Comfort Dogs bring a sense of healing to the Parkland Community.

ABIGAIL
American Humane Hero
Dog of the year award winner

THE ADVENTURES OF HENRY AND BALOO

A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
Meet Riley the bug-sniffing pup

ANNUAL CRUELTY-FREE ISSUE
PROLOGUE publisher’s note

HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE! Along with the time change (not crazy about that, just sayin) and the glorious weather (absolutely crazy about this) we get to produce our annual cruelty-free issue featuring people and products trying to make a difference in animal welfare.

It’s no secret that I am a long time veg-head and I always say to any and all who ask and are interested, ‘just do one thing.’ One thing to lend your voice to the plight of many of our farm animal friends, one thing to decrease your carbon footprint on our planet and one thing to make you feel great. It can be ‘meatless Monday’ or opting to buy that vegan-leather bag. It’s up to you and the possibilities are endless on what you can do to help make a difference.

Last year, my eldest son, Scott, gave me a wish from my bucket list and that was to visit the Farm Sanctuary in Acton, California. Call me crazy, but I just wanted to hug a cow. Little did I know that it would be a VERY large cow named Bruno who I immediately fell in love with. See more on page 54.

And now that spring is here, don’t you just want to dust off those hiking boots and hit the trail with Fido? We have a camping guide on page 64 with plenty of ways to make your travels fun.

Over the years we have been fortunate to discover interesting folks roaming the country with their dogs. I thought it might be fun to find out what some of them have been up to which leads me to the story of Lady Long Rider, Bernice Ende who traveled with Claire Dog on horseback across the country. See page 56.

Much to be thankful for dear readers and my wish for you is to enjoy everything life has to offer and hug your dogs for me!

With compassion,

SUSAN SIMS

Publisher
OTHER’S DAY 2017 WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED BY ME as the day I finally hugged a cow. I am a native Southern California gal; raised my family there before moving to Idaho some twelve years ago.

I grew up near the beaches of Orange County and all I thought of back in the day was getting a tan. Fast-forward to more years than I care to admit and all I can think about is helping our animal friends. And hugging a cow.

My chance finally came when my eldest son, Scott, flew my husband and me along with our grandson, Hunter and our youngest son, Nicholas to the 26-acre Farm Sanctuary located in Acton, California. Home to over 100 rescued animals, our tour included visits with pigs, turkeys, sheep and of course, cows.

Each animal rescued has a story. Some come to the Sanctuary from cruel neglect, or factory farming. Our guide knew the story of each animal we met that day. Many stories hurt your heart just to imagine the horrible circumstances these animals endured. However, the fact remained that they were all now safe and able to thrive and live out their lives with love and care.

At the end of the tour we encountered Bruno, the massive steer. I suppose I wasn’t really prepared for seeing this most beautiful and docile creature. He was grazing on hay in between licking the face and head of his companion cow. We were cautioned to guard our face’s as Bruno’s tongue could be pretty rough. With a bit of shyness, I approached Bruno with caution, understanding that his 2,000 pounds could at the very least crush my foot. And without too much fanfare, I leaned into the side of Bruno’s beautiful black coat and gave him the best hug that I could. It was magical.

Want to adopt a farm animal?

Farm Sanctuary adoption centers are located at the New York or California shelters. The shelters are open seven days a week for adoptions — appointments are necessary. Adopters are required to sign a Farm Sanctuary Adoption Agreement Contract and pay adoption fees.