



COMPANION

SPECIAL EDITION
EMERGENCY PLANNING
FOR YOU AND
YOUR PET

IF YOU FIND IT HARD TO THINK ABOUT LIFE WITHOUT YOUR PET... IMAGINE YOUR PET'S LIFE WITHOUT YOU.

MORE THAN 500,000 PETS ARE
ORPHANED EACH YEAR
DUE TO THE DEATH
OR DISABILITY OF THEIR
HUMAN COMPANIONS.
2ND CHANCE 4 PETS FOCUSES
OUR ENTIRE EFFORTS ON
ADDRESSING THIS LONG,
UNRECOGNIZED ISSUE.



Two of the many members of Best Friends Animal Society's staff, Paul Berry and Kit Boggio, rushed to the aide of Hurricane Katrina's animal victims along the Gulf Coast (photos courtesy of Troy Snow, www.bestfriends.org).

[More photos >](#)

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

It's been a few months since Hurricane Katrina ripped apart people's lives and our hearts, yet the sadness is not easy to forget. Fortunately, we continue to hear about people reuniting with their human and animal family members and it brings us hope.

One message is very clear--people will not leave their pets behind. In order to save people during a disaster, we must save their pets.

We wonder how many Gulf Coast residents died because they would not abandon their pets. The most important question we must now ask ourselves is "Am I prepared to ensure the safety of my family, including my pets, should disaster strike?" Even though efforts are being made to include the evacuation of pets in emergency plans, it is our responsibility as pet owners to be prepared.

In this issue of *The Companion* we devote the next several pages to providing information and resources to help you be prepared. This information includes how to create an emergency kit for your pets and things to consider as you establish your emergency plan.

We don't know when or if disaster may strike, but let's make sure we are ready – and that we'll be able to keep our pets *safe*.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and safe New Year,

Amy Shever
2nd Chance 4 Pets





Individual volunteers and many animal welfare groups came to the rescue of the animal victims after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. Paul Berry from Best Friends Animal Society in Utah was in New Orleans the day after Hurricane Katrina hit. Paul and a large contingency of the Best Friends staff and volunteers were true heroes in the effort to save animals and reunite them with their human companions. They were the first on the scene and are still there today working out of their satellite sanctuary established in Tylertown, Mississippi. There have been more than 2000 animals that have come through the rescue center, over 600 volunteers and 145+ reunions!

Other major rescue efforts were conducted by HSUS National Disaster Animal Response Team, ASPCA, The Humane Society of Louisiana and Mark and Shannon Martin of Athens, Georgia who set up a staging area at a New Orleans' Winn Dixie Marketplace. (Photos courtesy of Troy Snow, www.bestfriends.org)

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Being a "grass roots", nonprofit organization, we are grateful and overwhelmed with the support we have received. We appreciate your time and contributions. No donation is too small!

Thank you! Animal Welfare Trust • PetSmart • Ameriquest • Petsport USA • Clay Myers WebEx • Tam Patane • Barbara McCann • Jaspal Singh • Michelle Erlichman • Shervelle Marquina • M. Zechlin • W. McConnell • Ivonne Karstedt • E. Bosch • S. Flippo • N.D. Marek M. Covington • Mr. and Mrs. Meester • M. Lowe • E. Vichules • Duncan Strauss • Gerry Beyer GOOGLE • Aline Soules • Angela Wagner • Annette Cupan • Bryan McNeal • Carol Armstrong Cheryl Berry • Cheryl Romano • Clare Keating • Dan G • Dan Leister • Deborah Adams Deborah Cunningham • Diane Weltzer • Elizabeth Olson • Jana Owens • Jennifer McManus Lisa Bradley • Lisa Frederick • Martha Xenias • Michele Moyer • Michelle San Pedro • Nicole Boals • Patricia Clerico-Parham • Ruth Olsen • Shannon Berry • Kathleen Davidson • Jared Moon • Thom Howard • Beth Ellen McKinney • Elaine White • Katharine Moore • Melody Chu Julie Campbell • Denise Griffiths • Dan Vold • Beth Pernerewski • Lisa Moss • Amy Farnham 8 in 1 Pet Products • Tom Wetzel • Greenberg Foundation • Lynne & Katie Haufman • Ken Podgorsek • Alexa Pecore • Cheryl Oldroyd • Deborah Huelsbergen • Janine Warrington Jennifer Pflackl • Liz Masoner • Maria Waddell • Neal McLaughlin • Patty McIlvaine • Robyn Phelps • Shannon Bancharo • Gordon & Barbara Vold • Cecelia Rose Foundation • M. Zechlin N.D. Marek • M. Covington • M. Lowe • W. Bosch • Aldo's Ristorante • M. Reuter • Mr. and Mrs. Grutchfield • S. Flippo • W. Garner • W. McConnell • Willow Street Pizza • R. O'Neill Neeps, Inc. • Katharine Davidson • J. Gunter • Jill Cline • G. Thompson • G. Valerio • E. Vichules Vinnie Hayes • Carie Parker • Melissa Boyd • Ryan Ronning • Janine Bray • Roger Chapanis Charlene Palmer • Debra White • Bonnie Rouse • Suzanne Walenta • Candis Hecking • David Barnes • Danielle Zent • Viviana Walker • Michael Montoya • Carie Parker • PETCO

ARE YOU AND YOUR PETS READY FOR AN EMERGENCY?

Hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, flashfloods and earthquakes all have the potential to devastate communities, entire cities, and even large portions of states. If a disaster swept through your community, does your evacuation plan include arrangements for your animal companions?

Local, state, and federal agencies are exploring new and more efficient emergency preparedness plans to reduce the number of casualties and displaced residents. However, as the Katrina disaster revealed, emergency evacuation, rescue, and shelter strategies may not include plans for our pets. Therefore, those of us with pets as part of our families must take it upon ourselves to ensure the safety for our entire family.

Although humane organizations and local politicians are initiating efforts to include the immediate rescue and temporary care and housing of displaced animals, the initial responsibility for pet welfare still belongs with the pet owners. It is imperative to have an emergency kit for both humans and animals in addition to an evacuation plan.

EVACUATING AND TRANSPORTATION

In the first few moments of an emergency, time is critical. Planning now will ensure a smooth and efficient evacuation. If severe weather is on the horizon, don't wait until mandatory evacuation orders are issued.

Pre-planning includes contacting hotels, family, and friends outside of your area. It's important to maintain an up-to-date list of lodging options that accept pets. Check with distant friends and relatives to make sure they will welcome your pet during an emergency. Additionally, ensure that a neighbor can evacuate your pet safely if you are out of town during an emergency. Provide this neighbor with a key to your home, written instructions and the location of your pet emergency kit. Never leave an animal companion behind.

Emergencies, by definition, can occur without advanced warning. Preparedness can ensure that both you and your pets will be safe and secure should disaster strike. The following checklist includes items that are necessary to ensure this security.

PET EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

- ✓ Crate or carrier large enough for your pet to stand up and move around in and a sheet for cover.
- ✓ Current photos and licenses to prove ownership.
- ✓ Two-week supply of food. If your pets eat only canned food, include a can opener.
- ✓ Three-day supply of bottled water.
- ✓ One-month supply of medicine, if applicable.
- ✓ Non-spill feeding bowls.
- ✓ Cat litter and pan.
- ✓ Leashes.
- ✓ Plastic bags and newspaper for waste disposal.
- ✓ Blankets or towels.
- ✓ Paper towels.
- ✓ Combs/brushes.
- ✓ Disinfectants.
- ✓ Radio, flashlight and batteries.
- ✓ Favorite toys.

HELPFUL LINKS

- Alley Cat Allies: www.alleycat.org
American Red Cross: www.redcross.org
ASPCA : www.asPCA.org
Best Friends Animal Sanctuary: www.bestfriends.org
Humane Society of the US: www.hsus.org
Noah's Wish: www.noahswish.org

Animal shelters in storm-impacted areas often set up evacuation sites nearby. In the event of a disaster, animal shelters in Gainesville, FL are ready to accept animals displaced from other parts of the state. The Houston SPCA starts hurricane planning in February, even though the storm season does not begin until June 1st. According to Alice Sarmiento, director of operations for the Houston SPCA, "We make information to the public about preparing for an emergency, including how to evacuate with pets." Pet owners should call their local humane society and Red Cross to determine what local evacuation plans are available for pet owners. Determine if the temporary shelter will have a limit, where it is located, and what requirements



they have (many will require that your pets are up-to-date will all vaccinations). Consult the yellow pages, pets911.com or petfinder.com for an animal shelter near you.

If you own a car, determine the quickest route out of town. Make sure your car is in good working condition. When severe weather is forecast, fill up the gas tank so you and your pets are not stranded. If you rely on public transportation, network with other pet owners, family, friends, or neighbors for transportation options.

When fleeing during a storm, keep pets out of open trucks. Dogs can be thrown at sudden turns or abrupt stops. Loud noises scare some animals. Wind-tossed fragments can harm them. Tying animals down poses serious problems too. "If you must transport a dog or other animal

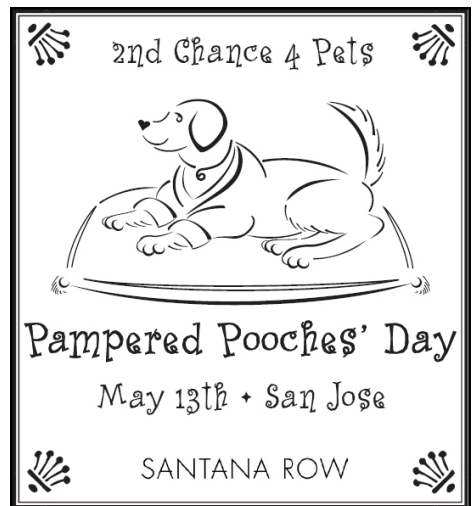
in the truck's rear, use a crate," says Dr. Marnie Duplissis of the McClintock Animal Care Center in Tempe, AZ. "Anchor the crate securely and place the animal inside."

IDENTIFICATION

Make sure each pet wears a collar with current ID. "Microchips are recommended," says Bari Mears, president of the Pets911 Auxiliary in Phoenix, but only as secondary ID because in emergencies chip scanners may be unavailable. We recommend using both a tag and a microchip for most pets. Attach the phone number of a family member or friend not in the disaster area to your pets' collars. If someone finds your pet they can either reach you or provide care for your pets temporarily.

It is imperative to maintain up-to-date records for your pets: photos, ownership and/or adoption certificates, veterinarian information, immunization records, prescriptions, surgeries, special dietary requirements and special needs. Include any and all medication with dosage instructions and enough medications to last several days in case help is delayed.

Also, use our emergency ID cards, downloadable from our website at www.2ndchance4pets.org and also found on page 5 of this issue of *The Companion*.





PetGuardian

Providing loving care for your pet is a lifelong commitment. Who will be there to honor this commitment if you no longer can?

Year after year, thousands of helpless pets are euthanized after their owners have died. Visit us at www.petguardian.com or call 1.888.843.4040 to find out how to establish an affordable PetGuardian Pet Trust Plan to ensure the lifelong care of your pet.



in association with



Best Friends
ANIMAL SOCIETY

WWW.PETGUARDIAN.COM

FIND YOUR NEXT PET ON THE NET

In 2005, online sales are expected to hit \$172 billion in the United States. Just as shopping malls once revolutionized the shopping experience by putting many stores under one roof, the Internet now does so by putting it all at our fingertips 24 hours a day. Now, imagine searching the Internet to find a new best friend!

Meet Petfinder.com Petfinder.com is an easy-to-use database, a virtual home to more than 180,000 pets from all parts of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. These pets' stories and pictures are posted by more than 8,000 shelter and rescue organizations. Finding the perfect companion animal no longer requires coordinating schedules, loading the kids in the car, and spending a teary-eyed afternoon driving from shelter to shelter looking for a particular kind of pet. Now you can search for exactly the right pet, get instant answers to your pet-related questions, and have the satisfaction of finding the pet you want without leaving home. (Do you prefer a purebred? As we mentioned in the first issue of *The Companion* it is surprising to many that 20% of all animals in shelters are purebred.) Best of all, Petfinder.com is completely free for you to use and free for participating shelters.

Note: the Petfinder.com classified ads list adoptable pets that are offered by people rather than organizations, pet wanted ads (viewable only to shelters), and lost and found notices.

Petfinder and Hurricane Katrina After Hurricane Katrina, Petfinder.com used its web site to help the thousands of pets left behind. Petfinder, along with other animal welfare organizations, set up the Animal Emergency Response Network (AERN). This is an interactive, searchable online database, that people used to alert rescue workers to the location of animals left behind. In this database, rescue workers posted photos and information about animals they had rescued. This database also helped locate foster care for displaced animals until the animals could be reunited with their families.

What you can find on Petfinder.com: 8,000 organizations waiting to help you find a new member of your family; over 180,000 homeless pets; 412 breeds of animals; 42 breeds of rabbits; 21 breeds of horses; 91 breeds of cats; and 207 breeds of dogs. Petfinder.com is not just for dogs and cats. On Petfinder, you can also find cows, goats, pot bellied pigs, sheep, turkeys, donkeys, geckos, iguanas, lizards, snakes, turtles, fish, chinchillas, ferrets, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, hedgehogs, mice, prairie dogs, rats and skunks!

Is Petfinder.com successful? Check out this quote from the website: "Many shelter and rescue group members attribute over 50% of their adoptions to Petfinder.com. Some shelters have reported that their euthanasia rate dropped significantly within months of joining Petfinder.com. They also report that Petfinder.com adoptions are more successful, with fewer pets returned. This may be because the adopter's choice is more informed."

Using Petfinder.com Petfinder.com is very easy to use. At Petfinder, you can find the pet you're looking for easily by using the convenient search options. You can search by breed, "already-named pets", "only pets with pictures", "only pets with special needs", "only declawed pets" and "exclude pets not recommended for children".

So the next time you're surfing the Internet, be sure to visit Petfinder.com. With over 180,000 homeless pets available, you will find a wide variety of animals looking for new home and maybe even a new member for your family!

EMERGENCY IDENTIFICATION CARD

In case of emergency, please contact the caregivers listed on this card to make sure my pets are taken care of.
I have ___ pets in my home.



My Address _____

Pet's Name _____	Type of Animal _____
Pet's Name _____	Type of Animal _____
Pet's Name _____	Type of Animal _____

Address _____
Name _____
Address _____
Name _____

In case of emergency, please contact the caregivers listed on this card to make sure my pets are taken care of.

EMERGENCY IDENTIFICATION CARD

Emergency Contact Information for my Pets



Phone Number _____

Our Alternate Phone Numbers _____

Pets in our home _____

Location of leashes, food, medicine _____

VETERINARIAN

Name _____

Phone Number _____

After-hours pet emergency phone number _____

EMERGENCY PET CAREGIVERS

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Name _____

Phone Number _____

2ND CHANCE 4 PETS EMERGENCY ID CARDS

What are Emergency ID and Wallet Cards? These cards are provided by 2nd Chance 4 Pets to post in your home and carry with you in your wallet. This information will alert others to be aware of the pets in your home and who should be contacted to take care of your pets in case of an emergency.

THE LOSS OF A TRUE COMPANION

Barring extreme old age, illness, or accident, we will most likely outlive our animal companions. How we handle the loss is directly related to how much of our lives we have devoted to them. Most pets have devoted their whole lives to us. The longer they are part of our family, the more of life's experiences they share with us. They sustain us through trials and rejoice with us through the good times, and they seem to sense our worry, anxiety, grief, and joy. They are always there, always faithful, always forgiving, and always totally and unselfishly devoted to the individuals who love and care for them. There are countless stories of the heroic actions of pets that have saved the lives of their human companions, sometimes at the cost of their own. They become part of us.

There are many ways, both sudden and prolonged, that our pets can become "lost." A car hit my wife's first dog when he was only two years old; whereas my first dog was euthanized after 16 years when he could no longer hear, see, or even walk. His once-sleek coat was becoming blotched and ragged, and it was time for him to go to a better place. In both cases, we grieved over our losses, but hers' was perhaps far greater than mine because her "Lucy" had not yet lived a full life, while my "Ronnie" had shared many happy years with us and had a good, long life.

These are only two examples of losses. The recent disasters in along the Gulfcoast brought hundreds of other losses to national attention. Some people clung to rooftops not knowing where their pets had gone; others in the upper stories of their homes clutched their pets and refused evacuation because they were unwilling to leave them behind, and still others saw their beloved pets drown, unable to save them. Intense sadness, guilt, anger, anxiety, grief, and indeed the entire gamut of emotions are experienced over a large number of survivors. A few survivors continue to be reunited with their pets, thanks to the dramatic rescue efforts of many pet-oriented organizations, and many pets may find new homes. But the losses, both to pets and to human survivors, is nonetheless staggering. The entire nation witnessed in horror the devastation that occurred to lives and property and watched the sad plight of those who felt forced to leave their beloved pets behind.

How should we cope with this tragedy? What comfort can we offer to people who have lost not only all of the material possessions they have spent their lives accumulating, but also their beloved pets? Timeworn clichés won't suffice. The agony of these losses is almost insurmountable! Little comfort can be found in the fact that thousands of others are literally in the same boat.

The survivors can never get over it; they can only get on with it. The loss of a beloved pet will leave a permanent void; it can never be completely filled. But at least it can be partly filled, when conditions are favorable, by adopting other pets. When the love given to their predecessors is given instead to the new pets, it will surely be returned in kind, and the experience will be especially rewarding if the new pets would otherwise have faced euthanasia because they were homeless.

A formal memorial in the name of the beloved lost pet can be made by donating to local organizations, such as those that provided their services to pets left behind in the wake of this disaster. Such donations are put to good use at all times, helping to provide for animals in need for any reason, including pets that have been displaced by disasters, abandoned by thoughtless owners, or simply can no longer be cared for by their aged or otherwise incapacitated owners.

In spite of pain and sorrow, it is true that life goes on and that "time heals all wounds".

Have you recently lost a beloved animal companion? Contact the Pet Loss Support Hotline operated by The University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine (www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/petloss/). The Hotline provides free grief counseling available from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Pacific Time. Pet loss hotline: 1-800-565-1526.

HEALTH BENEFITS PROVIDED BY OUR ANIMAL COMPANIONS

Animals enrich and affect our lives in countless ways. For those of us who have a companion animal, it does not take a scientific study to understand that the human-animal bond provides important benefits including positive effects on our health.

What are the scientists saying? There have been conflicting results over the health effects of pet companionship over the past several decades. This is primarily because it is difficult to separate the direct effects of pets from the potential health impact of other lifestyle and socioeconomic factors. Studies show that the attachment between people and their pets seem to have important physiological and psychological effect. In 1992, it was reported that there are lower levels of accepted risk factors of heart disease (blood pressure, plasma triglycerides and cholesterol levels) in pet owners than in non-owners despite equivalent body mass, smoking habits and socioeconomic profiles. A report in 2002 outlined similar outcomes when examining the physiologic responses to mental challenges and pain in the presence and absence of pets, friends and spouses. This study showed that: 1) relative to people without pets at home, people with pets had significantly lower heart rates and blood pressure both during rest and periods of stress and 2) that stress induced the lowest physiologic response when pets were with their owners during measurement. Other positive effects on health and behavior have also been observed. Studies have shown that people who live with pets tend to exercise more (particularly dog owners), have fewer illnesses and spend more time in positive social interactions. Pets have been shown to help people overcome shyness, develop trust, enhance social skills and cope with illness. Interestingly, a study in 2001 illustrated that even in the workplace people benefit psychologically and organizationally from animal companionship. In this analysis,

participants who were allowed to bring their pets to work perceived a reduced stress level and experienced positive effects on their health and overall organization over those who did not bring their pets to the office or did not have pets.

How can this help our elderly? As our elderly population increases, there is a rising concern for their well being. This brings us back to the question; do pets positively contribute to their health status? Most studies say they do. One study conducted in 1990 evaluated 938 Medicare enrollees for one year. The study showed that respondents who owned pets reported fewer doctor visits and less difficulty coping with stressful life-events than those who did not have companion animals. In 1998 the benefits of pet ownership on human health and behavior were also shown in another one-year study of 1000 non-institutionalized adults over 65 years of age. The study measured potential effects of the human-animal bond on the participant's physical and psychological health, and whether the presence or absence of a companion animal modified their social network. Standardized scoring methodologies were used to assess the level of attachment to pets (for pet owners), health (ability to perform Activities of Daily Living [ADLs]), and psychological/social network status. The researchers found that ADL levels were maintained or enhanced and that there were beneficial effects on social support networks and psychological well-being for owners of pets versus non-owners.

Additional studies support the idea that pets can provide seniors with physical contact and comfort, decrease loneliness and depression, and serve as an external attention focus. Pets in nursing homes have been associated with decreased psychotropic medication usage and a greater than 50 percent reduction in healthcare costs.

While there remains some scientific

controversy regarding the human health benefits of companion animals, most studies support the positive effects of pets of all types. As such, many animals are now included in our approach to health care where they work as counselors, confidants, educators and friends. Whether the observed effects are physiological, psychological or a combination of many factors, these studies tell us something about the human-animal bond that we have probably always intuitively known: love heals. As science has proven that humans are happiest and healthiest when surrounded by friends and family, science has also shown us that humans benefit similarly from the love of our animals.

Editors note: an unabridged version of this article including the references to the scientific studies can be found on our website at www.2ndchance4pets under our "resources" section.



got money?

Your donation to 2nd Chance 4 Pets is appreciated! No donation is too small. 2nd Chance 4 Pets is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tax ID number 13-4280812

DOGS DESERVE BETTER: PUTTING AN END TO DOG CHAINING

The dog's name was Worthless. Tammy Grimes first spotted Worthless, a scruffy black lab mix chained outside near her Altoona, PA neighborhood. On her way to work, she pulled over and noticed Worthless had a dull, sparse coat, hardly enough to brave the cold northeastern winters. Grimes asked the owners if she could have the skinny dog. They shrugged then slammed the door.

Grimes could not forget Worthless. While the owners were away, Grimes snuck food and water to the lonely dog. Caught feeding him one day, the owners became enraged. The next day Grimes found the doghouse hidden further from the road.

So moved by Worthless and his bleak existence, Grimes formed Dogs Deserve Better, a national advocacy group who's goal is to end dog chaining. That was four years ago and Dogs Deserve Better has grown considerably. In 2003, Dogs Deserve Better won the ASPCA's prestigious Pet Protector Award for its dedication to chained dogs. That award helped propel the group into the national spotlight as activists for chained dogs.

In addition to sending out information in the form of brochures, posters, videos, bumper stickers, and door hangers in both English and Spanish, Dogs Deserve Better tracks anti-chaining legislation. Approximately seventy-five communities throughout the US have enacted legislation that either ban chaining or restrict it to a certain number of hours per day. Most limit the length of chains or tethers. New Jersey, for instance, leads the movement with seven cities that have anti-chaining legislation followed by Kansas, California and Texas with six cities each.

"Once a city or county enacts anti-chaining legislation, others copy it," Grimes said. She also said legislation is pending before the state capitol in Pennsylvania to restrict dog chaining to no more than 15 hours a day.

Although it still allows dogs to be chained, it requires 9 hours of freedom. "Because this is a statewide law this is a huge gain," Grimes said. "It's not perfect, but the legislation recognizes that chaining is not in a dog's best interest."

Mesa, AZ resident Dietrich Buczko called Grimes and asked her to send material to a neighbor who chained his dog. The dog had little access to shade. Temperatures during the long Arizona summers are in excess of 100 degrees for at least four months. "I called the local police who investigate animal cruelty and they talked to the family," Buczko said. "But there are no laws in Mesa against chaining or keeping a dog outside. I also spoke to the owners numerous times about the inhumanity of chaining dogs."

Nothing changed for months until one day Buczko noticed his efforts finally paid off. "I passed their yard and was surprised to see the dog off his chain. They still keep him outside but at least he's free. I have no doubt that the information Dogs Deserve Better sent helped free this dog." Grimes appreciates pro-active people like Buczko. Too often, people call and present situations that jerk at Grimes' heart. "They tell me they can rescue a chained dog but want me to assume responsibility," says Grimes. "I've done this several times, but I can't save them all."

Grimes supports the movement to end chaining but cannot do it alone. Others must open their hearts and homes to chained dogs. Grimes started a trend with Dogs Deserve Better. Chained dogs depend on the rest of us to free them from their chains.

Grimes eventually rescued Worthless, who she renamed Bo. Due to years of negligence, poor care and living outside in a harsh environment, Bo had numerous health problems. He died six months later.

For more information, visit Dogs Deserve Better at dogsdeservebetter.com or contact them at 1-877-636-1408, Dogs Deserve Better, Box 23, Tipton, PA 16684.

DO THE CHAINED DOGS BREAK YOUR HEART?



This is Baby, before her caretaker accepted our help. Now she has a new home and a new family.

DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT TODAY!

Dogs Deserve Better
www.dogsdeservebetter.com
P.O. Box 23, Tipton, PA 16684

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE COMPANION

- What is a no kill animal shelter - and are they really *no kill*?
- Stray Animals - what to do when one shows up on your doorstep.
- Pros & cons of "willing" your pets to animal sanctuaries.
- Why pets are important for seniors and why more facilities should allow seniors to have pets.
- A step-by-step guide to plan for the lifetime care of your pets.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK!

2nd Chance 4 Pets is a volunteer-run, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization (our tax ID number is 13-4280812). The mission of 2nd Chance 4 Pets is to reduce the number of pets unnecessarily euthanized each year due to the death or incapacity of their human companions who care for them. All donations go towards the printing and distribution of our materials and information.

This past October, Congress passed the Hurricane Katrina Tax Relief Act of 2005. While the majority of the \$6.1 billion tax relief act focuses on providing assistance and tax relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina, it also contains incentives for charitable giving. The act suspends limits on individual and corporate tax deductions for cash contributions made to charities between Aug. 28, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2005. Generally, individuals are limited to deducting 50 percent of adjusted gross income to charity; under the new provisions, contributions made during the Aug. 28 to Dec. 31 timeframe may be deducted up to 100 percent. These contributions may be for any charitable purpose and are not limited to donations for Hurricane Katrina relief.

"Our goal is to encourage charitable giving outside of Katrina relief, to prevent the rest of the nation's charities from seeing a downturn in giving as they did after Sept. 11," said one of the act's authors, Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, in a San Francisco Chronicle article.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS OF ORPHANED PET AWARENESS WEEK!



If you would like to donate to 2nd Chance 4 Pets, please use the enclosed envelope or please visit our website, www.2ndchance4pets.org, where you can donate through Network for Good. Simply click on the "Donate Now" button.

2nd Chance 4 Pets is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Tax ID number 13-4280812.



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