



COMPANION

SPRING/SUMMER 2008



Angell-Nantucket is
a small island with
big medicine **P2**



MSPCA provides old
Souls with new homes
P3



Orville gets new,
hopeful outlook
P5



Keep Your Pet Safe this Summer

When there is not enough shade or access to water, pets can quickly become dehydrated.

Take your pet for a check-up.

Test dogs for heartworm and groom pets regularly to check for fleas and ticks. Ask your veterinarian about heartworm and flea preventative medication for both dogs and cats and be sure that all your pet's vaccinations are current.

Identify your pet! Always have your pet wear a collar and up-to-date ID tag. Springtime is an especially busy time for lost pet calls to adoption centers. If your pet does not have a collar or ID tag, the chance of finding him diminishes greatly. We also recommend microchipping your pet.

Keep them cool. Hot weather is hard on pets as well as people. Try to exercise pets in the early morning or late evening when the weather is cool. Keep pets safe at home rather than taking them in the car. The inside of a car can heat up to 110 degrees in 10 minutes on an 80 degree day even with the windows slightly open. Your pet

could be in danger even on a moderately hot day.

Watch out! Be aware of local hazards, such as poisonous reptiles, toxic plants and fertilizers.

If you can, keep them home! Think twice before bringing your dog to the beach or park on very hot days. When there is not enough shade or access to water, they can quickly become dehydrated. When taking pets for walks on hot days, be sure to pack plenty of water for you and them! And, if you are planning a trip with your pet, make sure to review all travel requirements including transport limitations based on weather and temperature.

Remember, breeds with short noses like Pugs, Persians and Bulldogs are more susceptible to breathing difficulty in hot weather.

For more information on safety tips for your pets, please visit www.mspca.org/tips.



Thanks to the MSPCA-WNE Animal Care and Adoption Center and the Law Enforcement department, Smitty has found a loving home and his abuser has been brought to justice.

Fallen Puppy Lifted Up into MSPCA-Angell's Arms

In a case of shocking animal cruelty in early 2008, a seven-week-old Pit Bull puppy was thrown from the third story window of a Springfield apartment building during a domestic dispute. The puppy landed on the paved ground below and the extreme impact fractured his skull and two legs. Springfield Police officers brought the puppy, later named Smitty after one of the responding police officers, to the MSPCA-Western New England Animal Care and Adoption Center after being called to the scene.

Following his three-story plummet and rescue, Smitty was brought to the Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston to be evaluated by surgeons. Due to his age and a bit of luck, Smitty did not require immediate surgery and returned to the MSPCA-WNE adoption center.

The media exposure and community concern regarding the cruelty Smitty faced helped him find a permanent home quickly. Due to the impact of the fall, Smitty will require ongoing care for his injuries and Angell surgeons believe that surgery may be required in the future.

The MSPCA Law Enforcement department, in cooperation with the Springfield Police department, searched for the suspect who had thrown Smitty from the window. Thanks in large part to a key witness and the combined efforts of the two law

enforcement departments, Jacques Coleman, 19, was identified and arrested. Following his arraignment, Coleman pled guilty to animal cruelty in the case of Smitty and has, fortunately, been sentenced to one year in jail.

The MSPCA Law Enforcement department encourages individuals who suspect animal cruelty to contact them to request an investigation of animal abuse. In fact, without the assistance of the public, our mission to prevent cruelty to animals, help those animals in need and prosecute offenders would be nearly impossible.

If you suspect animal cruelty, please call 800 628-5808 in Boston or 413 781-3231 in western New England.

2008 MSPCA-Angell Calendar of Events

JUNE

- 16** Inaugural MSPCA Golf Invitational
- 26** MSPCA-Boston's Annual Spirit of Kindness Silent Auction
- 28** MSPCA-Cape Cod's Sudz N'Fuzz Dog and Car Wash

AUGUST

- 6** MSPCA-Nantucket's 3rd Annual Canine Couture Fashion Show

SEPTEMBER

- 7** MSPCA-Angell Walk for Animals in Boston, Brockton, Hyannis, Martha's Vineyard and Springfield
- 20** MSPCA-Metro South's Rabies and Microchip Clinic

OCTOBER

- 2** MSPCA-Nevins Farm's Annual Evening for Animals Auction and Fundraiser
- 16** MSPCA-Angell's Animal Hall of Fame Dinner
- 18** MSPCA-Western New England's Microchip/Rabies Clinic

NOVEMBER

- 2** MSPCA-Cape Cod's Pancakes for Pets and Photos with Santa
- 15** MSPCA-Metro South's Santa Photo Day

DECEMBER

- 4** MSPCA-Angell's Boston Holiday Tree Lighting
- 6** MSPCA-Martha's Vineyard's Santa Photo Day and "Paws to Remember" Tree Lighting
- 6-14** MSPCA-Nevins Farm's Winter Festival
- 11** MSPCA-Western New England's Holiday Tree Lighting
- 12-14** MSPCA-Martha's Vineyard's Christmas in Edgartown
- 13-14** MSPCA-Boston's Santa Paws and Jingle Tails

Our Chance to Make a Difference in 2008: Vote for the Dogs

The MSPCA has opposed dog racing since its 1930 introduction in Massachusetts. According to state records, 700 Greyhounds have been injured while racing at the state's two dog tracks since 2002. Most of these injuries were fractures, but other injuries included broken legs, cardiac arrest and spinal cord paralysis. These dogs are confined for 20 hours each day in small cages that are barely large enough for them to stand or turn around.

Help us end this form of animal cruelty. The final signatures are being gathered to put the Greyhound Protection Act, which will phase out dog racing, on the November 4th ballot.

To learn more about how you can help protect dogs, please visit www.mspca.org/greyhounds.

BOSTON

350 South Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130 • 617 522-7282



As part of the Angell-Boston Oncology Service, staff veterinarian Dr. Michelle Turek provides patients with options for management of cancer in pets.

Angell's Cancer Care Service Helps Prolong Lives of Companion Animals

Betty Dowling came to Angell Animal Medical Center-Boston with her owners in 2003. The eight-year-old German Shepherd/Doberman mix was sadly diagnosed with osteosarcoma, cancer in the bones, by one of Angell's double board-certified oncologists, Dr. Christine Anderson. Her initial prognosis was poor, and if left untreated, she would have had an estimated 12-18 months to live. Betty returned a few weeks later for her scheduled leg amputation, to help prevent the cancer from spreading, and to begin chemotherapy.

After she finished chemotherapy, Betty was cancer-free and did well for two years, surpassing her original prognosis. However, during a regular check-up, veterinarians found that the cancer had returned and spread to her lungs. Again, Betty's prognosis

was dire. She began chemotherapy, but after just a few weeks, Betty became very sick. Her owners did not want to see her suffer and as a result Dr. Anderson discontinued chemotherapy, opting to surgically remove the tumor in Betty's lungs.

Five years later, Betty is cancer-free, happy and healthy in her South Boston home. Angell-Boston surgeons successfully removed the cancerous tumor and additional chemotherapy was not necessary. Betty beat the odds against her and is among few dogs that have lived years after originally being diagnosed with osteosarcoma.

The Cancer Care Service at Angell-Boston is uniquely qualified to provide pets with a multidisciplinary approach to cancer diagnosis and treatment. Drs. Anderson and Michelle Turek are the only double board-certified specialists in veterinary medical oncology and radiation oncology in New England. Their expertise allows for an accurate and timely diagnosis to optimally manage cancer in companion animals.

Angell-Boston strives to provide cancer care options and a plan of action to help implement clients' choices. Our commitment is to improve quality of life and to do so in an atmosphere of caring and compassion.

In addition, Angell-Boston follows an "all under one roof" philosophy, which allows collaboration among a large team of specialists in the fields of radiology, internal medicine, cardiology, neurology, ophthalmology and nutrition for optimal patient care. Angell-Boston also offers a full-service pharmacy for all your pet's medications and prescription diets. A full-time, on-site pharmacist and pharmacy staff are available to answer drug-specific questions for your pet.

To learn more about the Cancer Care Service at Angell-Boston, please visit www.mspca.org/oncology. To make an appointment, please contact Gary Vanasse at 617 541-5136 or e-mail at oncology@mspca.org.

Please visit
mspca.org/companion
to donate!

Advanced Technology Gives Dogs with Wobbler's Syndrome More Options

Wobbler's Syndrome is a neurological condition that affects large-breed dogs. It most commonly occurs in Doberman, Rottweiler and Great Dane breeds and occasionally affects older Dalmatians. Wobbler's Syndrome is a malformation of the vertebrae in the neck that causes pressure on the spinal cord. This pressure affects the dog's gait — the first noticeable symptom.

In 2001, Dr. Allen Sisson, a board-certified neurologist at Angell-Boston treated Buddy, a then two-year-old German Shepherd, for Wobbler's Syndrome. Buddy's ailment required surgery to stabilize his vertebrae and allow more room for the spinal cord. His treatment was a great success and Buddy made a full recovery. In a very rare instance, however, Buddy began showing the same symptoms seven years later, but this time in a different part of his neck. Buddy's owners brought him back to Angell-Boston since they had such a positive experience previously.

In keeping up with technology, the neurology team at Angell-Boston recently implemented a new, ventrally-placed locking bone plate technology. It is used for surgical stabilization on large breed dogs affected with Wobbler's Syndrome. This technology is now available for Buddy to help ensure his recovery is even more successful this time around. The success rate of correcting a dog's abnormal gait with this method has been very high. Most dogs are able to go home to the owners within 24 hours of surgery with improvement in clinical signs



Older Dalmatians are commonly affected by Wobbler's Syndrome.

becoming evident within just a few days after surgery.

The neurology staff at Angell-Boston consists of two board-certified neurologists, Dr. Sisson and Dr. Debbie Ruehlmann, and one resident, Dr. Andrew Farabaugh. The neurology staff works collaboratively to provide optimal care in the diagnosis and treatment of small animal neurological diseases, both medical and surgical, with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.

In addition, our skilled neurology team is sharing their knowledge with veterinarians and owners around the country and in other parts of the world. They are assisting with the treatments of autoimmune encephalitis of dogs often called granulomatous meningoencephalomyelitis (GME). This is done by e-mail and fax correspondence with the owners and their veterinarians. Currently, Angell-Boston's neurology department is assisting several clients and their veterinarians in Japan and in California with the treatment of these types of patients.

For more information or to make an appointment with the Neurology Service at Angell-Boston, please call Natasha Bureau at 617 541-5140, e-mail neurology@mspca.org or visit www.mspca.org/neurology.

NANTUCKET ISLAND

21 Crooked Lane, Nantucket, MA 02554 • 508 228-1491

Small Island, Big Medicine

Nantucket is remote (30 miles out to sea) and small (7 x 14 miles), but that does not mean we cannot accommodate the needs of the many pets that reside here. When routine care is in order or an emergency strikes, clients come to Angell-Nantucket.

One such emergency struck five-year-old Baloo, a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog. While his owners were away, Baloo's caretakers noticed some troublesome symptoms: Baloo was anxious, pacing, panting and retching. They immediately called Dr. Michelle Zarif, the emergency veterinarian at Angell-Nantucket, who recognized the signs of gastric dilatation and volvulus, or "bloat." An X-ray confirmed her suspicion and surgery was performed to save his life.

After the operation, which put the stomach and spleen back in their normal position, Dr. Zarif surgically tacked Baloo's stomach into place to prevent a recurrence of bloat. She then called the owner to report the successful surgery.

Baloo was lucky — he made a complete recovery after spending just two days in the



Baloo resting at the beach.

hospital. However, not all dogs are so lucky. Bloat is one of the most dangerous conditions for canines and they can die within hours. Knowing the symptoms of bloat can help save a dog's life; first and foremost non-vomit-producing retching, a distended stomach (not always noticeable) and signs of distress or pain — pacing, anxiety, panting are all warning signs. If you notice these symptoms in your dog, call your veterinarian immediately.

Baloo has since moved to Colorado and is doing fine. **But had he stayed here on our little isle, his owner could be assured that while we may be small, we are capable of practicing big medicine.**

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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. Thank you for making this a better world for animals.

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MSPCA ANIMAL CARE AND ADOPTION CENTERS (ACACs)

Boston ACAC

mspca.org/boston

Lost and Found: Bringing Stripey Home

For Stripey, being lost is nothing new. In her eight years, this little pink-nosed, black and white cat has had four homes. Finally, after returning to the MSPCA-Boston Animal Care and Adoption Center for the second time, she found her new forever home. Her new family fell in love with her gracious spirit and adoring green eyes. We were certain that this was Stripey's last move.

Unfortunately weeks later, the call came in to the Boston adoption center; Stripey was missing. She had snuck out the door on a snowy Sunday evening — an accident that could happen to anyone. We were quick to advise the family on how to search for their missing family member, knowing that it can be daunting to locate a lost pet.

The first action we recommend is searching the immediate property. Most indoor-only cats will hide once they realize that they are no longer in their safe, comfortable home. Ask for your neighbor's help and permission to search their property too. This should be done as soon as you realize your cat is missing. Stripey's family searched their property and neighborhood every single day.

Additionally, we recommend posting signs everywhere you are able. Stripey's family posted legible signs that conveyed their message quickly. Use brightly-colored poster board and include a picture and description of your pet with bold contact information.

Notifying all local, animal-related agencies is also an important factor in locating a missing pet. Stripey's family filed a report with their local Animal Control Officer and adoption centers.

MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Center
350 South Huntington Ave.
Boston, MA 02130
617 522-5055

Director of Adoption Centers: Jean Weber
Manager: Meagan Rock
Assistant Manager: Alexina Thompson
Project Coordinator: Laura Hagen
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



Stripey was found three weeks after going missing only a few blocks away.

Three weeks after Stripey went missing, she was found less than four blocks from her home. A local business found her on their property, recognized her from the lost pet signs in the area and called her owners immediately. Thanks to the persistence of the local community and her new family, Stripey is now safe.

It is important to remember that all pets, even indoor cats, should always wear a collar and tag for identification. We also recommend microchipping your pets for permanent identification.

For more information about how to prevent losing your pet and how to find your pet if they become missing, please visit our Web site: www.mspca.org/lostpet.

Cape Cod ACAC

mspca.org/cape



Older cats are usually overlooked by potential adopters, but they make truly amazing companions.

Martha's Vineyard ACAC

mspca.org/marthasvineyard

Happily Ever After...Finally

Buddy and Shadow turn heads wherever they go. While residing at the Martha's Vineyard adoption center, they were affectionately referred to as "livestock" due to their extreme sizes. Buddy is a five-year-old, 140-pound Dogue de Bordeaux and Shadow is a seven-year-old, 200-pound Great Dane.

These best friends have lived together most of their lives and first came to the Boston adoption center in 2006 when their owners divorced and could not keep them. After a week, they were transferred to Martha's Vineyard where their chance of finding a home together would be easier. The boys quickly won the hearts of the Vineyard staff and all of the regular visitors.

Unfortunately, finding them a home together was not easy, simply because of their massive sizes and the emotional and financial investment required in making a long-term commitment to SO much dog! Buddy and Shadow remained at the Vineyard adoption center for several months, waiting for a forever home. However, the staff was not willing to give up and was certain there was someone out there who would fall in love with these big boys.

The Mahoney family from Mashpee always had extra-large dogs, and after seeing Buddy and Shadow on the MSPCA-Angell Web site, they made the trip to meet them. It was love at first sight for everyone and the Mahoney family adopted the pair.

A year later, a work transfer had the Mahoney's unexpectedly moving to Hawaii, causing transportation and quarantine problems for Buddy and Shadow. They

MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Center
276 Vineyard Haven Road
Edgartown, MA 02539
508 627-8662

Manager: Ron Whitney
Project Coordinator: Jennifer Morgan
Hours:
Tues. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Shadow and Buddy enjoy trips with their new family.

called the adoption center, in tears, fearing their only choice was to give them up. They vowed to come back for them as soon as they worked out the details. They called and e-mailed every day, asking how their babies were doing while working hard to get them back with their family.

In December of 2007, everyone's Christmas wishes came true as the Mahoney's made the decision to return to Cape Cod so that Buddy and Shadow would not have to undergo the physical and emotional stress of being transported so far away. **Their reunion was a joyous one — they were met at the ferry by the entire Mahoney family and everyone returned home together.**



MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Center
1577 Falmouth Road
Centerville, MA 02632
508 775-0940

Manager: Juli Sanborn
Assistant Manager: Jacqui Hedstrom
Project Coordinator: Susan Griffin

Hours:
Sundays, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. (for adoptions only)
Tues. – Sat., 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Closed Mondays

New Home for an Old Soul

Belle, a stray, brown tabby cat, was found by her "Guardian Angel," Erica, in December 2007 as the weather turned cold. Belle, ownerless and surviving meal to meal in frigid temperatures, was looking to leave her harsh life on the streets behind and find a place to call home.

Unfortunately, when Erica brought Belle into her home, her other cats were not as welcoming — despite every effort made by her rescuer. Erica knew that Belle deserved a home of her own and brought her to the MSPCA-Cape Cod Animal Care and Adoption Center in the hopes that a match would be made.

Due to Belle's years of homelessness, her body had aged ahead of its time and the best estimates put her at roughly 10 years old. She was long-haired and beautiful in her own right, but finding a home for an older cat frequently proves challenging. Many older cats are overlooked due to their age and many times health issues further challenge the adoption process. Thankfully, an examination cleared Belle of many health concerns despite her years of fending for herself.

Christmas and New Years passed while Belle shared the holidays with the adoption center staff and the many other animals that were looking for new homes. Belle easily won the hearts of the staff, but the real challenge was winning the heart of an adopter.

After many months waiting, Belle was finally adopted in early February 2008, following an appearance on a local cable television station. Coincidentally, her new "Guardian Angel" was also named Erica and she saw the beauty in Belle's old soul and found the companion she wanted.

These two are now best-friends. Belle is an amazing example of how older cats can make the best companions.

MSPCA ANIMAL CARE AND ADOPTION CENTERS (ACACs)

Metro South ACAC

mspca.org/metrosouth



Shadow the Australian Shepherd and his owner Betty Lynde practice the tunnel obstacle in the MSPCA-Metro South agility yard.
(Photograph by Kristen McKinnon)

Spotlight on Agility!

During a typical week, the MSPCA-Metro South Animal Care and Adoption Center outdoor dog yard is somewhat barren — a simple expanse of grass and fencing. Come Saturday mornings, however, the yard comes to life. Colorful equipment emerges from the adjoining shed and soon the area is filled with jumps and tunnels — not to mention a chattering, barking herd of excited agility students, both canine and human. They are here to get down to the serious business of having fun.

The Metro South adoption center has offered canine agility classes for many years, recognizing that this canine sport encourages physical well-being and reinforces the human-canine bond.

"I enjoy the beginner's classes the best — it is great to see how amazed and gratified the handlers are when their hard work pays off and all of sudden, their dogs complete

**MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Center
1300 West Elm St. Extension
Brockton, MA 02301
508 586-2053**

Manager: Kim Heise
Assistant Manager: Joyce McFadden
Project Coordinator: Jennifer Alvarez
Hours:
Tues., Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Thurs., 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.

the obstacles," notes Tony Bilotta, our eight-year veteran agility teacher and volunteer. "Of course, I also like to see the accomplishments of the experienced handlers and dogs that have pretty much mastered the obstacles and move along like lightning!"

"It really does bring an extra closeness between you and your dog," says volunteer Jan Saunders, who attends the classes with her Shetland Sheepdog, Spencer. "It certainly bolsters your previous obedience training, and reinforces positive socialization with other dogs. And it is great, great exercise!"

Tony recalls amazing breakthroughs made on the agility course, particularly noting the hard work and perseverance of one owner on a particular Rottweiler's behalf. "Bamff took almost three years to get over his fear of the dog walk obstacle. Finally, one day it happened — Bamff did the dog walk! Everyone cheered so loud you would have thought that someone hit a grand slam in the World Series!"

Agility classes are held in six-week sessions at the MSPCA-Metro South throughout the summer and fall, as long as the weather is suitable. For more information, visit www.mspca.org/agilityclasses.

Nantucket Island ACAC

mspca.org/nantucket



Left to Right: Gwennie, Sweet Pea and Harley finally found their forever homes, together.

Three's a Charm

When Gwennie, Sweet Pea and Harley were surrendered to the MSPCA-Nantucket Animal Care and Adoption Center because their owner had died of leukemia, we knew it was going to be a challenging adoption. They are all Aussie Shepherd crosses; Harley was a seven-year-old boy, Gwennie was five and Sweet Pea was 15. In addition, because Sweet Pea and Gwennie were so bonded, we wanted to keep the girls together.

Soon after their arrival, Sweet Pea underwent major dental surgery as well as a benign growth removal, and all three dogs lingered at the adoption center. Even though they were the most gracious, well-behaved dogs, Sweet Pea's age made many potential adopters hesitant. Some people were afraid of becoming attached to a dog that did not have many years left. Others were afraid of incurring the costs that go along with older animals.

Months later, a woman from Mashpee spotted the girls on Petfinder.com. She had no trouble with Sweet Pea's age; she just wanted to make sure they both got along with Rudy, their eight-year-old Mastiff. She and her husband made the trip to Nantucket to meet the girls. Sweet Pea, almost totally deaf, was such a character

**MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Center
21 Crooked Lane, Nantucket, MA 02554
508 825-2287**

Director: Paula Klek, DVM
Adoption Center Manager: Jessica Sosebee
Project Coordinator: Stephanie Henke

Hours:
Tues. – Sat., 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

that the couple fell for her first and Rudy didn't seem to mind the girls either. We knew then that it was going to happen — they were finally going to find a home together.

What we did not expect was what happened next. The woman mentioned that her dad was looking for a dog and Harley seemed to be a good fit. When Harley met her father, it was an instant match! All three dogs left that afternoon and headed for their new homes. We couldn't have imagined a happier ending to this adoption story.

To find your perfect match, visit www.mspca.org to view our adoptable animals today.

Nevins Farm ACAC

mspca.org/nevinsfarm



Mia and Roxi sharing a meal at Nevins Farm prior to being adopted.

More to Love: Large Surrenders at Nevins Farm

In November of 2004, the MSPCA at Nevins Farm and another local rescue organization jointly seized 28 severely emaciated horses, living in squalid conditions without adequate food or water. Fifteen of those horses came to Nevins Farm to be nursed back to health while the owner awaited trial. After three long years, with health and nobility restored, the horses were legally turned over to the MSPCA — and were finally allowed to be placed for adoption!

To date, the staff has found loving homes for six of the once neglected horses, with a goal of placing the rest in 2008. Here are three 'Happy Trails':

Mia was so starved upon her arrival that she was unable to stand on her own. She is now sound and happy and is able to return the love to her new family.

Roxi and Braveheart have been equally as fortunate. Both have found fantastic homes where they are lavished with affection. Roxi loves to go for long walks in the woods, while Braveheart has found a new companion, Gypsy, with whom he shares a beautiful new barn.

**MSPCA at Nevins Farm
400 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844
978 687-7433**

Animal Care and Adoption Center

Manager: Mike Keiley

Project Coordinator: Jill O'Connell

Equine and Farm Animal Care and

Adoption Center

Manager: Pam Nixon

Equine Rescue and Training

Manager: Roger Lauze

Hours:

Animal Care and Adoption Center
Tues., Wed. and Fri., 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Thurs., 12 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Sat. and Sun., 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Equine and Farm Animal Care and

Adoption Center

Tues. – Sat., 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed Sundays, Mondays and Holidays

Hillside Acre Cemetery

Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed Sundays and Holidays



Mia horsing around!

Nevins Farm also cared for approximately 1,000 chickens and ducks that were seized by MSPCA Law Enforcement officers in November 2007. Found residing in appalling conditions, the birds were painstakingly nursed back to health by both volunteers and staff. All of the chickens have since found new homes, but many of the ducks are looking for someone to love! (See page six for details.)

All of these animals were saved due to the generous support of our community, including cruelty tips made to our Law Enforcement department, volunteer help with chores and monetary donations. Together, we brought these beautiful creatures back to health and happiness. We are grateful to our adopters and all who have lent a helping hand.

You, too, can help by donating to Ashton's Hope Fund at www.mspca.org/ashton, which directly assists horses and farm animals by covering medical costs to help them regain their vitality. Good health is an extraordinary gift to give!



INTERNATIONAL

Western New England ACAC

mspca.org/wne



Orville (aka Liam) was diagnosed with a hole in his heart and a murmur.

Love is a Matter of the Heart

Orville and Wilbur were four-week-old kittens when they arrived at the MSPCA-Western New England Animal Care and Adoption Center. As underage kittens, a foster home was needed. For more than six years, premier foster volunteers, Buffy Spencer and Don Williams, have provided outstanding care to more than 125 kittens in need of TLC and time to grow.

Buffy and Don were delighted to welcome the two kittens into their home, but soon noticed that Orville was not feeling well. While kittens grow rapidly, Orville was half the size of Wilbur and lethargic. An examination revealed that Orville had a heart murmur. In some cases, kittens will outgrow low-grade murmurs; however, Orville's murmur was serious and the prognosis was not good. Orville would not likely survive a year. An echocardiogram confirmed that diagnosis, but due to his young age, doctors recommended that the test be repeated in a month. Every effort would be made to find a home with a special family that would be willing to adopt both boys knowing that heartbreak would come all too soon.

Enter Merridith and Scott Darcy who saw the stories of Orville and Wilbur on the MSPCA-Angell Web site and were already interested in adopting a kitten to join their three adult cats, Hepzibah, Rupert and Desmond.

Dr. Gregg Rapoport, an Angell-Boston cardiologist, confirmed that Orville had a serious murmur caused by a damaged valve and, additionally, he had a hole in his heart. Surprisingly, Dr. Rapoport believed there was a good chance that the hole might actually close as Orville grew and that the murmur was secondary. If the hole closed, the valve could repair itself. Orville was sent home without restrictions on enjoying kittenhood, and life, to its fullest.



Liam enjoys his kittenhood with his new family.

**MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Center
171 Union Street, Springfield, MA 01105
413 736-2992**

Adoption Center Manager: Pam Peebles

Hours:

Tues., Wed. and Fri., 12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thurs., 12 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Sat. and Sun., 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Closed Mondays

According to the Darcys, fast friendships have formed. Within their first weekend home, Orville bravely ventured out of his room, walking right through the legs and under the chins of the big cats. Rupert designated himself official babysitter and looks for the kittens when they are out of sight for too long. Wilbur initiated sleeping in bed with his new family and Orville wasn't shy about staking his claim to an available pillow. Orville is growing into his new name...Liam...which means "strong willed warrior."



Liam is living his life to the fullest with his buddy, Wilbur.

Diamonds in the Ruff Thrift Shoppe

The MSPCA-WNE Animal Care and Adoption Center announces the opening of its sparkling new thrift shop. All proceeds benefit the homeless animals.

The American Fondouk

fondouk.org



This baby goat received vital vaccinations free-of-charge at the American Fondouk.

**The American Fondouk c/o MSPCA
350 South Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02130
888-FONDOUK
(888 366-3685)**

**The American Fondouk
B.P. 2048, Fez (V.N.) Morocco
011-212-055-93-1953**

procedures. Your donations to the American Fondouk instantly provide a direct impact on thousands of animals in need.

Here is what your donation to the American Fondouk can do:

- \$2 provides life-saving worming treatment for a cat, \$3 for a dog
- \$4 provides stomach surgery on a goat or sheep
- \$6 enables us to spay a dog, \$3 for a cat
- \$11 pays for tumor removal surgery in a mule or horse
- \$20 pays for hernia surgery on a horse
- \$50 covers all of the above procedures

An estimated 7,000 animals would die within three months without this support. Contributions are vital in helping save the lives of these animals and the people who depend on them to survive and every donation counts.

To learn more about the American Fondouk or to make a donation, visit www.americanfondouk.org.

Mail



To ALL at the MSPCA,
We adopted an approximately one-year-old dog in 1993 from the Centerville, Cape Cod facility. We knew from the minute we saw her

that she was the right dog for our family. I had just turned 12, and I remember bringing her home — it was the best thing I could have imagined — our first dog. She was everything we could have hoped for. She went by the name "Digger" in the facility, and somehow on the ride home, we came up with the name "Harley." They didn't know exactly what type of dog she was, but they assumed she was definitely a Spaniel and possibly Dalmatian mix — she was absolutely beautiful. She had this large-heart shaped spot on her side, which was nothing in comparison to the size of her actual

heart. She was the most loving friend I could have ever asked for.

With sadness, we had to put Harley to sleep when she was 15. She had such an awesome, loving, fun and fulfilling life — she was the queen of our household. She had the spark of a puppy, and the nine lives of a cat, up until her age finally caught up to her.

I am now 26 and I would like to say from my family, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the joy and love that your organization brings to families like ours and animals of all types. I could go on with stories, because she gave us a lifetime of memories, but we just wanted to sincerely thank the MSPCA for allowing us to adopt our loving dog, and for the chance they give so many others who so gratefully deserve it.

Sincerely,

Christopher Loughman
Bourne, MA

In loving memory of Harley

Please visit
mspca.org/companion
to donate!



LAW ENFORCEMENT

WNE Law Enforcement: It Is Not Only about Animals with Four Legs

Sometimes it is about animals with no legs. Last fall, Officer Christine Allenberg was contacted by the property manager of an apartment complex in Springfield about a unit that had been emptied except for some clothes, trash and a large snake in an aquarium.

The MSPCA Law Enforcement department investigated and determined that a snake was left in the unheated apartment that appeared to have been hastily vacated. After obtaining a search warrant, Officer Allenberg found not one, but two snakes: a Ball Python and a Red-Tailed Boa, each approximately three-feet long. The snakes were immediately transported to the MSPCA-Western New England Animal Care and Adoption Center.

After the investigation, Officer Allenberg located the owner of the snakes who said that she had been given an order to vacate the premises. While relocating, she returned to the apartment to retrieve the snakes, but discovered the locks had been changed. She had made numerous attempts to contact the landlord, but her calls were not returned. Even though the owner knew the snakes were not due to be fed for another few weeks, she was extremely concerned about the welfare of her pets, but regrettably, did not know who to call for help.

Upon finding the snakes' owner, Officer Allenberg explained the role of the MSPCA Law Enforcement department as an entity that protects animals, responds to cruelty complaints, enforces animal cruelty laws and makes every effort to educate offenders before filing for prosecution. It was through this department that two pets of a very different variety were reunited with their happy family member.

Please visit
mspca.org/companion
to donate!

Boston Law Enforcement

Case Update #1 In November 2007, Officer Nadya Branca began an investigation in Worcester County. During the investigation, the defendant surrendered 300 ducks and over 700 chickens to the MSPCA at Nevins Farm. The defendant had kept more than 1,000 starving birds, housed together with scores of bird corpses, in detestable unsanitary conditions. After further investigation, the defendant was charged with multiple counts of animal cruelty. Settlement of the case is pending. (Read more about the successful adoption of these animals on page 4.)



Before being surrendered to the MSPCA, over 1,000 birds were kept in deplorable conditions.



Ducks recovering at Nevins Farm after being surrendered.

Case Update #2 In January 2008, a case investigated in 2007 by Officer Martha Parkhurst was resolved. A Middlesex County defendant pled guilty to animal cruelty charges for knowingly permitting her dog to suffer unnecessarily. After the defendant's dog allegedly was hit by a car, she failed to address her dog's obvious suffering. Her dog suffered from an openly fractured leg — the dog's leg bone was visible, and the non-functional, mangled foot pointed in the wrong direction. In addition to agreeing to a six-month suspended sentence, the defendant will not be permitted to own any animals for her one-year probation.

The MSPCA's Law Enforcement Department Thanks You

The MSPCA Law Enforcement Department takes this opportunity to officially acknowledge Bob Peixinho of 138 Auto Mall of Raynham (38 Broadway, Rt. 138, 508 823-6700). Bob's invaluable assistance and substantial generosity has enabled the Law Enforcement department to continue enforcing the animal cruelty laws — in an updated, virtually new vehicle. The entire department and organization extends its gratitude.

ADVOCACY



The GeesePeace Program helps communities prevent Canada Geese conflicts.

Trouble with Canada Geese?

The MSPCA's Living With Wildlife program has produced a 13-minute DVD entitled "Resolving Conflicts with Canada Geese in Massachusetts." Learn how communities can humanely prevent and/or resolve Canada Geese conflicts by following the three strategies of the nationally recognized GeesePeace Program.

Order this effective educational tool for policy makers, land owners, municipal officials, business owners and others by visiting www.mspca.org/geesedvd.



Learn how you can help animals through our Animal Action Team.

Join the Animal Action Team!

Interested in becoming more involved in public policy matters affecting animals in Massachusetts? Join the Animal Action Team by logging onto www.mspca.org/jointheteam and make your voice heard on behalf of animals! You will receive monthly e-Newsletters and periodic action alerts that will keep you up-to-date on animal-related legislation and policy issues. You will also be able to take action by sending e-mails directly to your legislators from our Web site.

Berkshire Wetlands and Beavers Get a Boost

Thanks to a generous grant from the Nion Robert Thieriot Foundation, the MSPCA will be spending some time in Berkshire County beaver ponds this spring and summer. The Thieriot Foundation shares our interest in resolving human/beaver conflicts in ways that maintain wetland habitats and protect beavers. Flow devices are ideal for humanely mitigating beaver-related flooding and we will be working to install devices throughout the Berkshire region of western Massachusetts.

For more information, contact Linda Huebner at lhuebner@mspca.org.

Dog Fighting Bills Need Your Support

Please contact your legislators to urge their support of H. 1529 — a bill that would increase the penalties for being a spectator at an animal fight.

More information on this and other important bills can be found at www.mspca.org/governmentaffairs.

Get Ready to Vote for Greyhounds in November

On November 4th, voters across Massachusetts will have the opportunity to end dog racing in the Commonwealth! We will need the help of our members and supporters! To volunteer, please e-mail jodie@protectdogs.org. We are also raising funds for television ads and other important campaign components.

Please consider making a special donation to the campaign directly: The Committee to Protect Dogs, P.O. Box 442176, Somerville, MA 02144.

Phinney's Best Friend

Phinney's Friends is an MSPCA, volunteer-based program committed to assisting people who are living with HIV/AIDS by providing pet care services, financial assistance for routine veterinary care and pet foster care. The program works to keep companion animals healthy, which in turn keeps people healthy.

The Pooch Palace in Watertown is a doggie daycare, boarding and grooming hotel that holds a very special place in the heart of the Phinney's Friends program.

For over 11 years, Marcia Sasso, owner of The Pooch Palace, and her right-hand man, Nick Bailey, have been raising money for Phinney's Friends through their annual holiday fundraising drives. Additionally, she generously matches all funds raised by The Pooch Palace clients, dollar for dollar.

The Pooch Palace is the largest single contributor to Phinney's Friends; the company has donated over \$250,000 to the program over the years.

The support of Phinney's Best Friend, The Pooch Palace, has allowed the program to



Two Pooch Palace clients participating in a Photo Day Fundraiser for Phinney's Friends.

assist hundreds of people and their pets. Thank you to Marcia, Nick and everyone at The Pooch Palace for allowing Phinney's to help keep people, and their best friends, together.

For more program information, contact 617 514-5105. Phinney's Friends depends entirely on donations. Please send your gift to: MSPCA-Angell, c/o Phinney's Friends, 350 South Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130.



GIVING

A Home-Run for the Animals

When a year had passed since the death of Bob and Rose O'Neill's German Shepherd, Jack, the couple started thinking of ways to honor his memory.

At Pine Banks Park in Melrose on August 18, 2007, about 24 players gathered on a gorgeous, windy morning to play ball. There was food and drink for the teams and many spectators, including Libby, a rescue dog from Hurricane Katrina who found a great new home in Massachusetts.

The tournament raised over \$700 in registration fees and donations for the MSPCA-Angell. We are so grateful to the O'Neills for thinking of such a unique way to honor the memory of their dog and help



Bob and Rose O'Neill's baseball tournament.

other animals in the process. Stay tuned for next year's tournament!

Have a fundraising idea of your own? Please contact Kathleen Santry at 617 541-5075 or ksantry@mspca.org.

Sun Life Makes Our Life Easier!

If you have driven Route 9 in Wellesley, you have surely noticed the sprawling complex that makes up Sun Life Financial, an international financial services organization with over 3,000 employees in the United States. Among those 3,000 are, luckily for us, a whole lot of passionate animal lovers!

Since 1994, Sun Life has contributed over \$79,000 to the MSPCA-Angell through a combination of employee giving pledges and corporate donations. Every year the company sponsors a week-long employee charitable giving drive, including an open house for participating charities. Employees meet charity representatives, attend

presentations and make their yearly pledges.

This year, in addition to sending MSPCA-Angell Development staff to the drive, Advocacy Director Kara Holmquist (with her dog Finley) and Law Enforcement Director Peter Gollub gave a talk on cruelty to animals. Enthusiastic Sun Life communications staff leaders, Tasha Morris and Kim McCarthy, organized the drive and visited our Boston facility to take the "grand tour." Tasha has also visited our adoption center on her own, since she and her son are looking for the right dog to adopt.

Friends like Sun Life are critical to our fundraising success, and their enthusiasm provides us with moral support as well. If you think your company can help us in a similar fashion, please contact Diane Wald at 617 541-5067 or dwald@mspca.org.

to drop off much needed items like towels, blankets, paper goods and toys.

Another creative animal lover, young Kathryn Shortsleeve, is selling denim "Pockets for Pooches," and donating 10% of the proceeds to us. She's already sold \$100 worth of these cute mini-pocketbooks.

There is also 12-year-old Lara Seltzer who asked her friends and family to donate to the MSPCA-Angell instead of giving her birthday presents. Her dog Kira was a patient at Angell-Boston and the Seltzers memorialized her with a leaf on our Tree of Life. Lara raised \$200 for the Angell-Boston Emergency and Critical Care Service and her dad matched that donation.

If a young member of your family would like to help animals in a similarly ingenious way, contact Kathleen Santry at 617 541-5075 or ksantry@mspca.org.

Kids Pitch in for Kindness

The MSPCA-Angell is fortunate to have some very imaginative young folks working for our cause.

Four years ago, Jonathan Marsh's family lost their dog Buddy when he was hit by a car on New Year's Eve. They rushed him to Angell-Boston, but it was too late. Inspired by the kindness of our staff, the Marshes started the "Buddy Walk." Every New Year's day, following a tailgate party, people walk their dogs around Lake Waban in Wellesley in memory of Buddy. They raised over \$300 this year for the MSPCA-Angell.

Jonathan himself ran a goods drive for his bar mitzvah that required two trips to our Boston Animal Care and Adoption Center



The annual Buddy Walk raises funds for the MSPCA-Angell.

Kathryn Shortsleeve created "Pockets for Pooches" to help raise money for the MSPCA.



Jonathan Marsh ran a goods drive to collect items for the Boston adoption center.



On the Web

www.mspca.org



MSPCA-Angell e-Newsletter

Find out what's new with the MSPCA-Angell and stay current on upcoming events by signing up for our bi-monthly e-Newsletter! Please visit www.mspca.org/enews to sign up today!

MSPCA-Angell Honor e-Cards

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

Pet Portal

Access your pet's health information online to refill prescriptions, view upcoming appointments, update account information and check your pet's vaccination status. Pet Portal is easy, convenient and free! If you are an Angell client, please visit www.mspca.org and click on the Pet Portal button to sign up.



MSPCA-Angell e-Store

Shop for gifts, pet products and much more at the MSPCA-Angell online store. The MSPCA-Angell will

receive proceeds from your purchases. Start shopping today and make a difference at www.mspca.org.

Power Up the Clicker!

Quick Training Tips by MSPCA Dog Trainer Terri Bright

What is a clicker? A clicker is usually a small plastic box with a metal tab fitted inside. When you depress the metal tab quickly it produces a sharp "click." The click is used to "mark" a behavior.

This exercise will teach you how to pair the sound of the clicker with a reward for your dog. When you see your dog doing a behavior you like, such as sit, attention or down, you click and give him a treat.



Here's how:

- 1 **Tether your dog, or stand on his leash so he or she will stay near you.**
- 2 **Hold the clicker in your right hand.**
- 3 **Hold a small piece of food in your left hand.**
- 4 **Push your thumb on the metal part until it makes a "click" sound.**
- 5 **Immediately give a small treat to your dog.**
- 6 **Repeat 10 times.**
- 7 **Your dog will probably do something to "make the clicker go off," such as sit. As soon as that behavior happens, be sure to click! Then give him or her a treat.**
- 8 **If your dog looks at you, or sits, or just stands there without jumping up, click! Then give him or her a treat.**

Remember, click the behaviors you like, and give your dog a treat immediately. You will start to see those behaviors increase.

For more information on MSPCA dog training and to register for classes, visit www.mspca.org/dogtraining.



Liz Allison, MSPCA-Angell Board Member, with husband Graham, and their dog Annie.



Sarah Monaco, MSPCA-Angell Overseer, with husband Peter, and their dog Lucy.



MSPCA-Angell President Carter Luke and Penny Schiller with Teddy.

In a Tent under the Stars...

Close to 350 animal lovers and their canine companions gathered together in a festive tent on the grounds of the MSPCA-Angell in Boston on May 8th to celebrate our 2nd annual Animal Tales Gala. In honor of the occasion Boston Mayor Thomas Menino proclaimed South Huntington Avenue the "Avenue of the Animals" for the day.

Lively conversation over cocktails and light fare led into the evening's program, hosted by emcee Greg Hill of WAAF. Guests applauded enthusiastically (and dogs barked!) as President Carter Luke and others narrated the tales of animals whose lives were changed for the better as a result of MSPCA-Angell programs and services. Honored animals included Shadow, a dog whose life has been vastly improved by Angell's Pain Medicine Service; Fred and Ginger, two ducks rescued from horrifying conditions by our Law Enforcement officers; Scooby and Chininha, best-friend Chihuahuas and clients of our Phinney's Friends program; and Sunny, a senior Chow-Husky mix whose rescue, rehabilitation and adoption by her Angell cardiologist touched every heart in the room.

Luke also offered sincere gratitude to our generous sponsors and to the event committee, led by honorary co-chairs Julie Kahn and Dan Scully, who brought daughter Samantha and one of their dogs, Roosevelt.

Another high point of the evening was the live auction with guest auctioneer Stacey Lucchino, including such coveted items as tickets to Boston sports events, tickets to



Bill Busch with MSPCA-Angell Board Member, Jessica Gifford Busch, Anne and Chad Gifford.



René and Gina Robert, Gala Committee member.

see Bruce Springsteen in concert and an array of dining out opportunities at area restaurants. A spirited competition arose for the chance to have the winner's own pet featured on MSPCA-Angell direct mail address labels, and the item proved so popular that four winners were announced.

Through the generosity of all the attendees, over \$330,000 was raised for the animals! If you'd like to see more Gala photographs, go to www.mspca.org/eventphotos.

You know they'd walk for you.

www.walkforanimals.com



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Join us on Sunday, September 7th for the statewide MSPCA-Angell Walk for Animals! Animal lovers (and some of their favorite canines) in Boston, Brockton, Hyannis, Martha's Vineyard and Springfield will be walking on the same day, at the same time, for the same reason: to promote kindness and care for animals. Last year, over 3,000 walkers and 1,000 of their canine companions participated to raise over \$360,000 for the over 250,000 homeless, abused and injured animals treated every year at the MSPCA-Angell. This year we anticipate even more participants for this spectacular event filled with contests, raffles, prizes and more!

For more information and to register for the Walk, visit www.walkforanimals.com.

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Kindness and Care for Animals®

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www.mspca.org

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