

Animal Pictures Help Raise Thousands for Charity

The Humane Society of the United States' online pet photo contest benefits spay/neuter programs.

Posted: March 14, 2009, 3 a.m. EDT

Molly, a black cat from Norristown, Pa., was a top vote-getter in a Humane Society online photo contest. Martina, from Isle, Minn., was the grand-prize winner in the photo contest, and raised \$12,268 for pet charities. Molly the cat of Norristown, Pa., and Martina the dog of Isle, Minn., are top vote-getters in an online photo contest that raised more than \$550,000 to help fund spay/neuter programs for 200 organizations worldwide.

Martina, also known as Babygirl to her owner, Roger, collected 12,268 votes in the Humane Society of the United States' second annual Spay Day Online Pet Photo Contest. Molly, a black cat also known as Mollikens by her owner, Linn, snagged 3,305 votes.

More than 45,000 pet photos were entered in the contest. The goal was to raise funds for animal organizations as well as to fund HSUS spay/neuter projects.

Contestants who took part in the fundraising category chose the charities to get funds for each time his or her pet photo received a donation and vote online. For example, Martina's and Molly's choices were HSUS and Humane Society International.

As a result, Martina raised \$12,268 and Molly raised \$3,305. As the grand-prize winner, Martina will receive a photo shoot with pet photographer Amanda Jones and recognition in HSUS publications.

The top 10 fundraising winners, including Molly the cat, receive custom oil portraits of their submitted photos and a signed copy of John Grogan's best-selling novel "Marley & Me."