



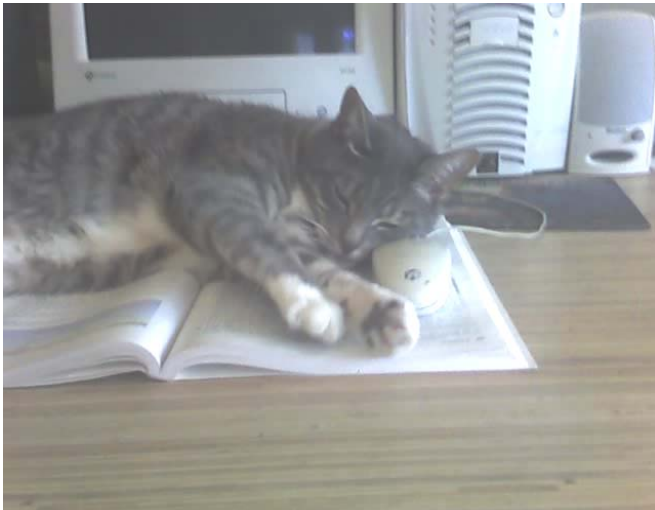
## Program SPOTLIGHT: SHARE

The story of SHARE is of one person acting upon inspiration to help animals and those who help animals.

WHAT: Daily Email Digest for Shelters & Rescues and Resource Website

WHY: To SHARE information

WHO: Maureen Koplow & 500 members



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## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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## Legislative Updates

***NJA2649** Recodifies Title 4 criminal animal cruelty offenses in State criminal code; increases level of certain offenses and crimes; establishes new offenses; revises civil penalties; repeals various sections of law; designated as Angel's Law. 1/29/2007 Assembly Floor Amendment Passed. 2/22 Assembly Floor Amendment Passed.*

AWFNJ feels this bill is a strong one, but finds several aspects of the bill to be potentially harmful to animal sheltering in New Jersey. AWFNJ cannot lend our support to this bill unless these issues are resolved. We encourage you to write to bill sponsor, Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew and your local representatives on these issues. For more info, go to [www.awfnj.org](http://www.awfnj.org)

***HR137/S261 Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007.** Passed by the US House of Representatives 3/26/07. Unanimously passed by Senate 4/10/07. Signed into law by President Bush 5/3/07. Increases the penalties for dog fighting and cock fighting.*

***NJS2246 Requires court to issue animal protective orders against persons found guilty of abusing animals.** 10/16/2006 Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Economic Growth Committee.*

## Landmark NJ Supreme Court Case Farm Practices Challenged

The New Jersey Supreme Court will hear a landmark case challenging the state's "humane" standards for the treatment of farm animals. The decision was applauded by the broad coalition of humane organizations, farmers, veterinarians, and environmental and consumer groups, who petitioned the court earlier this year to reverse a lower court's February 16, 2007 ruling upholding the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's approval of some of the most egregious factory farm abuses as "humane." The appeal goes beyond any previous legal action taken on behalf of farm animals in that it seeks a judicial declaration that many common factory farming practices are inhumane under state law.

For more information, go to [www.njfarms.org](http://www.njfarms.org)

### *Message from the President: Niki Dawson*



By the time you read this, many of you will be consumed with nursing moms, bottle-feeding babies, and thousands of calls from the public who has found yet another kitten with one of many medical conditions. All of this, on top of our usual daily struggles of dealing with loose dog calls, bite reports, interviewing potential adopters, and scooping endless litter boxes.

AWFNJ recognizes that our members are the unsung heroes of the animal world. We know that you feel the need to justify what you do to friends and family members. We know that when you feel like you can't give any more, you now head home to your own animals, fosters, and yes, even human kids and start all over again. We know because we do it, too. AWFNJ is your Federation, your voice, and your support network. That is why we do what we do - every day we gather information on events, on-going educational opportunities, legislation that affects you - so that you may do more.

AWFNJ has grown tremendously over the last year by adding the best in the state to your Board of Directors. This is the first time in years that we have a full board which will represent your voice, your needs. At the same time, we still need your help. We are looking for volunteers to help us continue our mission. If you can help with fundraising, legislation or have a specific talent you can offer to the Federation, please contact us. We need your input to continue the work we do.

Finally, please go to our website and check out the Animal Services Directory which has been fully updated. It is a valuable tool to help you find a rescue partner, a wildlife rehabber, or an animal cruelty investigator. We hope you find this helpful.

Best, Niki

### **AWFNJ 2007-2008 Board of Directors**

Niki Dawson, *President*, Companion Animal Placement  
Kim Saunders, *Vice President*, Petfinder.com  
Joan Mackiewicz, *Secretary*, Hudson County Animal League  
Diane O'Donnell, *Treasurer*, People for Animals  
Heather Cammisa, The HSUS  
Ursula Goetz, Monmouth County SPCA  
Mike Melchionne, New Jersey Certified Animal Control Officers Association  
Nicole Lewy Drummond, Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter  
Anne Ellis, Noah's Ark  
Nora Parker, St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center  
Beth Mersten, Best Friends Animal Society  
Dr. Carl Sammarco, NJVMA

Coordinator  
Sandra Koehler Lee

### **NFL Star Indicted for Cruelty**

NFL star Michael Vick has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of sponsoring a dog-fighting operation so grisly, a number of dogs either died in the pit or were hanged, electrocuted, drowned, or shot.

The Atlanta Falcons quarterback and three others were charged with competitive dog fighting, procuring and training pit bulls for fighting and conducting the enterprise across state lines, including in New Jersey. If convicted, Vick and the others -- Purnell A. Peace, Quanis L. Phillips and Tony Taylor -- could face up to six years in prison, \$350,000 in fines and restitution.

Commissioner Roger Goodell has ordered the Atlanta Falcons quarterback not to attend the team's training camp as his first step in determining Vick's future in the league. Animal groups like the HSUS are trying to keep the pressure on the NFL and Vick's sponsors. The ASPCA also has announced that it is assisting in the investigation.

To participate in the HSUS campaign to have Vick suspended, go to: [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)

To contact Nike, one of Vick's main sponsors, call their Investor Relations department toll-free at 800-640-8007 or Consumer Services at 800-344-6453. The mailing address is: Nike Investor Relations, One Bowerman Drive, JM-2, Beaverton, Oregon 97005

## Program SPOTLIGHT: SHARE (cont'd from page 1)

SHARE stands for "SHelter And REscue" and the idea born in January 1999 was to SHARE knowledge, ideas and solve problems that these groups share. What started off as an idea for communication among Southern New Jersey groups has evolved to be state-wide (and beyond).

SHARE's messages come through daily in an email that is formatted so that one can easily review the contents. Topics run the full gamut of animal welfare from adoption days to fundraising to health/behavior to networking to wildlife.

When Maureen started, she reports that SHARE was "intended to be very local, and meetings were an integral part of the plan." As time went on the need to rethink and revise was needed. "After a couple of years of monthly meetings and not much real progress or active participation, we stopped holding meetings and just continued sending a monthly newsletter. Then the costs of copying and postage became overwhelming, so I changed it to internet only. I created a web page which contained information gleaned from meetings and emails. And then I created a Yahoo email group so people could network with each other. That is where it stands now."

The Yahoo group currently has about 500 members, and most get the daily digest. In 2006, SHARE averaged about 400 messages per month. All of SHARE's messages are archived and available to the public.

Maureen moderates the website to insure SHARE's goals are being met. "I decided early on to moderate all of SHARE's messages. I did not want to have to deal with spam, and I also wanted to control the topics covered by SHARE," she reports. She continued, "the intention was to keep the focus on subjects that would be of interest to members of shelter and rescue groups, not the general public. So, I didn't want to include lists of animals needing homes, or transport routes. While the scope has broadened over the past few years, I still try to keep the messages focused on topics that help people to help animals."

Maureen didn't disclose the exact amount of time she devotes to this effort, only stating that she "spends a lot of time" sifting through 200 messages every day to find ones appropriate for SHARE, reading other email lists for useful information and rewriting messages to make them clear.

To subscribe to SHARE: Email Maureen at [mkoplow@comcast.net](mailto:mkoplow@comcast.net)

SHARE's Home page: <http://shelterandrescue.org>

Maureen is passionate about SHARE, "It's very labor intensive, but it's a labor of love."

Thanks, Maureen!



## Resource Directory

Now updated and available: AWFNJ's Resource Directory.

The directory is a detailed list of contact information for each municipality, including Animal Control, Health Department, Police and Shelter/Rescue affiliations. This new issue also includes the addition of two sections: Animal Cruelty Investigators and Spay/Neuter Clinics.

The directory is organized by county. A copy may be printed from the AWFNJ website at [www.awfnj.org](http://www.awfnj.org) under the resources section or you can perform an online search.

## *AWFNJ Conference 2007*

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual AWFNJ conference - the largest regional conference of animal welfare individuals and organization in the United States - was held March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the Woodbridge Sheraton in Iselin, NJ. The conference was well attended with over 250 attendees from points around the country including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Delaware, Maryland & Connecticut.

This year the conference included three successful "firsts." AWFNJ added a new "public session" to the conference - a workshop on disaster preparedness and pet first aid for the general public, as well as a "meet and greet" session with the board of directors, and the addition of the NJ Certified Animal Control Officers Association's annual meeting.

The conference featured workshops on topics ranging from board development and enhancing adoptions to fundraising and feral cat issues. We were lucky enough to have some of the country's most well respected and knowledgeable speakers participate, including Jenny Orme, AHA; Sue Sternberg, Rondout Valley Animals for Adoptions; Nick Gilman, Humane Logic; Kit Jenkins, PetSmart Charities; Barb Hollands, EARS; Betsy Saul, Animal Planet/Petfinder.com; Jake Oster, HSUS; Bryan Kortis, Neighborhood Cats; Susan Greene, Petfinder.com; and Becky Powell, Erie, SPCA.

We were also pleased to have two guests with us, keynote speaker Mike Arms and presenter Scott McVay. Mike Arms, an internationally acclaimed animal welfare advocate, inspired and touched conference attendees with his speech - leaving not a dry eye in the house at its conclusion. Mike imparted a feeling of pride for the elevated standards in animal welfare today and inspired attendees to work together to continue our mission to encourage and promote kindness and compassion toward animals.

Scott McVay was another wonderful honor, as he presented the 2007 Scott McVay UNITY Award to this year's winner, the Burlington County Cat Initiative. Their unifying efforts have brought about tremendous positive change within their community and we were delighted to select them for this year's award. A special thank you goes to Smith & Nephew for their sponsorship of this award and its honorarium.

We also presented two "Hero to Animals" Awards. The 6<sup>th</sup> annual awards were presented to Laura Dixon and the Camden County Animal Response Team to acknowledge their service "above and beyond" in support of animals.

Our thanks to Kit Jenkins, PetSmart Charities for her welcoming remarks to conference attendees at Saturday's breakfast and to Paul Jolly, Petco Foundation and Betsy Saul, Animal Planet/Petfinder.com who provided a luncheon highlight with a film by Sandy Levine commemorating Petfinder's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Of course, this conference is not possible without the support of our sponsors who have provided us with the means to bring such a wealth of information to our attendees: Petfinder.com, Petco Foundation, ASPCA, HSUS, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Shelter Buddy, American Humane Association, Best Friends Animal Society, Fort Dodge Animal Health, Hedgehog Welfare Society, and Smith & Nephew.

We hope that conference attendees came away with some new and innovative ideas to share with their shelter and rescue communities and made new connections with others through our networking opportunities. We welcome your comments on the conference by letter or email and encourage you to send in any thoughts you may have on workshops or seminars that you would like to see in the future. We look forward to seeing you at the 2008 Conference!

## 2007 Conference Photo Gallery



Kit Jenkins, Petsmart Charities



Paul Jolly, PETCO Foundation & Betsy Saul, Petfinder/Animal Planet



Keynote Speaker, Mike Arms, Helen Woodward Center



Shelter Operations School presented by Jenny Orme, American Humane Association



Scott McVay presenting AWFNJ's award in his name to Burlington County Cat Initiative.



Members of AWFNJ and NJCACOA



Sue Sternberg, "Train to Adopt" session

# The Asilomar Accords

## The Endeavor to Bring Animal Organizations Together

With so many animals needing assistance and such limited resources, wouldn't it be nice if there was a way for groups to coordinate their efforts?

In 2004, animal industry leaders created the Asilomar Accords to develop relationships and create common goals focused on reducing the euthanasia rate of healthy and treatable companion animals in the United States. Since 2006, the AWFNJ has sponsored conferences in various venues in the Garden State to share its vision.



"The Accords encourage the end of divisive language within animal welfare and implementing consistent terminology so that uniform presentation of animal intake and disposition may be made across the country," said Heather Cammisa, an AWFNJ board member who spoke at the most recent conference in Gloucester County in July.

The Accords encourage community partnering, the adoption of standard definitions, uniform statistics gathering and open sharing of data in a way that's clear within the industry and to the public to reduce euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals.

Healthy animals are defined as over 8 weeks of age no sign of a behavioral or temperamental characteristic that could pose a health or safety risk, no sign of disease, injury, a congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health or may do so in the future. Treatable animals are not healthy but are likely to become healthy if given care equal to the care typically provided by reasonable and caring owners/guardians in the community.

Unhealthy or untreatable animals are defined as those with a behavioral or temperamental characteristic that poses a health or safety risk and are not likely to become healthy or treatable even if provided reasonable care.

Part of the common statistic gathering promoted by the Accords is tracking the Live Release Rate, which is the percentage of animals that leave the facility alive via adoptions, outgoing transfers, return to owner/guardian compared to the total outcomes.

Cammisa noted that many groups might not see the immediate value in learning about the Accords, when struggling with fundraising, staffing and the overwhelming number of cats and kittens entering NJ shelters. However, she said there is one benefit to accepting the Accord model: some granting organizations are seeking statistics in the Accord format. Beyond grant money, the Accords afford groups the ability to work better together through common practices and a uniform language.

"Given our population density in New Jersey and the number of committed animal welfare professionals, it is an ideal area to have collaboration among organizations," said Cammisa. "It isn't easy, and will require many revisits to the table, but working as isolated islands helps fewer animals than working together. Saving lives is a shared goal."

### *History of the Asilomar Accords*

In August of 2004, a group of animal welfare industry leaders from across the nation convened at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, California, for the purpose of building bridges across varying philosophies, developing relationships and creating goals focused on significantly reducing the euthanasia of healthy and treatable companion animals in the United States.

The leadership of the following organizations participated in the original and/or subsequent meetings and were involved in the drafting of the Asilomar Accords:

**Martha Armstrong** - Humane Society of the US  
**Richard Avanzino** - Maddie's Fund  
**Pamela Burns** - Hawaiian Humane Society  
**Mark Byers** - Spanish Fork Animal Control and National Animal Control Association  
**Perry Fina** - North Shore Animal League and The Pet Savers Foundation  
**Mark Goldstein, D.V.M.** - San Diego Humane Society & SPCA  
**Belinda Lewis** - Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control  
**Dave Loftus** - Pet-Ark  
**Jane McCall** - Dubuque Humane Society  
**Jan McHugh-Smith** - Humane Society of Boulder Valley  
**Steven McHugh** - Unison Business Development  
**Nancy McKenney** - Humane Society for Seattle/King County  
**Dan Morrison** - Southeast Area Animal Control Authority  
**John Nagy** - Dumb Friends League and Society of Animal Welfare Administrators  
**Cheryl Naumann** - Arizona Humane Society  
**Robert Rohde** - Dumb Friends League  
**Edwin Sayres** - American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
**John Snyder** - The Humane Society of the US  
**Karen Terpstra** - Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA  
**Gary Tiscornia** - SPCA of Monterey County and Society of Animal Welfare Administrators  
**Marie Belew Wheatley** - American Humane Association

For more information on the Asilomar Accords, go to [ww.asilomaraccords.org](http://ww.asilomaraccords.org).

## Upcoming Events

### AUGUST 18

**Dog Wash - 11:30-3 p.m.; baths \$8-\$10  
Clipping \$10**

Somerset Regional Animal Shelter, Bridgewater  
Friends of Somerset Regional Animal Shelter  
Call 908-334-2063, [robi@fosras.com](mailto:robi@fosras.com) or go to  
[www.fosras.com](http://www.fosras.com)

**Hot Night Cool Blues Event - NJ Aid for Animals  
6-10 p.m.; \$50 open bar and full BBQ buffet**

At Sweetwater Casino, 2780 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sweetwater -  
Sunset dinner, live music and animal communicator  
Dr. Elizabeth Severino. Listen to some great blues and  
music from Pat Karwin ([www.karwinpatrix.com](http://www.karwinpatrix.com)) Call  
609-965-3285. For more info call 856-498-3978 or  
check the [www.njafa.org](http://www.njafa.org).

### AUGUST 22

**Ice Cream Social - 6:30-8 p.m.**

**\$5 Adults, \$3 kids 10 & younger and \$2 per dog**

St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center, Madison  
Featuring Edy's ice cream for people and Frosty Paws  
for the dogs. Limit one dog per adult. For more info,  
go to [www.sthuberts.org](http://www.sthuberts.org) or call 973-377-7094 x 229.

### SEPTEMBER 10 & 11

**Animal Shelter Operations Boot Camp**

**9 a.m.-5 p.m.; \$120-\$150 (group rate available)**

HSUS and Loudon County Animal Care & Control  
Techniques and standards for the animal care and  
control field are continually improving and becoming  
more efficient. New techniques and knowledge to take  
back and share with your agency. Additionally,  
participants will get an opportunity to partake in a  
wet lab at the hosting agency. For more information  
or to register, contact Frances Gaeta at 301-548-7731  
or [fgaeta@hsus.org](mailto:fgaeta@hsus.org) go to the registration page  
[http://www.humanesocietyu.org/workshops\\_and\\_classes/operations\\_bootcamp.html](http://www.humanesocietyu.org/workshops_and_classes/operations_bootcamp.html), *Registration deadline  
is August 27.*

### SEPTEMBER 20

**Home Interiors Demonstration - 7 p.m.; Free**

Hudson County Animal League  
Held at First Federated Church - 33<sup>rd</sup> Street & Avenue  
C, Bayonne. Beautiful decorative items for your home,  
including the Home Interiors Christmas line. Call Kathy  
Henderson at 201-823-2363

### SEPTEMBER 22

**AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day**

**10am - 3pm; Free admission & parking**

At Overpeck Park on Fort Lee Road in Leonia  
Raritan River Akita Club, Inc.

Attendees are responsible for their lunch. All dogs  
must be leashed. For more info call 201-337-5646.

### SEPTEMBER 23

**Shelter Showcase Pet Adoption Expo**

**12-4p.m.; Free for early registration by Aug. 31**

At Lurker Park, Ridgedale Ave, East Hanover. Rain  
or Shine but canopies are not necessary. A large  
party canopy will be provided. You must bring your  
own tables. Rental tables are available in advance.  
Limited space. Call 973-812-7297 or  
[beth@sheltershowcase.com](mailto:beth@sheltershowcase.com) with questions. Or go to  
<http://network.bestfriends.org/sheltershowcase> for  
the registration form.

### SEPTEMBER 29

**Pet Fair - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free for participating  
nonprofits**

Galloway, NJ

Humane Society of Atlantic County

Pre-registration is required. The HSAC offers the  
Pet Fair to the public to highlight rescue groups,  
shelters, adoption, spay/neuter, working dogs, and  
information related to animal welfare. There will be  
various demos from area police/fire/emergency K9,  
& other working dogs, family friendly activities,  
micro-chip clinic, raffle items, food, etc. Groups  
will be able to table as you normally would - bring a  
few of your adoptables, sell items, raffle an item or  
two, offer your info, etc. For more info., contact  
Shannon Bertino at [humanesocietyac@comcast.net](mailto:humanesocietyac@comcast.net)  
or go to [www.humanesocietyac.org](http://www.humanesocietyac.org)

### Motorcycle Run Fundraiser

**Registration 10 a.m.-noon; \$20 riders and \$15 for  
passengers**

Starts at the Legends Harley Davidson in Ledgewood  
and ends at Fire Hall in Stillwater.

Sussex County Fellowship for Animals (SCFA)

Hosted by Red Knights Chapter 13 Motor Cycle Club  
along with the VFW of Newton. Food, entertainment,  
raffle and more. For more info call 973-300-5909;  
email [scfa@netzero.net](mailto:scfa@netzero.net) or go to  
[http://members.petfinder.org/~NJ117/coming\\_events.html](http://members.petfinder.org/~NJ117/coming_events.html)

*CHECK FOR MORE EVENTS AT [WWW.AWFNJ.ORG](http://WWW.AWFNJ.ORG)*

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