

SUMMER 2013



International Society for Animal Rights

Law and Education Serving Animals

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## President's Message

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, ISAR recently implemented our latest program, Stop Devocalization Now, aimed at exposing and prohibiting the widespread cruel practice in the United States of surgically cutting the vocal cords of canines (and, less often, felines). (For a description of the brutal practice of devocalization, see our website [www.stopdevocalizationnow.org](http://www.stopdevocalizationnow.org)). Since the program's inception, ISAR has taken the following actions in support of our Stop Devocalization Now Project:

- ISAR created a one-stop, educational website aimed at exposing and prohibiting the barbaric practice of dog and cat devocalization. Our comprehensive website is the only international resource for information about how to end devocalization through legislation.
- ISAR communicated our efforts to thousands of our supporters emphasizing the Stop Devocalization Now Project through our quarterly USPS newsletter, blog, e-newsletter, twitter, and social networks.
- ISAR distributed press releases about our Stop Devocalization Now Project to educate the media and the public to the horrors of dog and cat devocalization.
- ISAR specially designed custom bumper stickers emphasizing the urgent need to Stop Devocalization Now and continues to distribute them free of charge to any one who contacts us.
- ISAR promotes our Stop Devocalization Now Project by producing and distributing powerful videos about this horrific practice on YouTube and Xtranormal.
- ISAR discussed devocalization in an interview on "Animals Today Radio," as well as having interviewed Dr. Nicholas Dodman—world renowned animal behaviorist, and bestselling author—about devocalization. (Note: both interviews can be found in their entirety on our Stop Devocalization Now website.)
- ISAR advertised in Best Friends Magazine in connection with our Stop Devocalization Now Project.
- ISAR reached out to various political action committees concerning the Stop Devocalization Now Project and in the name of public safety, we solicited interest from the Fraternal Order of Police.

As a direct result of ISAR's anti-devocalization project, we have heard from countless people who agree with ISAR's position and laud our efforts, but we are in great need of volunteers whose sole responsibility would be to obtain state or local legislative support for ISAR's anti-devocalization model statute.

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, ISAR cannot lobby for or against the enactment of legislation. However, we can support those who are willing to fight for legislation that will end devocalization throughout the United States.

Won't you help us help them by volunteering? ([www.stopdevocalizationnow.org](http://www.stopdevocalizationnow.org))



## Join us in observing International Homeless Animals' Day® 2013

ISAR's International Homeless Animals' Day, an annual event observed each year on the third Saturday of August, will take place on Saturday, August 17, 2013. ISAR conceived and began International Homeless Animals' Day in 1992 to shed light on the pet overpopulation crisis and the spay/neuter solution. Now, twenty-two years later, observances have been celebrated in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, in over 50 countries and on 6

continents, saving countless animals' lives.

International Homeless Animals' Day is a great opportunity for individuals, animal shelters, animal and other organizations, veterinary clinics or pet friendly businesses to get the message out to your community about your efforts to alleviate pet overpopulation.

International Homeless Animals' Day observances provide an important opportunity to:

- Enlighten your community about the services you offer to the public.
- Raise much needed funds to support your spay/neuter programs.
- Increase adoptions by showcasing your adoptable pets.
- Grow your volunteer and foster families by

networking with other animal-friendly people.

- Educate your community about the importance of spaying/neutering to alleviate pet overpopulation.

ISAR offers free International Homeless Animals' Day packets to all who are interested in coordinating an event, whether small or large.

ISAR's informational materials will assist you in organizing an effective observance with suggestions for site selection, reaching target audiences, speakers, sample press releases, ISAR's proclamations, and much, much more.

Please contact ISAR by mail, phone, fax or email to receive your International Homeless Animals' Day 2013 packet.

## A NEW TWIST ON DOG FIGHTING

Always educating the public about the plight of animals, ISAR's recent blog reported on a new and terrifying twist on dog fighting. It is called *trunking*.

The reprehensibly barbaric practice of dog fighting *in the trunks of cars* is apparently engaged in by the same kind of human savages who fight dogs in other places.

Gaining momentum in Florida, cases of "trunking" have been reported in which two dogs, often pit bulls, are thrown into the trunk of a car. The driver then turns up the radio, either to aggravate the dogs and/or to muffle the ensuing barking and screaming. About fifteen minutes later, the driver stops, dumps the dead or wounded dog out of the trunk, and proceeds on his way. Police in the southern part of Florida have recently seen an increase in this horrific activity.

A newspaper recently reported that "[p]erhaps the worst case of trunking so far was recently uncovered in Miami-Dade County. Five pit bulls and four puppies were discovered at a residence . . . after animal services received an anonymous tip. In the back of the home cages were covered in urine and feces. The dogs exhibited clear signs of fighting and are currently being treated for open wounds and broken bones. The face of the oldest dog of the group, Max, is obscured by cuts and scars."

"Trunking" is criminal under Florida law, the police have a low tolerance for it, and they make arrests when they can. Prosecutors will enforce the law if the police bring a case to them. Normal citizens can, and should, report evidence of "trunking": Laws raising the penalty upon conviction can, and should be, strengthened. Vehicles used to perpetrate such crimes should be seized and forfeited.

And one more thing can be done: Letters to the Governor of Florida can heighten his awareness that barbarians are loose in his state, venting their sick psychologies on defenseless animals.

We encourage ISAR's supporters who have not already signed up to receive ISAR's blogs to do so now, so that they can be kept up-to-date on news like this relating to the plight of animals.

ISAR extends a heartfelt thanks to all of our supporters for making our work on behalf of animals possible. You are the most powerful allies the animals have.

Sincerely,

*Susan Dapsis*

Susan Dapsis, President