

AUTUMN 2014



International Society for Animal Rights

Law and Education Serving Animals

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## President's Message

Dear Friends:

**On ISAR's International Homeless Animals' Day® 2014 (August 16), in just *one* of at least 50 domestic and international venues, nearly 500 spay/neuters were performed.**

That's correct, nearly 500!

Participating in ISAR's International Homeless Animals' Day, ten veterinarians and volunteers rolled up their sleeves in Panama City, Panama, and by the end of the day nearly 500 spay/neuters meant thousands—*yes thousands*—of kittens and puppies will never be born and, in turn, never reproduce. Nor generation after generation of unwanted dogs and cats. According to Patricia Chan, founder of Spay/Panama, even Mayor Jose Blandon showed up, only to be amazed. According to Ms. Chan, "Mayor Blandon recognizes the issue with low-income families not having access to low-cost spay/neuter services, which causes overpopulation of domestic animals. He has created a department of Animal Welfare to address the problem and work with Spay/Panama to reach more animals." Patricia Chan then graciously added "Thank you ISAR for making a worldwide difference."



ISAR's IHAD *is* making a difference.

Multiply what happened in Panama just *ten* times over throughout the world and 5,000 spay/neuters would occur—preventing hundreds of thousands of unwanted kittens and puppies.

Conceived and commemorated originally in 1992, ISAR's International Homeless Animals' Day is the first and only worldwide event that addresses the urgent need for affordable spay/neuter programs. On IHAD, ISAR along with animal protection organizations, humane societies, animal rescues, veterinary professionals, caring individuals, and animal-friendly businesses from throughout the United States, Canada and abroad join together to send the spay/neuter and adoption message in an effort to halt the euthanasia and suffering of unwanted companion animals, feral and stray cats and dogs that have been abandoned and left to fend for themselves.

Since its inception in 1992, ISAR's International Homeless Animals' Day has continued to grow and gain momentum in the war against dog and cat overpopulation. To date, ISAR's IHAD observances have been celebrated in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, in over 50 countries, and on 6 continents.

With our supporters' dedication and financial support ISAR will continue our battle against pet overpopulation, through International Homeless Animals' Day and our other programs, working tirelessly for the day when cat and dog overpopulation is no longer the plague it is today.

Sincerely,

*Susan Dapsis*

Susan Dapsis

President

# International Homeless Animals' Day® 2014

—A Snapshot—

*International Homeless Animals' Day 2014 was commemorated for the twenty-third consecutive year on August 16th with observances in at least 30 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Canada and in at least 13 foreign locations including Australia, China, France, Guatemala, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Republic of Panama, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.*

## Introduction

Observed annually on the third Saturday of August each year, ISAR and its dedicated International Homeless Animals' Day event coordinators join together in solidarity with animal rights and protection organizations, humane societies, elected officials, media, and concerned individuals to shed light on the pet overpopulation epidemic that plagues our globe.

International Homeless Animals' Day events are most notably commemorated with candlelight vigils, adopt-a-thons, spay/neuter clinics, pet walks, microchip clinics, fundraisers, information tables, and often some venues host special guest speakers, among them elected officials, veterinarians, shelter personnel, media personalities, and local celebrities.

International Homeless Animals' Day activities and attendance differ in size and content at each observance. For instance, an adoption event held by Tallahassee Animal Services in Florida resulted in 50 animals finding new homes. More than 35 animal shelters and rescues from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in Texas joined forces and waived adoption fees for their *Empty the Shelter Day*, resulting in over a whopping 2,200 animal adoptions in a single day. Amigos Pro Animal AC hosted multiple pet walks and candlelight vigils in two towns in Mexico, with hundreds of people and their dogs in attendance to memorialize the victims of pet overpopulation. London Ontario's Pawlooza, with over 300 volunteers aboard, once again prepared for record numbers involving more than 25,000 (yes 25,000!) people to mark the day. Despite the threat of inclement weather, more than 50 animal welfare and rescue groups welcomed thousands of participants and their dogs to Pawlooza on International Homeless Animals' Day.

Over the years, ISAR has seen an increase in IHAD participation from organizations and companies other than those in the animal rights/protection fields. This year, in honor of International Homeless Animals' Day, Lincoln Caverns & Whisper Rocks in Pennsylvania donated a portion of each ticket sale to their local humane society. Also during the month of August, caring employees from BAE Systems, Inc. in Jessup, Pennsylvania, hosted multiple animal shelter volunteer days and pet food and supply drives that resulted in over \$2000 worth of pet food, litter, toys, and cleaning supplies being donated to two Pennsylvania humane societies. Rounding out their International Homeless Animals' Day observance, BAE Systems, Inc. hosted a coloring contest for employees and their families using ISAR's International Homeless Animals' Day coloring sheets to raise awareness about the importance of spay/neuter and shelter pet adoption.

*In sum, there is no doubt that as a direct result of our International Homeless Animals' Day countless shelter animals have found permanent loving homes, and thousands of pets are now spayed and neutered. All saving millions of animals' lives.*

## Special Thanks

Every year more and more humane-minded elected officials take an active role in encouraging members of their communities to act responsibly by having their pets spayed and neutered. The following three officials are representatives of the many more whom space does not allow us to name individually. Special thanks to Panama Mayor Jose Blandon. ISAR would like to extend our deepest gratitude also to Mayor Bill Gluba of Davenport, Iowa who spoke on behalf of animals and signed ISAR's Proclamation declaring August 16, 2014 as International Homeless Animals' Day. Once again this year, the Mayor of Fernandina Beach, Florida, Ed Boner, declared the entire month of August as Homeless Animals' Month and August 16, 2014 as International Homeless Animals' Day. We strongly urge our supporters to urge their governors and mayors to sign our proclamation well before International Homeless Animals' Day 2015. We would greatly appreciate being informed if they do.

*Please contact ISAR to be added to the list to receive ISAR's International Homeless Animals' Day Proclamations and Event Packets.*

ISAR is grateful to all media and individuals who helped ISAR promote its 23rd annual International Homeless Animals' Day observances, and conveyed the importance of spay/neuter through radio and television interviews, newspaper articles, blogs, social networking, websites, billboards, and in other ways.

ISAR is equally extremely grateful to all International Homeless Animals' Day event coordinators who year after year generously donate their time, efforts and resources to bring awareness to the public of the horrific results of dog and cat overpopulation by promoting the important and simple solution: spay/neuter.

ISAR strives to one day eliminate the pet overpopulation epidemic but we cannot succeed without the great efforts of our vigil coordinators. Thank you!