HSMO Loses Veterinary Pioneer

Dr. Suzanne Saueressig

1925-2013
The animal world has lost one of its most dedicated and tenacious advocates with the death of Dr. Suzanne Saueressig. She was an exceptionally important and beloved member of the Humane Society of Missouri family.

Dr. Saueressig served as Chief of Staff of the Humane Society's Veterinary Medical Hospital for the majority of her 55 years with our organization. Fondly called “Chief” by her friends and colleagues, Dr. Saueressig’s exceptional intellect and tireless devotion to improving the lives of animals in need helped more than a million animals live healthier and happier lives.

In addition, she helped build the Humane Society of Missouri into one of the largest and most active animal welfare organizations in the country. Chief earned a reputation as a trailblazer and fearless fighter when it came to providing top-notch, state-of-the-art care for the animals. Her heartfelt mentoring of veterinary students and staff won her legions of loyal supporters as well as new advocates for the cause of improving the lives of animals.

While her own voice has been silenced, Chief’s devotion to animals in need will be carried on through the many she befriended and mentored through the years. From the bottom of our hearts we thank Dr. Saueressig for setting such an incredible example for all of us who are trying to follow in her footsteps to make the world a better place for man’s best friend.
Dr. Suzanne Saueressig 1925–2013

She was nicknamed “Chief”, a title of affection and respect. For 55 years, Suzanne Saueressig, DVM fulfilled her personal mission of animal welfare by helping the Humane Society of Missouri develop one of the largest veterinary practices in the state. She died Feb. 8, 2013, at St. Mary’s Health Center in Richmond Heights.

The first practicing female veterinarian in Missouri, Dr. Suzanne Saueressig joined the Humane Society of Missouri in 1955. Originally from Munich, she always planned to become a veterinarian. Because she had taken nursing classes, she was drafted into the German army nursing corps during World War II. After the war she was accepted into veterinary college.

“I could never have been an M.D. and I have never had the desire to treat people. As a child I never dressed dolls, only dogs and cats.” Chief told the story of the disappearance of the family cat when she was 10. Little Suzanne collected mice and put them in the drawer of the maid, whom she suspected. The cat reappeared.

When she joined the Humane Society, she had no regard for her boss, to whom she referred as “the meat inspector”. He quit soon after and she was put in charge of the facility and its rotating staff of interns. One of them was Richard Riegel, DVM; they married in 1956. After the ceremony, the newlyweds took the afternoon off, taking their dogs with them to Babler Park. That was their honeymoon.

When Dr. Saueressig was named Chief of Staff in 1965, she began a crusade to update the clinic and add surgical facilities. “They [the board of directors] wanted me to practice on deceased dogs first,” she remembered in a 2005 interview for Tails magazine. “But the employees brought their own dogs for me to spay.”

From the beginning of her career, Dr. Saueressig was an advocate for the need to spay and neuter pets as the means to end animal suffering caused by pet overpopulation. Unlike today, there was neither awareness of the need nor inclination to limit reproduction. She unceasingly campaigned at the clinic and in her column in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

In 1972, she was honored as the national “Woman Veterinarian of the Year” by the Women’s Veterinary Medical Association, not only for her work on behalf of the profession but also for inspiring dozens of young people to become veterinarians. In 1983, she was honored as a Leader of Distinction and inducted into the YWCA Metro St. Louis Academy of Leaders. She served on dozens of veterinary and community organizations. She is survived by her husband, Richard Riegel. Although they never had children, they had many beloved pets including Cindy Sue, a female tri-color rat terrier dog and three cats: Ninny, a one-eyed black male domestic shorthair; Sambo, a black male domestic shorthair and Cappuccino, a female long-hair Calico.

Memorials to Dr. Saueressig would be appreciated to the Chief Pet Care Fund.
Donate at hsmo.org or send to Humane Society of Missouri, 1201 Macklind Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110.
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Meet Volunteers Who Are Always in Training

Pet Pals are volunteers who devote their time to helping exercise and socialize shelter dogs so they are appealing to adopters and ready for life in a family. Several classes are required before a new volunteer can become a Pet Pal.

That’s where the Volunteer Training Team is crucial. This group of leadership volunteers trains newbies in the science and art of dog walking and teaching manners. For dedicated volunteers like Dave Belew and Renee and John Javorek, their training duties are an additional volunteer role; they also are active Pet Pals.

Dave Belew teaches several classes at the Macklind headquarters and the Westport Area Center. He is on a mission to get more dogs into forever homes. “I figure the more volunteer Pet Pals we have, the more adoptions we will have,” said Belew. “That’s the ultimate goal.”

Belew began in 2000 at the Austin Texas Humane Society. Already a dog lover, he and his wife Pat are members of the Skye Terrier Club and support its breed rescue efforts. In 2006, they moved to St. Louis. Belew signed up to walk dogs and, in 2011, to train new volunteers. He was also working full time as district manager for Schindler Elevator Company; he retired last year.

Retired teachers John and Renee Javorek walk dogs twice a week at the Chesterfield Valley Center. Life-long dog lovers, they became Pet Pals about four years ago. “We get to have experience with lots of different breeds, which we love,” said Renee Javorek.

When the training program was set up in August of 2011, they naturally fell in. In addition, John has stepped up to provide additional administrative support such as preparing name tags, training materials and much more.

“We train, coach and encourage,” said John Javorek. “I tell the Pet Pals that no matter how small they feel their contribution is, remember it is a big part of the dog’s life.”

“We highly regard and greatly appreciate our Volunteer Training Team,” praised Emily Fishman, HSMO volunteer manager. “Not only do they devote their time helping the animals, but they go above and beyond by leading training classes and mentoring new volunteers.”

Editor’s Note: It was logistically impossible to photograph and interview the entire team. Other highly active (and much appreciated) trainers include Ann Coleman, Lisa Ellis, Diane Goebel, Beth Holstad, Sherrol Nicklas, Polly Ruf, Nancy Sebelski, Chris Stander and Terry Williams.

To volunteer as a Pet Pal or to join the training team, visit hsmo.org/volunteer or contact the Volunteer Office at volunteer@hsmo.org.
Farewell Charlotte

On July 26, 2006, a blistering summer night, a Good Samaritan called HS MO to report a strange-looking creature near her front porch. It turned out to be a starving and dehydrated Chihuahua we named Charlotte.

A ziptie (also called cinch tie) had been tightened forcefully around her neck, slowly strangling her. The Humane Society offered a reward for information on this deliberate animal cruelty, but the case was never solved.

Her ordeal may have affected her body but her spirit—the size of New Mexico—was intact. Charlotte slowly recovered and became a mascot to the Humane Education Department, coming to work every day with her adopter Jo Klepacki.

She was a small dog, but she had a large presence. Thousands of children met and petted Charlotte in the six years following her rescue. Charlotte left a legacy of perseverance, forgiveness and determination to forget her horrid past and embrace today. That’s a huge accomplishment for such a small dog.

We miss you, Charlotte!

Upcoming Events

Purses & Pumps for Pooches & Pals

Save the date: June 20

The 2012 event, sponsored by the Women’s Leadership Council (WLC), raised $74,000 for the HSMO Animal Cruelty fund. WLC is leading a campaign to purchase a specially equipped vehicle to house and transport animals rescued from puppy mills, hoarders or disasters. www.hsmo.org/purses

Balloon Glow

Save the date: September 20

More than 800 people marveled as colorful hot air balloons lit up the night before the Great Forest Park Balloon Race. Proceeds from the Balloon Glow benefit the Humane Society of Missouri. Balloon Glow—Rious! www.hsmo.org/glow

New Menagerie, Equipment Barns Open at Longmeadow Rescue Ranch

Small farm animals like mini horses, goats, pigs, llamas, sheep, chickens and ducks will find a temporary home in the new menagerie barn.

The stall walls are covered with a durable polyethylene sheet which is rustproof to withstand frequent cleaning with disinfectants and water. The barn also has a hayloft and adjacent outdoor turnout space for exercise and fresh air.

A new equipment barn replaces an assortment of small, crumbling buildings which were already on the property when the ranch was opened in 1988. The building provides storage for spreaders, the tractor and implements, generators and other machinery and tools.

Visit Longmeadow any Friday Noon – 3 p.m. or Saturday
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Directions at www.longmeadowrescueranch.org.
Bailey and Furby
Thankful for
STLLostPets.org

During its first year, dozens of animals have returned home safely thanks to STLLostPets.org, a website collaboration between HSMO, the APA of Missouri and St. Louis County Animal Care and Control. Pet owners can file a lost pet report, scan the database of found pets, and connect with each other on social media to spread the word about their missing dog or cat or list a stray pet they have found.

The website’s successes include Bailey, a blind and deaf 13-year-old Beagle, who was spotted by his owner on STLLostPets.org five days after he went missing. And Furby, a longhaired Siamese who ran out of the house, was brought to a Humane Society of Missouri shelter and ultimately reunited by his owner who saw him on the website.

We hope you never lose your pet, but if you do, log on to STLLostPets.org and visit us on Facebook and Twitter to help bring them home.

The Magic Touch of Lasers

Sunshine seemed to enjoy the series of laser treatments she received after surgery for knee injuries. “She liked it so much she’d jump in the car and walk happily into the clinic,” said Laura Bender.

Laser therapy was a new concept to Laura and Steve Bender, owners of the eight-year-old Yellow Lab/Husky mix, but veterinarian Travis Arndt recommended the treatments to help with post-surgical healing and pain.

“Sunshine can be timid. We were worried about stressing her out with so many visits to the vet,” said Laura. “But we’re glad we made that decision.”

Tina Waters raised Gabby from a pup. Now 15, the mixed breed dog developed joint problems and arthritis. Despite medication, Gabby was still limping.

“I was looking online for other treatments and found out about laser therapy,” she said. “By the second or third treatment Gabby was like a puppy again. She brings me toys and wants to go outside and play.”

A chronic case such as an arthritic pet requires ongoing therapy. However the effects are cumulative, so intervals between treatments often can be extended.

The type of laser used for therapy generates heat that penetrates deep into the muscles and tissue. Treatments reduce inflammation, improve blood flow and release natural endorphins. They provide relief for acute and chronic injuries, sprains and strains, swelling due to back disc problems and arthritis. It is non-invasive, causes no discomfort to the pet, and generally does not require sedation.

“I was excited when I learned that the Humane Society offered laser therapy,” said Waters. “It has made all the difference to Gabby’s quality of life.”

Call the Animal Medical Center of Mid-America at 314-951-1534 to make an appointment for your pet to be evaluated for laser therapy. Presently, laser therapy is available only at the Chesterfield Valley Center.
Bark in the Park is the largest dog festival in the Midwest with more than 5,000 participants. New for 2013—a 5K Run and pancake breakfast! Fetch your animal-loving friends to celebrate a day out with the dogs. Raise money and win great prizes by walking or running as an individual or as part of a team. All proceeds benefit the Humane Society of Missouri’s Animal Cruelty Fund, which investigates, heals and prevents animal abuse and neglect.

**Saturday, May 18**

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Run begins at 9 a.m. | Walk begins at 11 a.m.

Cricket Field, Forest Park, St. Louis

*New in 2013 – 5K run and pancake breakfast!*

**Register online at hsmo.org/bark**

**Adults:** $35 | **Kids 12 & under:** FREE

Fee includes the 5K Run and/or 1-mile Walk, official Bark in the Park Tote Bag and all festival activities.
Run! Walk! Stay! Play!

- 5K Run
- One-mile Walk
- Pancake Breakfast ($7 Adults, $5 Kids)
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- Meet Trooper, the official Bark in the Park Mascot
- Food!
- Face painting, inflatables, children’s education tent, and more

Raise money for the animals and earn great prizes!

$75  Official Bark in the Park T-shirt
$175  Doggie Water Bottle
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$1,000  Top Dog Recognition and Hoodie
$5,000  Top Dog Recognition and iPad

For more information and a full list of prizes, visit hsmo.org/bark.

Trooper
2013 Bark in the Park Mascot

Meet Trooper and get his paw-tograph at Bark in the Park when you make a donation at the event.

Bark in the Park mascot Trooper sparked an outpouring of support from around the world after he survived a horrific ordeal on November 21, 2012. Unknown to the driver, the puppy had been tied to his truck and dragged down Interstate 55. At first the Humane Society of Missouri team was unsure if Trooper would even survive the ordeal. A few days later he was dubbed “Trooper” because he did not give up.

Trooper continues to receive donations for his care, letters, cards and treats from as far away as Afghanistan, China and Australia. (See one of the letters on page 10.) He also has his own Facebook page with more than 16,000 followers, and a thousand potential adopters. Follow Team Trooper on Facebook to check his progress.

Thank you to our generous sponsors
U.S. Serviceman Touched by Trooper’s Spirit and HSMO

To all those who care for little Trooper,

Each of you is a hero for your service, just as little Trooper is a hero for the ordeal he endured, and from what I understand his perseverance through an unfathomably horrific recovery.

I have spent four tours in Iraq and am now in Afghanistan. I have spent the better part of the last seven years around the absolute worst elements of humanity. Thank you for being the counterbalance. Thank you for making sure that little Trooper could see that all people are not evil and for allowing him to now be surrounded by love and kindness. After my vehicle struck an IED, it was a dog that spent the night at my side when I first returned to post. I don’t know where he came from, and I never saw him again, but as I sat under the stars thankful to be alive in the light chill of the wind, still smelling the residue of explosives on my gear, he brushed against my leg, laid down to rest his head on my boot and kept me company.

If God allows me to make it back from this tour, I hope that I can come and shake your hands in person. Thank you for the courage each of you possesses to deal with the heart-melting ordeals such as Trooper, who surely would not have been as fortunate were it not for your strength and conviction. The world is a better place because you are in it.

Very respectfully,
[Name Withheld by Request]
U.S. Serviceman, Afghanistan

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A card can be sent announcing your gift to the individual of your choice. Your donation will make a lasting impact on the lives of animals. For more information, visit hsmo.org/donate or call 314-951-1542.

In Memory of Pets

The following companies and individuals have contributed $50 or more to the Humane Society of Missouri as a memorial or in honor of someone special. Donations were received between December 1, 2012 and February 15, 2013.

Tributes & Memorials

Spring 2013
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Carol Schachet

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Jill S. Chaney-Lipe

Lori Singleton
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Crystal Spencer’s 70th
Birthday
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Tom and Molly McConnell
Molly Ryan

Evelyn Stock
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Laurie Stern
David L. Stern

Delta Stokes
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Ryan and Monica Stoutenborough
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Alex Van de Riet
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Public Affairs
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Patricia Weik

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