

WINTER 2012



International Society for Animal Rights

Law and Education Serving Animals

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## President's Message

Dear Friends,

In recent years, more and more supporters of animal protection have become aware of at least one aspect of ISAR's work. When they do, we're often asked to summarize our overall mission, and provide details of our programs. Our website is chock full of that information—for example, [www.isaronline.org/Legislation.html](http://www.isaronline.org/Legislation.html), [www.isaronline.org/Litigation.html](http://www.isaronline.org/Litigation.html), [www.isaronline.org/Monographs.html](http://www.isaronline.org/Monographs.html), [www.isaronline.citymax.com/commentary\\_and\\_interviews.html](http://www.isaronline.citymax.com/commentary_and_interviews.html) [www.isaronline.org/law\\_articles.html](http://www.isaronline.org/law_articles.html)—but I want briefly to summarize it here (especially for those of our supporters who don't use computers).

ISAR's overall mission is—through public education and the use of law and legislation—the promotion and advancement of animal rights.

Essentially, our public education efforts include the annual worldwide International Homeless Animals' Day® (see page 2 of this Newsletter); providing, through responses to telephone, fax and email inquiries, answers and information concerning the now-vast subject of animal rights, including referrals to available resources; and adding to, and disseminating from, our website, [www.isaronline.org](http://www.isaronline.org), detailed information about animal rights and those of ISAR's activities promoting and advancing them.

Our legal efforts—directed by ISAR's chairman, Professor Henry Mark Holzer ([www.isaronline.citymax.com/f/Tischler\\_StanfordJournalVol11.pdf](http://www.isaronline.citymax.com/f/Tischler_StanfordJournalVol11.pdf))—fall into two categories:

- √ The researching, writing and distributing of lengthy monographs proposing cutting-edge animal protection legislation ([www.isaronline.citymax.com/monographs.html](http://www.isaronline.citymax.com/monographs.html)),
- √ The submission of “friend-of-the-court” legal briefs in animal rights cases ([www.isaronline.org/Litigation.html](http://www.isaronline.org/Litigation.html)), and providing advice to the increasing number of lawyers now practicing animal law (a legal practice area that has developed from the early efforts of Professor Holzer).

We make our supporters, and others throughout the world, aware of these efforts by means of every traditional and modern method possible: snail mail, e-bulletins, facebook, blogs, YouTube, Xtranormal, and more.

I want to make one last point that's crucially important to ISAR's continued existence. Because our efforts on behalf of animals are largely educational, not dramatically activist, the results we achieve are not readily observable—unlike, for example, peace officer heroes who raid puppy farms. In the real world, it's not possible in the short term to know the long term effects of, say, an animal rights conference attended by scores of lawyers who teach animal law. Or the consequences of a new kind of legislation that, if enacted and enforced, could cripple the puppy mill industry.

In other words, ideas have consequences—but often they are not immediately observable. The abolitionists' anti-slavery educational efforts come to mind. And closer to our time, the civil rights movement.

If you understand that ideas do have consequences, but that it takes time for them to work into a culture, be accepted, and then acted on, please support ISAR's efforts and, with us, await the benefits that will accrue to our animal friends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Dapsis".

Susan Dapsis  
President

## ISAR'S INTERNATIONAL HOMELESS ANIMALS' DAY®

On August 20, 2011, more than 30 states and 11 foreign countries including Canada, played host to hundreds of International Homeless Animals' Day observances held by humane societies, animal rescues, veterinary professionals, caring individuals, and animal-friendly businesses.

Since 1992, the third Saturday of August has been reserved by ISAR, animal protection organizations, and concerned individuals around the globe to commemorate ISAR's International Homeless Animals' Day and Candlelight Vigils.

Over the years, International Homeless Animals' Day Candlelight Vigil observances have brought the pet overpopulation epidemic to the forefront, impressing on the public the importance of shelter adoptions and emphasizing the simple spay/neuter solution.

As a direct result of ISAR's International Homeless Animals' Day observances:

- Thousands of dogs and cats are spayed and neutered, thus preventing the birth of hundreds of thousands of unwanted companion animals.
- Thousands of dollars are raised to fund low-cost spay/neuter programs, consequently reducing the number of animals entering shelters.
- Countless shelter animals once homeless, find permanent loving homes, thus reducing shelter euthanasia rates.
- ISAR's proclamations urging citizens to spay and neuter their pets are adopted and signed by U.S. Governors and Mayors, thereby acknowledging the companion animal overpopulation crisis and the pressing need for low-cost spay/neuter programs.
- Media coverage from newspapers, radio, and television stations, along with numerous online resources enlighten the public to the simple solution to the pet overpopulation crisis: spay/neuter.
- ISAR's billboards effectively communicate the spay/neuter message to a large number of motorists in several states.

- ISAR's educational brochures, addressing the problems and solutions related to pet overpopulation are distributed worldwide.

We cannot stress enough the opportunity that International Homeless Animals' Day provides for your organization, animal shelter, animal rescue, veterinary clinic or pet friendly business, to get the worthy recognition you deserve for your dedicated efforts to alleviate pet overpopulation and all the wonderful results it provides for our faithful companion animals.

Participation in International Homeless Animals' Day 2012 will underscore the tremendous impact that your organization's solution-focused efforts have on saving the lives of homeless animals.

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

- Enlighten communities about local animal services available to the public.
- Raise the much needed funds to support spay/neuter programs.
- Increase adoptions by showcasing adoptable pets.
- Educate communities of the importance of spaying/neutering to alleviate pet overpopulation.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to raise awareness of dog and cat overpopulation and the spay/neuter solution to audiences around the world during ISAR's 21<sup>st</sup> commemoration of International Homeless Animals' Day on Saturday, August 18, 2012.

ISAR offers free International Homeless Animals' Day packets to all who are interested in coordinating an event, whether it is a modest event or a large public gathering. Our information packets guide participants in selecting a vigil site and reaching target audiences, while providing sample press releases, suggestions for speakers, posters, proclamations, poems, songs, coloring sheets and more! Interested parties may request a free vigil packet from ISAR by mail, phone, fax or email. Packets are scheduled to be mailed by the first week in June 2012.