



A publication of the Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club, Inc.



**Message from the President-**

We are getting busy with our plans to host The CSPCA National Specialty in 2009. We are making the "to do" lists, and I hope that everyone will take the

opportunity to participate in this event. Nationals hasn't be held in Denver since 1989. This is such a wonder chance for everyone in our club to get involved in the work and fun of putting on a National Specialty. Our experienced club members are offering free training, so when the work lists come up, please think about taking a job.

It has now been almost two years since we were in collaboration with CSU on their Shar-Pei Research project. We should have some information coming on that project soon, as the grant for the project was for a 2 year project. Keep your fingers crossed for good news.

Just a reminder to check out our website often as we update it regularly: [www.centennialsharpeiclub.org](http://www.centennialsharpeiclub.org) .

*Alice*

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[www.centennialsharpeiclub.org](http://www.centennialsharpeiclub.org)



Alice Meeting up with Linda Vidt to get Soup Jars imported from Chicago



## FLYING WITH YOUR DOG

### AMERICAN DOG OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2007

**Please be sure to take the following steps to ensure your dogs safety.**

Carefully inspect your own crates. Check locks, screws and connections. Have zip ties readily available. Drill holes at the top and both sides of the crate. This will allow you to add the zip ties AFTER the TSA inspection of the crate.

When checking in, have the ticket agent call a TSA agent over or ask where to take the crate to A TSA security station

BEFORE handing the dog over to the AIRLINES for shipping. Airline employees may not know how to do so. TSA work for the government and AIRPORT not the airlines.

**AFTER TSA INSPECTS THE CRATE THEY WILL PLACE A HOMELAND SECURITY TAG ON THE CRATE and the zip ties can be applied to further secure the dog!**

**Post a sign that says DO NOT OPEN EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY AND ONLY IN AN ENCLOSED ROOM on top of the crate, above the door.**

Post your contact information, including your Cell Phone Number boldly on all sides of the crate, with instructions to contact you immediately if needed for the handling of your dog. Keep your cell phone on until the very last minute.

Let the airline personnel know to immediately notify you in the event any additional security checks are needed.

Do no hesitate to request your dog NOT be transported on a tug to the aircraft. Ask where your dog will be kept until loaded. Go to your gate and watch the crate being loaded. Dogs are last to load and first off, this is an FAA RULE!

Tell the ticket agent at the gate you are waiting for a dog to be loaded before you board the plane. If you MUST board the plane before the dog is loaded, tell the flight attendant to notify the Captain to confirm the dog has been safely loaded (describe the create) or you will have to get off the plane.

Upon arrival, make sure the crate was taken off the plane.

DO NOT BE SHY, ask questions. Make people aware. Be assertive, but professional and take whatever steps necessary to insure your dogs are handled correctly.

Your knowledge and involvement can mean a world of difference in the safe handling of your dog.



Recently spotted in the Watson's Home



### Think Twice Before Using Hotel Room Coffee Pots

Jan 23, 2007 07:45 PM EST

According to WAFF.com in Huntsville Alabama, the ubiquitous cheap Mr. Coffee pot in hotel rooms is often used as a just-in-time makeshift mini-laboratory to make the drug meth. The story can be found at <http://www.waff.com/global/story.asp?s=5980064>

Ask just about anyone in law enforcement, and they'll tell you to be careful if you ever brew coffee in a hotel room.

"I know enough now that whenever I go to a hotel, regardless of how nice it is, I'll never use a coffee pot," said Marshall County District Attorney Steve Marshall.

Instead of brewing coffee, coffee pots are sometimes used to brew methamphetamine.

And since meth labs in hotels aren't anything new, Rick Phillips of the Marshall County Drug Enforcement Unit says there's definitely a risk.

"The coffee makers that you find in every motel room is an ideal heat source. They mix it up in the coffee pot, put it on a heat source and let it sit there and cook," said Phillips.

It's common knowledge to those who fight meth, but a shock to your average citizen.

"That's a little nerve rattling," said Marshall County resident Toni Jones.

"I didn't know that. Proud you told me," said Marshall County resident Daryl Rice.

If you were to drink coffee from a pot used to make meth, it could be hazardous to your health.

The problem is residue from chemicals such as red phosphorus and iodine.

"Typical sickness and issues that would come with any chemical exposure, simple nausea, vomiting to maybe a hospital visit," said Phillips.

Phillips says it's pretty easy to tell if a coffee pot has been used to cook meth. It will have a dark reddish-orange stain. You should also be skeptical if there's a chemical odor when you walk in the room.



Renee and Levy in the Parade of Rescue Dogs at the Plum Creek shows in February

## THE GREAT HOUDINI AND HIS FRIEND SABLE

This story is retold by Alice Fix



Oh dear! It is starting to snow. I guess that means that winter is coming again. I just hate it when winter is here. It gets so cold, especially at night. Mamma bought us dog houses this year, and that makes it better. At least it keeps the snow off of us, and it is a little bit warmer in there, but it still isn't warm.

My name is Houdini, and I live next to that dog over there named Sable. I am a Shar-Pei and Sable is a German Shepherd. We live in Mamma's back yard. She doesn't want us to get run over so she tied us up in the yard trying to keep us safe. I have lived in the same spot for 3 years now. I have a 12 foot chain, so I can move around in a pretty good circle. The only problem is that Sable doesn't like me all that much, and I have to try to stay out of his way.

This year someone told Mamma that she should get us dog houses, so we could get out of the weather. Those were nice people, because it is nice to have a dog house. We used to have to stay out in the snow storms and get covered with snow. We couldn't sleep through the night, because we had to keep waking up to shake the snow off of us....otherwise it would melt on us and make us even colder. And it is hard to get dry when the snow is falling so fast.



Houdini's friend, Sable

My life isn't that bad really. I have food and water most of the time, except when it freezes. I try to be good out here, because I know that Mamma means well. Before she first got me, I lived in a regular indoor kennel where it was nice and warm. But when Mamma brought me home, she decided that she needed me to watch the backyard for her, so that is where I live. At first it wasn't so bad, because it was summer. But when the first winter came, and I was cold, I would bark to come indoors. I guess some of the neighbors complained, because Mamma bought muzzles for us to wear at night so we wouldn't bother the neighbors. I may not be the smartest dog, but how am I going to watch the backyard for her, and let her know if a stranger comes when I have a muzzle on at night? Sable and I are still wondering how we are supposed to do that.

Sometimes other dogs come around and look at us. Well sometimes kids come too. They always wonder why we are chained up in the backyard. I have heard them say that they get to come in the house where they live. That sure must be nice.

Yesterday, a lady came by to look at us. She was saying something about rescue. I wonder what that is? I heard them say that a lady named Louise is going to take me, and that a lady named Beth is going to take Sable. I am not so sure about this. I know my area of this yard, because I have lived here for 3 years. What if I have less space where I am going? What if I don't have a new dog house like I have now. Sable is not all that nice to me, but at least I know him. I am just not sure that I want to know what rescue is.

I was taken to Louise today, and you wouldn't believe it. I got to ride in a car. That is the first time I have been out of my backyard for three years. I think I am in shock. Louise wants me to live in the house....in her house. She has a nice warm bed for me, and guess what....I have clean water all day long. I never knew that life could be so good. She even has toys for me to play with. At first I was afraid to touch them, but Louise says it alright.

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Louise has this door with a flap in it. She is trying to make me go outside through it, but I don't think so. I am afraid that I will have to live outside again. Then she gets some great treats, and will give me some if I just go through that flap, so I guess I will try it. I am not sure why she wants me to go out that flap, but if I get that great treat, I will do it, because she has been nice to me. Well darn, you might not believe this,

but that flap works both ways. I can get back in the house through that flap. I can come and go whenever I want through that flap. Louise says that I need to go out that flap when I need to potty. Well I will be darn. I sure can go out the flap to potty in the yard, and then come right back in when I want to. I can get back in the house anytime that I want to. That is just amazing. Even though Sable didn't like me all that much, I sure hope that he got to go to this great place called Rescue too. I sure hope that he straightens up, because he sort of has a chip on his shoulder. I know that I am going to try really hard to do what they want me to, because I love living in a house.

This young man came by to see me today. He doesn't have any dogs, and would love to have one. Louise tells me that I am going to live with him. I sure hope that he doesn't make me live out in the yard again, because I like being around people and living where it is warm.

I am at my new home now, and guess what. I get to live inside a house! This is so wonderful! And my new Daddy thinks it okay to sleep in the bed. Can you believe it. I don't have to sleep outside anymore with a muzzle on all night, and I get to sleep in a nice soft bed. Oh man, I am living the life of Riley now. I sure hope that Sable has been a lucky as I have been.

*This is just one more story about a dog in rescue. There are thousands more. Unfortunately not all of them have a good outcome, because there are limited funds for rescue. All money donated to rescue is used to change the life of a dog just like these two. All dogs that come into a rescue program*

*would like you to know how much they appreciate your help by donating to give them a better life.*

CSPCA Nationals 2007  
Decatur, Illinois  
Decatur Conference Center and Hotel  
October 21- October 27

**CSPCA NOMINATION COMMITTEE RESULTS**



- President- Karen Kleinhans
- Secretary- Pat Pramuk
- Eastern Director- Bob Caltharp
- Western Director- Roy Anderson
- At Large- Deb Cooper
- Debbie Smith
- Alice Fix

Also nominated from the floor and accepted:

- President- Grace Fritz
- Eastern Director- Georgette Schaefer
- Western Director- Kay Rosenberger
- For Directors at Large- Beverly Wall & Terry Faulkner

**Do You Know the Real PETA and Humane Society of the United States?**

An Editorial by Alice Fix

You will not often see negative articles in our newsletters, but every now and again we are forced to make a stand, and to speak out about what we know is for the better good for all involved. This is one such instance. We can no longer stand back and watch to see what will happen. I think that it is past

time to publicly expose the real agenda of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and their cohorts in crime, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and the animal rights agenda.

For many years we have all enjoyed the companionship of our dogs and other animals. We have been busy playing with them, taking care of them, finding fun things that we could do with them, and generally just having a great time with all the animals that live in our houses. While we have been enjoying the love and fun that our animals provide to us, there have been groups out there organizing on a grand scale trying to get our rights to own those animals taken away. Yes, that is exactly what I meant. Make no mistake about it. These people have organized on a large scale to infiltrate many major city councils and governments in the country to spread their propaganda. Their agenda is easily defined and simple. Their main objective is to take away your right to own animals. They do not want you to have the companionship of any animal, whether that is a dog, cat, horse, mouse, frog, fish or any other animal that you can think of. They are pooling their resources to get this accomplished, and have millions of dollars in their war chest for this effort.

This is a statement made by Ingrid Newkirk, the President of PETA: "I don't use the word 'pet.' I think it's *speciesist* language. I prefer 'companion animal.' For one thing, we would no longer allow breeding. People could not create different breeds. There would be no pet shops. If people had companion animals in their homes, those animals would have

to be refugees from the animal shelters and the streets. You would have a protective relationship with them just as you would with an orphaned child. But as the surplus of cats and dogs (artificially engineered by centuries of forced breeding) declined, eventually companion animals would be phased out, and we would return to a more symbiotic relationship – enjoyment at a distance." — *The Harper's Forum Book*, Jack Hitt, ed., 1989, p.223.

It is interesting that Ms. Newkirk used the word "**speciesist**". Allwords.com defines that word as follows:

1. The discrimination against, and exploitation of, animals by humans in the belief that humans are superior to all other species of animals and can therefore justify putting them to their own use.

One of the animal rights mantras is that all animals are created to be equal to all humans, and should have the same rights as humans.

Just in case it still isn't clear to you what their agenda is, here are a few more quotes from Ingrid Newkirk:

"One day, we would like an end to pet shops and the breeding of animals. [Dogs] would pursue their natural lives in the wild ... they would have full lives, not wasting at home for someone to come home in the evening and pet them and then sit there and watch TV."

— *The Chicago Daily Herald*, 3/1/90

"In the end, I think it would be lovely if we stopped this whole notion of pets altogether." — *Newsday*, 2/21/88

Who is Ingrid Newkirk, and why should we care what she has to say about anything? In the 1970s, Newkirk worked for Montgomery County (Maryland), and then for the District of Columbia, as an animal protection officer and deputy sheriff, before becoming DC's first female Poundmaster in 1978. She co-founded PETA in 1980 with established animal-rights activist Alex Pacheco. (1) PETA stands for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, but in my opinion, there is nothing ethical in what they do.

Ms. Newkirk has very close ties with several groups identified by the FBI as known terrorists groups, such as Animal Liberation Front (ALF). The animal rights groups are very well organized, and when you check closely, you will see many of the same names sitting on the boards of these radical groups. They are intertwined and closely linked through their finances, and the work that they do.

PETA operates on an annual budget of \$ 29,000,000. Most of this is from donations made by ordinary citizens that don't know the real work of PETA. Many people think that they are out to save the lives of animals after seeing all of their ads on TV and in the newspapers. That is why millions are donated to them each year.

In Virginia, the home state of PETA, in 2004, PETA adopted out 361 animals, and euthanized 2,278, according to their records. (2) Those figures aren't good. That means that they euthanized 86.3% of their animals and only adopted out 13.7%. These figures come directly from PETA's Annual Report and from their 2004 Tax Return. It doesn't seem like they used that \$29 million for the betterment of the majority

of the animals that they came in contact with. So where is the money going? It is being spent for publicity to raise more money for one thing. It is also being used for legislative purposes. They have placed key people in city governments all over the country to try to influence legislation to take your pet ownership rights away. And they are having a lot of success with it.

You need to understand the basic difference between the "animal welfare" groups and "animal rights" groups. Although the names might sound like they have the same objectives, there is a big difference. Animal welfare groups are working to see that all animals are treated humanely. Animal rights groups are working to see that all ownership of animals comes to an end.

As I said, PETA has close ties with many other organizations. One of those organizations is the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). People donate millions to the HSUS each year, thinking that their money is going to save the lives of millions of animals. Nothing could be further from the truth. The HSUS does not own a single animal shelter anywhere in the country. Although many shelters have the words Humane Society in their names, they are not associated in any way with the HSUS. The HSUS does not sponsor any spay or neuter clinic anywhere in the country. They do donate a very small percent of the annual budget to a few local humane societies, around \$2 million annually, which just happens to be less than the amount that they spend in travel each year. Their major money is sent on fund raising and legislative activity. In 2005 they spent \$28 million for public mailings, \$6 million in vegan education, \$10 million in



legislative campaigns and litigation. Their income for that year was close to \$125 million.

The HSUS was founded in 1954 as an animal welfare organization. But in the early 1980's, just about the same time as PETA was founded, they began to change to an animal rights organization. In the 1990's the personnel began to change to better fit with their new purpose, and today many of the personnel at HSUS have ties to PETA, including the current President, Wayne Pacelle.

This is an interesting quote from Wayne Pacelle: "We have no ethical obligation to preserve the different breeds of livestock produced through selective breeding ...One generation and out. We have no problems with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding." - *Animal People News* (May 1, 1993) (3) When you combine other statements that he has made, with the above statement, in my opinion the meaning of this statement is that if we could spay and neuter all animals, we could eliminate pet ownership within one generation. "One generation and out" would mean to me that they are gone and are eliminated in only one generation.

Quietly sitting back and maybe not being aware, we are now allowing the HSUS to make presentations at our local schools, with the definite purpose to educate our children about how bad pet ownership is, to indoctrinate children to the thought that animals should be free and not kept as pets. They are doing this in the same way that they have infiltrated city councils and local governments all across the country, quietly and matter-of-factly.

"Shortly after taking office, Pacelle announced a merger with the Fund For Animals which have assets of over \$20 million, and the Doris Day Animal League. The combined group estimated its 2005 budget at "over \$95 million" and also announced the formation of a new "political organization," which will "allow for a more substantial investment of resources in political and lobbying activities." (4)

So that is where we find ourselves today. With the HSUS and PETA combined annual budgets of over \$124 million for political and lobbying efforts to take away our rights to own animals. And that figure does not include the many splinter organizations that have been formed from these two major organizations. We are in an uphill battle now, and it will be the fight of our lives to keep our rights to own pets.

They are going at it from many different angles. One way is to get Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) passed. The banning of Pit-Bulls all over the country is a good example. That has caught on like wildfires. The animal rights groups have said if they can just get one breed banned, then it will be easy to add others to it at a later date, until eventually all breeds are banned. Another way that they are going about it is to have a mandatory spay and neuter law in place. Just think about it, if all domestic animals are spayed and neutered, when they die, there will be no more domestic animals. Those same words have been said by Wayne Pacelle, the President of the HSUS. They have a very well thought out and planned agenda, and they are counting on the ignorance of the American people to get their agenda accomplished. Well guess what: Ignorance can be overcome by education. The

American people may be ignorant about the facts, but they are not stupid. They can be educated. We were ignorant before 9-11, and look what effect that had. It caused all Americans to become educated and unite and fight to prevent that from happening again. The difference here is that we are being attacked from within our own country. We are under strong attack by the animal rights groups, and I hope that we don't just stand by and allow it to happen.

The animal rights groups are publicly stating that we need to get laws passed so that they can close down all the puppy mills and commercial breeding facilities that have their animals living in inhumane conditions. Just about everyone would agree with the idea that animals should be treated humanely. But that is just the vehicle that they are using to try to do away with all animal ownership, period. And that is not a statement that they are being all that public about.

You can become active in this fight by telling your friends and neighbors what is going on. You can be an instrument of education. You can also fight this kind of legislation when it is presented in your area. Go to the City Council meetings and make your voice heard. Write letters to the state and federal government officials to offer your services to be on any animal related committee. In short get the word out to any and all of your friends that own pets. Let them know what is going on. If enough people stop funding the animal rights organizations, we can put them out of business. There is not much that they can do without operating funds.

The next time you think about making a donation to any of these organizations, you had better think long and hard about

whether you really want your money being spent to take away your rights.

- PETA
- HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
- FARM SANCTUARY
- FUND FOR ANIMALS
- DORIS DAY ANIMAL LEAGUE
- EARTH SAVE
- GREEN PEACE
- PHYSICIANS COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIBLE MEDICINE
- ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT (ALF)
- FRIENDS OF ANIMALS
- IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

Right now the HSUS has started their "First Strike Campaign". I find that an interesting choice of names. At [visualthesaurus.com](http://visualthesaurus.com) they define first strike as follows:

**First strike:** *An attack that is intended to seize or inflict damage on or destroy an objective.*

Most people think that attack is on inhumane treatment of animals. They still don't know it is an attack to take your animals away from you. Last year over 10 million people donated money to the HSUS because of their massive spending on advertising. Most of those 10 million people had no idea what their money was actually going to support.

Better places to donate your money that will fight for your rights to own animals are listed below. These groups are working hard to protect your right to own animals, and to expose the true agenda to much of the animal legislation going on all over the country.

NATIONAL ANIMAL INTEREST ALLIANCE

<http://www.naiaonline.org/>

SPORTSMEN'S AND ANIMAL OWNERS' VOTING  
ALLIANCE

<http://saova.org/>

AMERICAN DOG OWNERS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.adoa.org/index.cfm>

U S SPORTSMAN ALLIANCE

<http://www.ussportsmen.org/>

You can either make your donations work for you or against you. That decision is yours to make.

Footnotes for Reference:

- 1) <http://www.activistcash.com/biography.cfm/bid/456>
- 2) [www.nokillnow.com/PetaDVACreporting.pdf](http://www.nokillnow.com/PetaDVACreporting.pdf)
- 3) <http://www.animalscam.com/quotes.cfm>
- 4) [http://www.activistcash.com/organization\\_overview.cfm/oid/136](http://www.activistcash.com/organization_overview.cfm/oid/136)



Can you find the real puppy?



**AP** Associated Press AP - Thu Jan 25, 5:17 AM ET

A dog and a pig are displayed during a promotional event at a Hong Kong shopping mall to celebrate the upcoming change of the year from the Year of the Dog to the Year of the Pig as the Chinese Lunar New Year begins on February 18 in Hong Kong

## YOUR WHOLE PET

Bigger than you think: The story behind the pet food recall

[By Christie Keith, Special to SF Gate](#)

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

The March 16 recall of 91 pet food products manufactured by Menu Foods wasn't big news at first. Early coverage reported only 1-15 cats and dogs dying after eating canned and

pouched foods manufactured by Menu. The foods were recalled—among them some of the best-known and biggest-selling brands—and while it was certainly a sad story, and maybe even a bit of a wake-up call about some aspects of pet food manufacturing that was about it.

At first, that was it for me, too. But I'm a contributing editor for a nationally syndicated pet feature, Universal Press Syndicate's [Pet Connection](#), and all of us there have close ties to the veterinary profession. Two of our contributors are vets themselves, including Dr. Marty Becker, the vet on "Good Morning America." And what we were hearing from veterinarians wasn't matching what we were hearing on the news.

When we started digging into the story, it quickly became clear that the implications of the recall were much larger than they first appeared. Most critically, it turned out that the initially reported tally of dead animals only included the cats and dogs who died in Menu's test lab and not the much larger number of affected pets.

Second, the timeline of the recall raised a number of concerns. Although there have been some media reports that Menu Foods started getting complaints as early as December 2006, FDA records state the company received their first report of a [food-related pet death](#) on February 20.

One week later, on February 27, Menu started testing the suspect foods. Three days later, on March 3, the first cat in the trial died of acute kidney failure. Three days after that, Menu switched wheat gluten suppliers, and 10 days later, on March

16, recalled the 91 products that contained gluten from their previous source.

Nearly one month passed from the date Menu got its first report of a death to the date it issued the recall. During that time, no veterinarians were warned to be on the lookout for unusual numbers of kidney failure in their patients. No pet owners were warned to watch their pets for its symptoms. And thousands and thousands of pet owners kept buying those foods and giving them to their dogs and cats.

At that point, Menu had seen a [35 percent death rate](#) in their test-lab cats, with another 45 percent suffering kidney damage. The overall death rate for animals in Menu's tests was around 20 percent. How many pets, eating those recalled foods, had died, become ill or suffered kidney damage in the time leading up to the recall and in the days since? The answer to that hasn't changed since the day the recall was issued: We don't know.

We at Pet Connection knew the 10-15 deaths being reported by the media did not reflect an accurate count. We wanted to get an idea of the real scope of the problem, so we started a database for people to report their dead or sick pets. On March 21, two days after opening the database, we had over 600 reported cases and more than 200 reported deaths. As of March 31, the number of deaths alone was at 2,797.

There are all kinds of problems with [self-reported cases](#), and while we did correct for a couple of them, our numbers are not considered "confirmed." But [USA Today](#) reported on March 25 that data from Banfield, a nationwide chain of over

600 veterinary hospitals, "suggests [the number of cases of kidney failure] is as high as hundreds a week during the three months the food was on the market."

On March 28, "NBC News" featured California veterinarian Paul Pion, who surveyed the 30,000 members of his national Veterinary Information Network and told anchor Tom Costello, "If what veterinarians are suspecting are cases, then it's much larger than anything we've seen before." Costello commented that it amounted to "potentially thousands of sick or dead pets."

The FDA was asked about the numbers at a press conference it held on Friday morning to announce that melamine had been found in the urine and tissues of some affected animals as well as in the foods they tested. Dr. Stephen Sundlof, director of the Center for Veterinary Medicine, told reporters that the FDA couldn't confirm any cases beyond the first few, even though they had received over 8,800 additional reports, because "we have not had the luxury of confirming these reports." They would work on that, he said, after they "make sure all the product is off the shelves." He pointed out that in human medicine, the job of defining what constitutes a confirmed case would fall to the Centers for Disease Control, but there is no CDC for animals.

Instead, pet owners were encouraged to report deaths and illness to the FDA. But when they tried to file reports, there was no place on the agency's Web site to do so and nothing but endless busy signals when people tried to call. Veterinarians didn't fare much better. They were asked to report cases to their state veterinarian's office, but one feline

veterinary blog, [vetcetera](#), which surveyed all official state veterinarian Web sites, found that only eight had any independent information about the recall, and only 24 even mentioned it at all. Only one state, Vermont, had a request on their site for veterinarians to report pets whose illnesses or deaths they suspect are related to the recall. And as of today, there is no longer a notice that veterinarians should report suspected cases to their state veterinarians on the Web site of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

The lack of any notification system was extremely hard on veterinarians, many of whom first heard about the problem on the news or from their clients. Professional groups such as the Veterinary Information Network were crucial in disseminating information about the recall to their members, but not all vets belong to VIN, and not all vets log on to VIN on the weekend (the Menu press release, like most corporate or government bad news, was issued on a Friday).

But however difficult this recall has been for veterinarians, no one has felt its impact more than the owners of affected dogs and cats. While the pet media and bloggers continued to push the story, the most powerful force driving it was the grief of pet owners, many of them fueled by anger because they felt that their pet's death or illness wasn't being counted.

Many of them were also being driven by a feeling of guilt. At Pet Connection, we received a flood of stories from owners whose pets became ill with kidney failure, and who took them to the vet. The dogs or cats were hospitalized and treated, often at great expense -- sometimes into the

thousands of dollars -- and then, when they were finally well enough, sent home.

For some, the story ended there. But for others, there was one more horrifying chapter. Because kidney failure causes nausea, it's often hard to get recovering pets to eat. So a lot of these owners got down on their hands and knees and coaxed and begged and eventually hand-fed their pets the very same food that had made them sick. Those animals ended up right back in the hospital and died, because their loving owners didn't know that the food was tainted.

To many pet owners, the pet food recall story is a personal tragedy about the potentially avoidable loss of a beloved dog or cat. Others have a hard time seeing the story as anything more than that -- with implications beyond the feelings of those grieving pet owners. Which brings us to the bigger picture, and questions -- not about what happened but about the system.

How did this problem, now involving almost every large pet food company in the United States, including some of the most trusted -- and expensive -- brands, get so out of hand? How come pet owners weren't informed more rapidly about the contaminated pet food? Why is it so hard to get accurate numbers of affected animals? Why didn't veterinarians get any notification? Where did the system break down?

The issue may not be that the system broke down, but that there isn't really a system. There is, as the FDA pointed out, no veterinary version of the CDC. This meant the FDA kept confirming a number it had to have known was only the tip

of the iceberg. It prevented veterinarians from having the information they needed to treat their patients and advise pet owners. It allowed the media to repeat a misleadingly low number, creating a false sense of security in pet owners -- and preventing a lot of people from really grasping the scope and implication of the problem.

And it was why Rosie O'Donnell felt free to comment last week on "The View": "Fifteen cats and one dog have died, and it's been all over the news. And you know, since that date, 29 soldiers have died, and we haven't heard much about them. No. I think that we have the wrong focus in the country. That when pets are killed in America from some horrific poisoning accident, 16 of them, it's all over the news and people are like, 'The kitty! It's so sad.' Twenty-nine sons and daughters killed since that day, it's not newsworthy. I don't understand."

In fact, Rosie didn't understand. She didn't understand that the same government she blames for sending America's sons and daughters to die in Iraq is the government that told her only 15 animals had died, and that the story was about a pet "poisoning accident" and not a systemic failure of FEMA-esque proportions.

Think that's going too far? Maybe not. On Sunday night, April 1, Pet Connection got a report from one of its blog readers, Joy Drawdy, who said that she had found an [import alert](#) buried on the FDA Web site. That alert, issued on Friday, the same day that the FDA held its last press conference about the recall, identified the Chinese company that is the source of the contaminated gluten -- gluten that is now known to be sold not only for use in animal feed, but in

[human food products](#), too. (The [Chinese company](#) is now denying that they are responsible, although they are investigating it.)

Although the FDA said on Friday it has no reason to think the contaminated gluten found its way into the human food supply, Sundlof told reporters that it couldn't be ruled out. He also assured us that they would notify the public as soon as they had any more information -- except, of course, that they did have more information and didn't give it to us, publishing it instead as an obscure import alert, found by chance by a concerned pet owner, which was then spread to the larger media.

All of which begs the question: If a system to report and track had been in place for animal illness, would this issue have emerged sooner? Even lacking a reporting and tracking system, if the initial news reports had included, as so many human stories do, suspected or estimated cases from credible sources, it's likely this story would have been taken more seriously and not just by Rosie O'Donnell. It may turn out that our dogs and cats were the canaries in the coal mine of an enormous system failure -- one that could have profound impacts on American food manufacturing and safety in the years to come.

*Christie Keith is a contributing editor for Universal Press Syndicate's Pet Connection and past director of the Pet Care Forum on America Online. She lives in San Francisco.*

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2007/04/03/petscol.DTL>

## TRIBUTE TO OUR RECENTLY FALLEN ANGELS:



Ch, Nustar's Brother John Sung-Hi owned by Alice Fix. He truly knew how to be a good companion, and will be greatly missed.



````NOTICE````

**Dues are Due by April 30**

**Single Membership \$20**

**Family Membership (2 People) \$25**

**Send checks made out to CCSPC to:**

Louise Watson; 8111 Anchor Drive; Longmont, CO 80504

Questions? 303-772-7325

Our club's ad in the March/April issue of The Barker:

**Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club, Inc.**  
*Serving the Rocky Mountain Region*



**Meet the Members of our Club**

We put our best efforts in everything we do. Here are a few accomplishments we are proud of:

We worked in collaboration with CSU& NIH on Fever Research Projects  
Partnered with Heart of America Club in fundraising for CSP Charitable Trust

We hold numerous Breed Booths at local shows

Winner of Best Club Newsletter-2005, and 1<sup>st</sup> Runner –Up in 2006

Established website and won Best CSPCA Club Website Contest- 2006

Support CSPCA raffles and Auctions as well as trophy donations

Now we are working on our plans to host the 2009 CSPCA Nationals in Denver, Colorado. Plan to attend to see firsthand how we will make Nationals 2009 a memorable event.

September 29 – October 3, 2009

**Officers of the Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club**

**President-** Alice Fix

**Vice President-** Jeanne Hill-Jurik

**Secretary-** Kay Rosenberger

**Treasurer-** Louise Watson

**Board of Directors-** Kristin Reynolds Bob Rosenberger

**Committees:**

Breeder Referral: Louise Watson

Fund Raising: Kristin Reynolds

Legislative Liaison: Alice Fix & Laura Brown

Public Education: Jeanne Hill-Jurik

Rescue: Louise Watson

Show Chairman: Kay Rosenberger

Show Secretary: Anita Cox

Webmaster- Laura Brown

A note from the Editor:

We would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to contribute an article to this newsletter. The Rocky Mountain Wrinkle is a club publication, and as such requires the participation of club members through out the year. Your participation will help to make this publication meaningful and worthwhile for the membership of the club. All contributions and ideas are greatly appreciated.

Please forward your input for inclusion to the Publisher at the address listed below.

**The Rocky Mountain Wrinkle**

**2005-Awarded Number 1 CSPCA Newsletter**

**2006- Awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Runner- Up CSPCA Newsletter**

**2006 Awarded Best CSPCA Club Website**

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