

Message from the President

With so much going on in our busy lives, we often set our priorities unconsciously rather than thoughtfully. In the recent tragedy of Katrina, the question of how much value or priority we place on both humans and animals was repeatedly asked in one dramatic, heartbreaking scenario after another. The answer was dramatized for us day after day.

We can probably agree that when there is insufficient priority put on protecting humans, there will be even less put on protecting animals. Thousands of humans in severe crisis themselves were forced to make heartbreaking evacuation choices to risk their lives by staying or to leave cherished animal family members behind. We now know that many of

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those pets died and thousands more were eventually “rescued” and taken to locations throughout the country with little or no system in place to allow their displaced, traumatized humans to find them. The toll in suffering of humans and their animals is unimaginable.

In the midst of all the confusion there does seem to be consensus on one point. There was grossly insufficient prior planning in all areas; however there had been virtually no planning about the rescue of pets. Is it necessary to ignore the inherent value of animals and their value as family members in order to value humans? IT IS NOT! We must all raise our voices to say that all living beings deserve more than the plans provided.

For the animals, the solution lies with the animal protection communi-



People for Animals President Ann Logan with Penny, Manny and Annie.

ty. If the emergency planning process will allow us in, we will do what is needed on local and state levels to be prepared with plans that will provide protection and identification of pets and service animals so that they are kept safe and can be returned to their families when the time comes. Our lack of PREVENTION has added to the homeless animal population in a world

where millions of dogs and cats already die each year because there aren't enough homes.

I doubt that we consciously value cure more than PREVENTION. But we must ask ourselves how and when does our country respond? We respond with overwhelming generosity after a crisis, but we most often ignore potential problems when we could PREVENT or at least minimize them. As individuals, we must insist on a national change in philosophy and we must show by our individual actions our own belief in the higher value of PREVENTION .

People For Animals lives by this philosophy through its focus on education, spay/neuter, animal protection legislation, and now on our efforts to participate in an emergency management process at state and local levels. Come on the journey with us!

For the animals,

Ann Logan

TN Legislative Update

“PETS”: Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standard Act

U.S. Representative Tom Lantos recently introduced the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005 (H.R. 3858). With 358 million pets residing in U.S. households, the purpose of this legislation is to ensure that State and local emergency preparedness plans address the needs of individuals with household **pets** and **service animals** following a major disaster or emergency. If made law, the PETS Act would amend current federal law by requiring that the disaster evacuation plans of state and local authorities take into account the needs of individuals with household **pets** and **service animals** following a major disaster or emergency.

This legislation is supported by People for Animals, the Humane Society of the United States, the Doris Day Animal League, the Best Friends Animal Society, and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Please urge your U.S. representative to support H.R. 3858 so that the serious health and safety issues posed to the public and household animals during a disaster can be eliminated.