

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2013

animal sheltering

rescue. reunite. rehome. rethink.

THE LOWDOWN ON
SHELTER LOCATIONS

CAT ADOPTIONS:
FREE AT LAST

A Change of Course ON OUTDOOR CATS

Rethinking Their Lives (and Our Policies)



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



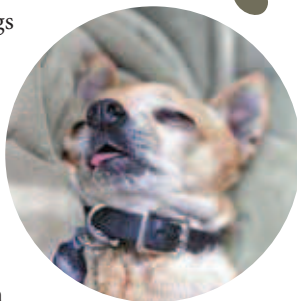
Rocky Mountain highlight

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's first stop of the day on May 13 was the Denver Animal Shelter. When he emerged, Colorado officially had a new state pet. A dog lover, and the owner of a rescued canine, Hickenlooper signed a bill that day to declare shelter dogs and cats to be Colorado's official state pets. The idea was first proposed by middle school students from Peakview School in Walsenburg who were studying the legislative process. The students traveled to Denver to testify at hearings, but getting the bill passed wasn't a cakewalk—it faced surprisingly stiff opposition. Some groups wanted the honor to go to service dogs and other heroic canines, some felt the bill would hurt ownership of purebred dogs, and some thought it discriminated against other pets. Kaylee Summers, a 14-year-old Peakview student attending a Senate committee hearing, told *The Denver Post*: "The argument swung between service dogs and shelter dogs. It was difficult to decide, because both sides made sense." Eleven other states have official pets, but Colorado is the first to shine the spotlight on shelter animals. Raise the woof!

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Tunes for terriers

The video opens with the deafening barking of agitated dogs at an Ohio animal shelter. A time counter runs at the bottom of the frame. In less than a minute, one dog after another falls silent and curls up on his bed for a snooze. All that can be heard are the soft, mesmerizing sounds of violins, piano, and harp. This is *Calming Music for Pets*, currently being used in more than 550 shelters across the country to soothe stressed animals while they await new homes. The music is loaded onto Mp3 players, which are provided to the shelters free of charge by the Rescue Animal Mp3 Project, the brainchild of holistic veterinarian Pamela Fisher of New Canton, Ohio. She was inspired by the positive response her patients had to this type of music and asked a variety of musicians to donate original compositions to the project. We're not talking Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* or *Ride of the Valkyries*; these mellow works are written specifically to appeal to dogs' and cats' sensitivities to certain vibrations and tones. Bonus: Shelter personnel say the music calms them as well. To watch the video and apply for free music, go to rescueanimalmp3.org. ■



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