

Capital Pet

newsletter
of the

Mohawk & Hudson River
HUMANE SOCIETY



Summer 2010

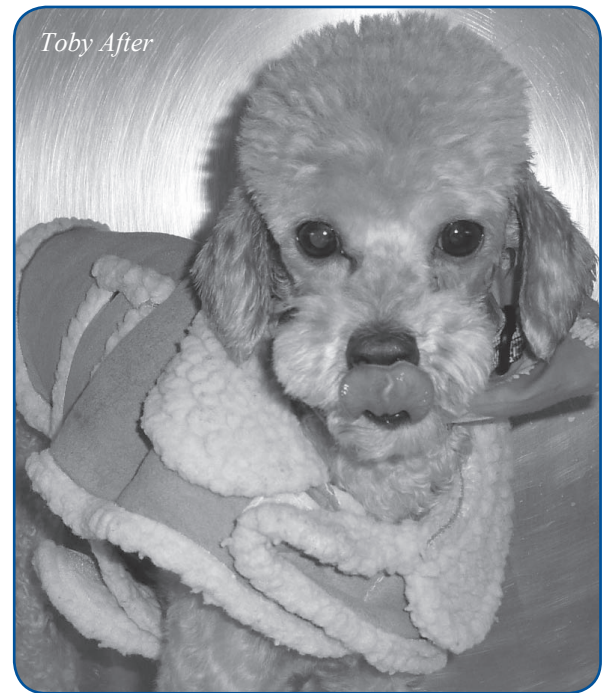
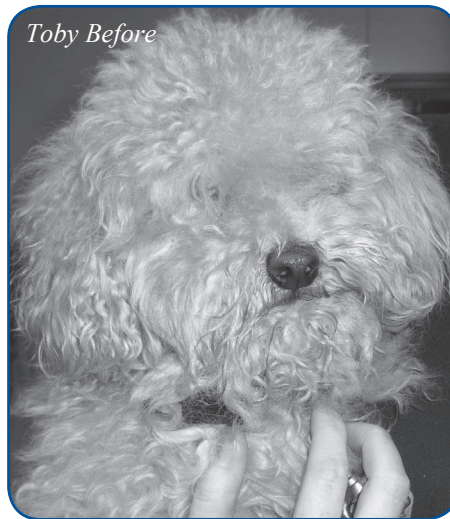
🐾 3 Oakland Avenue Menands, NY 12204 🐾 www.mohawkhumane.org 🐾 (518) 434-8128

TOBY AND THE GOOD SAMARITAN

In late January, during some of the coldest temperatures of the winter, a woman walking in Cohoes came across a shocking sight: a small shaggy dog wandering alone outside and so cold that he had balls of ice frozen into his coat.

The good Samaritan rushed the lost and frightened pooch to the closest place she knew the dog was sure to be cared for: the Animal House in Cohoes. Animal House owner Chiloe Hunt warmed up the little stray and cleared the ice from his coat. Chiloe brought the dog, soon to be named Toby, to the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society, where he was carefully checked by our veterinary staff and held while we searched for his owner.

Chiloe insisted on bringing Toby back to her shop for a full day at the salon. It turned out there was a sweet little poodle hiding under that ragged coat. After a day at the Animal House, Toby returned to the Humane Society with a new pride in his appearance and a spring in his step. He soon found a new home where he stays inside, safe and warm.



HAPPY TAIL

Spectra came to the Humane Society as a stray in October 2009. No one expected the big, friendly black Labrador mix would be at the Society for five months. When Spectra came in she had a condition commonly referred to as "cherry eye." Technically, the condition is a prolapse of the gland of the third eyelid. When the gland becomes prolapsed, it gives the appearance of a large red growth in the corner of a dog's eye, which can cause discomfort for the dog and is discouraging for adopters.

Our veterinarian performed three surgeries to repair Spectra's eye, each surgery requiring time to recover and care to ensure she would heal. While her medical needs were extensive, the staff and volunteers at the Society are committed to making sure every animal has a chance to find a new home if we can find a way to treat what ails them.

Spectra's name is now Bailey and her new family reports:

Hello all!

Just wanted to send a quick report to all of you there on how well Spectra is doing. For starters, her name is now Bailey which she is responding to quite well. She seems to be settling into the routine and very happy with her new home. Bailey is the most well-behaved dog I've ever owned. I could not be happier having her as a part of my life, and I look forward to the many memories she will be a part of. She misses you all, I am sure, and once things are on track for her, she will definitely be down to visit and say hello. I've attached a picture of her sleeping on her bed.



Thanks for all that you do there and thank you for helping keep Bailey alive and full of life!

Sincerely,

Bailey's Dad



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LOCATION

3 Oakland Avenue
Menands, NY 12204

HOURS

Monday-Friday 10am-6pm

Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 1-4pm

WEB SITE

www.mohawkhumane.org

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

518.434.8128

518.434.0217 (fax)

FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Executive Director
Brad Shear and
Bastian, his cat**

As you are reading this, we at the Humane Society are in the midst of "kitten season." It is the time of year when thousands of unaltered cats give birth to thousands more kittens and many of them come to the Society's Animal Care Center. Over 65 percent of the animals coming into the Humane Society in 2009 were cats. Across New York State, animal shelters report that the cat overpopulation problem seems to be growing, while we feel we are making progress with the dog population.

By now it should be no surprise that one of the best ways to help homeless animals is to have your own pet spayed or neutered. Seems simple, and the vast majority of people take that advice. In fact, a recent survey showed that only 19% of cat owners have allowed their cats to have a litter. More than 50% of them said the litter was accidental. So when it comes to cats, it seems that 19% of cat owners are the source of most of the cat overpopulation problem.

So, why don't those 19% just have their cats spayed or neutered? According to another study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association last spring, one of the strongest determining factors in whether an animal is spayed or neutered is the animal owner's household income. You can actually draw a line right at the household income of \$35,000 per year. Ninety-three percent of cats in households making more than \$35,000 are spayed or neutered. In households making less than that amount, only 51% are neutered. It's not hard to figure out that money is a barrier to people who would otherwise alter their pets and stop contributing to pet overpopulation.

There are solutions. One was the New York State Animal Population Control Program, which the governor planned to eliminate in his initial budget proposal. The program subsidized the spaying and neutering of pets belonging to people on public assistance. Although there has been a huge grassroots effort to save the program, as I'm writing this, it is uncertain whether or not that program will be saved.

Even if that funding is in place, there is a great need for subsidized spay/neuter programs that help people do the right thing and spay or neuter their pets before their first litter. That's why the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society has expanded our spay/neuter services for low-income households. Every Sunday our Medical Director, Dr. Sarah Madaio, dedicates her day to fixing cats owned by low-income people or trapped by feral cat colony managers. This may be the first time many of these cats have been to a veterinarian, so we also make sure they are vaccinated and checked for other health issues while they are here. At the same time, we continue to spay or neuter every dog and cat adopted from us before they go home.

It is only with the continuing support of our community that we can continue to grow our services and stem the tide of pet overpopulation. Thank you for your support.

THANK YOU

Hello,

We would like to say "thank you" for all of your hard work and caring for God's smallest creatures. The 4th graders at St. Thomas really appreciate your sacrifice.

To help you take care of the animals, we have collected and brought to you 11½ carloads of returnable cans and bottles. Some 4th graders even collected cans from their neighbors. This was our second year in a row collecting cans and we exceeded last year's totals by four carloads!

Please also accept this monetary donation to help the animals in need. We will continue to collect cans and bottles here at school to help you. Please continue to do good work at the shelter.

Your partners in helping all of God's creatures,

4th Grade, St. Thomas School
Delmar, New York

SAVED ON FACEBOOK



A stray cat who comes in with a collar and tag is, unfortunately, a rare occurrence at the Humane Society. We all get excited when we know we can get a cat back to his/her home.

One such cat came to the Society at the end of February. The tag he wore had an ID and phone number for a veterinary clinic in Toronto. We called the clinic but the information they had was out of date. It seemed that the cat's family had moved, apparently to the Capital Region.

Our Medical Director had an idea: try Facebook. She looked for people on Facebook with the same name as the cat's owner, and found 11 people in either the Toronto or Albany area. She sent messages to all of them and one responded. As it turned out, the cat's name was Carl and his owner rushed to the Society as soon as he got the Facebook message.

Carl was raised as an indoor cat, but took opportunities to explore the outdoors when he had a chance. One night in November he escaped through an open window (which has since been given a screen). During the following months, Carl's owner printed fliers, put up posters and searched

facebook

everywhere. After over a month had gone by, he had started losing hope and couldn't spend as much time searching. He thought he had lost Carl forever and worried about his beloved cat's fate, but three months later, Carl still had his collar and tag. Thanks to his dad's profile on Facebook, Carl found his way home.

Carl's dad reports that since his return he has been very content and affectionate, almost as though he never left.

WE'RE TAKING THE CHALLENGE!

On April 8, 2010, the ASPCA announced their Save More Lives \$100K Challenge. The ASPCA picked 50 shelters across the country to compete for a \$100,000 grant, which will go to the shelter that produces the greatest increase in the number of adoptions and strays returned to owners during the months of August, September and October compared to the previous year. In the first two days, the ASPCA received 700 applications to participate in the program. On Monday, April 12, the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society was selected as one of the 50 shelters eligible for the \$100K prize.

NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP! Being chosen shows the ASPCA believes our community can be one of the best in the country at saving lives. It's up to all of us to show they are right and we can find more homes for animals than ever before. You will start seeing new initiatives coming soon to meet the challenge, but we also want your input.

We are asking all animal lovers in our community to tell us how to find more homes for animals. What are your ideas to make this challenge a success? You can tell us now by sending an e-mail to information@mohawkhumane.org or posting your idea on our Facebook page.

Ideas aren't all we'll need—we need help. We are going to need more volunteers, more foster parents, more businesses that will let us show adoptable animals at their stores, and most of all, more homes. Please help us show that the Capital Region is the best community in the country for animals.



ALUMNI NEWS: DOG BLOGGER HITS IT BIG



There are many books written about humans' love for dogs and how important they are in our lives, but very few dogs write their own books. Bo Hoefinger is just such a dog. Bo was adopted from the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society

in 1993. Then just a young pup, he had no idea he had a bright future as a popular blogger and author.

Bo started his writing career as a blogger for Dogster.com's For the Love of Dog blog. Bo's talent was recognized quickly and, before he knew it, he had a literary agent and published his first book, *Bad to the Bone: Memoir of a Rebel Doggie Blogger*. Bo continues to blog about life as a dog, educating all of us about his views on canine life.

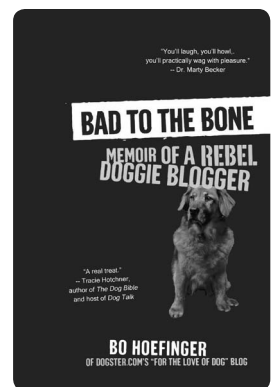
You may wonder how a dog becomes a blogger and published author. Well, according to Bo, it helps that he can type 60 words per minute; he's able to get his thoughts out quickly.

Bo is just one example of a shelter dog who

made it big. He is a big supporter of people adopting dogs like him from shelters and rescues. (He also advocates sleeping on the bed and eating ground beef.)

Bo is not the only dog who just needed someone to adopt him and unlock his hidden potential – there are many more just like him at the Humane Society today.

You can follow Bo at www.BoKnowsOnline.com.



MOHAWK & HUDSON RIVER HUMANE SOCIETY TRIBUTES

Tributes listed here were received 1/5/10 - 3/31/10. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

IN MEMORY OF...

Michael Abrams

Ichabod Crane Primary School

Agnes

Maureen Smith

Steve Albigese

Laurie Albigese

David Allyn & Callie

Jeffrey Gardner
Joyce Potenza
Barbara & Jack Selig
Tom Stephany
Eileen Sweeney
Chuck & Sue White

Annie

Doris Corbett

Archimedes

Jean O'Hara

Bailey

Erin Waterhouse & Kevin Younis

Caroline Barnes

Joan Reed

Barney

Aurelia Hope

Beau

Kathy Tarentino

Bessie

Gabrielle Ettles

Bleue

Lauren Bickford-Bushey

Bob

Rev. William Turnbull

Camilla Bogardus

Marion Riley
Phyllis & Dick Smith
Ferdinand Vybiral

Bryant

Sandi Tucker

Clayton "Buck" Buckley

Merritt & Ellie Wilson

Buffy

Joe & Cindy Kaiser

Eleanor Bulson

Margaret Doyle
Luba Grasso

Anna Callendar

Mary Savage

Callie

Betty Mahigian

Andrea Carpenter

Whiteman Osterman & Hanna

Rita Casey

Michael Antonio
Elizabeth & William Borntraeger
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Hazel Kitler
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Magdalen Odorisi
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Charlie

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Christine

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Codi

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Bella Coyle

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Ravenna Coeymans Yacht Club

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Denzel

Kirsten Kolar

Laura Devaren

Sandra Bobelak

Jane Capozzi

Sharon Chase

Nona & Stephen Deitcher

Deborah Demers

Paul Devaren

Andrea Dzierwa

Sean Sullivan

Dewey

Shirley Bone

Kermit & Elvina MacMillen

Dexter

George & Marilyn Clark

Terrie Diotte

Noah Brownsey

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Diotte

Rochelle & John Gleason

Rita Perreault

Rae Ann St. Clair

Genevieve Doak

Susan Burton

Pamela Howell

Genevieve Doak (continued)

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Gerald & Doris Germano

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Guzman, K. Selig)

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Anonymous

John Estabrooks

Agnes Beverley

Elizabeth Bieg

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Alice Fontaine

Mary Savage

Harriet Foss White

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Craig & Julianne Painter

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Henry & Trooper

Jay & Bhavna Hilligrass

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Beverly Herman

Marie "Betty" Higgins

Eileen Bossard

Darlene & Don Butler

Helen Campbell

Victoria Connelly

Nancy & Ken Downes

Evelyn Dufresne

Roberta Hardt

Pat Higgins

James Poole

Colette Ryan

Mary Ann West

Evelyn Hoffman

Shirley Coons

Dorothy Hoffman

Richard & Anna Kennedy

Sarah Post

Clayton Howell

Charles Morgan

TCC Sunshine Club

John "Jackie" Idec

John & Theresa Knaupp

Bear Jackson

Anonymous

Jacob

Katrina Wiggans

Joseph Johanning

Clara & Michael Abate

Jean Johnston

Agnes Bayer

Richard Burke

Agnes Byrnes

Marie Cranney

Claire DeChants

Laura Eisler

Jeffrey & Debra Ann Erickson

Paul & Jean Finnegan

Judith Golec

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Michael Lazzaro

Troy City Hall

Troy Unit Civil Service Employees

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Shirley Bone

Patricia Cummings

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Wildflowers

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Jean Barber

Barbara Casey

Ethel Center

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Patricia Conrod

Dagostino Family

Linda, Jim & Emily Donovan

Karen Dott

Friends at OSC

Dorothy Halloran

Timothy & Annette Heilman

Maria Newnham

MOHAWK & HUDSON RIVER HUMANE SOCIETY TRIBUTES

Tributes listed here were received 1/5/10 - 3/31/10. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

Mistybuff
Michael & Sharon Lozman

Pauline Moldawsky
Taube Rothenberg

Molly
Lynne Kaiser & Ed O'Brien

Paul & Mary Monaco
Rosemarie Melius

Philip Morgan
Phyllis H. Morgan

Pauline Morris
HVCC Non-Instructional
Employees Union

John Morse
Lillian Cady
Jim & Mary Ellen Moshier

German Moss
Barbara Aronson
Richard Chaufty
Jayne Van Bramer

Lance Moss
Teri Cleary

Motorboat
Anonymous

Murphy
Gail Taddeo

Shirley Nieman
SPA0 - Stillwater Players Among
Others

Patricia O'Bomsawin
Donna Ackerman
Gary & Karen Anne Becker
Carol Fernando
Neil & Jerry Golub
Mary Ellen Phillips
Selyf Roberts
Nancy Ryan
Joyce Zayachek

Larry O'Donovan
Bureau of Comparative Education/
PEPR

Oliver
Kathleen Anderson

Ollie
Sue & Harold Van Buren

Angeline Owens
Brunswick Presbyterian Church

PK & Schuyler
Patricia Cumiskey

Anna Palka
Rosemary Alund & Michael
Aransky
Pat & Bob Balcom
Joy Bassett
Christopher Baumann
Paulette Bosworth
Karl & Louise Brandt
Donn & Rita Dykstra
East Greenbush Teacher
Association
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William & Janis Fox
Don & Melissa Gilligan
Gail & George Jorgensen
Linda Kospa
Winnie Musella
Kathy & Ernie Popp
Geraldine Reed
Dave & Emogene Snyder

Uie "The Queen" Palmer
Mary Lou Palmer

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Diane Dalton

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Roberta Smith

Pepper
Paul Ladouceur

Ann Pergh
Geraldine & Emiliios Kyriakides

Picasso
Jose Carrion

Piper
Pamela Cross

Izzy Pociluk
Robert & Pamela Pociluk

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Anonymous
Joe, Vicky & Heather DeRusso
Gary Furlong
Happy Timers Bowling League
John Hilton
IBEW Local Union 97
Charles & Natalie Moore
OMRDD Co-workers of Steve
Pommer
Robert & Edith Smith
Claudia Thornton

C. Ginger Pugliese
Richard & Carol Guilz
Eileen Sweeney

William Purtell
Clara & Michael Abate

Raj & Augie
Kilambi Rajanakevii

Barbara Resnick
Timothy Beebe
Teresa Darrow
Stanley Jedynak
Helen Klebanoff
Nancy Pascale
Theresa Poole
Sondra Rider Curry
Robert & Josephine Rivet
Kathy Staats
John & Patricia Tibbitts
Natalie Weinstein
Mildred Zuk

Miriam Rider
Barbara & Charles Manning

Rob Roy
Aurelia Hope

Rocky
Denise Ellison

Catherine Romanski
James Romanski

Martha Rudolph
Betty Capalbo
Arthur Hutson

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Patient Billing

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Karen & Jim George

Sam
Bernard Kennedy

Sasha
Michele Guay
Robert Hedgeman
Tonya Henderson
Elena Ketzler
Kathy Petersen
Marie Peterson
Lydia Semenowych

Mary Savoyski
Maureen Taft

August Schlensker
Susan Schwartz

Anthony Schwartz
Beverly Boyce
David Golden
Fran & Jim Hyde
Pam Love
Kenneth Miller
Maryalice O'Brien-Smith
Janet Prezio
Ann & Scott Swengel
Troy Mixers Bowling League
Hannelore Wilfert

Andrew James Sennett
W. Ted Brown
Co-workers of Suzanne Sennett
Elissa Jappell, Linda Brancato &
Zee McDermott
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Reda

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Spooky
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Dakota Stross
Margaret Thomas

Sweet Sylvia
Linda Taylor

Al Terrille
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Zoe Tesnakis
e-ko logic

Angeline Thompson
Theresa Russo

Thor
Gordon & Beverly Emerick

Thor
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George Waylett
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Ursula Sturn
Nancy Sutter

Richard Wm. Webb
Nancy Webb

Alice May Welsh
Diane, John, Regina, Al, Arianna
& Gordon

John Whitefield, DVM
Faith Slattery

Willie
Susan Balch

John & Nancy Willison
Valerie Shanley

J. J. Wood
Ellen Klein

Olga Yarter
Kathy Ahearn
Janice Bardon & Jay Solomon
Friends at Rensselaer County Jail
Ed & Kathy Kaschak
SEARCO
Deb, Gerry & Gerry Jr. Willson

Jean Yearsley
Berlin Elementary School Friends
& Co-workers of Lynn Dobert
Doris Dobert
Grafton Elementary School Staff
Stanley & June Hmielenski
Mary O'Brien
Gail Yearsley

Yie
Dale Ann Bradford

Cody Yoquinta
Paul & Eloise Link

Rose Zaccardo
Richard Zaccardo

Zoie
Robert Johnson

IN HONOR OF...

Alexander
Mary Walczyk

Iris Bartkowski
Gina Schwind

Bill Casey
Judith Cornell

Dad & Mariah
Kathy Henchey

Doughboy
Joseph Podeszwa

Cal Eichman
Lafarge North America

Warren Fane
Daniel & Darlene Casale
Kathleen Fiaschetti

Bert Fontaine
Mary Savage

Jen Ford
Julie Ford

Dolores & Nick Gentile
Heather Waalkes

Charlotte Gray
Eric & Joanna Fried

Elizabeth Graziane
William Westwood

Cherie Gregoire
Victoria Engel

Max & Murphy Grimmett
Anne Trimble

Hope Guinn
Jeffrey Guinn

Patricia Hansen
Beverly Olander

Linda Hedderman
Eleanor Hedderman

Ric Hutchins
Arletta Finger

Maria Loizides
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Myngo Lopez Torres
Cindy Aubin
James Davies
Margaret DeBarthe
Diane McGuirk

Lorelai
Jennifer Miller
Anne Penna
Alison Ritchie

Luna
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Peggy Mason
Anonymous

Nikhil's Birthday
Athary Gawde
Thirupathi Rajan Gopalakrishnan

Joseph & Beverley Olander
Mary Walczyk

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Kerri Seckinger

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Christine Gangemi
Frank & Marilyn Penna
Amy Salamone

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Kenneth Juras

Samson
Gordon & Beverly Emerick

Lisa Santy
Susan Millstein

Abby Scheuermann
Nicole Dunbar
Todd Scheuermann & Karen
Hunter

Scout
Alia Scheiding

Stephanie Silvernail
Dorothy Bragin & Mary Burns

Dolly Lee Simmons
John Articolo

Melissa Stross
Raymond Stross

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Karin Shepherd

Vrinder
Michael White

Veronica & Gary Waalkes
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Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Weber
Ethel & Andy Abdelnour

Sally Woods
Anonymous

Barney & Lucy Young
Diane Brosius



TRAINER'S CORNER

Spring Etiquette for Dogs and People

By Christine Danker, CPDT
(518) 439-2992
Hemlock Hollow LLC
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Spring is here and we're spending more time outdoors with our dogs. Here are some tips to help you and your pet enjoy the months ahead while keeping everyone safe and happy.

1) Keep your dog on lead or under voice control at all times. Voice control means your dog stops on a dime and turns to look at you the instant you say his name. Be truthful: could your dog respond like that if he saw another dog in the distance? If he saw a child with a stuffed animal? Be respectful of others; it's just good manners.

2) Not everyone likes dogs. Some people are allergic, some are afraid. Do not allow your dog to pull you to greet every person she sees. Even a lick or nose touch on someone's clothing can be a rude gesture if the person is not a dog lover.

3) Dogs like to chase; they like moving objects. This trait is hard-wired into some dogs more than others. If you see a jogger, cyclist or skateboarder heading your way, please give them some space. I move off to the side and have my dog sit until the moving object or person passes. If your dog is unable to sit or unable to focus on you in a situation like this, move a distance away.

4) If your dog is a bit rusty on basic cues such as sit/down, come and stay, plan to enroll in a training class. Look for a class that uses humane ways of training. You'll learn skills to make your walks a pleasure while keeping everyone safe. What better way to show the public how well-behaved your dog is than by having him sit by your side as you wait for a light to turn or car to pass.

5) Some dogs are exuberant and must greet every dog they see, but others are reserved and do not appreciate another dog rushing into their space. Ask the owner if the dogs can greet,

rather than allowing your dog to pull you to meet and greet. What you thought would be a friendly gesture may turn out to be an unpleasant situation if the dogs do not like each other. Your dog may be friendly, but the other dog may not be.

6) As you walk down the street with your dog, be aware of neighbors' gardens. Do not allow your dog to eliminate on someone's nicely tended garden. And please clean up after your dog!

7) Flexi-leads, those leads that keep extending, should be kept short when in crowded areas and near traffic.

8) If your dog is shy or wary of people and/or dogs, it is certainly appropriate to ask people to please keep their distance and not come any closer. A hand held up as if to stop traffic

usually registers faster with those people who are well-meaning but do not understand your dog's challenges. You know your dog -- do what is best for him.

9) Before reaching over to pet someone's dog, ask if you may do so. Approach from in front, and allow the dog to smell your hand first. Reach under the chin, rather than over the head, to pet. I have been very impressed with school-aged children who ask me if they can pet my dog before they touch. Schools and parents are doing a great job educating the next generation about safety around dogs.

Chris Danker, CPDT, has over four decades of showing and handling her own dogs as well as dogs for clients. Participating in many venues, Chris has handled dogs to multiple National and Regional Specialty wins, and over 70 titles in obedience, agility and conformation. She is active in pet therapy with her own dogs. Chris is a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and Therapy Dog International (TDI) evaluator.

Chris is now teaching classes and workshops at the Humane Society. Check our website www.mohawkhumanesociety.org for the latest dates and times.

MOHAWK & HUDSON RIVER HUMANE SOCIETY

Paws IN THE Park

**SATURDAY
JUNE 26, 2010**

9:30AM — 1:00PM
The Crossings of Colonie



AROUND THE WORLD FOR 80 STRAYS



On April 17, animal lovers from across the Capital Region gathered at Wolferts Roost Country Club for our third annual Around the World for 80 Strays gala. Several special guests were on hand to celebrate another successful year for the Humane Society, including Honorary Gala Chairs Dr. Harry and Mrs. Kathy Odabashian.

Steve Caporizzo, Chief Meteorologist for WTEN News Channel 10, served as emcee and celebrity auctioneer and kept things lively. He accepted the 2010 Humane Media Award on behalf of WTEN from Executive Director Brad Shear. The award recognized the station's dedication and support of animal adoptions through Pet Connection. Two other Humane Heroes awards were presented:

- Vice President John DerBerghossian accepted the award for Camelot Printing & Copy Center, which was named the Humane Business of the Year for their

unwavering support of the Humane Society's mission.

- NYS Trooper Rocco Oppedisano was given the Humane Hero award for his dedicated, committed and relentless pursuit of justice for animals in Rensselaer County. Rocco was not able to be with us, but Trooper Ellen DeChiro accepted the award.

Congratulations to all of our award recipients.

The silent auction proved to be popular again this year, with two items causing a serious bidding war. Jean-Claude and Susan Thirolle graciously donated a week's stay in their home in Provence, France. The package also included chocolates, French wine and dinner for two at Provence in Stuyvesant Plaza and sold for \$2,100. The final item, the cover of the 2011 Cutest Pets Calendar, has been **the hottest item** for the last two years and sold for \$2,700!

The event was a grand success and everyone had a fabulous time! At the end of the evening, we raised over \$65,000 for the Society's orphaned animals. We are grateful to all of our attendees, Honorary Committee members, sponsors and supporters for a wonderful evening.

Special thanks to Camelot Print & Copy Center, CustomTakeOutBags.com, James F. Dees, JCB Specialties, Samantha Morris,

Party Warehouse, Wolferts Roost Country Club and our dessert providers: Anthony's Chocolate Dipped Fruit, Bella Napoli, Coccadotts, Debbie's Kitchen, Barbara McNamee, Villa Italia and Zachary's Pastry Shop.

We also want to thank our wonderful sponsors for helping to make the Gala such a successful event! They are wonderful friends of the Humane Society and truly great corporate citizens. See next page...



Photos by Joe Schuyler.



WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS...

The Berkshire Bank Foundation presented a \$5,000 check to the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society on Friday, February 26, 2010. MHRHS won Berkshire Bank's Join the Excitement giveaway for the New York region as part of the bank's new web site launch and Join the Excitement campaign. The Foundation conducted a contest to award \$20,000 to nonprofit organizations in its market area. The public was asked to vote for their favorite nonprofit organization and those receiving the most votes in each of the bank's four regions were given a \$5,000 grant. MHRHS used our web site, email, Facebook and Twitter to inform friends, donors and volunteers about the contest. Our supporters and the power of social media took it from there and pushed us to the top! The real winners of the contest are the animals we care for at MHRHS. Thank you to all our friends and supporters and to Berkshire Bank for supporting nonprofits.



(From left to right): Peter Lafayette, Executive Director of the Berkshire Bank Foundation; Sandra Lee, Berkshire Bank East Greenbush Branch Manager; Brad Shear, Executive Director of the Humane Society; Barbara Ann Harms, President of the Humane Society Board of Directors, Gary R. Levante, Berkshire Bank Foundation Program Coordinator and Kimberly Riggs-Halusic, Berkshire Bank VP, Regional Branch Manager for New York State.

As you may remember from our last newsletter, The Society was "adopted" by the Community Resource Federal Credit Union. During the first two months of the year, Community Recourses FCU sold 2010 Cutest Pets Calendar and "Assist-A-Pet" donor cards in their branch offices. On a sunny day in early March in the Society's community cat room, Executive Director Brad Shear accepted a \$500 check from Marketing Director Wendy Meola. We are delighted to have such wonderful new friends and look forward to working with them all year long.



What's Your Home Worth?

Steven J. Sbardella

518Realty.com

I Need a Home

Adopt Me At

Mohawk & Hudson River HUMANE SOCIETY

www.MohawkHumane.org

Zoe

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Thanks to RE/MAX Premier real estate broker, animal lover and dog owner Steve Sbardella, those words came true. For a week in early March, the digital billboards on 787 and I-90 rotated the faces of dogs and cats who were looking for new forever homes. Sbardella donated the space and time so people driving by would see all those wonderful faces and could make plans to visit The Society's adoption center in Menands or stop by the PetSmarts in Latham and Glenmont to find a new furry family member.

Words seem inadequate to express our deep appreciation, so perhaps a happy face will say it all...



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