

AMERICAN HUMANE

Fall 2010 Volume 27.3

PROTECTING ANIMALS

Helping animal shelters be the best they can be!

October is American Humane's
**ADOPT-A-DOG
MONTH[®]**

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DOGS-ONLY ISSUE!

RAP and PBRC, etc. We're also trying to place more pit bulls and pit mixes with slight behavioral problems due to poor ownership or neglect into foster families, where they are rehabilitated and then put up for adoption.

Spay/Neuter Program

This year, the Philadelphia Eagles football team helped fund two low-cost spay/neuter clinics for pit bulls as part of their Treating Animals With Kindness grant. We had 10 dogs at each of those, and the grant covered the majority of the costs involved. We also host several low-cost spay/neuter clinics for all dogs throughout the year.

Special Programs

In order to educate the public — many of whom are unsure about the safety of owning a pit bull or are blatantly opposed to the dogs — I put together an hour-long information session consisting of three topics: Myth vs. Fact: The Media Hype Surrounding Pit Bulls; Breed-Specific Legislation; and Breed Ambassadors: **Meet Moose, a Pit Bull and K-Pets Therapy Dog**. We advertised it through our website, fliers at local pet stores and our e-newsletter. Fifty people attended the session, and based on a survey we took, they particularly liked the informational handouts about pit bulls and how they can get involved in stopping breed-specific legislation. The true hero of the day, however, was Moose, a pit bull

adopted from our shelter who is a certified therapy dog at domestic violence shelters and hospices. From this event I created an email list of people who are interested in pit bulls, either getting more breed information, participating in community activities, volunteering to work with pit bulls at the shelter or willing to foster pit bulls. I'm planning another session in October to coincide with National Pit Bull Awareness Day.

BullsEye Dog Rescue, Puget Sound, Wash.

Lorrie Kalmbach-Ehlers, president and co-founder

www.bullseyerescue.org

Pit Bull Intake and Adoption

We adopted out about 25 pit bulls the year we started in 2004; now it's between 50 and 100 a year.

Behavior Assessment

We get our dogs only through shelters — no owner releases at all. We see a lot of pit bulls that are not appropriate for our program: they must have no human aggression, not be overly shy, and be resilient, goofy and bouncy like the breed should be.

Moose the therapy dog

Photo courtesy of Humane League of Lancaster County

