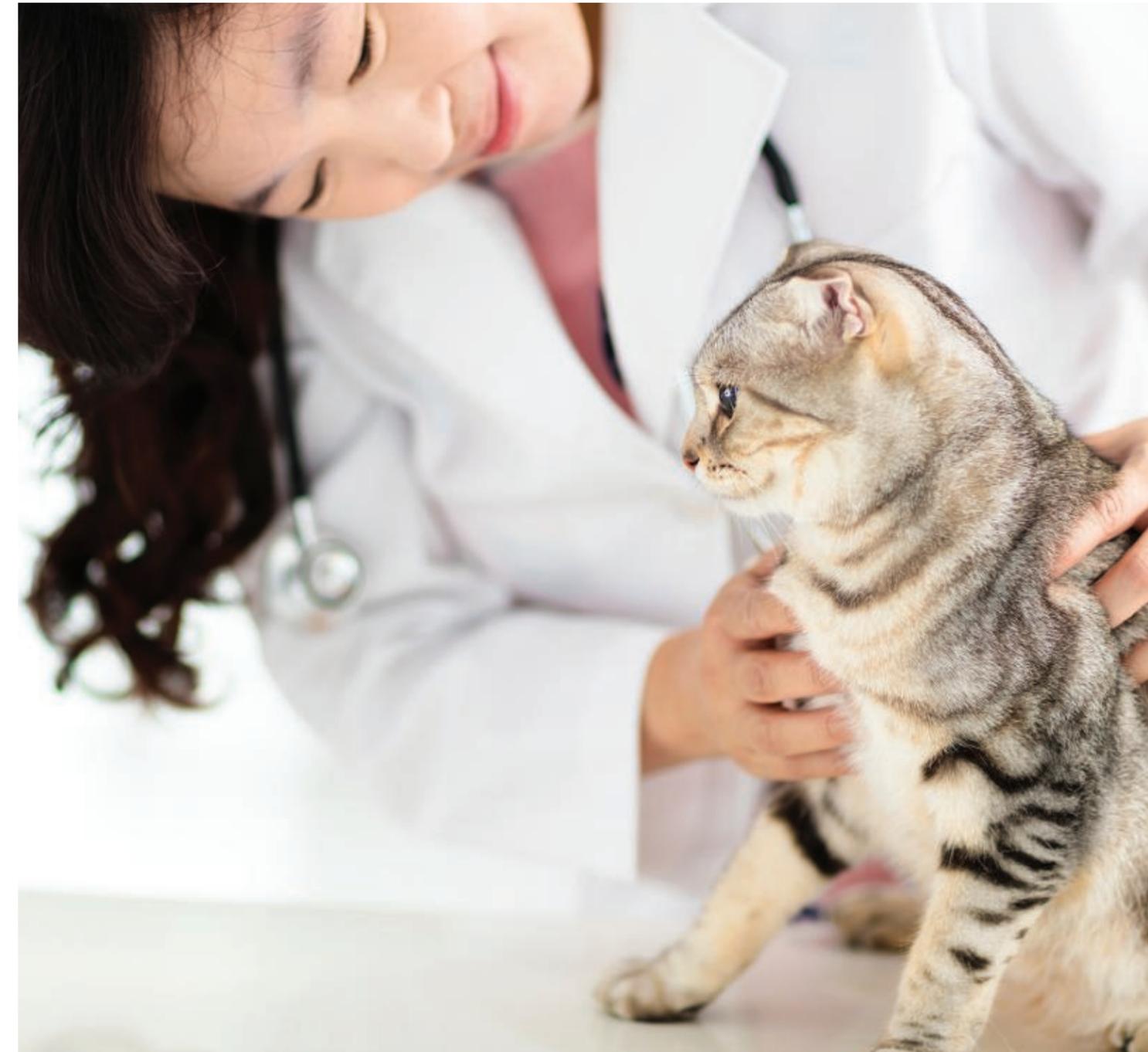
warm, soft spot next to Jill in the recliner or on the bed. These included Miss P. Kevin, Honey, Hershey, Yoda, Simza, Ava, Kado, Bacon, Barnaby, Poki, Grumio, Empress of Shadows, Squiggy, Mimi and her pups, Smokey, Teddy, Amos, Morgan, Edgar, The Bacon Bits, Cosby, Clancy, Murdock, Titan, Lou, Breeland, Yukon, Herc., and so many other patients I can’t recall. And Hickory, who started it all.

Liz Phipps (Madison, Wisconsin) – How do you describe an absolutely selfless, kind-hearted, brilliant person? Hero? Angel? All those words and more describe Liz Phipps. Liz is an oncology CVT here at our emergency and specialty service. Professionally, Liz is an absolutely brilliant CVT, always willing to share her knowledge about everything. Her patients absolutely love her and she takes time to explain issues and comfort every single patient and owner. Liz has a quick wit about her and puts everyone’s needs in front of hers. She won the Wisconsin Vet Tech of the Year award in the past and has also passed her VTS (Veterinary Technician Specialist) exams for oncology. That’s just her professional life. In her personal life, Liz is part of many rescues. She takes in older bully breed dogs who have severe issues and gives them a chance to thrive. She is also part of a reptile rescue and currently has four tortoises, numerous turtles and other creatures. Real love was recently shown in the form of a puppy named Martha. Recently, our clinic suffered a tragedy when a fellow veterinarian committed suicide and left Martha and a few other pets behind. Martha has a heart condition and will only live for one or two years. When asked if someone could take Martha, Liz did not hesitate. She just said “This is what I do.” Martha the Labrador will live out her short life with the best person I know. I could go on and on. Liz is our Angel, hero, and crusader. I’m blessed to have her in my life.

Stephanie Titler (Ann Arbor, Michigan) – Stephanie has worked in veterinary medicine for 13 years and has been a Licensed Veterinary Technician since 2012. She is currently finishing her last year of undergrad at Eastern Michigan University to achieve her bachelor’s degree and will be applying to vet school in September of this year. She has performed approximately 15 years of rescue and worked alongside the Mayor of Jackson and city council members in 2019-2020 to reinstate animal control in the city. She

attended monthly city hall meetings to make this possible and successfully brought back animal control to Jackson County. She is currently a fulltime lead LVT at Blue Pearl, where she has been employed for seven years. She is a full-time college student, and works independently with multiple 501(c)(3) organizations, Jackson County Animal Shelter, and both Jackson County Animal Control officers on rescue, rehabilitation, mentoring them on cases when they call her for advice. She is currently working two unpaid side

jobs. She is a mentor to a coworker who is in college to become an LVT and she is also a proctor for another coworker in her first year of college to become an LVT. Stephanie fostered two pregnant mother dogs and has rescued many kittens, cats and wildlife. Stephanie has two dogs of her own and three cats. Stephanie is a wonderful, caring person and I can only hope that she receives this award.

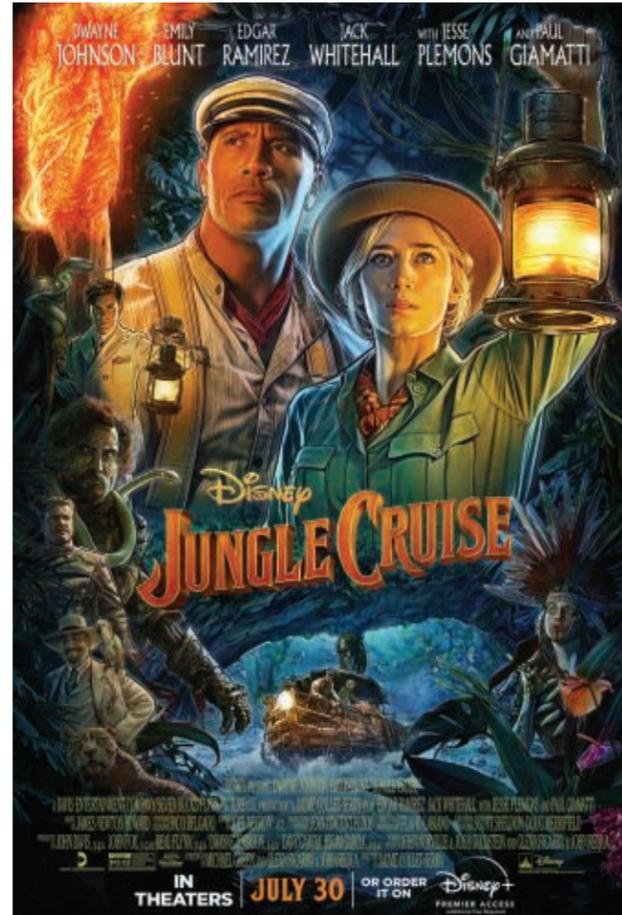


WHAT'S NEW (AND GOOD) TO WATCH

After an arduous 2020 when movie theaters were merely empty buildings we passed on our way to the grocery store, theaters are finally opening their doors again. Finally, we can experience different worlds and universes far greater than our living rooms. Here are some fantastic new movies that will not only transport you but also feature a variety of wonderful animal actors. We're proud to say that American Humane was on set for all these films and that they all earned our famed "No Animals Were Harmed®" seal!



THE GREEN KNIGHT: You've heard the story, but we bet you never imagined it with such gusto! Based on the ageless Arthurian legend, Dev Patel plays Sir Gawain, who decides to go on a reckless journey to face the infamous Green Knight. Gawain encounters ghosts, monsters and thieves, facing tests of courage and character. As expected, The Green Knight features some amazing horseback riding, goats aplenty and even geese. American Humane was there every step of the way to protect these loveable creatures. The production was fantastic and earned our "No Animals Were Harmed®" end credit! King Arthur would be proud!



JUNGLE CRUISE: Nothing says "A-List Stars" like Dwayne Johnson (aka The Rock) and Emily Blunt. And nothing says fun like a cinematic take on the popular Disney ride, The Jungle Cruise. In this rollicking adventure, Blunt and Johnson take a ramshackle boat through the heart of the Amazon to find a mysterious tree which may or may not have magical powers. Together, they must overcome supernatural and evil forces and strange species. Thankfully, American Humane was on set to protect all the critters on this adventure. There were plenty of horses, donkeys, goats and exotic birds with which to work. And believe it or not, the amazing tiger and monkeys were created through CGI. Jungle Cruise was a blast to work on and they earned our highest rating: "No Animals Were Harmed®"!



SUICIDE SQUAD 2: The Squad is back! This time, the legendary collection of ex-cons and miscreants are dropped into the jungle to battle an evil adversary. Look for superhero Ratcatcher, whose power includes training rats to do her bidding. The production used both real and CGI rats and American Humane was there to make sure everything went well and safely. The production of Suicide Squad 2 couldn't have been more accommodating, and they earned our "No Animals Were Harmed®" seal!



BLACK WIDOW: Before she became an Avenger, Natasha Romanoff, aka Black Widow, was a spy who left a lot of damage in her wake. Now, she must face the darkness in her past in the hit movie, Black Widow. An enigmatic Scarlett Johansson stars as the titular super hero with her hard-kicking partner Yelena, played by Florence Pugh, in tow, resulting in an exciting and dark journey into an alternate universe. These superheroes were also lucky enough to hang out with the American Humane Certified Safety Animal Representatives who were on set to protect the pigeons, dogs and pigs! The Black Widow production was incredibly cooperative and welcoming, and earned our greatest honor: the "No Animals Were Harmed®" seal! Remember, superheroes are only as cool as the animals they hang out with!

HOW YOU CAN HELP



For 144 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.
- 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.

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1400 16th Street NW, Suite 360, Washington, DC 20036 (800) 227-4645 www.AmericanHumane.org