

heading. Beyond this, I would like to share with you NHES Chief Operating Officer, Jim Taylor's words about PHAR, which will give you a good understanding of why PHAR was chosen as the organizational recipient of the 2006 James P. & Anna C. Briggs Humane Action Award:

*"PHAR is an all-volunteer grassroots animal rescue group that makes up the frequently overlooked volunteers of America's animal welfare movement who, without fanfare or notoriety, tirelessly carry out their humane work in some of the most remote, rural areas of our country in which animal neglect and abuse are, tragically, common-place."* Since its creation in 1993, PHAR and its volunteers have successfully rescued more than 8,000 cats and dogs.

## NHES Alliance Partner—Fern Wildlife Refuge suggests ways to help Wildlife in Springtime

by Gretl Learned  
President, FWR

Spring brings an explosion of buds, bugs, tender green shoots and wildlife babies. Sadly, it is estimated that 80 percent of young wild animals do not survive their first winter, due primarily to lack of food. Here are a few tips for creating a safe, wildlife friendly environment which can provide shelter, nectar, fruit, seed, nuts and beauty to give wildlife young a good start in life.

1. When cutting down or pruning a tree, check first for cavities, clumps of leaves or nesting material. Look first up close, then further out as you circle the area. If possible, wait until mid-summer to cut down trees to ensure all young have left.
2. A good method of dealing with yard debris—cut trees, bush prunings and raked leaves—is to build a brush pile. Oval-shaped and bigger is better. Place large logs down first with spaces between, and several 12-inch openings for entrances and escape exits. On top of the logs, add a ceiling of smaller logs, followed by smaller branches and leaves. If you take a little time to build it properly, it will last for years while you continue to add to it with each year's debris. Done well, the decaying top layers will fall on the ceiling rather than falling through and filling up the rooms you've created. Planting climbing vines around the base (honeysuckle, trumpet vine and wisteria are just a few examples) will provide beauty, nectar and roosting sites for birds and butterflies,

while adding extra protection from inclement weather. Please note the photos on the right—the first is an example of a "poorly constructed brush pile," and the second is an example of a "properly constructed brush pile," which, of course, is how you want your brush to look.



Poorly Constructed Brush Pile



Properly Constructed Brush Pile

3. There are many harmless earth-and animal-friendly insecticides and herbicides available now. Toxic substances eventually end up in wildlife water supplies or in the bugs that birds eat and feed to their young. Often, the result is abnormalities in development that keep the young from thriving and living.
4. Choosing indigenous landscaping plants that produce flowers, seeds, fruit, and nuts will provide food for you and wildlife, as well as a beautiful landscape you can be proud of.
5. If you find wildlife you think needs to be rescued, please call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator to see how, or if, you should rescue it. To be a rehabilitator requires years of training, State and Federal permits, proper facilities, and a thorough knowledge of each species' natural history so that the nutritional, housing, social development, and medical requirements can be fulfilled, appropriate to each animal's stage of maturation, condition and needs. With this knowledge, wildlife in need has a much better chance of surviving their crisis and being returned back into nature.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

NHES's Humane Education Program hosted several scout troops at our Briggs Animal Adoption Center (BAAC) during the busy months of November and December. The scouts presented the BAAC with donated beds, treats, and toys for our sheltered animals, and they thoroughly enjoyed getting a behind-the-scenes tour of our facility.



*Brownie Chloe with cat*

## PAWS UP! European Union Permanently Bans Imports of Wild Birds

Great News! In January 2007, European Union (EU) officials announced new trade regulations governing the import of live birds that will effectively ban the importation of wild-caught birds for the pet trade.



*Lorakeets*

In mid-December 2006, Prime Minister Tony Blair announced that the United Kingdom was in support of a permanent ban on the importation of wild-caught birds to the EU, citing concerns for the welfare of imported birds.

The EU's new restrictions actually exceed the protections set forth by the United States' Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992. For example, the EU restrictions will cover all exotic birds, unlike the Wild Bird Conservation Act, which exempts certain "approved" species from import restrictions.

The EU was the largest importer of wild-caught birds in the world, responsible for over 90 percent of imports of threatened and endangered species. Prior to the current ban, the EU imported approximately 1.76 million birds for the pet trade each year. With this new ban in place, Japan is now the biggest importer of wild birds.

## Feral Cats Have Feelings, Too

Stray, abandoned, and feral cats are a nationwide problem. Due to people's lack of responsibility and care, pets that are not spayed or neutered are left to roam free and create unwanted litters. The best way to help solve this crisis, a proven plan that works and brings positive results to communities across the country, is the Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR) program created by Alley Cat Allies (ACA). This program allows volunteers to humanely trap these feral cats and to tip their ears to designate that they are ferals that have been spayed/neutered. Upon their recovery, the cats are then returned to their approved colony area, and volunteers pledge to feed and provide ongoing shelter for the colony.



The TNR program benefits a community in many ways. First, it ceases the creation of more unwanted litters of kittens. Second, it provides a health benefit for cats because they are tested for disease and vaccinated against rabies—an absolute plus for any community. Third, cat colonies tend to keep the rodent population in check, which can also be a benefit to any locale. The benefits of the TNR issue need to be properly explained and understood by those in a position to make a positive change.

NHES feels that urging for the creation and enactment of laws pertaining to the humane treatment of all animals is of utmost importance. To promote animal neglect and cruelty poses a definite risk to society as a whole.

*"I have studied many philosophers and many cats.  
The wisdom of the cat is infinitely superior."  
Hippolyte Taine (1828-1893)*

## Owning a Dog or a Cat is a Privilege and a Responsibility

Think ahead before adopting an animal. Provide proper care for your animal and seek advice from animal care experts whenever you have questions. If you remember these things, you will soon discover the rewards of responsible animal ownership!



## NHES's Spring 2007 Recommended Reading Choice

### ***From Baghdad, With Love: A Marine, the War, and a Dog Named Lava***

by Jay Kopelman, Melinda Roth

You may order this book online at:  
<http://search.barnesandnoble.com> or call:  
Customer Service: 1-800-THE-BOOK

*There is a close bond between humans and dogs. Dogs simply make us, or rather, allow us to be better humans. A clear example of this is found in "From Baghdad, With Love: A Marine, the War, and a Dog Named Lava" (The Lyons Press) by Lieutenant Colonel Jay Kopelman, with Melinda Roth. It is a memoir of war and an incredibly moving story. War and its effects in Iraq are horrific and real, yet, through it all, Lt. Col. Kopelman's efforts, as well as many others, show us that compassion still exists.*

Read an Excerpt  
from Chapter One:

"In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life."  
Genesis 3:17

...Mostly, though, faces of people who risked their lives to try and help save Lava. They bother me the most, and that's the second part of the confession. I think we all let the mangy, little flea-bitten refugee get to us—as if compassion was some sinister germ intent on infection—and now that we've all been bitten by the contagion, now that it comes down to the end, now that all other roads of escape are closed for good, I feel responsible to them to make sure Lava gets out alive.



## Hey Teens!

### ***You Can Do A Lot To Help Animals!***

- Pick up litter—animals can try to eat trash that may harm them or they can get caught in debris like six-pack soda rings.
- Hold a Pet Fair day for your neighborhood. Have games, hands-on activities, music, a puppet show, etc. and collect money, treats, used linens, and food for your local animal shelter.
- Have a yard sale to benefit the animal shelter!
- If you are enrolled in a course that still includes dissection, encourage the teacher to offer cruelty-free methods to students.
- If you see a neighborhood dog tied outside constantly, you might try talking to the owner.



*Promoting kindness is cool.*

Find out if the dog is friendly and, if so, offer to walk the dog or provide play workouts!

- Learn about important animal issues. Write letters about animals you care about and send them to your legislators.
- Have a birthday party for an animal friend. Encourage the guests to donate gifts to the animal shelter.

### **Lonely Existence at the End of a Chain**

It is cruel to make a dog live at the end of chain. Chained dogs are just as sensitive as other beloved indoor companion dogs. Unfortunately, chained dogs often appear exceedingly hyper and/or aggressive.

#### **You can help!**

1. Let neighbors know what needs to be done in a noncritical way.
2. If the owner is not receptive, check your state's anticruelty laws for neglectful/cruel conditions that may apply.



3. If the situation is not illegal, try to befriend the dog's guardians. Ask to take the dog for walks, offer toys, treats, a sturdy water bucket, etc.



4. NHES encourages you to contact your city/county council members and work to create an ordinance that would prevent the chaining of any dog as a primary means of confinement.

## NEWS from Briggs Animal Adoption Center



*The Briggs Animal Adoption Center*

Warm spring greetings to each of you from the staff, volunteers, and animals of The Briggs Animal Adoption Center (BAAC). Winter has been a productive time at the BAAC, but the dogs and cats—and we humans too—are all ready for spring.

We are very happy to inform you that the conversion of our interior dog adoption kennels from chain link kennels to Comfort Dens and Suites has been completed.

Although the majority of the Comfort Dens and Suites have full length shatterproof glass doors, we are testing 15 Dens/Suites with specially designed door-windows that will allow the dogs to look out and be petted by employees and visitors. If all goes well with these door-windows during the trial period, we hope to move forward and install them in all of the Comfort Dens/Suites.



*Karry Pettitt, Canine Care Manager, with Deana in completed Comfort Den*

This winter, we also began a second project to completely fence in the BAAC's 24-acre property with 4-board fence and wire mesh to help ensure that the BAAC dogs will always be properly contained. In addition to serving as a secondary safeguard against a loose dog potentially getting off the property and hurting itself, this fencing will also allow us to expedite the evacuation of the dogs from the facility in the event of an emergency, because we can simply open the kennel doors and permit the dogs to quickly exit to a 12-acre fenced area in the back of the building. Regrettably, the recent cold weather has prevented the completion of the



*David Timbrook, Maintenance Supervisor, with Bandit leaning through specially designed door-windows of Comfort Suites.*



*Fencing in progress—waiting for the snow to melt*

