



Small Pets Pose For Awareness

HSUS announces winners of Spay Day USA Pet Photo Contest

By Rachael Brugger

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Pookie won one of 10 finalist positions in the Spay Day 2008 Pet Photo Contest.
Courtesy Melanie Pearson

In an effort to raise awareness about spaying or neutering pets, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) hosted a pet photo contest to accompany Spay Day USA on February 26, 2008.

Small pet owners were encouraged to send photos of their pets for the Spay Day 2008 Pet Photo Contest along with a description of the animal and how it affects the owner's life. Among the thousands of participants, 265 rabbits, 97 ferrets, 52 rats and several guinea pigs entered the contest.

Pookie, a rabbit from England, with a front-view close-up of its face, won one of 10 finalist positions that were selected in early March.

"She's helped me understand the emotional needs of animals and is a truly loved and valued family member," Pookie's owner Melanie Pearson wrote in the entry description.

In addition to one grand prize winner and 10 finalists, small animals receiving an honorable mention included Hypatia, a rat from Detroit; Striper, a guinea pig from San Francisco; Tommy, a ferret from Las Vegas; and Peep, a rabbit from Keller, Texas. Photos of the winners can be seen on the HSUS website here.

For more information on Spay Day USA 2009, visit the HSUS website.