

# Capital Pet

newsletter  
of the

Mohawk & Hudson River  
HUMANE SOCIETY



Spring 2011

🐾 3 Oakland Avenue Menands, NY 12204 🐾 [www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org) 🐾 (518) 434-8128

## HAPPY TAILS

Dear MHRHS,

I adopted Onyx, now known as Higgins, at MHRHS' August 2010 adoption clinic at the Animal Hospital in Guilderland. What a guy! He is 10 years old but has the disposition of a puppy. He's affectionate, playful and very energetic, and he just loves people! He's making a lot of human friends in my neighborhood. He'll play fetch until my arm falls off, he loves our daily walks in the neighborhood and there's nothing like a car ride!

While I knew I wasn't going to adopt a puppy, I didn't expect to adopt a dog his age. However, I had seen his picture and story on the Humane Society's web site. When I finally met him in "person," I knew he was the companion for me.

When I come home from work, he greets me at the door with a toy in his mouth, his tail wagging like crazy, ready to go out and play. There have been no behavior problems, no accidents in the house, no anxiety at all -- just a fun-loving pooch. I'm lucky he found me!

Don't be afraid to adopt the older dogs. This is the second senior dog who has come into my life and I've found they make wonderful, loving, lively companions!

Thanks, MHRHS, for taking care of Higgins until we found each other. Keep up the good work you do!

Julie



Dear MHRHS,

You probably don't remember Nico, as it has been over four years, but he is a pit mix I adopted from you guys back in 2006. I can't remember her name, but the woman who introduced us (a bubbly woman with short, blonde hair and an affection for pit bulls) said she always likes to hear updates, and having just celebrated Nico's fifth "birthday" last month, I thought I'd do as much.

Nico is now a happy and healthy 71 pounds and loves the blues. We have moved to the Boston area and he is a die-hard Boston Bruins fan. We live with my girlfriend and her cat. While they get along fine for the most part, they do enjoy tormenting each other from time to time (as any good brother and sister would). But it's all harmless fun.

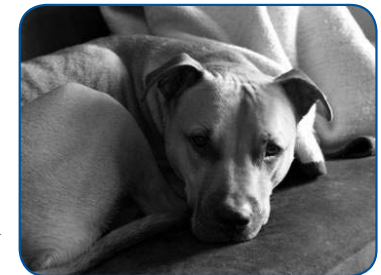
Nico is clearly a country dog at heart, and will fetch until his legs can't hold him up when we visit my girlfriend's parents in Maine. He especially loves swimming -- seriously. I cannot get him out of the water when we go to camp. Hopefully within the next year or two we'll have a legitimate yard for him to run in, but for now we do our best patrolling the neighborhood and taking advantage of time out of the city.

We have experienced a little bit of...well, I suppose you could call it prejudice, though that sounds a bit dramatic. But overall, the vast majority of people I have met have a great understanding of Pit Bulls (and other large breeds) and that, like any dog, they are only as vicious as they are taught to be. In a strange way, I think the whole Michael Vick situation has helped more than it has hindered, as it has become a tale of redemption -- for the dogs, anyway.

In any event, I want to thank you for introducing me to Nico. I can still remember the day -- he was mostly skin and bones, but amazingly, his spirit no worse for the wear. I think that is what drew me to him initially: a pooch who had clearly seen some pretty rough times but was just happy to be alive and spend time with people. I am reminded of this spirit each morning when I get up and each day I come home from work, when he is utterly ecstatic to see me, whether or not I really deserve it. He has taught me what it means to raise a dog, not to mention taught me a lot about myself. I don't know what I would do or where I would be without him.

Thank you so much, and keep doing what you do.

Mike W.



*Another pet adoption story on page 10*



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Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 1-4pm

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## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

518.434.8128

518.434.0217 (fax)

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



Executive Director  
Brad Shear and  
Bastian, his cat

Today, two 8-foot-long snakes arrived at the Humane Society. Over the weekend, we received seven rabbits whose owner became ill and could no longer care for them. We are also looking for homes for hamsters, rats and parakeets. Most people think of the Humane Society as dogs and cats. That makes sense, since most of the animals we care for are indeed dogs and cats. But in 2010 we also cared for 70+ rabbits and over 140 other animals like birds, ferrets, chinchillas, guinea pigs, rats, snakes, turtles and gerbils.

Each one of these animals requires its own special environment, food and care. Like the Boy Scouts say, we must always be prepared. One of the issues we had to be prepared for in 2010 was a 10% increase in the number of animals in need of our services. For us, that is a huge increase in need -- and it came without any additional resources. But something amazing happened in the past year.

Our community came out to support homeless animals in a way that we have never seen before. Just about every weekend this summer we were invited to a new business offering us space to show off our fabulous animals for adoption. Of course the animals can't just go off-site on their own -- they need our volunteers to bring them, talk to potential adopters and make great matches with people who will provide new, loving homes.

But finding homes for animals that have come to the shelter is not enough. We must also work on programs that reduce the number of homeless animals in need. 2010 saw a significant expansion of our low-cost spay/neuter program, which was designed to assist low-income pet owners and feral cat communities. By focusing on those animals that might reproduce, we will over time reduce the number of animals coming into our shelter and others in the region.

In this issue of Capital Pet you'll see a list of our achievements from 2010. There will be lots of numbers -- animals adopted, animals in foster care and more. But what we do is about much more than numbers. Each one of those numbers represents an animal in need, a life that needed intervention and was helped by the Society.

What is the Humane Society? It is not numbers, or a building, or a name. It is the people who love animals and support our work, volunteer their time and come to work here every day, 365 days a year, to save animals.

Thank you for your support during our 124th year serving the people and animals of the Capital Region.

## 2010 was a banner year for the Humane Society and the Capital Region's homeless animals. Here is what our community accomplished:

- 3,543 animals adopted to new loving homes
- 518 animals adopted from PetSmart adoption centers
- 55 animals adopted from other off-site adoption events
- 381 lost animals returned to their owners
- 91 animals transferred to adoption partners
- 128 feral cats trapped, neutered and returned
- 406 pets of low-income people spayed or neutered
- 1,001 animals cared for in volunteer foster homes
- 24,630 volunteer hours made it all possible

# AROUND THE WORLD FOR 80 STRAYS

*4th annual gala to support the MHRHS mission of caring for homeless, stray and abused animals through adoption, education and advocacy*

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Wolferts Roost Country Club

With Honorary Chair Assemblyman Ron Canestrari  
and featuring Steve Caporizzo, celebrity emcee and auctioneer

Plans are underway for our annual gala and there are several ways you can help:

- Become a sponsor of the event
- Donate an item for the spectacular live and silent auctions
- Join the Honorary Committee
- Plan to be with us for this special evening



## 2011 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### PRESENTING SPONSOR \$5,000

- Industry Exclusive
- Name/logo headlines before the Society's in marketing and promotional materials, time and space permitting
- Private pre-event cocktail reception
- Acknowledgment in gala press materials
- Full-page ad in event program
- Logo and link on the Society's web site
- Company representative may speak at the event
- Opportunity to provide a gift with company logo for attendees or create tie-in promotion related to the event
- One reserved table for 10 (includes 2 Honorary Committee tickets) and special recognition during event

### PLATINUM SPONSOR \$2,500

- Name/logo in all marketing and promotional materials, time and space permitting
- Acknowledgment in gala press materials as sponsor
- Half-page ad in event program
- Logo on the Society's web site
- Opportunity to provide a gift with company logo for attendees and/or create tie-in promotion related to the event
- Six tickets to the event with table logo and special recognition during event

### GOLD SPONSOR \$1,000

- Name/logo in event program and silent auction guide
- Quarter page ad in event program
- Logo on the Society's web site
- Four tickets to the event with special recognition during event

### SILVER SPONSOR \$500

- Name listed in event program and silent auction guide
- Business card ad in event program
- Logo on Society's web site
- Two tickets to the event with special recognition during event

### BRONZE SPONSOR \$250

- Name listed in silent auction guide
- Two tickets to the event



*(l to r) John DeCelle, Lynn Dunning-Vaughn with emcee Steve Caporizzo*



*Last year's gala*



*Guests looking over silent auction items*

## TICKETS

Honorary Couple and 1 pet - \$250  
Two tickets to the event, listing in the invitation and program book

Honorary Single and 1 pet - \$150  
One ticket to the event, listing in the invitation and program book

Additional pet listings - \$25 per name

Gala tickets \$100 per person

For information about supporting the event, to donate an auction item, or to receive an invitation, please contact Nancy Larabee, Marketing & Development Director at (518) 434-8128 ext. 206 or [nlarabee@mohawkhumane.org](mailto:nlarabee@mohawkhumane.org).



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**Samantha Morris**  
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**NYS Tax Department  
September Retirees**  
NYS Tax Department Co-workers

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Sitting**  
Carolyn Trombe

**Wendy Nooney**  
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Focused Technologies**  
Deborah LaFleur

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Anonymous

**Precious**  
Ralph Bulson

**Bill & Ruth Price**  
Chris & Lady Judy Owens

**Putters**  
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**Mary Ellen Rafferty**  
Richard Rafferty

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Matthew Clary

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Marilyn Eberle

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**Allison Rose**  
Kevin Hale

**Lisa & Jim Ruby**  
Lillie Ruby

**John Saincross**  
Kevin Hale

**Sally, Kim, Caryl & Bill**  
David & Marlene Dickson

**Sammi & Bing**  
Catherine Colasurdo

**Leah Sapienza**  
Gail Whitefield

**William & Kathy Sarchino**  
Nicholas Bisanz

**Sue Schwartz**  
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# ENGAGE YOUR DOG WITH INTERACTIVE TOYS

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Hemlock Hollow LLC

*In Harmony with Dogs*



Northeast winters can be very long. We spend more time indoors and so do our animals. Spice up their days by engaging their minds with some interactive toys. Let them use their noses, paws and creativity.

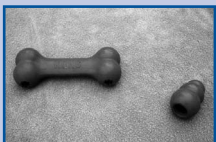
Some dogs gulp their meals and the food is gone in less than a minute. By using these toys, meal times will last considerably longer, while also giving the benefit of mental exercise. Instead of feeding out of a bowl, put your dog's daily rations into one of the many types of interactive toys. These "puzzles" can also entertain your dog when you sit down to eat dinner, watch a DVD in the evening or need to leave her in a crate. They entertain puppies, adult dogs and even cats.

When starting to use interactive toys, place the food inside loosely so it will fall out easily. You may want to add a few pieces of tiny treats to the dry food to perk their curiosity. This will keep them interested and they will be less apt to give up. We want our dogs to work for their food/treats, we want them to deal with a tiny bit of frustration -- but we don't want them to give up totally.

Once your dog is adept at using his creativity, increase the challenge. For those toys that are made for moist food, stuff the cavities tighter, or moisten the food and refrigerate. For the super puzzle solvers, stuff tightly, moisten and freeze, or layer with dry then moist. Keep the toys novel; have several types and rotate daily.

## Here are some of my favorites:

- 1) For the traditional pyramid-type Kong, I find the black ones much harder than the red ones. They can be placed in the dishwasher and are very durable. My oldest Kong is over 17 years old, but to be honest, in the last month it is finally starting to show some wear. After several dogs, and a gazillion washings, it might be ready to retire. These can be used for dry or wet food.
- 2) The Kong company has come out with some new shapes in the last few years. The red bone-shaped Kong is a new favorite of mine. It is softer than the original Kong and can be stuffed on both ends. Use with moist food.
- 3) The "Twist and Treat" made by Premier is two separate pieces that screw together. There are tiny holes where peanut butter or cream cheese can be smeared, along with a center cavity for placing food. At first, screw the two ends loosely together so the food falls out easily. As your dog gets the idea, screw it a bit tighter to create a more challenging puzzle. Use with dry or wet food.
- 4) The TUX, made of Zogoflex material, is a good one to try for dogs who give up easily on other interactive toys. Place moist food inside the cavity. Your dog will quickly get the idea, and you can then move on to refrigerating or freezing.
- 5) The Busy Dog Ball is a clear ball; dogs can see the food inside. As they roll the ball, the food is dispensed from either of the two holes. Use dry food only.
- 6) The Kibble Nibble ball is also made by Premier. This is a good toy to use after your dog has graduated from the Busy Dog Ball. The food is not as easily seen, nor is it dispensed as quickly; it engages dogs for a longer period of time. Use only with dry food.
- 7) Buster Cube: The dogs cannot see the dry food, but they can smell it and hear it moving around inside. After they conquer the Kibble Nibble ball, this is a good one for increasing the challenge. It is made of hard plastic, so is noisy when on hard surfaces. For dogs who are unsure, place it on a carpet until they are comfortable with how to move it around. This toy is for dry food – and not just for dogs or cats! I have observed horses moving this toy around with their muzzle and/or hoof to dispense sugar cubes.



The Kongs



Twist and Treat



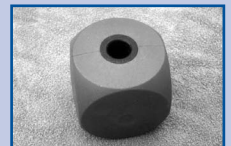
The TUX



The Busy Dog Ball



The Kibble Nibble

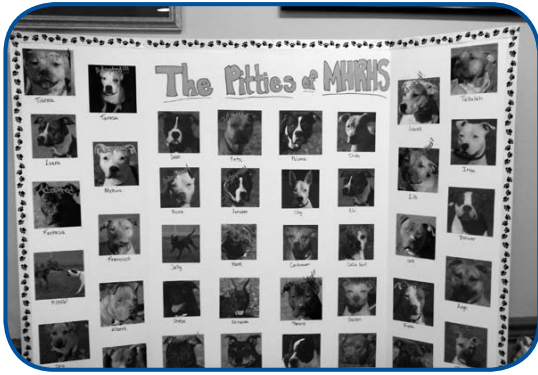


The Buster Cube

The MHRHS store has a good selection of these toys. They also can be obtained at [www.cleanrun.com](http://www.cleanrun.com) and local pet stores. Try a few and watch the fun begin!



# PITTIE-PALOOZA



**Pittie-Palooza created a new awareness, raised funds for the Society and offered hope, love and family to each dog who found a new home.**

On any given day, our staff could be caring for 20 or more pit bulls ready for adoption. They make up the majority of dogs looking for new homes and their stay at the Society is usually longer than that of other breeds.

The Humane Society staff wanted to celebrate pit bulls in general and to showcase the dogs at the Society who were waiting for new homes. The weekend of November 19-21 was set aside and MHRHS hosted its first annual "Pittie-Palooza."

Each pit bull and pit bull mix available for adoption had a specific profile written about him or her, along with a professional photo. The staff created goodie bags, t-shirts, training tips and breed information for adopters, and solicited donations for raffles. Volunteers donated treats and presented a bake sale and cookout, while a professional photographer took pictures of pit bull adoptees, alumni and visitors.

During that weekend, over a dozen pit bull mixes were adopted to great families. Some had children and some had other dogs in the family. Each and every one had an enriching experience and a successful match. Five pit bulls and pit bull mixes were also adopted during the week leading up to the event.



*"No act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted..."*  
(Aesop)

Thousands of kittens and puppies, cats and dogs, rabbits and other abandoned, abused and homeless animals find their way to our doorstep each year. The need for supplies and donations to care for them never subsides.

We have a particularly strong need for canned dog and cat food, KMR (kitten milk replacement), paper towels, newspapers, copy paper and postage stamps. Please visit our web site for our complete wish list.

We would like to send a special thank you to the AARP South Colonie Chapter 2873 and Capital Day Services for their many years of monthly (or more) supplies donations. Their steadfast support has helped countless animals, as do all the supplies we receive!

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HUMAN E SOCIETY  


Minimum balance of \$5,000 required. Cannot be combined with other offers.  
Expires 5/31/11.

# ANNUAL FUND DONORS

*Annual Fund levels reflect donations received between 1/1/10 and 12/31/10. The Annual Fund does not include tributes or event-related contributions.*

We are pleased and proud to recognize our Annual Fund donors who provide the monies needed to keep orphaned, stray and abused animals healthy and ready for new forever homes. Your support allows the Society to maintain its position as the Capital Region's pre-eminent leader in animal sheltering and adoption, humane education, advocacy and collaborative programming. With your help, we will continue to fulfill our mission to improve the lives of homeless and abused animals through sheltering, adoption, education and advocacy, and the prevention of animal cruelty. We will continue to advance our vision of a community where it is unacceptable to neglect, abuse or abandon animals and in which homeless animals will find refuge in an appropriate facility, and to ensure every adoptable animal finds a home.

We look forward to hearing from you as we celebrate our 124th year. Our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and the animals we care for thank you for your past and continued support. With your help, everything is paws-ible!

## INDIVIDUALS

### Whisker Lovers - \$5,000+

Renee Wolfman

### Animal Angels - \$2,500+

Joan Arthur Miano

Dean & Suzanne Evans

Arthur Searles

Aleda Wright

### Best Friends Forever - \$1,000+

Anonymous (3)

Laura Anglin

Charles & Patricia Baron

Wayne & Teresa Brown

Margaret Buckley

Jane Cordts

Gary Finning

Michael Glover

June Greagan

Hugh Hammett

Margaret Holbritter

& Eleanor Holbritter Nasner

Lawrence Jones

Joel & Nancy Kaplan

Richard Kaufman

Jeanne Kehoe

Christina Lacombe

Joanne Lanni

Lynn Lohman

Gwynne Mansfield

Elizabeth McLaren

Ann & James McPherson

Donald Metzner

Elizabeth Van Nest

Eveline Ward-Sells & Edwin Sells

### Tail Waggers - \$500+

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Gayle Beattie

Charles Bohl

William Bonacker

Barbara & Edward Brown

Hetty Jo Brumbach & Robert Jarvenpa

Carol Bryce

Dianne Byron Schneider

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Tom & Marcy Corneil

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Edward Reuter

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Regina Salinski

Mildred Schleich

Beverly Scott

Niki Shapiro

Jennie Siy

Jeff & Kim Smith

Joseph Smith

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David & Carlynn Thompson

Laurie Valente

Todd & Anne Valentine

Pam Walders

Erin Waterhouse

Yvonne Welch

Sharon Wheeler

Patricia Wilcox

C. Wayne Williams

Olga Winsor

David Zecchini

### Loyal Companions - \$250+

Anonymous (2)

Louis & Felicia Adams

Dianne Ammerman

Mary Ann Amodeo

Carol Arnold

Raymond Baldowski

Debra & Paul Bamberger

Cheryl Barns

Donald Barron

Barbara Beauchamp

Dawn Bentley-Wilson

Wendy Berger

Alicja Bialasiewicz

William Birdsall

Anne Blumberg

Stephen & Patricia Bohram

Edward Bollinger

Linda Boyd

Beate Bramer

Charlene Breedon

Marlene Brennan

Irving & Shirley Brownheim

Marjorie Bruce

Mary Bruce

Kathleen Buckley

Andrea Burger

David & Helen Burmaster

Lynn Butler

Robert Callahan

Marie Carlson

Tony & Noreen Carnicelli

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Mary Pat Chamberlain

Elizabeth Chinery

Patricia Christensen

Douglas Clark

Rae Clark

Margaret Clarke

Sandra Cluett

Ellen Collins

Maureen Connolly

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John Coons

Kirk Cornwell

David Cunnings

Barbara Dangman & Joseph Gerberg

Marian Daniels

Christine & Samuel Dearth

Franklin DeGroot

William Denny

Edward & Melissa Derguahian

Christine Dominy

Kathleen Donohue

Timothy Dormady

Thomas Durkin

Bernard & Barbara Dussault

John & Connie Ebersole

Colleen Edgell

Eleanor Edwards

Jennifer Elliott

Janice Erdman

Gail Esposito

Joseph Esposito

Mary Lou Foley

Michael Foley

Kathleen Follett

Mark & Paulette Fontaine-Westhart

Mark & Linda Fremgen

Andrew Gansberg

Rachelle & Michael Gates

Susan Giacomini

Colleen Gilchrist

Judith Gladstone

Donna Gordon

Virginia Gordon

Anne Graef

Barbara Gray

Sandra Greene

Mary Griffith

Erwin Guetig & Helen Rack

M. Jean Ham

Barbara Harms

Dawn Harrington

Muriel Haseltine

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Ellen Jennings

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Eric & Priscilla Johnson

Jeremiah & Dora Kahil

Allen Kaplan

Mary & Emmott Keyes

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Andrew Korts

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Louise Kuziomko

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Chad Loshbaugh

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Victor Markiewicz, Sr.

Danielle & David Marks

Grace Mastalongo

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Karen Maxwell

Kimberly Mayhan

Jason McCord

Pamela McMillen

Maureen & Tim McMullen

Barbara McNamee

Darlene Mihill

Anita Miller



# Annual Fund Donors (cont.)

## Loyal Companions - \$250+

Stephanie Miller	Libby Post & Lynn Dunning-Vaughn	Louise Shadlock	Dr. Ann Marie Truppi
Jim Mills	Diana & Paul Praus	Hannah & David Shear	Michele Tsamardinos
Jeffrey & Janel Mirel	Kathy Pyle	Patricia Shoemaker	Clara Tucker
Debra Moloughney	Michael Ricard	Mirjana Skansi	Dorothy Tutunjian
Erik Morton	Donald & Sally Rice	Elfriede Slingerland	MaryAnn Valenti
Alan Mostek	Rosalie Richard	Pat Smith	Lorraine VanDerWerken
Michael Naumiec	Ronald Richardson	Stephanie Snyder	Mark & Laura VanValkenburg
Bridget Nelson	Vincent Riggi	Gerald Sourdiff	John Veiga
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Keith & Deborah Ogden	Patricia Roach	Catherine Stevens	Anna Verleger
Elena Oliver	Louise Roark	Joan Stoffels	Janet Wahl
Dawn Paluba	Karl Roenick	Dolores Stojak	Bettina & Carlton Walker
Daniel & Patricia Parsons	Mary Ruiz	Barbara Surprenant	Louise Weeks
L. Reed & Elizabeth Parvis	Gordon Rydell	Ellen Tanner	Lisa Wilkins
Linda Passaretti	Regina Salerno	Gordon Tarrington	Eileen Wilkinson
Jonathan & Lois Pasternack	John Sanders	Linda Taylor	Cynthia Winter
Richard Pearson-Strain	Frank Santoro	Kathleen Tempel	Rachel Winters
Barbara Peverly	Mary Savage	Margaret Teresi	Rick & Patricia Zaffarano
Alison Pine	Mary Helena Schomer	Russell Tharp, Jr.	Fawn Zampier
Joseph & Kathryn Pingelski	Catherine Schuth	Michael Treffeletti	
Linda Ploof	Lorayne Seibert	Susan Trepeta, MD	

## ORGANIZATIONS

### Critters' Pick - \$10,000+

Charles H. Douglas Charitable Trust  
PetSmart Charities

### Whisker Lovers - \$5,000+

Berkshire Bank Foundation  
Humane Society of the United States

### Animal Angels - \$2,500+

Bank of America Matching Gifts  
GE Foundation Matching Gifts  
White Management Corp.'s Butcher Block Auction

### Best Friends Forever - \$1,000+

ASAP Daisies Fundraiser for Safe Haven Program  
Boys "R" Us  
Capital District Insurance Community  
Community Resource FCU  
Little Anthony's Fundraiser for Spay/Neuter Program  
Morris S. & Florence H. Bender Foundation  
Pitney Bowes Business Insight

### Tail Waggers - \$500+

1st Playable Productions Matching Gifts  
Aetna Foundation Volunteer Program  
Citizens Bank 5K Walk  
Colonie Properties, LLC  
Community Foundation for the Capital Region's Find Your Dreams, Inc.  
E. A. Barvoets Fund  
Lynn's Uptown Sports Tavern & Patrons  
Mac-Haydn Theatre Patrons  
State Farm Companies Foundation  
Trombly Foundation  
Verizon Foundation Volunteer Incentive Program  
Wm. J. Keller & Sons Construction Corp  
WTEN/Pet Connection

### Loyal Companions - \$250+

5280 Solutions  
69ers Motorcycle Club Annual Ride  
Albany Capital District Pug Lovers Group  
Albany Police Athletic League's Holiday Lights  
Global Impact Matching Gifts  
Hoffman Enterprises  
Loudonville Elementary School - 1st Grade Classes  
Lounsbury Family Foundation  
Nick's Tavern & Patrons  
NYSUT Employee Outreach Network  
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Sloppy Kisses Treat Boutique's Santa Benefit  
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## SAVE MORE LIVES CHALLENGE RESULTS

The results are in for the ASPCA's Save More Lives Challenge and they are impressive. The winner of the \$100,000 prize was the Humane Society of Boulder Valley (Colorado) and kudos to them for saving 1,007 more cats and dogs during August, September and October this year than last.

We asked you to vote for us for the \$25,000 Community Engagement Award and you did with more than 11,000 votes, which landed us in the top three. However, the winner, Tallahassee Leon Community Animal Service Center in Florida, which cares for 11,000 animals each year, garnered over 23,000 votes and saved 335 more lives this year. We congratulate the winners and all 50 shelters who participated in the Challenge, which saved a total of 7,362 more cats and dogs this year than last year.

How did we do? You spread the word, volunteered, hosted adoption clinics, put up lawn signs, voted online and adopted animals in need of new loving homes. Thanks to all of you and your efforts, we increased the number of cats and dogs saved by 397 over 2009 during the Challenge, for a three-month total of 1,321 lives saved. 742 cats/kittens and 327 dogs/puppies found new homes, while 21 stray cats and 103 dogs were returned to their owners. Ten dogs were transferred to our adoption partners and 118 cats were part of the trap/neuter/return (TNR) program.

We finished in seventh place overall and are very proud of our community's response to the "Got Pets?" challenge. MHRHS was the smallest organization in the top 10. Many programs and initiatives that began during the Challenge will continue during the coming year. The ASPCA was impressed with these efforts and, to show their appreciation, awarded the Society a \$1,000 grant to be used during the next six months to further our live release activities.

While only one shelter could win, each and every animal that left our shelter and the other 49 participating shelters won a much bigger prize: a new chance in a loving home. Congratulations and thank you!

# 2nd Annual Paws in the Park Walk

Plans are already underway for our second annual Paws in the Park walk. Plan to join us the morning of Saturday, June 11th at The Crossings of Colonie. Grand Central Station will be on hand to keep our toes tapping, fingers snapping and some of us up dancing! Last year over 230 people participated and we expect to double that number this year. Put the date on your calendar and make plans to start collecting donations for your prizes! If you are interested in forming a company team, becoming a sponsor or vendor at the event, please call (518) 434-8128 ext. 206. Watch our website ([www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org)) for more information.

MOHAWK & HUDSON RIVER HUMANE SOCIETY



## HAPPY TAILS, cont.



### LOLA'S STORY

We adopted Juliet at the shelter on May 14, 2010. We watched her all week and by the end she was still there, so that's when we knew she was meant to be ours.

Now known as Lola, she constantly purrs (not kidding!) and is so fascinating to watch. She is full of life and trouble -- for example, she loves climbing up the screen like Spiderman.

Lola also quickly fell in love with our other cat, Charlie. At first they had it out for each other, but as you can see in the picture, they are quite the pair now.

Lola is such a great addition to the family and fits in perfectly.  
Thank you, MHRHS!

Emily





# HOLIDAY CHEER – GIVING TO ANIMALS FROM THE HEART

We are so grateful to the many companies, organizations and individuals who made time during the busy holiday season to remember the animals. Thanks to all their efforts, our animals were well provided for as they waited for new forever homes. We, and all the animals we care for, are truly appreciative for all the donation drives and special events held during such a busy time. Thank you to all who planned, donated, volunteered and participated in all the holiday activities held on our behalf. We cannot possibly list them all in this newsletter, but here is just a small sampling.

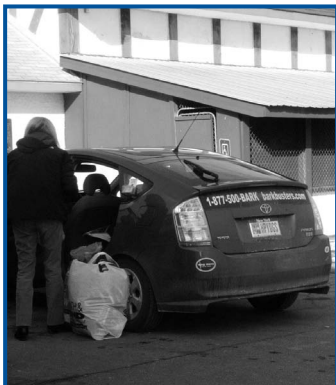
Community Resources Federal Credit Unions adopted the Humane Society for the entire year, selling our calendars, holding a bottle drive, helping at our first Paws in the Park walk and supporting us in the Challenge. As a result of their many activities during the past year, they presented us with a check for \$1,000. The best news is that they have adopted us again for 2011. Thank you and here's to a great 2011!



The Albany Police Athletic league (PAL) added a special Thanksgiving Eve pet walk through Washington Park's special holiday lights display. Participants and their pets had a great time strolling through the display and helped PAL raise \$400 for our animals.



Bark Busters Home Dog Training conducted a pet supply drive from mid November through the end of the year and collected over 200 pounds of supplies on our wish list, plus many bags of redeemable cans and bottles. A special thank you to Rachel Baum and the participating drop-off sites - Capitaland Animal Hospital, Central Veterinary Hospital, Normanside Veterinary Clinic and Sand Creek Animal Hospital.



Once again this year, the New York State Department of Labor in Troy conducted a donation drive and collected hundreds of much-needed items for our cats and dogs.



Pet pictures with Santa were a big hit this year. Sloppy Kisses in Clifton Park hosted "Bark-fest with Santa" and raised \$350 while Santa was on hand for photos.

Colonie Center hosted photos with Santa on December 14 in their Winter Wonderland. Parents, pets and kids had a great time sitting on Santa's knee! Well, unless they were too big! We received \$600 as a result and want to thank everyone who turned out and waited patiently in line for their turn.



The PetSmart stores in Latham and Glenmont also hosted photos with Santa and made sure no one was left out of the holiday cheer.

UUP (United University Professions) and Tully Rinckey also gave us very generous donations.





# Humane Education for Students of All Ages

## RUSSEL SAGE COLLEGE

In mid-December, several volunteers and two great dogs got to experience some “puppy love” by participating in pre-final exam “Stress Free Zone” activities at Russell Sage College in Troy. Six-year-old Jack, a Bassett mix, and puppy Rosebud were a huge hit as they visited with dozens of students. Puppy wiggles and girl giggles abounded as both dogs made themselves at home in the Kellas Hall lounge. It is wonderful for our animals to be able to spend time away from the shelter environment. Good news – both dogs have been adopted! Many thanks to Mike Washco, the college’s mental health counselor, for designing such a great event.



## TOAST

Students from TOAST (Thomas O’Brien Academy of Science & Technology) in Albany made animal bandanas for the kennels during the ASPCA Challenge and holiday ornaments for our holiday tree. Thanks to their teachers, including our own volunteer Kim Nies.

## GIRL SCOUTS



Several Girl Scouts, including troops from Castleton and Loudonville, dropped off donations, made bandanas to help our animals and toured the facility as they worked to earn badges.

## SCHOOL GROUPS



MHRHS volunteer Dianne Ammerman has conducted several tours for school groups, including one for the students of Watervliet Elementary School. Larry, a Watervliet student, wrote a thank you note to Dianne that said, “Thank you for the tour. The cats were funny and the dogs were loud!”

MHRHS volunteer Cherrie Edwards has been busy with Humane Education visits to East Greenbush’s Red Mill School fifth grade classes and to several elementary classes in Cohoes, where the students have begun a major bottle drive. The Cohoes Harmony Hill students have already collected and donated over \$400 in bottle dollars to the Humane Society! An ice cream sundae party is planned for the \$500 mark as they move toward their \$1,000-1,200 goal. We will be there to help them celebrate and hope they can hit their goal before our 2nd annual Paws in the Park walk.

## NATIONAL PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

April is National Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month and Earth Day will be observed on Friday, April 22, 2011. Why not raise awareness about humane treatment and the issues surrounding homeless and abused animals by offering Humane Education programs to students or organizing a student bottle drive to benefit the more than 6,000 animals we care for each year? We are here to help with Humane Education classroom visits, facility tours, bottle drives and more. For more information, please email [humaneeducation@mohawkhumane.org](mailto:humaneeducation@mohawkhumane.org).