



# CARA Philippines Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 2

## CARA off to a great start in '09

With a growing membership and increasing public presence, CARA is off to great start in 2009.

The organization experienced one success after another. The first was the first ever adoption booth in February in Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City. The second was an appearance the following week at an event hosted by Royal

Canin, also at Bonifacio High Street. The third



was a booth at the USEC Bazaar in March at the World Trade Center, Manila. Initially,

a total of 22 cats and 3 dogs found their forever homes. (One of the dogs was later returned to CARA due to incompatibility with the adoptive family.)

After this, CARA held a fundraiser the

form of a garage sale. The event was a success, and the organization plans on holding another one in May.



## Miracle kitten survives horrific injury

A six-month-old stray kitten lasted an estimated seven days with an arrow in her eye until she was found and brought to Wag Animal Rescue in Michigan, USA.

A still-unknown perpetrator apparently fired the arrow right into her eye during bow hunting season. The injury caused her eye to hang out of its socket, and the arrow was embedded so deeply

that it was coming out the back of her neck — yet the kitten remained friendly to her rescuers.

Precious Angel, as she has been named, will be up for adoption after she recovers from surgery for her injury.

### THIS ISSUE

A great start 1  
for CARA

Miracle kitten 1

Cars for 2  
canines

Heroic parrot 2  
honored

The First Dog 2  
comes home

No to live 3  
Easter  
giveaways

### January to March 2009

Animals adopted

Cats - 29

Dogs - 2

Animals spayed and  
neutered

Cats - 358

Dogs - 23

## Parrot garners recognition for saving child

The Red Cross awarded a parrot named Willie for saving the life of a toddler late last year.

Two-year-old Hannah Kuusk was choking on a piece of food while her babysitter was in the bathroom. Willie, who is normally a quiet bird, began squawking loudly and flapping his wings, crying out "Momma baby" several times. The babysitter was



alerted by the commotion and performed the Heimlich maneuver, at which point Willie stopped making noise.

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter and Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper were among those who attended the awarding ceremony. Willie is the first bird to win the Animal Lifesaver Award.



## Dog-friendly cars to hit the market

This should make those trips to the vet a little easier: two leading automakers have announced plans to release a car that caters to dog owners. Honda's dog-friendly version will include a cushioned and elevated pet bed, backseat covers with doggy designs, a no-spill water bowl, rubber floor mats with bone patterns and a

ramp in the cargo area. Toyota is set to release a similar model.

Essential safety gear will include pet restraints which will fasten the animal securely to the seat. Restraints for pets in cars are important safety features not to be overlooked. Loose objects can go flying and crush other

passengers or be crushed themselves in a collision. Like human seatbelts, pet restraints may give animals a greater chance of survival during a vehicular accident.

No specific release dates have been set for these models yet.



## First Dog arrives at the White House

The newest member of the Obama family arrived in late April. Bo, a six-month-old Portuguese Water Dog (PWD), was a gift from the Kennedys. Delight was mixed with displeasure from animal lovers who were disappointed about this missed opportunity to send a powerful, positive message about adoption. To make up for this, the Obamas made a donation to the D.C. Humane Society.

Some were worried that this would start a fad similar to the one caused by the Disney film "101 Dalmatians". A White House staffer made it clear

that PWDs were not good choices for novice owners due to their intense nature and high energy. Others were more worried about backyard breeders cashing in on the breed's popularity. In fact, the breeder who had given Joe Biden his German Shepherd puppy has received enormous backlash, including death threats. She has since said that she regretted giving him the dog.



# Why rabbits and chicks don't belong in your Easter basket

by Nikki Lim

Easter egg hunts and baby animals are hallmarks of Easter, but some traditions are a concern for children and baby animals alike. Baby rabbits and dyed chicks and ducklings are sometimes used as mere fillers for Easter baskets. What many don't realize is the potential dangers these tiny balls of fluff pose to children. And if you still find it hard to resist buying or giving away baby animals, keep in mind that doing so perpetuates a cruel practice that results in the suffering of many animals. 90% of animals given away during Easter die within a few weeks. So unless

they're made of chocolate, please remember that baby animals aren't a part of any Easter basket.

Rabbits are easily spooked and can scratch and bite in self-defense. Many don't realize the commitment (7-10 years), expense and care they require. Those bought on a whim often die due to neglect, cruelty, mishandling, improper diet or unexplained illness. If the rabbit survives and the novelty wear off, it ends up forgotten, sad and alone in a wire cage. Others are simply let loose: a death sentence as the rabbit usually dies within 3 days from predation or starvation.

To make colored chicks and ducklings, humans inject dye directly into the egg—and presto! Although they are a treat to see, they may increase the risk of salmonella infection as young children are their target market. Many young birds carry salmonella, but you can't tell if they have it. Stress during transportation, improper handling, crowding and unsanitary living conditions are contributing factors to the spread of salmonella among birds.

The trend towards a cruelty-free Easter is catching on. A recent "NO To Live Animal Giveaways,

NO To Rabies" Easter campaign in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act was launched by the Animal Welfare Coalition. Its aim was to educate major malls and establishments about the potential dangers and cruelty involved in live animal giveaways.



Results were positive for several establishments. Unfortunately, others ignored the notice and continued their animal giveaways, without regard for children's safety and the well-being of the animals.

In a predominantly Catholic nation where Easter symbolizes rebirth and new life, let us also consider the senseless suffering and death we inflict on animals as part of our traditions.



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