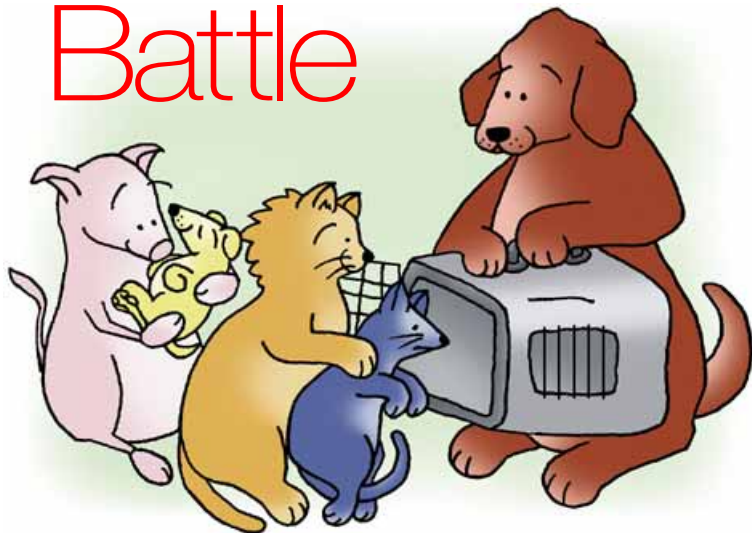


# Choosing Your Rescue Battle



► **By Faith Maloney**

A few weeks ago, I was talking with Beth from South Carolina about what she and her friends were doing to help the unwanted dogs and cats in her area when she suddenly asked, "But what can we do about the way chickens are treated and housed in battery egg places?"

Beth's question was hauntingly familiar. When I first became aware of all the problems that animals face in this world, I desperately wanted to help them all. I read books on animal issues and I subscribed to animal rights magazines, one of which even had warnings before turning the pages if you were squeamish.

To let it all in is extremely painful and overwhelming. Animals are used in despicable ways all over the world, and I would go to bed at night hating the fact that I was part of the human race that could do all these terrible things to God's beautiful creation.

Even though I was feeding and taking care of hundreds of animals at the sanctuary, I never felt like I was doing enough. I felt I should be taking on the fur trade, the rodeos, the circus, bio-medical animal experimentation, dogfighting and cock-fighting, hunting, fishing, and the whole food industry.

But I had to learn to choose my battles, and the right focus for me was companion animals.

Still, I've learned quite a lot about some of the other areas of animal welfare, so when Beth asked me how she could help the chickens, I told her about United Poultry Concerns, led by Karen Davis, who has dedicated her life to fighting for a better life for chickens and turkeys.

How do we decide where to pick our fights? To say simply "Follow your heart" doesn't quite answer the question, because our hearts ache for all the creatures. But sometimes, when we open up our hearts to the plight of the animals, we may hear the "call" in a particular direction.

Susan Wagner, for example, was moved to work for abused

horses. She runs Equine Advocates in New York, and yells from the rooftops, so to speak, about the Premarin horses and foals. (Like many women, I was prescribed Premarin for hormone replacement therapy, but then, thanks to people like Susan, I became aware of how horses are abused in the manufacture of this drug. My doctor was happy to prescribe one of the humane options that are available.) Thanks, Susan, for being there for the horses.

Thanks also to Eddie Lama, who speaks for the animals who die because of the beauty of their fur. Eddie runs the Oasis sanctuary and is featured in an award-winning documentary, *Witness*, about the cruelty involved in raising or trapping animals for their fur. The pictures are not easy to look at, but if that's what it takes to make people aware of this despicable trade, then go for it, Eddie.

Chris De Rose has been a police investigator and an actor, but now he is a full-time champion for the animals. In 1984, he founded Last Chance for Animals, which focuses on the injustices of vivisection, pet theft, the fur trade, and circuses. Chris and his team have gone undercover to expose cruelty of all kinds at great personal risk. His book, *In Your Face*, is a powerful and inspiring testimony of one man's journey to make this a better world for the animals and for the people who love them.

Merritt Clifton and his wife Kim Bartlett have taken their passion for animals into publishing *Animal People*, a newspaper packed with information about what is happening to and for the animals in this country and around the world. Many of the reports are disturbing, but summon us to action. The June 2001 edition had an extensive report about the plight of animals in Korea, for example.

*Animal's Voice*, once an ailing magazine tackling animal rights issues, has transformed itself into a Web site that challenges people to think about the choices we make in life – what we eat, what we wear, how we live. They have a list of action alerts, campaigns, boycotts, and petitions, as well as a calendar of events and protests that are being held.

Lynda Foro started the *No-Kill Directory*, which lists no-kill rescue groups that work with animals by region and city. You might discover something really close to you that you could get involved with. Lynda went on to start *Doing Things for Animals* and the annual No-Kill Conference that is now part of North Shore Animal League.

For every kind of animal that is abused in this world, there are thousands of voices standing up for them. If you hear a call to join one of them, follow it. None of us can do everything, but when we all do something, then the animals are all winners. 🐾

Equine Advocates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 700  
Bedford, WA 10506  
(845) 278-3095  
www.equineadvocates.com

Last Chance For Animals  
8033 Sunset Blvd #835  
Los Angeles, CA 90046  
(310) 271-6096  
www.lcanimal.org

United Poultry Concerns, Inc.  
P.O. Box 150  
Machipongo, VA 23405  
(757) 678-7875  
www.upc-online.org

Animal People  
P.O. Box 960  
Clinton, WA 98236  
(360) 579-2505  
www.animalpeoplenews.org

Animal's Voice  
420 East South Temple #240  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
(801) 539-8100  
www.animalsvoice.com

No-Kill Directory  
Doing Things for Animals  
59 S. Bayles Avenue  
Port Washington, NY 11050  
(516) 883-7767 www.dffa.org