

THE HYDRANT

The Monthly Bulletin
for Members of
Intermountain
Therapy Animals

Volume 22/Number 5

MAY 2022



Are you current with ITA?

ITA Office Hours:
Monday ~ Thursday, 9 am
to 5 pm
(Fridays - CLOSED)

Membership Dues:

Individual \$99
Family \$150

How to Pay:

Call the office with a credit card (801-272-3439), request a PayPal invoice, or send a check to PO Box 17201, SLC, UT 84117.

Update your Contact Information:

If your contact info remains the same, you can just make your payment. If any of your contact info has changed, please let us know by responding to this email or you can use the membership renewal application on our website in the member's section.

If you are not planning on renewing your membership, please let us know so that we don't send more notices.



**from the 2022 "Animals in Swimsuits" Pinup calendar by Planet Wilderness*

May (lots of demand for us!)

Wednesdays, May 4-11-18 ~ ITA Spring session workshop training classes

Thursday, May 5 ~ 97th Floor Corporate De-Stress Event

Tuesday, May 10 ~ St. Mark's Employee Appreciation

Tuesday, May 10 ~ ITA Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm

Sat/Sun, May 14-15 ~ Hill Air Force Base Memorials

Monday, May 16 ~ Lakeview Hospital Mental Health Day

Friday, May 20 ~ Hopeful Beginning Day Treatment

Sunday, May 22 ~ New Member Screenings

Monday, May 30 ~ Memorial Day holiday (ITA Office closed)

Tuesday, May 31 ~ Bountiful Primary Children's Constraint Induced Camp



Service Opportunities ~

Our list of facilities is still growing, despite recent setbacks and suspensions. We could sure use more teams to participate! PLEASE go to:

ITAVOLUNTEERS.COM

There are so many possibilities for having a GREAT time with your partner. Don't you want to add a few more to your list?

Recent Handler Experiences at University of Utah Hospital:



“Our first day back at the U. Burn Unit. For each patient we saw, we loved on 10 staff members. So many hugs and smiles. Dudley blows me away each time. (And Superheroes hang out together.)”

~ Ellen Guthrie and Dudley



“From our visit today: I ran into an emergency room staff member who showed off a tattered business card of Coach's that he had attached to the back side of his ID badge. He said that the ID always flips over as he's working and Coach's face makes his patients forget their recent trauma and smile. I gave him a fresh card.”



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~ Bee Lufkin & Coach



ED NOTE: Does Coach look like he enjoys his job?



RETIRING



Cindy Harris, ITA Office Manager

(Salt Lake) Oh no!! In addition to her official title, Cindy has been our accountant and “office mom” for 11 years now, and we are bereft at losing her. Every time one of our valued staff leaves our tight little ITA family, the whole feel is different! But, begrudgingly, we will let her ride off into the sunset to have lots more time to have fun with her family. Godspeed, Cindy!

LEAVING EARTH



David Schultz

(Park City) We were shocked and saddened to hear about the recent passing of photographer David Schultz. He was much too young. David not only worked with his partner Koda as an ITA team, but also did much to promote our organization in our earlier years. He hosted a reception and

party for us at his Park City gallery and regularly donated framed limited editions of his gorgeous images to help us raise money at our gala auctions. You may have noticed a couple of his photos of sweet Koda hanging in The Family Dog. You should enjoy a close look at your next opportunity.



These are the fortunate ones

Escaping Ukraine

Our R.E.A.D. leader in Germany, Kim Kistler-Grobholz, has been meeting the trains coming from Ukraine to help determine what kinds of assistance the refugees need. She couldn't help taking photos of some of the small pets who were able to come along; the larger ones, for the most part, had to be abandoned to fend for themselves.



The last two weeks I have been going in the evenings to the train station in a sort of reception group for the Ukrainian refugees who come in from Budapest, from Poland and the Czech Republic. We work in four-hour shifts, and mine is the 7-to-11 evening shift. It's quite an experience. The other volunteers are usually young people who can speak Ukrainian or Russian, and I try to help in English because a lot of younger refugees know English, and when a whole train full of people comes in, the translators are busy, so I kind of fill in.



I like to photograph the pets they bring along—they are always thrilled when I do that. Mostly they have small dogs because they can't bring large dogs along, which is so sad because they have to leave them behind, as there's no room in the train for large doggies!



The animals are in pretty good shape in spite of the stressful trips they have behind them. The refugees themselves are just simply tired. We see to it that they have something to eat and

(continued on page 8)



NEW TEAMS

We are jazzed to welcome four new teams from our March classes. They have completed every one of the “hoops” and are ready to visit! We are so glad to have you, as our waiting list of facilities hoping for ITA dogs gets longer every single day.



Kristen Decker & Buster



Anita Murphy & Teddy



Melissa Freshman & Henry



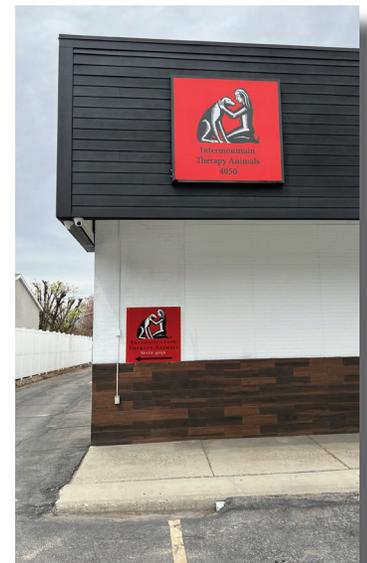
Rachel Sipos & Lola

A Very Big Welcome!

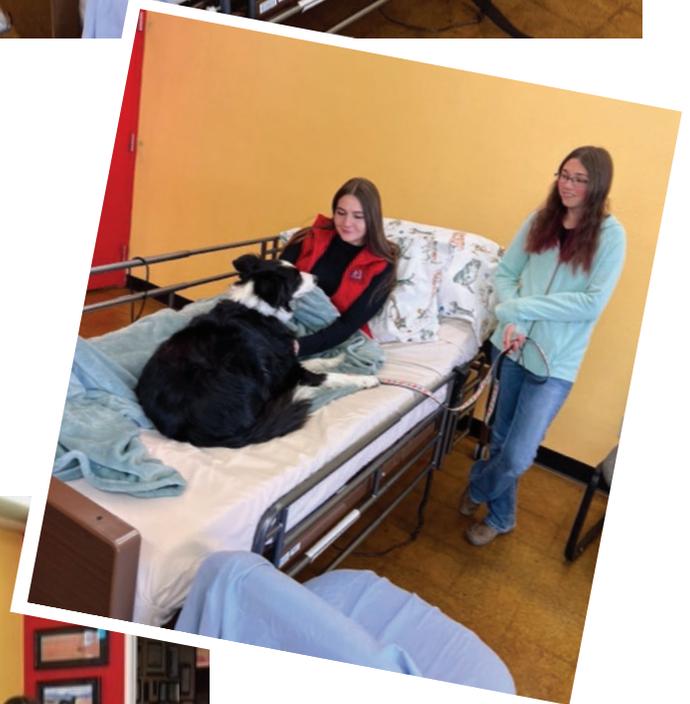
After *months* with no ITA sign on the marquee, due to the massive refurbishment project at our “strip,” we are jazzed that today (April 28th) we are finally back up!

What’s more, this sign is electric and will be glowing after dark.

Thanks to Frank Granato for replacing our sign with a major upgrade!



Here are these same new teams practicing some skills at volunteer orientation. (As you can see, Lilly was reveling in the practice of being in bed with a therapy dog!)



Kim in Germany (cont. from page 5)

and drink when they arrive, and where they should go from there, which really nobody knows. But it's nice to be able to help a little bit in the front line.

Since March 28th we have welcomed 12 Ukrainian children at our school, grades 1 to 4. The four youngest were integrated into existing first grades, the rest into a special class. Quite an unruly bunch! From their first day they have been treated with kindness and introduced to school as a fun place to learn—which seems to have been a mistake. They have recently been through hell, of course, and they came from a very authoritarian school atmosphere in Ukraine, and this (as far as we can tell) experience of freedom and fun at the beginning has blossomed into a nightmare for us teachers;

the kids now don't accept us as authorities! A dynamic developed which is very hard to walk back. And this is only the first week.

I had them yesterday for 30 minutes of yoga (fortunately their teacher, a young Russian woman, is very sweet and very westernized) and the two of us had our hands full with these eight kids. I have them on Monday again for vocabulary learning with Jenny, my dog. We will separate them into two groups @ 20 minutes (a school hour is 40 minutes, fortunately). I'm curious how Jenny and I will manage. Often having a dog in the equation changes the schoolroom atmosphere positively, so we'll see.

– Kim Kistler-Grobholz

InfiniteWags™

Another Valuable Offer for ITA Members and Friends!

A new and comprehensive pet shopping site, Infinite Wags, has asked to help ITA on their site. **YOU** get 10% off any pur-

chase when you use the code below, and **WE** get a \$5 donation.

**\$5 GOES TO THIS CHARITY
WHEN YOU USE OUR
10% OFF DISCOUNT
CODE: THERAPYANIMALS**

SHOP NOW

 InfiniteWags.com



Does a Completely Hypoallergenic Dog Exist?

No! And it's important for us in our work to know the facts.

Hot topic! As you are certainly aware, doodles of all combinations are proliferating everywhere, and many of them are proving to be excellent therapy partners. (In just our March training classes, with 10 students, 6 of them were doodles.)

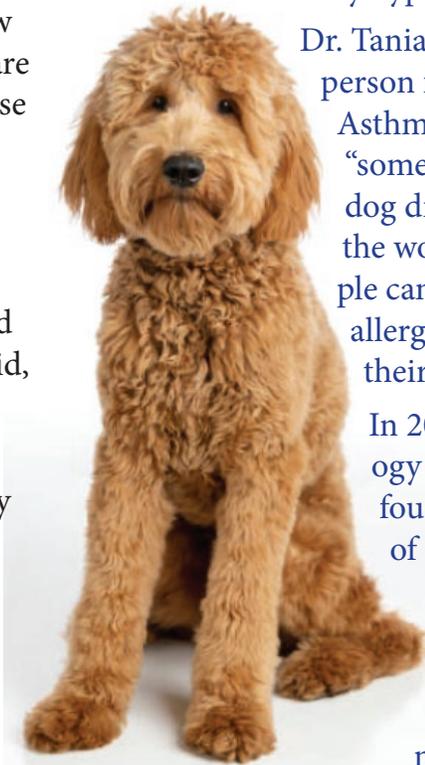
However, the idea of “hypoallergenic dogs” is proliferating along with the new combinations, and many people are acquiring them specifically because of their desire or requirement for protection against allergies.

Just recently here in Salt Lake, we had a request to bring dogs to an employee “stress break” event, and the person making the request said, “Please bring only hypoallergenic dogs.”

This misconception could actually be dangerous for those with severe allergies. For the sake of our clients—both their safety and their expectations—we all need to know the facts.

This following information is excerpted from an article by Gemma Johnstone for the AKC, published on July 20, 2021.

In recent years, several breeds have gained the “hypoallergenic” label. Given that up to 20% of western country populations are allergic to dogs, it's no surprise that this label has grown in popularity. But, if you have been pinning all your hopes on one of these dogs being the perfect solution, don't get too excited—this term is not as accurate as it sounds.



True Hypoallergenic Dog Breeds Don't Exist

Although some individual dogs may indeed elicit fewer allergy symptoms than others, studies suggest that there is no specific breed that is truly hypoallergenic.

Dr. Tania Elliott is an allergist and a spokesperson for the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. She explains that “somewhere along the line, the fact that a dog didn't shed became synonymous with the word hypoallergenic. While some people can be allergic to dog hair, others may be allergic to the dander (skin cells) and even their saliva.”

In 2011 the American Journal of Rhinology and Allergy published a study that found no major differences in the levels of the primary dog allergen, *Canis familiaris* (Can f 1), in homes with dogs labelled as hypoallergenic compared with those that weren't. While the study authors state that there is a need for more research to confirm these findings, the results threw a wrench in most allergy sufferers' plans.

The results of a further study in 2012 actually found low-shedding Poodles had some of the highest levels of Can f 1 present in their coat samples. Surprisingly, Labrador Retrievers, often regarded as a breed more likely to trigger allergies because of their excessive shedding, had

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“Hypoallergenic Dogs” (cont.)

significantly lower allergen levels. This study also found no major difference in the amount of Can f 1 found in the air of homes with “hypoallergenic” and other dog breeds.

Dog Breeds Commonly Mislabeled as Hypoallergenic

While no dog is 100% hypoallergenic, it's possible to find less-allergenic dog breeds that are better suited for allergy-sufferers. Some popular breeds frequently referred to as hypoallergenic include Poodles, Yorkshire Terriers, Bichon Frise, Maltese, and Schnauzers—all low, no-shedding or hairless dogs. Unlike Labs or Huskies, for example, these dogs do not molt excessively. While these breeds are typically better for allergy sufferers, and can help minimize the amount of vacuuming and clothes brushing you may have to do, there are no guarantees they will result in fewer allergy symptoms in all people. There may be less hair, but you can't avoid their dander and saliva!

What Can Actually Help?

For some allergy sufferers, their reaction to the Can f 1 allergen is too severe to consider owning a dog. For others, their desire to share their home with a furry friend could become a reality.

Beyond medical assistance like anti-allergy shots, there are less intensive strategies. Good housekeeping habits can help to keep allergies at bay. Some of these include keeping your pet out of your bedroom, using a HEPA air filter

appropriate for the size of the room, and regular vacuuming. Dr. Elliott even suggests wearing a mask while interacting with your pet, and this could also be a good option when vacuuming. It is also possible to get a vacuum cleaner with a certified asthma and allergy-friendly filter.

It is worth noting that in the 2012 study mentioned above, homes with carpets had higher levels of the Can f 1 allergen present than those with hardwood floors. If you prefer to keep carpets in your home, opt for one with a low pile and regularly steam clean it.

One suggestion for allergy-sufferers looking for a new pet is to spend 15-20 minutes with a breed to see what level of reaction they produce. While someone might have a great reaction to, say, a Schnauzer, their reaction might be less with an American Hairless Terrier or even a Portuguese Water Dog. Allergy sufferers will also be better off with a purebred dog than a mixed-breed dog. Mixed-breed dogs or dogs mixed with Poodles have unpredictable genes and do not result in non-shedding dogs.

Some people opt to bathe their dogs more regularly. However, this might not reduce the symptoms, and over frequent bathing could strip the coat of its valuable oils.

Let's dispel the myths of “hypoallergenic” at every opportunity, whether among clients, family, or friends. Meanwhile, when we know the facts we can offer more helpful suggestions for those who suffer from allergies. We certainly want to promote the joys of living (and visiting) with dogs whenever we can! ❤️

– Kathy Klotz

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OUT & ABOUT



The Pet Partners organization is trying to rally people all over the country to establish National Therapy Animal Day on April 30th every year.

ITA's Linda Richards and Lizzie appealed to their Salt Lake County representative, Ann Granato, to make a proclamation to that effect at the Salt Lake County Council meeting on April 26th, and Ann agreed, so Linda, Lizzie, Karen Burns and Kathy Klotz went to the meeting. Representatives of Pet Partners' local group, Pet Partners of Utah, were also there, invited by another council member.

Big thanks to Linda for her persistent effort to make this happen in support of national recognition for the important work of our therapy animals!



MORE OUT & ABOUT



Our St. George teams help the students de-stress at Dixie State University (soon to be re-named Utah Technical University).

At Our Kendra Scott Jewelry Fundraiser

This fun mini-event raised \$2,938 for Kendra Scott and \$588 for ITA ~ YAY!

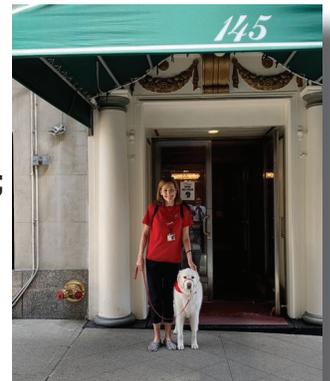


Sandy LeCheminant & Charlier and Paige Hillenmeyer and Heidi were among the teams who engaged with shoppers at the Kendra Scott store. Thanks, everyone!



Suzanne & Sasha Doing New York

[CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:] Sasha basking in Central Park; in front of their cool NYC apartment; de-stressing the girls at Barnard College along with teams from our colleagues at New York Therapy Animals; and little and large! Meeting teensy Melodie, NYTA Director Nancy George-Michalson's partner.



Unsurprisingly, a dark history:

Animals in the Movies

[ED. NOTE:] You know you've always wondered about the welfare of animals in movies! Writer/journalist Susan Orlean has written a book called *On Animals* (2021). In it are 15 pieces she had written over the last few years for *The New Yorker* magazine, describing all kinds of animal situations. They are fascinating and revealing, but not all pretty—she is a journalist reporting what she sees, not advocating for or against anything. In this chapter, Animal Action, she talks about the history of movie animals and the way things work today.

According to the American Humane guidelines, no animal actor should have to work like a dog. For instance, if an ape is on a movie set for more than three consecutive days, the production must provide a play area or a private park where the ape can exercise and relax. When a bear is working on a film, anything that produces smells that might bother the bear—cheap perfume, strong liquor, jelly doughnuts—must be removed from the location. Only cats that get along with dogs can be cast in cat-and-dog movies. No individual fish can be required to do more than three takes in a day. Also, under no circumstances can an animal cast member be squished. This rule applies to all non-human actors, including cockroaches. Karen Rosa, the director of American Humane's Film and Television Unit, discussing this particular guideline: "If you show up on set with twenty-five thousand cockroaches, you better leave with twenty-five thousand cockroaches," she said. I wondered if she extended the same welcome to cockroaches at home. She shook her head. "A cockroach in my kitchen is one thing," she said. "A cockroach in a movie is an actor. Like any other actor, it deserves to go home at the end of the day."

American Humane's Film and Television Unit headquarters are in Sherman Oaks, about 20 minutes from Hollywood, in a squat concrete building shaded by a highway overpass and a stand of gnarled banyan trees.

The place is as homely from the outside as an auto body shop, but inside, it is sunlit and lively. A wire-

haired, baby-faced mutt named Lulu has the run of the office, and staff members wander in and out between visits to soundstages and locations, making a cheerful bustle.

There are 30 full-time and part-time field representatives of the F&T Unit, which officially monitors animals in all Screen Actors Guild productions. Keeping an eye on animal actors is a monumental undertaking. In the past twelve months, more than 1,400 SAG scripts included some kind of animal action, ranging from ants in a television picnic scene to movies featuring hundreds of horses. During the week I spent with F&T Unit staff, there were tigers doing insert shots

for *The Last Samurai*; owls, cats, rats and dogs working on *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*; a miniature horse doing a guest appearance on *That 70s Show*; full-size horses at work in *Around the World in 80 Days* and *Deadwood*; a frog shooting scenes for *A Cinderella Story*; some deer working on *Thumbsucker*; cats and dogs rehearsing for the sequel to *The Truth About Cats and Dogs*; and spiders auditioning for *Constantine*. The Unit keeps track of all of these. Even fake animals and dead animals are the unit's responsibility. If



“If you show up on set with 25,000 cockroaches, you better leave with 25,000 cockroaches.”

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Animals in the Movies (cont.)

animals used in a movie are frozen or stuffed or shown as a food product—say, a haunch of beef—the unit requires proof that they showed up on set that way.

Most of the people who work for the F&T Unit are former veterinary technicians or zookeepers or horse trainers. Many are graduates of the Moorpark College Exotic Animal Training and Management Program in Moorpark, California, which bills itself as “America’s Teaching Zoo.” Even though the F&T reps spend their days reading scripts and visiting locations, they think of themselves as being in the animal business rather than in the movie business The truth is actually somewhere in between. One morning I asked a field rep who specializes in supervising movies that feature horses if she liked having a job where she got to know a lot of movie stars. She thought about it for a moment and then said, “You know, it’s been great, because I feel really attached to some of them. There’s Rusty, who is one of my favorites, and Johnny, and one I really, *really* like named Pumpkin.”



Animals used to have a rotten time in Hollywood. Only the few animals who were stars got deluxe treatment. Rin Tin Tin, for instance, had his own valet and chauffeur, and Jackie the Lion, who appeared in silent films with Mae West, Mack Sennett and Gloria Swanson, lived on a prime diet of prime beef and vanilla ice cream. But background animals were considered cheap, disposable props rather than living things. Horses got the roughest handling. They were tripped, shocked, raced into open trenches, and run ragged. To make a horse fall on cue, wires were strung around its ankles or threaded through holes drilled in its hooves, so the rider could just yank the wires and pull the horse up short. In 1924, six horses were killed during the filming of *Ben-Hur*. In 1935, 125 horses were wire-tripped in *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, and 25 of them died or had

to be euthanized.

In 1939, for the Henry Fonda movie *Jesse James*, a blindfolded horse was ridden onto a greased chute teetering on a cliff above Lake of the Ozarks and then was pushed out of the chute in order to get a shot of a cowboy on horseback jumping into the lake. The horse broke its back and had to be destroyed. Only the first frames of the shot were used in the film, but the entire sequence of the animal plunging toward the water—hunched, helpless, stiff-legged—is nightmarish.

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American Humane, which had been founded in the late 19th century as an animal- and child-welfare organization, reviewed the footage and circulated a report reproaching the movie industry for the way it treated animals. In response, the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America (which later changed its name to the Motion Picture Association of America) added a section to its production code, known as the Hays Code, prohibiting the use of tilt chutes and trip wires. American Humane opened a Hollywood office to enforce these new standards. Besides supervising the care of animals on sets, it also worked to promote animal actors. In 1951 it instituted the Performing Animal Top Star of the Year (PATSY) award. Francis the Mule was

the first PATSY winner. In 1973, American Humane created the Animal Actors Hall of Fame. Lassie was the first inductee.

In retrospect, provisions for animal care on movie sets were a strange fit with the production code, which was created to monitor the moral content of films by laying out restrictions on nudity, kiss duration, and the use of risqué words like “hell” and “tomcat” on screen. But somehow the treatment of animals got packaged in with it. In the 1950s, a series of Supreme Court rulings challenged the constitutionality of the Hays Code on First Amendment grounds. The end of the Hays Code had the unintended consequence of ending American Humane’s oversight of animals on film sets. A few films



continued to allow American Humane representatives to observe, but most did not.

There were still hundreds of movies and television shows being made that featured animals—in fact, it was a boom period for Westerns—and standards of animal safety were even lower than in the years before the Hays Code was established. *The Missouri Breaks*, *Heaven's Gate* and *Apocalypse Now*, for instance, all had incidents in which animals were killed during filming.

In the late 1970s, actors and crew members began agitating to have standards for animals on film sets reinstated. Roy Rogers wrote an opinion piece for the *Los Angeles Examiner* in support of monitoring the film industry. “Hollywood, once cruel to its animal actors, has learned the far-reaching value of a lump of sugar and a pat on the nose ... My palomino, Trigger ... the most perfectly trained equine in films today, has not been subjected to cruelty. He has been handled with kindness, intelligence and patience ... After Trigger and I complete a scene I always have a chat with him. And I think he knows what I say. Gene Autry’s horse, Champion; Tex Ritter’s horse, Flash; and Bill Elliott’s horse, Thunder, also probably know what Gene and Tex and Bill have said to them. These horses don’t know cruelty.” The agitation eventually got results. In 1980, the Screen Actors Guild/Producer Agreement was amended to include rules requiring the proper treatment of animals, and American Humane was once again authorized to oversee animal actors in film, television, commercials and music videos, and to issue, or withhold, the trademarked end credit, “No animals were harmed in the making of this film.”



A lot of people think that American Humane oversees the content of movies instead of just keeping an eye on the way they’re made. “We get tons of calls and emails complaining about what’s in movies,” Karen Rosa said. “People should understand that we’re not telling producers what the movie should be about. We’re just watching to see how it gets done.” After a mouse was stomped to death onscreen in *The Green Mile*, the F&T Unit received dozens of complaints, although its website explained that only stuffed and comput-

er-generated mice were used in the stomping scene. Sometimes, though, even the F&T Unit staff are fooled. After supervising the production of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, Rosa and her staff watched a final cut of the movie and were horrified to see a scene of a cow being hit by a truck. When she called the producers to object, they were delighted, because the scene was computer-generated, and they figured that if they’d fooled the F&T Unit, they had done a good job. The movie got an “Acceptable” rating from American Humane.

The review on the American Humane website goes to great lengths to explain the scene: “One of the cows appears to be hit by the car and falls down. This sequence was accomplished by attaching a cable to the car so that no contact was ever made with the animals. In fact, the car is never less than 25 feet away from the cows. When the cable is pulled, the car comes to a hard stop, creating the effect of hitting an object. The cow was actually computer-generated in post-production.”

American Humane’s authority extends only to SAG productions. Independent and foreign films are outside its reach. Even though following its guidelines can be very expensive, most producers want the “No animals were harmed” end credit and a positive review on the American Humane website, which is viewed by almost half a million people a month. Before releasing Pedro Almodovar’s *Talk to Her* in this country, Sony asked American Humane to review it, even though the studio knew that it would not get a “No animals were harmed” end credit, because the movie includes actual bullfighting scenes. It was an unusual circumstance. The bullfighting scenes were “documentary”—that is, they were shot at the graduation ceremony at a bullfighting school in Spain that was taking place regardless, and not a fight that was staged for the purposes of the film. Also, bullfighting is not considered animal cruelty in Spain. Still, there was no doubt that animals were harmed in the scene. The bulls shown are real,

(CONTINUED Next Month)



The Lighter Side



OVERBOARD



BY CHIP DUNHAM

