



August 2016



The Tails of Two Puppies

This past summer, two sweet puppies made their way to ECHS. Brother and sister, Vinny and Elsa share more than just their family tree. Both puppies have a genetic makeup that causes them to be mostly white, and to be born with both visual and hearing impairments. This genetic makeup is called double merle (homozygous merle is the technical term).

Vinny has been completely blind and deaf from birth due to his genetics. Elsa, his sister, is technically blind, but can see up close shadows with one eye, and is hearing impaired, although she can hear some noises. Neither puppy knows that it is any different from all the other puppies of the world. They run and play and wrestle. They chew things and enjoy cuddles and belly rubs. They play with toys and go for walks.

But they are not like other puppies. They have to live their whole lives with impairments. Being double merle means that both their mother and father carried the merle color pattern gene. Merle is the name of a gene that changes the color pattern in a dog's coat so it looks mottled. Many breeds of dog can carry the merle gene. Some common ones are Australian Shepherd, Collie, Border Collie, Shetland Sheepdog, Chihuahuas, Great by Deb Bauer

Danes (called merle or harlequin), and Dachshunds (called dapple), but there are many others.

When a puppy gets a copy of the merle gene from each parent, it has a chance of being born blind, deaf, or both. But this is easy to prevent. The only way double merles can happen is to breed two dogs with the merle gene together. So, by being careful which dogs are bred together, the risk of puppies being born with these impairments is taken away.

Merle can be a popular color for dogs, as it is pleasing to look at. But there are safer ways to breed dogs and still get the pretty merle color that do not involve risking puppies' lives to be born blind, deaf or both. If you are a breeder, please educate yourself about genetics and how each dog parent will pass along these genes to their puppies. If you are a puppy buyer, please be aware of how the puppy you are interested in was bred and which genes were passed down from each of its parents. By educating ourselves and others, we can prevent puppies from being born with impairments. Elsa and Vinny thank you for helping to educate others about the dangers of merle to merle breeding!

HOW TO REACH US!

Our shelter is located in the OLD FUNKHOUSER SCHOOL BUILDING 12073 N. 1000th Rd. (Mailing Address: P.O. Box 321) Effingham, IL 62401-0321

SHELTER HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday Closed for cleaning Sunday Closed

Telephone: 217-536-9001 Email: 4paws@frontier.com Website: www.effingham.petfinder.com www.facebook.com/effinghamcountyhumanesociety Newsletter design donated by Amy Jo Kingery

EFFINGHAM COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Pet Pictures with Santa and Open House

Saturday, December 3, 2016 Effingham County Humane Society

Mardi Gras Gala Friday, March 24, 2017 Effingham Knights of Columbus

ECHS Christmas Open House

Our annual December Open House will be held this year on Saturday, December 3rd, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the gymnasium at the shelter. Bring your pet for pictures with Santa and Mrs. Santa. While you wait for your DVD, enjoy homemade holiday treats and hot chocolate or coffee. We will also be offering treats for sale, along with handmade craft items and charm necklaces. Stay a while and chat with friends, look at the cats and dogs, or fill out an application to become a volunteer. It would be a holiday blessing to join our team of animal enthusiasts! Come to the old Funkhouser School and check it out! There will be a \$20.00 donation for the DVD.







Sadie

Apple Jack

Janje





Jasper

Azra

Awaldo



Phyllis

Lucky





We Believe in Magic

Do you remember, as a child, all the wonderful magic that surrounded you every day? We believed in Santa Claus, the Easter bunny, even the tooth fairy. I had a hard time believing about the tooth fairy, but I was a child full of questions, and that story just didn't ring true. Every day was full of friends and the magic of make-believe. Time passed and some of us grew up to be adults. A few of us still see the world through the eyes of a child, and we witness magic every day.

Remember Henry the coon hound? He was featured as our front page story in our last newsletter. He had broken his chain and run away from his owner. The chain became tangled in the woods and Henry nearly starved, but was found and brought to the shelter looking like a holocaust survivor, and covered with ring worm. He never stopped wagging his tail. Every setback that Henry faced was faced with that same spirit. As the last newsletter was printed, the vet told us Henry had cancer tumors on his spleen, and that all we could do was make him comfortable and keep him happy.

Henry is back at the shelter. Some way, some how, he had beat the odds and magically fought his way back to us, complete with his happy tail. A happy tale, indeed! I had asked for prayers for Henry, and here stands this big goofy coon hound, believe it or not. Henry was adopted to his forever home on September 10th. Another prayer answered.

During kitten season this Spring, we received two unrelated calls about young kittens. One kitten was rescued from a vacant store in town that was being converted into a new business. Someone had left a kitten behind, and the kitten had been used as a ball in a kickball game. The other kitten was found surviving on dumpster food from a local restaurant. When we received this kitten, a beautiful white with long hair and calico color points on her ears, feet, and tail, her jaw had been completely broken near the hinge, hanging on by only facial skin. She was rushed to the vet for a miracle, and we did not expect the kitten to be able to keep her lower jaw. More magic! The kitten came back after a stay with the vet, and was adopted a few weeks later. On her adoption day she was playing on our manager's desk, having a fine time throwing pens on the floor.

People ask us how we can tolerate all the animal cruelty and all the terrible situations these animals have been through. Come visit our shelter on any given day, and you will likely see staff members, board members, and volunteers smiling and chatting about the shelter animals. We never become immune to the violence and cruelty that we so often see. We are all there at the Humane Society to practice our own form of magic with our four-legged residents. We try to take the bad experiences these animals have endured, and rebuild their trust. We sit with them, we talk with them, we scratch ears and do tummy rubs. After a short time (usually) these dogs recognize the sounds of our voices when we enter the building. We walk into the dog room to a row of dogs in kennels, each vying to be the first to receive some attention. We all have a few chores that are not the most pleasant, but once the chores are done, the training begins. We are there to get these dogs ready for their forever homes, so proper training is a must. We begin a magical transformation, where basic commands are taught. Sit and stay are the first commands, but the longer a dog stays, the more our trainer and adoption coordinator, Deb Bauer, has a chance to teach them. We work on leash training, walking with a slack leash (no pulling), and a calm demeanor when each dog is being leashed up to go out for a walk. The last step is the big day when a shelter animal gets a forever home. Yes, we sometimes cry, but they are tears of joy with a true sense of accomplishment. The best part of the magic is yet to come. That happens when the new owner realizes how lonely they were without this animal in their lives, and how much this sense of companionship really means to them. I believe in magic. I believe in love. I believe in the power of companionship to a lonely person who has been lonely far too long.



A New Fund To Help Feral Cats



ECHS is mourning the loss of an amazing young woman, Sydney Herrick. She and her mother, Sherry, had been volunteering at the shelter for about 6 years. Once a week they would show up with a big bag of cat treats and toys, a large paper bag or two, and lots of love to give to each of the cats waiting to be adopted. Sydney knew every cat and kitten by name. She made sure each and every one of them got attention and love while she was visiting.

Sydney often paid to sponsor various cats, paying most of their adoption fees, to help them find a forever home faster. All of the cats had a special place in her heart – the playful kittens, the friendly adults, the shy ones, and the senior ones. And they all loved Sydney and Sherry, and looked forward to their visits.

We know that Sydney wanted to continue helping cats in the community. A new fund has been created in Sydney's honor, to help care for the feral cat population in Effingham County. We look forward to using the fund to help spay and neuter feral cats, to reduce the number of feral and unwanted kittens that seem to be growing every year. Each year, the Humane Society has to turn away many cats and kittens because we don't have room



to house and care for them. By spaying and neutering the cats that are producing all of those kittens, we can hopefully come to a place where we will have the room available to help when someone needs to rehome a cat.

The Feral Cat Care Fund (FCCF) in Honor of Sydney L. Herrick has been set up for this purpose. Guidelines for its use by the public are currently being set up. ECHS is accepting donations to this new fund and already has some cats lined up to get spayed and neutered with the fund. Donations to the Feral Cat Care Fund can be sent to ECHS. Please be sure to mark that you would like the donation to be used toward this fund.

Would You Like a Presentation?

Karen Grupe, our shelter manager, has again started presenting a program about the Humane Society and our animals. Our first presentation will be at Heartland Dental during lunch hours from 11:00-12:30. Each talk lasts between 25-30 minutes. Volunteers from the shelter will accompany Karen with some of our dogs for the audience's enjoyment. You might be surprised with how our dogs interact with people. They have been raised with love and training and are ready to go out into the world to their forever homes. If you are interested in having a presentation at your business, school, club, or retirement community, give Karen a call at 217-536-9001. We are always happy to share our friends with the public!

Nursing Home Visits

Almost three years ago, Karen Grupe, our shelter manager, started taking our shelter dogs once a month to the Altamont Lutheran Care Retirement Home and Nursing Facility. Since then, the interest in our monthly visits has increased and we have added other retirement facilities to our monthly list. If your facility would be interested in visits with the ECHS dogs, please call Karen at 217-536-9001 to be added to our list! We also encourage visits from the retirement home residents. They can tour our shelter or take some extra time to interact with our animals. Call Karen to set up a time to visit.





We ALL Love a Parade!

Any opportunity to let the public see our dogs and witness their behavior is a great opportunity. Summer, busy as it is, is the perfect time to take the dogs to the local parades and add a bit more knowledge to their social skills. This summer we tried a different form of parade display. Wagons, floats, decorations, a truck to pull the wagon, volunteers who are young enough to walk the parade route, etc., etc. All of our normal parade methods have become much too iffy. With a little help from our friends at K&W Auto in Teutopolis, who provided us with golf carts free of charge, and more held from friends with side-by-side recreational vehicles, we were able to have a driver and dog handler show the dogs as we rode in first class comfort. The 4th of July Parade in Dieterich and the Effingham County Fair Parade were two of the three parades we have in our date book for the parade season, with the Halloween Parade being the final event of the season. We were very pleased with the dogs' responses to loose dogs on the parade route, and their interaction with the children who ran up to our carts to ask about our dogs. We noticed an increase in shelter visitors and an increase in adoptions within a few weeks of each parade. An increase in social skills gives each dog an advantage when finding a forever home, and forever homes are our goals for each and every one of our shelter buddies. Come out to see them all at the old Funkhouser School!



Spotlight on Volunteers

Our Effingham County Humane Society volunteers are invaluable for all the many chores and animal responsibilities they are in charge of. This section of our newsletter is usually dedicated to one of our volunteers who really stands out among the rest. The problem, however, is that we are so short on volunteers that the same older people (for the most part) are at the shelter many times a week taking care of the many responsibilities involved in a day in the life of a shelter pet.



Karen, our shelter manager, was trying to do her regular daily tasks and get the Effingham County Fair Parade organized for the shelter's participation. When all the volunteers signed up, Karen was still lacking two people to drive golf carts, one person to handle a dog, and several people to walk with the group

and pass out freezer pops to the kids, and hand fans with pictures of our adoptable pets printed on them. Karen is a "Git 'er done" type manager, but she was about to give up on participating in the parade entirely. All the members of my family are animal lovers, and their friends share the same passion. I got in touch with our daughter in Tuscola and asked if she and her husband, their two daughters (ages 6 and 11) and their closest friends could possibly helps us out and fill in the empty spots. She got back to me to say that they would all be here for the parade... all they needed was the schedule and the location where we were to meet. Karen found a few more people to help and we were able to be in the parade.

This newsletter's spotlight is on our helpers from Tuscola and their best friends from church. Many thanks to Michelle and Jon Higar, their daughters, Madison and Jillian, and their friends (our friends!) Angie and Tommy Cravens. Without you we could not have featured our dogs in the fair parade.

Do you or people you know have an interest in helping the Effingham County Humane Society with the many different needs of the animals, the phone and filing, the planning and help with our events and fundraisers, baking skills, yard work, handyman work, etc., etc., etc.? Anyone with some extra time and a love of animals would be more than welcome to come to the shelter and put in an application to be a volunteer. PLEASE?



Battle Of The Barktenders



B&B Homes -- the Winners!



Pet Wellness Center of Southern Illinois



The Veterans



Swagger Salon



Bartending Nurses



Advanced Veterinary Care



On Saturday, June 25 we had an event hosted for us at On The Rox called "The Battle of the Barktenders." There were 8 groups of barktenders battling it out for tips to help support our cause. The barktending groups consisted of a team of Veterans, The Zone, Walton & Haarmann, Bartending Nurses, Pet Wellness Center of Southern Illinois, Swagger Salon, Advanced Veterinary Care, and B&B Homes. Along with a couple of raffles throughout the day, these teams generated over \$4700!!! This was the first time this event had been put on and we were very excited about the results! One group even brought in the most adorable puppy and took tips for puppy kisses! The big winner of the day was B&B Homes generating \$1,196 in tips!

We want to thank everyone who came out to support us, Dakota Esker for playing some amazing live music, On the Rox for hosting the event, and all of the barktending groups! The entire day was very exciting and a total success!



Dakota Esker



Walton & Haarmann



Battle Totals



B&B Homes



The Zone





Make A Difference In An Animal's Life, And It Will Make A Difference In Your Own

We have volunteer opportunities available from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for GIVING PEOPLE who have as much as 5-10 hours/week to as little as 2-3 hours/ month to work with and for our shelter cats and dogs. Applications and information on volunteer training are available at the shelter (volunteers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult).

Whether you need school service hours or just want to spend some quality time with cats and dogs, give us a call!

- Feed and water the animals
- Clean cages, litter boxes, and kennels
- General shelter cleaning
- Taking dogs on walks
- Socializing and human interaction
- Fundraising events.

The ECHS is also available to talk to your business, club, or organization so you can get more information on our history, our services, and the financial needs of our animals.

Volley For the Animals

Dori and Jeremy Reichs hosted their 4th Annual Volley for the Animals volleyball tournament at Ichabod's on Saturday, July 30. The Humane Society had help from the players setting up our canopy behind the building, and from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. we brought four of our well-mannered dogs out to meet the players, the hosts, and the public. These public outings are a great way to accustom our dogs to large groups of people, and interaction with strangers and children. The canine group we took this year were all impressed with interacting with the little ones. The children were almost as excited to see the dogs as the dogs were to see the children. For two hours our dogs were introduced to hugs, kisses, walks by assorted little ones, and mingling with the people waiting to play in the tournament. We can't begin to tell you how much this time and exposure means in the socialization of our four-legged friends.

Many thanks again to Dori and Jeremy Reichs for their annual gift of their love of animals. All proceeds were

donated to the Effingham County Humane Society. If anyone is interested in having a short talk by one of our staff and a meet and greet with our dogs, please call Karen at 217-536-9001 to set up a time that works for all.

Help!

Our volunteer list seems to be dwindling. Most of our volunteers are over 60 and retired. They are all loyal and dedicated animal enthusiasts, but some are having a difficult time walking and bending to take care of our dogs and cats. We also need people to answer phones, show animals to visitors, do office work, and help with our fundraisers and baking for our BIG fundraiser. Come out to the old Funkhouser School and talk to our staff about sharing some of your time to benefit our homeless animals.

WISH LIST

Looking for something to donate? The shelter is in need of the following items:

- 8' & 6' tables
- Wal-Mart gift cards
- Latex/non-latex/nitrile exam gloves (large or one-size fits-all)
- Menards gift cards
- Paper towels
- Bleach/bleach spray/bleach wipes
- Volunteers!!!
- 45-gallon trash bags
- K-Mart gift cards
- Rural King gift cards
- White kitchen bags
- SCOOPABLE cat litter
- Gel dishwasher detergent
- Liquid laundry detergent
- Toy mice for cats
- CANNED dog food
- CANNED cat food
- CASH DONATIONS!!!
- Washer
- Dryer



Dog in Danger

During the last week of September, a Watson couple brought a dog to ECHS they had found by the roadside the night before. This coon hound needed immediate veterinary attention. This large dog had chewed off a hind leg to free himself from what we can only imagine as a hunting trap. In addition to the badly injured leg, this large coon hound was down to 32 pounds; a skeletal 32 pounds. In order to do surgery, the dog's weight would have to increase or the surgery would be too dangerous to perform. He was immediately put on an I.V. and bandaged. Two weeks later he was released to the care of ECHS, now weighing 46.5 pounds.

As one of "Rusty's" caregivers, I was very concerned

about meeting him. I wanted him to know that I posed no threat and was there to bring him food and comfort. I walked quietly to his kennel and bent down to greet him and offered my hand to let him catch my scent. He rose from his padded bed, sniffed, and wagged his tail in greeting. I talked to



him, through tears, and I told him he was a lucky dog and needed special treatment and lots of love and treats. He seemed to agree, and we started our new relationship with this injured dog with this rust-colored velvet-soft coat. The following day he gladly took a short walk with my husband, and wanted to take a longer walk, but we were content knowing that he could and would walk.

Rusty has bandage changes every three days at the vet's. He is currently being fostered by our Board President, Leslie Niebrugge. Closer inspection of his coat revealed the presence of ring worm, which is now being treated. Rusty will soon have two surgeries performed on his leg to allow him to heal fully and lead a good life on three legs. He has the will to live and the attitude to live a happy life. Keep track of Rusty's

> progress on Facebook at Effingham County Humane Society. A few prayers for Rusty would be appreciated.

> **UPDATE:** Rusty is healing well from surgery to remove the partial leg, and he has a great new family already lined up waiting to adopt him!

Be the first to enjoy fresh-picked strawberries from Florida! Effingham County Humane Society is taking orders for:

or FULL FLATS (8 quarts) @ \$25 each HALF FLATS (4 quarts) @ \$13 each

LAST DAY TO ORDER IS FEBRUARY 6, 2017 Strawberries will be delivered to the shelter for pick-up the 1st or 2nd week of March, 2017.

Fill	out the order form, in	ed on our Facebook page and on the radio. clude your payment and mail to: cy, P.O. Box 321, Effingham, IL 62401-0321
Name:		Phone:
Address:		City:
Full Flats:	1/2 Flats	Total \$



The Effingham County Humane Society would like to thank the following donors for their contributions since the last issue of *Paw Prints*. This list includes donations received from 1/1/16 through 6/30/16. Finally, to the many individuals and businesses who donate goods and services, thereby reducing our cost over all, we thank each and every one of you!

Double Diamond Donors for Pets (\$2,000 and above)

Brown Estate, Kent Matlock Estate, Betty Lou Wharton, Raleigh & Julie

Diamond Donors for Pets (\$1,000 to \$1,999)

Niebrugge Care's Foundation (Linda Niebrugge) Patterson Technology Center/Patterson Companies, Inc. The Spunk Run

Platinum Pet Partners (\$500 to \$999)

Burrell, Mary JCPenney (Anonymous) Kinkelaar, Amber Sawyer, Nancy & Randy Thoele

Gold Guardian Angel (\$250 to \$499)

Boggs, Donald & Wanda Ely, Dr. Chad & Joy Hakman, James & Carol Helmink, Sharon Helmink, Sharon (missed in the February Newsletter) Huey, the family of Deanne Huey Jacobs, Deane & Judy Kuhlman, Chis Lawyer, Alan & Kim Norton, Daniel & Lisa

Silver Sustaining (\$100 to \$249)

72Vest Financial Center (Gary & Kimberly Rhodes) B&B Homes, LLC (Nichole Nuxoll) Barns, Larry & Barb Bierman, Luke & Anita Bone, Steve & Judi Boyer, Channapha Boyer, Russell & Barbara Budde, Lois Churchill, Michael & Linda

Colb, Elisabeth Conrad, Steve & Shari Draves, Marty & Kimberly Durbin, Theresa **Emergency Medicine Specialists** Erickson, Stephen & Dena Ann Finney, Ryan & Holly Fliss, Teresa Gentry, Sara Hauk, Daniel & Ginger Hicks, Julie Hoffman, Daniel & Mary Lynn Huntington, Georgia Huston, Thomas & Carole Jackson, Robert Jennings, Dr. Ryan & Sara Jerger Pediatric Dentistry, P.C. (Dr. Bret & Tracey Jerger) Kelly, Nichole Krietemeyer, Donald & June Malone, Kevin & Traci McEvers, David & Shirley McNaughton-Kade, Chris & JoAnn Mix, Emily National Bank of Hillsboro Parker, John & Donna Paulson, David & Dawn Printz, Stephen & Rae Rhodes, Gary & Kimberly Rush, Keith Rvan, Thomas & Patricia Schuette, David & Jamie Seagle, Frederick & Carla Seymour, Steven & Cynthia Shamhart, Beckv Sheets, Derek & Amanda Shure Inc., the executive staff at/Connie McConnell Sloan, Paul & Shannon Stewardson-Strasburg High School/CUSD #5A Activity Fund Sutton, Rose Wood, George & Mary Pat Woodland, Sharon Kay XI Lambda NU/Beta Sigma Phi Yacko, William & Erin

Bronze Best Friend (Up to \$99)

Albert, Anna Allen, Verena Althoff, Sandra Amazon Smile Foundation Anderson, Brian & Denise Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Bahrns, Stanley & Alyene Bauer, Donald & Lauretta Benton, Lara Bohlen, Zach & Dezirae Sidener Boldt, Melba Bourgeois, Anne Robert Bray Corporation/dba Bray Title Services Bunton, (Miss) Addison Burgess, (Master) Nick Burghart, Robert & Clara Buzzard, Dallas & Sherry Buzzard, Sam Calvert, Erin Caroll, Stacy Cheatum, June Collen, Marcia Crivilare, Victor & Renee Cumming, Eileen DeMaster, Jean DePaola, Donna Deters, Bruce & Lynn Dueker, Donnie & Jennifer Durbin, Amber Ealy, Scott Egan, Patricia Eichelberger, Kevin & Deborah Eversman, Mary Ellen Field, Sam & LuAnn Finley, Bruce & Lisa First Christian Church of Effingham First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust Funneman, Travis & Vicki Gabbert, Gean Ann & family Gentry, Stacy



Gillenwater, Mervin & Patricia Glover, Laura Goldstein, Robert & Cathy Goodshop Graffeo, Robert & Jackie Green, Sue Hakman, Chris & Dana (HAMCo) Don Steward Hardiek, Brad & Heidi Hardiek, Mark & Brenda Hargis, Daniel & Janet Harris, Harley Harrison, Brian & Kristina Haskins, Ron Heartland Dental Care Hendricks Ambulatory Management Co. Herboth, Carl & Inge Herrick, Sydney Hilliger, James & Rosemary Hodgson, Chris, Gary & Melba Hoffman, Jacob & Daphne Holloway, Leon Holsapple, Brad & Angie Huddleston, Darren & Lorinda Joergens, Lavanda Johnson, Fred & Kendra Kastl, David & Maureen Kennedy, F. Robert & Janet Kinder, Lloyd & Marsha Koester, Paul & Mary Kump, Robert & Lynda Lading, Dennis & Nitelle Landers, David & Linda Larson, Norma Lawver, Jeffery & Lisa Linda's Salon (Linda Wells) Liss, Jeanne Loy, Donald & Debra Power Maisel, Vicki Majors, Susan Manuel, Larry & Sandra Martin, Richard & Helen Maxwell, Larry & Vicky McClain, Brenda Jo McDaniel, (Master) Brady Mevers, Zacharv Midland States Bank Moomaw, Ronald & Jeanie

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In Honor

Boyer, Barbara (Happy Mother's Day) Ferguson, Kara

Memorials

Barns, Hunter & his love of animals Brown, Kent Butcher Sr., Xenophon Evanoff, Peggy Graham, Harry Hays, Hazel Huey (Poe), Deanne Huntington, Fred Hutchison, Evelyn Jackson, Kim Kennedy, Bobby Lake, Anita Kaye Lauritsen, Jane Logan, Jonnie McMahon, Torie Milleville, Leland Prossner, Lois Rickelman, Sam Rush, Kenneth Schlipmann, Scott Welker, Gordon Woodland, Leon Zeke (Black Lab)

Memorial Bricks Purchased

Boyer, Russell & Barbara (IM/Gordon Welker) Renshaw, Anita (To Collie You Were Loved, Anita)

Pets Who Have Been Sponsored or Help with Their Medical Bills

Amaris - cat Dixie - dog Earl - cat Henry - dog Jansen - kitten Melody - cat Riley - dog Sissy - cat

For a current list of adoptable cats and dogs, go to https://www.facebook.com/effinghamcountyhumanesociety/app/208195102528120/?ref=page_internal





