

# COMPANION

mSPCA  angell

Kindness and Care for Animals®

FALL/WINTER 2009  
www.mspca.org

UNITED STATES  
POSTAL SERVICE



FEATURE STORY  
**POSTINA**

Postal Service  
Delivers  
Abandoned  
Kitten to  
Safety

**HOLIDAY PET  
CARE TIPS**

Pet Party  
Etiquette









**STEM CELL  
TECHNOLOGY**

Angell Eases Pain  
in Dogs

**GOOD, BETTER, BEST**

Angell Rises to the  
Challenge of Excellence

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## Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER 21–22

MSPCA–Nevins Farm's Santa Photo Day

### DECEMBER 3

MSPCA–Angell's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting at the Prudential Center

### DECEMBER 6

MSPCA–Nantucket's Pet Photos with Santa

### DECEMBER 9, 10, 12, 13

MSPCA–Boston's Homeless for the Holidays

For a list of upcoming events, please visit [www.mspca.org/events](http://www.mspca.org/events).

## Contact Information

### ANGELL ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER GENERAL WELLNESS & SPECIALTY SERVICES

To schedule an appointment, please call:

 **Avian and Exotic Medicine**  
617 522-7282  
[www.angell.org/avianandexotic](http://www.angell.org/avianandexotic)

 **Cardiology**  
617 541-5038  
[cardiology@angell.org](mailto:cardiology@angell.org)  
[www.angell.org/cardiology](http://www.angell.org/cardiology)

 **Dentistry**  
617 522-7282  
[www.angell.org/dentistry](http://www.angell.org/dentistry)

 **Dermatology**  
617 524-5733  
[dermatology@angell.org](mailto:dermatology@angell.org)  
[www.angell.org/dermatology](http://www.angell.org/dermatology)

 **Diagnostic Imaging**  
617 522-7282  
[www.angell.org/diagnosticimaging](http://www.angell.org/diagnosticimaging)

 **Emergency and Critical Care**  
617 522-7282, Press 1  
[www.angell.org/emergency](http://www.angell.org/emergency)

 **General Medicine**  
617 524-5653  
[www.angell.org/generalmedicine](http://www.angell.org/generalmedicine)

 **Internal Medicine**  
617 522-7282  
[www.angell.org/internalmedicine](http://www.angell.org/internalmedicine)

 **Neurology**  
617 541-5140  
[neurology@angell.org](mailto:neurology@angell.org)  
[www.angell.org/neurology](http://www.angell.org/neurology)

 **Nutrition**  
617 522-7282  
[www.angell.org/nutrition](http://www.angell.org/nutrition)

 **Oncology/Cancer Care Center**  
617 541-5136  
[oncology@angell.org](mailto:oncology@angell.org)  
[www.angell.org/oncology](http://www.angell.org/oncology)

 **Ophthalmology**  
617 522-7282  
[www.angell.org/ophthalmology](http://www.angell.org/ophthalmology)

 **Pain Medicine**  
617 541-5140  
[painmedicine@angell.org](mailto:painmedicine@angell.org)  
[www.angell.org/painmedicine](http://www.angell.org/painmedicine)

 **Pathology**  
617 522-7282  
[www.angell.org/pathology](http://www.angell.org/pathology)

 **Surgery**  
617 522-7282  
[www.angell.org/surgery](http://www.angell.org/surgery)

 **Angell–Nantucket**  
508 228-1491  
[www.angell.org/nantucket](http://www.angell.org/nantucket)

### MSPCA ANIMAL CARE AND ADOPTION CENTERS

#### Boston

350 South Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02130  
617 522-5055  
[www.mspca.org/boston](http://www.mspca.org/boston)

#### Cape Cod

1577 Falmouth Road  
Centerville, MA 02632  
508 775-0940  
[www.mspca.org/cape](http://www.mspca.org/cape)

#### Nantucket Island

21 Crooked Lane  
Nantucket, MA 02554  
508 825-2287  
[www.mspca.org/nantucket](http://www.mspca.org/nantucket)

#### Nevins Farm

400 Broadway  
Methuen, MA 01844  
978 687-7453  
[www.mspca.org/nevins](http://www.mspca.org/nevins)

For hours and directions to an MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Center closest to you, please call 617 522-7400 or visit [www.mspca.org/directions](http://www.mspca.org/directions).

Suspect animal cruelty? Please call: 800 628-5808

Healthy Pet Blood Donation Program  
Please call: 617 989-1504 or e-mail [blooddonor@mspca.org](mailto:blooddonor@mspca.org)

Angell Poison Control Hotline  
877 2-ANGELL (877 226-4355)  
24 hours a day, every day



FEATURE STORY

2



## Letter from the President

The summer day was heating up by the hour when someone dropped a tiny kitten through the slot of a public mailbox in Boston. As the temperature rose, the metal box turned into an oven. Fortunately, two kindhearted Bostonians stepped in to change the kitten's fate. That kitten was soon affectionately dubbed "Postina."

A letter carrier discovered Postina and, with the help of a local resident, the kitten reached the safety of the MSPCA-Angell. Postina's story reveals the compassion of two Commonwealth residents and their combined efforts to make a difference for a fragile kitten. This compassion is a common bond among our supporters, and it transforms the lives of animals every day.

While community members enjoy stories of the MSPCA-Angell's efforts to aid animals in need, I would prefer to shine a light on residents who personally take both small and large steps to improve the lives of animals in need of care. All too frequently we hear accounts of animal cruelty, and the heroes involved can be lost in the inhumane details.

Every day I witness dramatic achievements within the walls of the MSPCA-Angell—injured pets are healed, homeless animals are re-homed and the helpless are embraced. Ordinary people help us reach these achievements through their many acts of humanity. These humble heroes often request anonymity and remain unknown to the public, unwritten in tomorrow's columns and unappreciated by those who turn their backs on the needs of the animals, but the humane deeds add up to make a world of difference.

Thank you to all of you who take the time to make this difference. Thank you to those who have called our law enforcement phone lines or their local police when witnessing cruelty. Thank you to those who lend their voices to support humane legislative changes. Thank you to our donors who make it possible for us to care for and treat needy animals each day. Thank you to the residents that notify their friends, neighbors and politicians when they encounter injustice forced on our abused friends.

I also want to thank the journalists who write animal welfare stories, on topics ranging from the wanton actions of inhumane criminals to the physical and emotional healing of these wonderful creatures. These reporters chronicle the depravity of the human condition and remind us that there is more work to do.

Thank you to those who, without recognition, support the fight against animal cruelty—setting up lemonade stands, voting on Election Day and welcoming homeless animals into their homes.

When you read this issue of *Companion*, please take a moment to understand that we cannot combat animal cruelty alone. Only through the kind acts performed by Massachusetts residents can we help animals in need of care, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. To all of those silent heroes who have helped and continue to step forward when an animal is treated cruelly, I truly thank you. It is because of you that animals like Postina receive a second chance.

Carter Luke  
President  
MSPCA-Angell

## About COMPANION

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*Companion* is published by the MSPCA-Angell, a nonprofit organization founded in 1868 by George Thorndike Angell. We do not receive any government funding nor are we funded or operated by any national humane organization. Our work relies on the generosity of those who care about the well-being of animals. Beginning with *Our Dumb Animals* in 1868, the MSPCA-Angell has continuously produced a publication about animal care and protection.

*Companion* is sent to MSPCA-Angell donors who annually contribute \$15 or more. To ensure that *Companion* keeps coming your way, please use the enclosed gift envelope or visit [www.mspca.org/companion](http://www.mspca.org/companion). Thank you for making this a better world for animals.

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Kathleen K. Collins, Vice President, Human Resources

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# Postal Service Delivers Abandoned Kitten to Safety



**I**t was a sweltering June day when a two-pound, eight-week-old kitten, later named Postina, was dumped through the small slot of a Boston corner mailbox, falling several feet onto the envelopes and packages below.

It is not clear exactly how long Postina was in the mailbox, but at the time she was found, it was upwards of 85 degrees outside and she had no food, water or fresh air.

During a scheduled afternoon pickup, a United States Postal Service letter carrier discovered the frightened kitten and, with the help of another Good Samaritan, Postina reached the safety of the MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Center in Boston.

Postina arrived at the adoption center severely dehydrated and fatigued. Following several days of nourishment, rest and routine medical care, this resilient, lovable kitten was completely rehabilitated.

What began as a heartless act of cruelty attracted international headlines and Postina received an outpouring of support from potential adopters as far abroad as Holland and Italy. It was the local news, however, that first alerted her adopters of her story.

Her adoptive family consists of a freelancer at a local New England television station who

directed the segment in which Postina appeared and, very fittingly, a US Postal Service employee. Postina joined several other adopted animals already in their New Hampshire home.

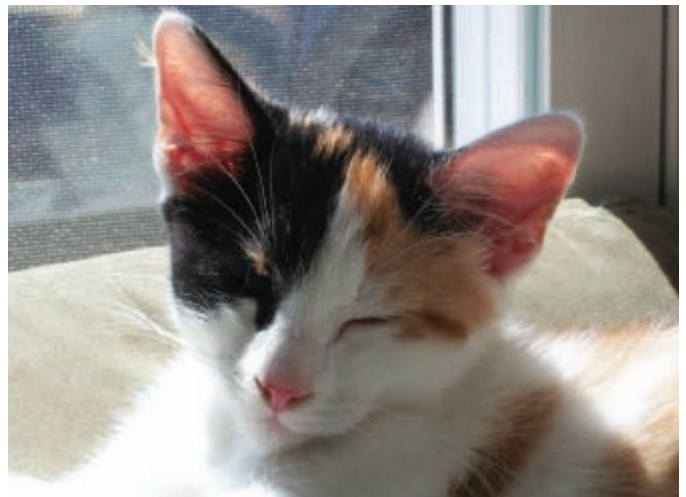
"Postina captured the attention of pet lovers across the globe and shone a much needed light on the seriousness of pet abandonment," said Meagan Rock, Manager of the MSPCA–Boston adoption center. "We also want to remind the public that Postina's story is shared by thousands of homeless animals that are dumped, neglected and abused each year and come to us looking for care and a new home. We currently have hundreds of homeless animals in our adoption center and urge the public to adopt today."

Sadly, pet abandonment and surrender have become more prevalent in Massachusetts as the recession continues to leave pet owners struggling financially. The MSPCA noted an increase of 160% between 2007 and 2009 in pets surrendered for economic reasons in the Boston adoption center alone.

As the problem persists, the MSPCA Law Enforcement department warns pet owners that animal abandonment is a felony, punishable by up to a \$2,500 fine and five years in prison.

The MSPCA continues to work diligently to keep pets and their owners together through several financial assistance programs, including a low-cost spay/neuter program.

For more information, please visit [www.mspca.org](http://www.mspca.org).



Postina enjoying the scenery at her new home in New Hampshire.

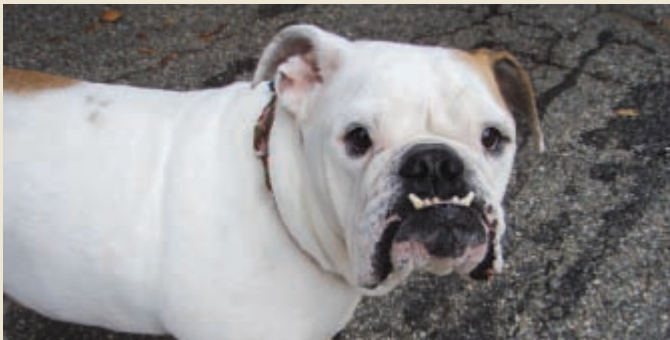
**Please visit  
[www.mspca.org/companion](http://www.mspca.org/companion)  
to donate.**



## Stolen Bulldog Found in Squalor; Overwhelming Support Aids More Animals

“When officers found Rocky, he was extremely thin, suffered from untreated skin and eye issues and could barely breathe,” said Mike Keiley, Manager of the MSPCA adoption center in Methuen. **“The emergency treatment he received at Angell saved his life.”**

The owners of a pet store were baffled in 2008 when an English Bulldog puppy was stolen from their New Hampshire store. Without any leads, eventually the search for the puppy was suspended. A year later, concerned citizens led law enforcement officials to a home where the officers found a young Bulldog living in filthy conditions, underweight and covered in feces.



Rocky, now named Enzo, is happy in his new home.

“When officers found Rocky, he was extremely thin, suffered from untreated skin and eye issues and could barely breathe,” said Mike Keiley, Manager of the MSPCA adoption center in Methuen. “The emergency treatment he received at Angell saved his life.”

While recovering, Rocky’s story began to unravel. His microchip (a form of permanent identification) had been registered to a local pet store. The trail of evidence proved that Rocky was the same dog that had been stolen as a puppy one year earlier.

It was the overwhelming support of the community that made Rocky’s care possible. Additionally, since the funds raised on behalf of Rocky surmounted the cost of his care, the remaining donations aided other animals in need, including Kisha—another Bulldog requiring medical treatment. Like Rocky, Kisha came to the MSPCA in pain and poor health. Veterinarians removed a malignant lump from her knee and 10 damaged teeth while providing extensive cleaning for her remaining teeth.

Rocky (now “Enzo”) and Kisha are currently healthy and have found homes—all thanks to your support. Want to help more animals like Rocky and Kisha? Please visit [www.mspca.org/companion](http://www.mspca.org/companion).

Due to overwhelming support of Rocky, other animals like Kisha (above) were also able to receive medical treatment.

They seized “Rocky” and rushed the malnourished dog to Angell where the hospital’s Emergency and Critical Care staff determined Rocky was suffering from multiple medical issues, including a life-threatening case of pneumonia. They placed him in an oxygen tank to facilitate his breathing and provided round-the-clock critical care for the emaciated dog.

### Don’t Miss Out on Your Year-End Tax Break!

Make a donation to the MSPCA–Angell by December 31 and receive a year-end tax break. Your gift will have a significant impact on the lives of thousands of animals.

Please visit [www.mspca.org/taxbreak](http://www.mspca.org/taxbreak) to make your charitable contribution today.

## Ask Angell

**Q: My veterinarian says my dog might have allergies. How do you find out what a dog is allergic to?**

**A:** When dogs are allergic to something in their environment, allergy tests can be performed to pinpoint the exact allergen. Dogs can be allergic to plant pollens, molds or tiny mites in the home called house dust mites. Intra-dermal (skin) allergy testing and serologic (blood) allergy testing are both used by veterinarians to test for environmental allergies.



Kathy Tater, DVM, DACVD – Angell dermatologist

Food allergies in dogs cannot be diagnosed with a blood test or a skin test—these tests don't work to diagnose food allergies in dogs. Instead, your veterinarian can recommend a special prescription dog food to determine if your dog has a food allergy.

For more information about allergies, please visit our website at [www.mspca.org/dermatology](http://www.mspca.org/dermatology).

**Q: Why can my dog get a rabies vaccine that lasts for three years, but my cat has to be revaccinated every year?**

**A:** The rabies vaccine that is given to dogs contains an adjuvant. Adjuvants are substances that increase the body's immune response to the vaccine. While adjuvants are generally well-tolerated by dogs, they have been shown to significantly increase the risk of vaccine-associated sarcomas (cancerous tumors that arise at vaccination sites) in cats. Therefore, many veterinarians are now vaccinating cats with an adjuvant-free rabies vaccine. This vaccine is not yet licensed for three-year use, but studies are currently being conducted to prove that this vaccine can induce immunity that lasts three years.



Mara Ratnofsky, DVM – Angell General Medicine veterinarian

To schedule an appointment with Angell's General Medicine service, please call 617 524-5653.

**Q: My four-year-old mixed breed dog has been limping on her right rear leg. It often increases after exercise and she appears very stiff when she first gets up. She is also reluctant to climb stairs and jump into the car or onto the bed. She wasn't subjected to any noticeable trauma when it started seven weeks ago. She feels better when given doggie aspirin, but the lameness is never completely gone. Is there a common cause for this problem?**

**A:** There are many causes for rear leg canine lameness; however, the most common disease is cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) injury. Diagnosis of CCL disease can be as simple as a positive "cranial drawer" test confirming a complete tear or as complicated as a battery of tests including radiographs, arthroscopy and MRI identifying a stretched or partially torn ligament. Once the diagnosis is confirmed, your veterinarian will present options for repair of the ligament, including ligament replacement or substitution techniques, and others that neutralize the tibial thrust force by cutting and repositioning parts of the tibial bone. Procedure selection is often based on surgeon preference combined with size, age and activity level for your dog. To date, no single procedure has been documented as superior. Surgical intervention for CCL disease is almost always recommended and if left untreated, progressive arthritic changes will follow, leading to continued lameness. Your dog should be rehabilitated after surgery under the guidance of a trained veterinary rehabilitation professional. And with all that in mind, prepare to face this again in the future, as almost half of all dogs with CCL will have both knees involved during their lifetimes.



David Knapp, DVM, DACVS – Angell surgeon

If you suspect your pet may suffer from CCL, please call 617 522-7282 to schedule an appointment with the Angell Surgery service.

### Special Thanks!

A special thank-you to Especially for Pets and Hill's Pet Nutrition for their generous sponsorship of the 2009 MSPCA-Angell Walk for Animals in Boston.



## Growing Ophthalmology Service Improves Patients' Lives

Our pets convey a myriad of emotions in their eyes, ranging from "I'm so happy you're home!" to "I'm not feeling well." Dr. Daniel Biros has been looking into the eyes of Angell's patients since joining the hospital in 2000. Treating everything from hereditary conditions to traumatic injuries in corneas, retinas, optic nerves and eyelids, Dr. Biros and his team of technicians skillfully address the ophthalmic needs of Angell's patients—patients such as Jack.

Jack, a 13-year-old Australian Terrier, was the epitome of canine health for the first 11 years of his life, only needing regular check-ups from his local vet. In 2008, however, his primary care veterinarian recognized that Jack required more extensive medical care after his owner, Chip Fisher, brought him in with a few concerns. Chip worked for years in the horse transportation business and had worked with the MSPCA at Nevins Farm. Familiar with the quality care of the MSPCA—Angell, Chip brought Jack to Angell Animal Medical Center to see Dr. Doug Brum of the Internal Medicine service. Dr. Brum diagnosed Jack with Cushing's disease (the production of excess hormones from the adrenal glands—some symptoms include increased water intake, increased urination, increased appetite and bald patches) and warned Chip that this condition may lead to diabetes. A year after Dr. Brum's initial diagnosis, Jack was in fact diagnosed with diabetes.

Chip worked extensively with Dr. Brum to identify the best treatment plan for Jack and after several months on insulin treatments, his condition was improving. A side effect, however, of the insulin treatments is commonly the development of cataracts; with this new medical challenge, Dr. Brum referred Jack to Dr. Biros of the Angell Ophthalmology service.

At the beginning of the summer, Jack underwent cataract surgery. Chip was thrilled that 24 hours after his surgery, Jack could see and identify Chip from several feet away. The first few months after surgery, Jack's long distance vision continued to improve dramatically. In September, he passed his three-month check-up. After Chip's experiences with Angell over the last two years, he trusts that Jack is in the best hands. Chip has peace of mind knowing that our specialty services work closely with one another to provide Jack with comprehensive care for any combination of medical issues.

Angell's Ophthalmology service is uniquely qualified to provide examinations on a wide variety of species using state-of-the-art techniques including ocular ultrasonography, MRI and Schirmer tear testing. Dr. Biros was joined by another board-certified ophthalmologist, Dr. Martin Coster, in the fall of 2009. Dr. Coster is a graduate of Colorado State University. He completed an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at Purdue University, where he also completed a residency in Ophthalmology. He has a special interest in exotic small animal ophthalmology and cataract surgery.



Martin Coster, DVM, MS, DACVO, joins the Angell Ophthalmology team.



Chip Fisher with his dog, Jack.

Working together with all of Angell's specialty services, the Angell Ophthalmology team is able to ensure that patients like Jack will continue to receive the top-notch veterinary care they deserve.

For more information about the Angell Ophthalmology service, please visit [www.mspca.org/ophthalmology](http://www.mspca.org/ophthalmology).



Dr. Sue Casale has been providing stem cell treatment to patients for the past year.

### Stem Cell Technology Eases Pain in Dogs

Following a year of success stories, Angell surgeon Dr. Sue Casale continues to use stem cell technology to reduce the pain in dogs with arthritis. So far, several dogs that have only taken painful strides are showing signs of great improvement.

The process is simple. Once a patient is approved for stem cell treatment, a small amount of fatty tissue is removed from the dog and converted into regenerative cells at VetStem, a lab

based in California. Once these cells are re injected, they mimic the surrounding cells, improving joint movement. Dr. Casale has seen her patients relieved from pain for months at a time after receiving stem cell treatment. While it is not a permanent cure for canine arthritis, it is an important step in the right direction and provides a much less invasive alternative.

**If you are interested in learning more about stem cell treatment for your dog, please call 617 522-7282.**



## Safewalk: MSPCA Educates One Step at a Time

**W**hen the volunteers ask, we deliver! The Boston MSPCA is gratefully receiving more interest than ever to help our homeless dog population. Each week our volunteer coordinator receives over 100 phone calls related to volunteering with dogs. To leverage this tremendous generosity, we devised a program that would match this high level of interest with an in-depth training program, to most effectively help the dogs in our care while keeping volunteers safe. Enter the Safewalk program.

Terri Bright, our Behavior and Training Coordinator, created the Boston MSPCA's Safewalk program as part of her behavioral doctorate studies at Simmons College. Prior to January 2009, any volunteer over age 16 could walk any dog on the adoption floor. With the implementation of the Safewalk program, new opportunities exist for the adoption center's dog walkers to understand dog behavior and promote adoptions through rewards-based training and reinforcement.

The Safewalk program teaches volunteers how to help our homeless dogs learn behavior skills that will make them more adoptable, provide them with sufficient physical and intellectual exercise and keep them safe until they find their permanent homes. At the adoption center, we have many different kinds of dogs, each with unique behavioral issues and quirks. To expect all volunteers to proficiently manage all levels of dog behavior is unrealistic. The Safewalk system pairs increased levels of training and amassed volunteer hours with more advanced interactions with dogs at the adoption center. The program helps toward providing the proper training for incoming volunteers, and most importantly, the volunteers—and dogs—love it!

### There are varied levels of dog volunteers in the Safewalk program:

#### KEEPERS

Keepers work with dogs on the adoption floor to promote good behavior, such as sitting silently for a treat. They do not walk dogs, but observe and interact with them. They also answer questions for potential adopters, and volunteer only during adoption center business hours.

#### LEVEL ONE DOG WALKERS

After six hours of on-site volunteering as a Keeper, volunteers can progress to a second training session to become a Level One Dog Walker. Level One Dog Walkers can walk dogs labeled "green" by the staff on the adoption floor. These are mostly small dogs, or dogs who are quite well-behaved.

#### LEVEL TWO DOG WALKERS

After 12 hours of on-site volunteering as a Level One Dog Walker, volunteers can progress to a third training session to become a Level Two Dog Walker. Level Two Walkers can walk "yellow" dogs from the adoption floor. These are dogs who are big and strong and who need training for nice leash-walking, attention and keeping all paws on the ground when greeting others.

Safewalk volunteers also help with feeding dogs and doing laundry, and have been an invaluable asset to the adoption center. The adoption floor is quieter, the dogs are getting extra training and there are happy dog walkers and dogs all around.

If you are interested in volunteering at the MSPCA—with dogs, cats or just helping wherever it is needed most—please check out our website: [www.mspca.org/boston](http://www.mspca.org/boston). We are always looking for talented, dedicated individuals who are ready to give their time and energy to help the homeless animals of Boston find happy, permanent homes!



Lex is one of many dogs that enjoys the attention given by our volunteers.



Lisa, a Level Two volunteer, takes Genevieve out for walk.

#### MSPCA—Boston

##### Hours:

Tues. and Thurs., 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Wed., Fri., Sat. and Sun., 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed Mondays and Holidays

## Clear Skies and Wagging Tails



Dogs of all sizes came out with their owners to support the MSPCA-Cape Cod.

**T**he overcast, misty skies cleared just in time for 175 walkers and their canine companions to arrive for the MSPCA Walk for Animals in downtown Hyannis. Starting at noon at Aselton Park, the walk route ventured for a mile and a half through the scenic town. Shop owners graciously supplemented the MSPCA's water stations with water bowls outside their storefronts while teams like Hot Diggity walked together in their customized t-shirts and coordinated doggie gear. Radio sponsor PIXY 103's DJ Suzanne Tonaire emceed the Walk and kept everyone laughing—especially with her unforgettable vocal rendition of “Who Let the Dogs Out?”

## Fostering Friendship

**D**eciding how to handle an elderly dog surrendered to our adoption center with special health needs can be challenging. While we want to provide all animals with a smooth transition to a permanent home, we must consider the extent of our resources and the many other animals in our care.

Kasha is a perfect example of how we approach this decision-making process: she is a 12-year-old Weimaraner with several health-related complications due to her unregulated diabetes. We did not know if there was an adopter willing to take on the time-consuming responsibility and financial obligation that Kasha requires, while providing a comfortable place for her to spend the time that she has left.

It was a warm, sunny day, as we watched her romp in our big play yard with another canine pal. After some sniffing around, she lay down on her back and rolled in the grass with a big smile on her face. She was irresistible. We knew there must be someone out there who would fall in love with Kasha as we had.

Knowing that our options were limited, we marshaled our human resources and patched together extra funding for her medication

and temporary housing. Then Kasha hit the jackpot: a family willing to foster her for six weeks, and another willing to provide her with comfort after that—she would have the warmth of family, routine, care and love—a home—for as long as she needs it.

Since Kasha left our center, many community members have stepped forward, buying bottles of insulin, donating funds and even contributing proceeds from lemonade stands. Kasha is blissfully unaware that she has not been officially adopted. She just knows that she is in a loving home with a soft bed, and that she feels much better.

A foster home is an invaluable resource. Not only does it provide an animal with a home environment, but it releases adoption center resources. For those people not ready or able to have a pet, there are animals that can benefit from a temporary respite: a few nights in a home, some one-on-one attention and the friendship that comes with fostering.

**For more information about the MSPCA-Cape Cod Animal Care and Adoption Center, please visit [www.mspca.org/cape](http://www.mspca.org/cape).**

**MSPCA-Cape Cod**

**Hours:**

**Sun., 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. (for adoptions only)**

**Tues. – Sat., 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Closed Mondays and Holidays**



**Kasha is now doing well thanks to her several foster families.**

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**For more information about fostering an animal, please visit [www.mspca.org/foster](http://www.mspca.org/foster).**

**MSPCA-Nantucket**

**Hours:**

**Tues. – Sat., 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Closed Sundays, Mondays and Holidays**

## The MSPCA at Nevins Farm Provides Groundwork for 21st-Century Education



As part of the MSPCA at Nevins Farm's off-site educational program, Humane Education Coordinator Jen Dussault teaches young students at the Community Day Charter Public School in Lawrence about the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect.

**T**he MSPCA stands apart from other animal welfare organizations in its success protecting, caring for and placing tens of thousands of homeless companion animals. While the MSPCA operates some of the most successful sheltering facilities in New England, there always remains a need to educate the public in an effort to prevent animal cruelty. The MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Centers offer many publicly attended education programs, from on-site tours to classroom presentations by staff and volunteers.

The MSPCA at Nevins Farm in Methuen offers a comprehensive educational program including a children's summer camp, a weekly story-time program for toddlers and an after-school program for local at-risk youth. Every staff member and volunteer at the MSPCA at Nevins Farm participates in humane education by encouraging kindness and compassion in

their day-to-day conversations, and by educating the public about important animal welfare issues and responsible animal care. These personal interactions are a fantastic way to share knowledge with visitors; however, it requires further outreach to keep our community informed.

To provide information access and meet the challenge of educating the general public about humane issues, we created a series of educational pages on our website. These pages contain information for children, adults, parents and local educators. For kids, we provide printable coloring pages, recommended book lists, animal trivia, pet care tips and information about animal-focused careers. For adults and parents, we offer information about living respectfully with wildlife, dog bite prevention, the importance of spay/neuter procedures for pets and the considerations to make before welcoming a new pet into the family.

For educators, we supply a number of new resources such as information about humane alternatives to live-animal study and dissection. Classroom discussions can also benefit from our collection of ethical dilemma stories for teachers to share with students, our monthly "Comet's Corner" blog, a "12 Questions" interview for middle and high school students and a series of humane-themed lesson plans labeled by appropriate grade for ease of use.

Our K–5 lesson plans focus on dog bite prevention, responsible animal care and respect for wildlife. For middle and high school students, we have shaped lessons that investigate animal welfare issues and the human-animal bond. Each lesson is aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, and most materials include introductions and lists of additional resources for each lesson. Moving forward, we will continue to create lesson plans that allow local educators to bring humane education into the classroom in a variety of disciplines. We encourage all of our community members to visit our new educational web pages at [www.mspca.org/education](http://www.mspca.org/education).

### Noble Family Animal Care and Adoption Center

#### Hours:

Tues. and Thurs., 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Wed. and Fri., 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sat. and Sun., 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed Mondays and Holidays

### Equine and Farm Animal Care and Adoption Center

#### Hours:

Tues. – Fri., 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sat. and Sun., 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed Mondays and Holidays

### Hillside Acre Cemetery

#### Hours:

Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed Sundays and Holidays



## Delivering Hope to Horses in Need Through Ashton's Hope Fund



Razzy was joined by his friend Rusty (above) in the spring of 2008 at Nevins Farm.

For the second year in a row, the MSPCA at Nevins Farm has received a record number of horses. These animals have been surrendered due to the weakened economy, as many owners can no longer afford the basic care needed for their horses. As the region's only open admissions animal care and adoption center for farm animals and horses, Nevins Farm is the primary resource for horses that need a second chance at a new life. Horses arrive in all states of care, from healthy and strong to walking skeletons with a history of malnutrition.

As horses arrive at the MSPCA, they are evaluated for health and soundness, as well as a skill set, which enables the staff to match each horse with an adopter. Many of the horses require medical care to varying degrees, from simple vaccines to costly surgeries. The MSPCA is dependent on its equine medical fund, Ashton's Hope Fund, to provide this care for its horses. Ashton's Hope Fund is named for a young colt who required extensive surgery.

In some cases, a horse may need months of rehabilitation before it is well enough to be adopted into a new home. Razzy, a 20-year-old strawberry roan Quarterhorse, arrived in the spring of 2008, weak and malnourished. He arrived with his companion Rusty, a 19-year-old Paint mix. Once at Nevins Farm, following a strict regimen for feeding and with proper medical care, Rusty and Razzy regained their health. Rusty found his adoptive home in the fall of 2008, and Razzy was adopted just recently, over a year-and-a-half after arriving at the MSPCA. While Rusty and Razzy are a success story, many more horses remain in need of a home at Nevins Farm. If you would like to help horses and other farm animals in need, please contact the MSPCA's Equine Center at 978 687-7453 x6113.



Razzy, upon arrival at Nevins Farm, was weak and malnourished.

### Donor Spotlight



Owners of Polka Dog Bakery, Deb Gregg and Rob Van Sickle.

### A Generous Helping of Love from Polka Dog Bakery

Polka Dog Bakery, at 256 Shawmut Ave. in Boston's South End, attracts an enthusiastic and ever-expanding clientele of dogs and their human companions. Boxes and bags of yummy doggie goodies fill the shelves, including such specialties as vintage cookie greeting cards and "Happy Barkday" biscuits. The bakery got its name from Pearl, a one-eyed stray from Puerto Rico who was dubbed the Polka Dog because she "danced" her head from side to side when she greeted people.

In addition to creating healthy, hand-baked doggie munchies and managing their popular bakery, owners Deb Gregg and Rob Van Sickle find time for charitable pursuits. For years they have amazed our staff by donating several thousand dollars' worth of treats, toys and raffle prizes to our events, as well as providing wholesome delicacies for the patients in Angell's Pain Medicine clinic.

If you have ever joined us for our Walk for Animals, Spring Gala, Party Animals or Animal Hall of Fame Dinner, your pets have probably tasted some of Polka Dog's bounty. Much to our delight, Deb and Rob also created beautiful pet-themed decorations for our Holiday Trees.

We are so grateful to Deb and Rob for all their generous support. Stop by and see them sometime, or visit them at [www.polkadog.com](http://www.polkadog.com). And—good news—they opened a new store in Jamaica Plain at 42 South Street. We warn you, though: your pup won't let you get away with just one purchase!

## Fundraising—and Friend-raising— —for the MSPCA–Angell

### Good, Better, Best: Angell Rises to the Challenge of Excellence

**C**an the best become even better? Always! Angell Animal Medical Center is already one of the leading veterinary institutions in the world. However, rapid technological advances demand continual upgrading, and that, of course, is costly. We are now engaged in a fundraising initiative to purchase a blood chemistry analyzer and a linear accelerator; renovate our dentistry suite and convert our traditional X-ray technology to digital radiography. These improvements to Angell's diagnostic and treatment capabilities will ensure that we continue to offer superior care to the animals that come to us.

To meet these needs, we plan to raise \$2.1 million by July 2010. Thanks to incredibly generous grants from two local foundations, we are now almost halfway to our goal, and we believe we will succeed in this important effort.

As Angell's Dr. Jean Duddy says, "People bring their pets to Angell because they love them so much they can't imagine bringing them anywhere else. That's the responsibility we have to live up to: we have to be the best."

For more information, contact Alice Bruce at 617 541-5046 or [abruce@mspca.org](mailto:abruce@mspca.org).

### Wear Your Love for Your Pet in Silver or Gold



**W**e all carry love for our pets in our hearts. Now, our friend Amelia Lock has created an exquisite pendant that embodies that sentiment and also helps raise funds for animals. Amelia so valued the care her dog Oscar received on an emergency visit to Angell that she decided to use her jewelry business, Amelia Rose Designs, to support the organization.

So far the popular necklaces, which make beautiful gifts, have brought in almost \$20,000 for our General Fund!

The pendant is available in sterling silver for a contribution of \$50 (all but \$10 is tax deductible), or in 14K gold for a contribution of \$250 (all but \$100 is tax deductible).

To place your order, go to [www.mspca.org/necklace](http://www.mspca.org/necklace), or contact Cory Berry-Whitlock at 617 541-5067 or [cberrywhitlock@mspca.org](mailto:cberrywhitlock@mspca.org).

### English as a Second Language—for Birds!



Irene Pepperberg with her African Grey, Alex.

**O**n September 15, Dr. Irene Pepperberg, author of *Alex & Me—How a Scientist and a Parrot Uncovered a Hidden World of Animal Intelligence and Formed a Deep Bond in the Process*, lectured to a rapt audience at our third annual MSPCA–Angell Leaders Circle Forum. These forums are open to our dedicated Leaders Circle members, who pledge to contribute \$1,000 or more every year to help us help animals.

Dr. Pepperberg's *New York Times* bestseller explains the extraordinary 30-year bond she shared with Alex, an African Grey parrot who exhibited an astonishing ability to communicate with words and understand complex ideas. Alex's last words to Dr. Pepperberg, before his premature death in 2007, were "You be good. I love you."

Dr. Pepperberg, who works and teaches at Brandeis University and Harvard University, researches the cognitive and communicative abilities of African Greys, comparing their abilities with those of great apes, marine mammals and young children. She is studying the mechanisms as well as the outcomes of their learning.

For more information about becoming a Leaders Circle member, contact Kathleen Santry at 617 541-5075 or [ksantry@mspca.org](mailto:ksantry@mspca.org).



# Stars Shone Brightly at the Animal Hall of Fame Dinner



Virginia Rose Anderson, George T. Angell Humanitarian Award recipient R. K. Anderson, and Sharon Madere arrive on the red carpet at the JFK Library & Museum.



Jodi Collier; MSPCA-Angell Overseer Michelle Wetlaufer with Coco; Barbara Green; Carol S. Parks and Keith Leighton with Casper and Rosco; and MSPCA-Angell Director Barbara Schaye.



David and MSPCA-Angell Overseer Gail Schechter.



Gloria Larson; Dinner Co-Chairs Robert L. Beal and Mountie Too; MSPCA-Angell V. P. of Development Alice Bruce; and Bob Mahoney.



Carter Luke bestows the Animal Hero award on Tasha while fellow award recipient Comet looks on.



Rita and Adam Weiner with Jack and Bauer.



MSPCA-Angell President Carter Luke; Animal Hero Comet with Marla Andrews; Animal Hero Tasha with Alison Slipp; MSPCA Humane Education Manager Jennifer Dussault with Animal Hero Tucker; WCVB-TV Co-Anchor Heather Unruh; George T. Angell Humanitarian Award recipient R. K. Anderson; Human Heroes Marc Johnson and Karen Windsor of Foster Parrots, Ltd.

Over 330 of the MSPCA-Angell's enthusiastic supporters—and some of their canine companions—honored a group of remarkable animal and human heroes at our annual Animal Hall of Fame Dinner, held at the JFK Library on October 22. We are delighted to report that the event raised almost \$275,000 for the animals!

MSPCA-Angell President Carter Luke presented the Society's highest honor, the George T. Angell Humanitarian Award, to R. K. Anderson, DVM, MPH, DACVB, DACVPM, for his lifetime of compassion and inspirational leadership in the fields of animal behavior and human-animal relationships.

Marc Johnson and Karen Windsor of Foster Parrots, Ltd. took home the Human Heroes Award, for their dedication to the rescue and sanctuary of unwanted and abused captive parrots and other displaced exotic animals. The Animal Heroes Award was presented to Tucker, Comet and Tasha, three dogs from Nevins Farm, for their exemplary work in the humane education of children.

## Planning for the Future?

As you make your estate plans, please consider a bequest to the MSPCA-Angell. For more information, contact Alice Bruce at 617 541-5045 or [abruce@mspca.org](mailto:abruce@mspca.org).



## Legislative Affairs: Advocating for Animals in Massachusetts

### Greyhound Work Continues

**D**espite a 56% to 44% victory, the fate of Question 3, the Greyhound Protection Act (GPA), is not yet sealed. Last November, when voters overwhelmingly supported phasing out Greyhound racing, we were unaware that the victory was not the finish line. Since then, we have been busy protecting the victory from a series of attacks by Greyhound racing proponents. Among them is a bill, filed by Senator Marc Pacheco, that proposes to delay enactment of the GPA until 2012. In addition to defending Question 3, we are supporting a bill to retrain dog track workers and are also planning for the adoption of retired Greyhounds. To ensure that January 1, 2010 is, in fact, the finish line, please contact your state legislators to tell them that you oppose all attempts to alter the Greyhound Protection Act. For more information, see [www.mspca.org/advocacy](http://www.mspca.org/advocacy) and join the Animal Action Team.

### CLAW Joins the Leaping Bunny Program

**I**f you have ever wondered what all those different “animal-friendly” logos on cosmetic labels really mean, you are in good company. The MSPCA’s affiliate, the Center for Laboratory Animal Welfare (CLAW), recently joined the



Coalition for Consumer Information on Cosmetics (CCIC)’s Leaping Bunny Program. This program maintains a single comprehensive standard for cruelty-free labeling, making it easier for consumers to shop for products that are manufactured without the use of animal testing. CLAW has always encouraged consumers to make conscientious choices that benefit laboratory animals. That is difficult, though, when terms like “cruelty-free” or “not tested on animals” are not clearly defined by law, and can be used for just about anything. For more information, see [www.mspca.org/leapingbunny](http://www.mspca.org/leapingbunny).



Event organizers of a rally supporting the Greyhound Protection Act on the Boston Common.

### Help Us Improve Municipal Animal Control

**M**any of the Massachusetts laws regarding animal control date back decades upon decades. We have been working with other stakeholder groups to formulate comprehensive legislation addressing issues such as homeless animals, dangerous dogs and animal control officer training. This bill is moving through the legislature, but we need your help to get it passed. If you are affiliated with an animal organization in Massachusetts, or know someone who is, sign on as a supporter of this bill on our website at [www.mspca.org/animalcontrolbill](http://www.mspca.org/animalcontrolbill). You can also let your legislators know you would like them to support S. 2120 at our Action Center ([www.mspca.org/ActionCenter](http://www.mspca.org/ActionCenter)).

### Sign Up for the Animal Action Team Blog!

Want to know more about animal advocacy and key animal protection issues in Massachusetts? Sign up for the Animal Action Team blog at [www.animalactionteam.blogspot.com](http://www.animalactionteam.blogspot.com).



## The Close of 2009 Brings Justice

### Willfully Blind to a Loyal Horse

One of the cases investigated by MSPCA Officer Nadya Branca was resolved during trial in 2009. The horse involved in the case suffered from a painful, malformed front leg, and the defendant failed to adequately relieve this lame, geriatric horse's suffering. Ultimately, the horse passed away while the case was pending.

The defendant elected to have his case heard by a jury, but decided to enter into a plea bargain after the first day of trial. The defendant agreed to serve two years of supervised probation, obtain no new animals during his probationary period and submit to a mental health evaluation.

### The Callous and Needless Killing of a Cat

In the spring of 2009, MSPCA Officer Martha Parkhurst investigated disturbing allegations in Essex County involving a missing cat. Officer Parkhurst's investigation revealed that one Saturday afternoon, the defendant was hissed at by his daughter's cat. The defendant picked up a baseball bat and followed the cat into an adjacent room. In the next room, the cat hissed at the defendant again. The defendant then struck the cat twice. Unfortunately, the cat's injuries were extreme and, sadly, the cat could not be saved.

Subsequently, the defendant entered into a plea agreement. He pleaded guilty, and began serving nine months of supervised probation. He also will perform 60 hours of community service.



The former owner neglected to treat this horse's malformed foot and is now serving two years' probation.



Before: The condition of a neglect case upon Officer Bonito's arrival.



After: After several hours of shaving and cleaning, the Cocker Spaniel's physical condition was beginning to improve.

### Unfathomable and Preventable Neglect

A veterinarian and several assistants labored for **three hours to remove 12 pounds of compacted mat material from the 47-pound dog.** Additionally, the dog was treated for a severe infection and pain.

A Barnstable County investigation performed by MSPCA Officer Nanci Bonito has been resolved. Officer Bonito investigated the conditions of several animals owned within the same household. She encountered a dog that was encased in thick, debris-packed compressed mats. The connected, malodorous mats were as thick as a heavy rug in many places and greatly hampered the dog's ability to move. The dog was barely recognizable as a Cocker Spaniel. A veterinarian and several assistants labored for three hours to remove 12 pounds of compacted mat material from the 47-pound dog. Additionally, the dog was treated for a severe infection and pain.

Ultimately, the defendant entered into a plea agreement, in which she agreed to serve three years on probation, supervised for the first year, and to submit to unannounced inspections by the MSPCA or town animal control officer.

If you suspect animal cruelty, please call the MSPCA Law Enforcement department at 617 522-6008 or 800 628-5805.

The MSPCA Law Enforcement Department takes this opportunity to once again officially acknowledge Bob Peixinho of 138 Auto Mall of Raynham (38 Broadway, Rt. 138, 508 823-6700). Bob's invaluable assistance and substantial generosity have enabled the Law Enforcement department to continue enforcing the animal cruelty laws—in an updated, virtually new vehicle. Bob made a similar donation in 2008 and the entire department and organization extend their gratitude for his continued support.

## Pet Party Etiquette for the Holidays

**T**he holiday season is almost upon us. The thrill of lights, parties and presents is exciting; however it has the potential to be stressful to our pets. The added excitement of the holidays can turn our normally well-behaved pets into a bundle of nerves. Here are some tips to get your pet (and you) through the holiday season stress-free.

### Home, Sweet Home.



There are several holiday traditions that bring foreign, and many times dangerous, objects into the home. For example, keep your pets away from the water and preservatives in your Christmas tree stand. Preservatives may contain fertilizers which can upset the stomach if ingested. Also, stagnant tree water can be a breeding ground for bacteria that can lead to stomach irritation. Holly, mistletoe, lilies and poinsettia can be particularly harmful to pets and should be kept out of reach. Many decorations, such as ribbon and tinsel, can wreak havoc on the digestive tract. New toys received as gifts often have small parts or batteries that can also be harmful if ingested.

### Festivities with Friends and Family.

Now that your home is pet-friendly for the holidays, it is important to ensure your pet's comfort when guests are coming and going. The heightened level of excitement during the holidays can alter normal activity in your home. It is best to keep your pet's routine consistent. When you know you will have company, it is a great idea to take your pup for a long walk to wear him or her out and release any extra energy.

### Fighting Holiday Temptations.

Just as humans struggle with a few extra pounds after the holiday season, it is easy for the same to happen to our pets. With large feasts and many leftovers it is tempting to pass them along to our pets. Pets should not be given table scraps in general, but there are a few that can be especially dangerous to them. Poultry bones may splinter and cause damage or blockage in the gastrointestinal tract. Fatty and/or spicy foods can upset the stomach and possibly even cause inflammation in the pancreas. Chocolate, coffee or coffee grounds, macadamia nuts, grapes and raisins can cause vomiting, weakness or more serious complications. It is important to avoid feeding these items to pets and to keep trash out of reach so they cannot accidentally ingest anything toxic.

### Baby, It's Cold Outside.



Even when you successfully make it through the parties and large dinners during the holidays, you still have to deal with the cold winter months. Cats should always be kept indoors. Many cats that are left outside often find shelter inside car wheels or under the hood. It is best to rap on the hood of the car before starting the engine to scare away cats or other small animals. It is important for dogs to receive regular exercise, even in the winter, but be sure to keep any time spent outside to a minimum. Short-hair dogs such as Greyhounds, Chihuahuas and Beagles should wear protective clothing. Dogs should remain leashed and supervised when outdoors throughout the year and it is especially important during winter. Keep dogs supervised near bodies of water, even if the water appears to be frozen over. After any time spent outdoors, it is best to wipe the bottoms of your dog's feet and stomach to remove any snow, salt or sand.



### Your Pet Can Spruce Up Our Heartwarming Holiday Trees!

Help animals less fortunate than yours by donating to our MSPCA–Angell Holiday Trees! Ornaments and beautifully wrapped gift boxes will display your pet's picture on festive trees at the Prudential Center, or on handcrafted wreaths in our hospital lobby throughout December. Your gift, through Pet Care Assistance, will subsidize care for pets whose owners cannot afford veterinary services and for animals who are homeless or rescued from abuse.

Donations and pet photos will be welcomed through December and those received by November 30 will be on display at the Lighting Ceremony at the Prudential Center (near the Huntington Avenue entrance) on Thursday, December 3 at 5:30 p.m. We would love to see you at that event! Come join MSPCA–Angell President Carter Luke, Newscenter 5 anchor Randy Price and some of our adoption center animals as they light the trees and celebrate our pets. Music and refreshments are complimentary.

To purchase ornaments online, please visit [www.mspca.org/holidaytree](http://www.mspca.org/holidaytree).

For more information, contact Cory Berry-Whitlock at 617 541-5067 or [cberrywhitlock@mspca.org](mailto:cberrywhitlock@mspca.org).



# The Difference You've Made

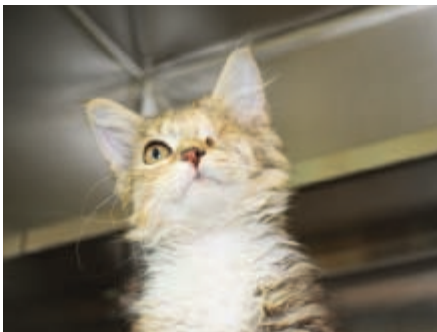
**E**ach year, thousands of animals are brought to the MSPCA–Angell for care. Many are homeless and abused and look to us for help, since we are often their only chance. The work we do protecting these animals would not be possible without our supporters. Here are just a few examples of animals that have benefited from your support.



Shorty was severely underweight when he was surrendered to Nevins Farm. With the care of Nevins staff, he overcame his malnutrition and is now available for adoption.



Scooby was hit by a car and required surgery that his owners could not afford. Thanks to donor support, metal plates were inserted to stabilize his broken leg. He is currently in foster care, where he continues to heal, before finding a new permanent home.



Fia was surrendered to the MSPCA with a flesh-eating disease in her eye. Her eye was surgically removed to prevent the disease from spreading. She is now doing well and is available for adoption.



Bailey, a five-year-old Bernese Mountain Dog, was recently surrendered to the MSPCA. She is still receiving treatment to overcome her malnutrition, severe flea infestation and ear infections. Once she makes a full recovery she will be available for adoption.



Hope was surrendered to the MSPCA by a Good Samaritan. She was found with a rubber band tied around her neck that was most likely there for weeks. Angell veterinarians removed the rubber band that was embedded in her skin and treated the lacerations. She is now safe and happy living with her new family.



Cruelly abandoned as a kitten, Poppy was found on the side of the road meowing and trying unsuccessfully to escape from a knotted bag. She was brought to the MSPCA at Nevins Farm where the staff cared for her and found her a new home.

## Archives



### Archivists Answer the Call for Historical Preservation

Did you know that in 1869 the MSPCA was responsible for bringing the first public water stations for horses to the streets of Boston? The MSPCA–Angell Archives contain a treasure trove of humane history and photography. The spring issue of *Companion* noted our ongoing efforts to restore the Archives after experiencing a devastating fire in March 2008. The article resulted in many local archivists offering to volunteer with the Archive Project. We are delighted that those who contacted us are all animal lovers and are appreciative of the MSPCA–Angell's 141 years of efforts on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.

When George T. Angell founded the MSPCA in 1868, the Society began documenting our humane work with its publication entitled *Our Dumb Animals*. We are pleased that the entire collection of this publication, which later became *Animals Magazine* (and is now called *Companion*), was spared from the fire—and the water that put out the fire. In addition, many of George T. Angell's scrapbooks, diaries and letters have been salvaged.

With the assistance of our new group of professionals, we hope to have the Archive collection available for researchers, donors and others interested in the history of the MSPCA by spring 2010.

**For additional information, please contact Jan Holmquist, Assistant to the President at [jholmquist@mspca.org](mailto:jholmquist@mspca.org) or by phone at 617 541-5005.**

## Caring for Morocco's Animals: An Eye-Opening Journey for Angell's Ophthalmology Team

**T**he MSPCA–Angell oversees operations of the American Fondouk, a charitable animal hospital providing free care to the needy animals of Morocco. Each year, Fondouk Director Dr. Denys Frappier and his team of nine treat more than 22,000 animals—many working “beasts of burden”—for various maladies ranging from infections and severe wounds to tumors and parasites. All animals are treated for free.

Dr. Daniel Biros and veterinary technicians Alicia Posell and Bob Marcus of the Angell Ophthalmology service recently volunteered at the Fondouk. Below are excerpts from Dr. Biros's blog about their experience ([www.mspca.org/fondoukblog](http://www.mspca.org/fondoukblog)):

“Resources are scarce here. . .We do not have surgical monitoring equipment for anesthesia other than your eyes and ears with the aid of a stethoscope. There is also a clear lack of many things that we take for granted as Angell veterinary specialists. . .Needles, syringes and drip-sets are all [sterilized and] reused. . .surgical wear, caps, masks and gloves are not consistently available. This is a complete return to basic veterinary care as we fight to save the lives of animals each day.

“Today's first patient was [a cat in labor]. . .she had one dead kitten in her birth canal and presumably more of the litter in her body. A Caesarean-section was required immediately if the mother and any of her litter were to survive. . .



Newborn kittens begin life thanks to the Fondouk.

The only constant we know is that we will be here if the pets' owners decide to come back.

“Two mules arrived. . .with chronic glaucoma. One horse also arrived with a perforated cornea; the wound size larger than a silver dollar. Fortunately for the mules, the glaucoma was mild and, despite the vision loss, no significant medication was needed. . .The recommendation for the horse. . .was surgery to remove the right eye for both her health and humane reasons. The surgery was a success and the horse went home later that afternoon. . .

“A few dogs with conjunctivitis [were treated]. . .a Pit Bull puppy with a ‘cherry eye’ (prolapsed tear gland of the third eyelid) and an unfortunate German Shepherd puppy with a proptosed eye (an eye that traumatically has come out of the eye socket).

The [Fondouk staff] wasted no time preparing the patient for surgery. Amber, a [visiting] veterinary student performed the surgery and successfully delivered two healthy kittens. . .

“As [there are no] financial resources to maintain medical records. . .visits are very ‘of the moment’ and the future is uncertain for the ongoing medical care of our patients.



Dr. Biros (right) discussing the use of ophthalmic instruments with Dr. Frappier (middle) and a technician.



A Pit Bull puppy with cherry eye.



Removing a horse's blind and painful eye.

[Both] required surgeries that [were successfully completed in the afternoon]. . .

“It is truly amazing how quickly the day goes by and how many animals have been treated. After a week of work my body was aching. . .and my feet were feeling the mileage of our job. . .

“Tomorrow is. . .our last full day. . .at the Fondouk. As I sit in my bed. . .I have allowed one of the [nine] ‘temporary’ resident dogs to relax beside me. . .I may just find a way to take her home with me if I can.”

*Dr. Biros indeed adopted an abandoned puppy from the Fondouk. “Dolie,” a one-year-old Sloughi, is happily enjoying life in the United States in her new home with Dr. Biros.*



Receiving area on a typical morning.

To find out more information, please visit [www.fondouk.org](http://www.fondouk.org), or read the rest of the blog at [www.mspca.org/fondoukblog](http://www.mspca.org/fondoukblog).



# 29th Annual MSPCA–Angell Walk for Animals



Attorney General Martha Coakley; Mike Addams from Magic 106.7 FM; MSPCA–Angell President Carter Luke; Keba Arnold from Fox 25.



Granby, Muttt of the Year, with his owner Julie Roix.



Blue Dog Group performing high-flying canine Frisbee tricks.



Top fundraisers Bennett and Jo-Edith Heffron raised over \$8,000 for the animals.



Ozzy Monteiro, our Biggest Dog winner, weighing in at 182 lbs., celebrates with his family.



Team "Beer Advocate" and their canine crew earned the top fundraising team honor.

Once again, this year's statewide MSPCA–Angell Walk for Animals was a success, with the total donations exceeding \$350,000! More than 2,500 people and over 1,800 canines walked on September 13 in Boston, Newbury (to benefit Methuen) and Hyannis. The vital funds that were raised through the coordinated efforts at these three locations will help the MSPCA–Angell care for thousands of homeless, injured and abused animals annually.

Walkers enjoyed a wide range of activities at the three locations, including contests, raffle prizes, canine Frisbee shows, information tables, behavior and agility training, tasty treats and pet portraits.

"Every year the MSPCA–Angell Walk for Animals is supported and attended by an incredibly giving group of animal welfare advocates," said MSPCA–Angell President Carter Luke. "It is through the tremendous outpouring of support that we are able to provide hands-on care and change the lives of thousands of animals for the better each year. It is truly heartwarming to see thousands of pet owners and their dogs enjoy such a wonderful day while knowing that your help will once again relieve the suffering of animals in Massachusetts and allow us to continue our work for a society that openly battles animal cruelty."

The coveted "Muttt of the Year" honor was awarded to Granby, a Lab/Husky mix. Granby's owner Julie Roix adopted him eight years ago. Since then, with the help of Angell, he has conquered several medical challenges. He successfully underwent two Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) surgeries, and after developing glaucoma and having both eyes removed, he has adapted with wonderful canine resilience. Julie is amazed that he can still work his way into the child-proofed cabinets to get into the trash, and can fetch as if he has no limitations. He has overcome obstacles that make him an outstanding Muttt of the Year.

A special thank-you to all of the sponsors, walkers, volunteers, donors and longtime supporters who helped make this event an enormous success.



Participants could test their own dogs' agility skills.



Walkers enjoyed the clear skies while walking around the Boston Common.



The mission of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals–Angell Animal Medical Center is to protect animals, relieve their suffering, advance their health and welfare, prevent cruelty and work for a just and compassionate society.

## On the Web

### MSPCA–Angell e-Newsletter



Find out what's new at the MSPCA–Angell by signing up for our monthly e-Newsletter. Visit [www.mspca.org/enews](http://www.mspca.org/enews) to sign up today!

### MSPCA–Angell Online Store

Shop for gifts, pet products and more at the MSPCA–Angell online store, and proceeds from your purchases will benefit animals. Start shopping today and make a difference at [www.mspca.org](http://www.mspca.org).



### MSPCA–Angell “Honor” e-Cards

Send an e-Card to announce a donation in honor of a loved one or have us mail a card indicating that a gift was made in their name. There is a \$5 minimum donation for honor e-Cards and a \$25 minimum for mailed cards. Visit [www.mspca.org/ecard](http://www.mspca.org/ecard) to send an e-Card or call 617 541-5075 for more information.

### Angell Pet Portal

Access your pet's health information online: view upcoming and recent appointments, update account information and check your pet's vaccination status. You can even order prescription refills online. The Angell Pet Portal is easy, convenient and free! If you are an Angell client, visit [www.mspca.org](http://www.mspca.org) and click on the Pet Portal Login button to sign up.

### Free Animal Ringtones

Visit [www.mspca.org/ringtones](http://www.mspca.org/ringtones) and download free cat or dog ringtones for your cell phone!

### MSPCA–Angell Credit Card



Apply today for your MSPCA–Angell Platinum Plus Credit Card with WorldPoints Rewards. A portion of your purchases will go toward the MSPCA–Angell at no cost to you.

For more information or to apply, visit

[www.mspca.org](http://www.mspca.org) or call toll-free 800 932-2775 and mention priority code LQ6Q.

### Become an MSPCA–Angell All-Star

Become a monthly donor by signing up to be an MSPCA–Angell All-Star. We depend greatly on our All-Stars. These dedicated friends provide reliable financial support that allows us to devote more resources to our animal care programs, and fewer to raising the necessary funds. Pledge your monthly gift at [www.mspca.org/allstar](http://www.mspca.org/allstar).



### Join the MSPCA–Angell Online Network



Help us spread our mission of kindness and care for animals by joining our MSPCA–Angell community on MySpace, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter at [www.mspca.org/community](http://www.mspca.org/community).

### Conflicts with Wildlife in Your House or Garden?

Check out our web-based interactive house. Don't know what type of animal it is? The online tool provides a visual depiction and step-by-step instructions on how to recognize and humanely exclude a wildlife intruder from your home and garden. Go to [www.mspca.org/house](http://www.mspca.org/house) to try it out!

