

Capital Pet



3 Oakland Avenue, Menands NY 12204 • (518) 434-8128

www.mohawkhumane.org
Spring 2011



Pay It Forward by Fostering

In July 2006, Michelle McKay and her daughter Kelly began volunteering at the Humane Society. They started working on the cat adoption floor and walking dogs, and quickly moved into fostering – providing a temporary home for animals in need due to medical or behavioral issues, or just too young for adoption.

Michelle says, “Fostering provided a special opportunity of being able to help animals in need with all members of my family. When it came time to let my first foster go, I cried until I couldn’t speak. But there is such a feeling of satisfaction, joy and fulfillment once your foster has found their forever home.”

Michelle is currently fostering her 178th friend from the Humane Society, but back in January 2009, she took in a seven-week-old pit bull puppy named Maura. Once Maura got big enough (after having to put up with Michelle’s crazy photo ops!), she was ready for adoption.

Emily and Jason Behnke had been looking for a second dog for awhile, specifically seeking the pit bull breed for their intelligence and loyalty. When they saw a picture Michelle had taken of Maura with bunny ears, they were hooked. They made plans to meet her and introduce her to their dog Simon, a Beagle. They loved Maura (since renamed Molly) and adopted her on the spot.

A lot of animals at the Humane Society need specialized care for socialization, medical recovery or behavior modification before they are ready to be adopted by the general public. Shelters in general are high-stress environments with near-constant sound and activity, and foster parents can help alleviate some of that stress by providing a quiet, loving home.

Emily and Jason were very affected by the level of love and care Molly received from her foster family. During the summer of 2009, Emily and Jason became foster parents themselves after two short classes at the Humane Society. They have fostered over 10 dogs and all have been adopted—one by them! Roddy, a pit bull, is now a permanent member of the family and loves having new playmates of all shapes and sizes every week.

These two families have connected through fostering, having helped care for and love almost 200 animals, and even adopted a few! Consider fostering and change your life -- and an animal’s life --forever!



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Save the Date...

PAWS IN THE PARK
Saturday, June 11 • 9:30a-1p
The Crossings of Colonie

**125TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
OF THE MHHS CUTEST PETS
CALENDAR**
Photo contest runs Monday,
June 27 to Wednesday, August 10





3 Oakland Avenue
Menands, NY 12204

Hours:
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 1-4pm

www.mohawkhumane.org

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Executive Director Brad
Shear and Bastian, his cat

From the Director

You probably noticed something new about this issue of Capital Pet before you even opened it. We've got a new look, a shorter and easier name, and a new feel for the Society. Our new logo brings a light, modern, fresh look to our organization as we begin our 124th year. The paw and hand reaching out to each other

really embody what we're all about: bringing people and pets together to make both lives better.

Each time we find a new home for an animal, it seems obvious that the animal is better off, but so is the person who has found a new loving companion. Those of us with pets in our lives already know how important they are to us and how much they enrich our lives. At the Humane Society, we want to share that joy with more people every day so their lives will be better.

Something that unfortunately hasn't changed is a cycle that repeats every year, in every community in the country when spring arrives: animal shelters everywhere begin bursting at the seams with cats and kittens. We have already begun taking in huge numbers of pregnant cats, newborn kittens and young kittens who have been orphaned.

As I write this, the Society is currently caring for over 30% more cats and kittens than we did at the same time last year. That is a tremendous increase and it is not an increase that can be sustained forever. Because we are experiencing such a huge influx of cats, we have begun a series of promotions to encourage cat adoption. These promotions, special adoption days and off-site adoption events will continue throughout the summer and the year, so we can try to keep one step ahead of the wave of cats coming in.

As important as finding homes for cats is, preventing them from coming into the shelter in the first place is even better. This year we are working to increase our cat spay/neuter services for the pets of low-income people and free-roaming cats. Last year we spayed or neutered over 500 cats for the public and this year we plan to do even more.

Our foster program saw record numbers last year too, with over 1,000 animals cared for in foster homes. Each one of those is another life saved. Kittens often need 4 to 6 weeks of care (or more) before they are ready for adoption. We depend on our generous volunteers to care for them during that time.

We may be experiencing the same cycle of increasing animals coming in, but like our new look, we are taking a new approach by increasing adoptions and decreasing the number of animals in need. Please join us -- we need your help for these life-saving programs to continue.



Trainer's Corner

Bringing Home an Older Dog

Recently we brought home a seven-year-old female dog. Katie had lived with four other dogs up until a week ago. She has been in our house for 72 hours. She had a good home, a fenced yard and a great owner who was a friend of mine. So what went wrong? Why did she have to leave that home? My friend passed away. When my friend learned of her illness last summer, she made arrangements for all her dogs. All of us who own animals should consider what will happen to them in the event we are no longer around. Due to my friend planning ahead, all the dogs are being cared for according to her wishes.

What should you expect when bringing home an adult dog? We know the background of some dogs; others are an unknown. Change can be stressful but, with some planning, the adjustment to a new home most often goes smoothly. Some of the things to be considered:

- 1 SAFETY FIRST:** Never allow your new dog off lead unless in a fenced area. Stay outside with her and keep a hold of a long line, at least until you get a "feel" for her. Some dogs can clear a five-foot fence in one bound; some can climb a six-foot fence with ease. By allowing her to be on a long line and observing carefully for the first few weeks, you will get to know her tendencies. Above all, don't assume she knows to come when called. Even an older dog can benefit from a review of skills learned years ago, skills that may have become rusty over time. Katie will be reviewing all the skills she once knew, and will be learning some new ones while living with us. Dogs are never too old to learn.
- 2 HOUSETRAINING:** I know Katie was housetrained in her old home, but she used a dog door. She never had to ask to go outdoors; she let herself out. Will she adjust to our routine? I am taking her outside and staying with her so I can monitor when she eliminates. I praise her when she goes and eventually will put it on cue. We stay outside and play for a bit. If I took her inside right away, she may begin to associate eliminating with her fun outside also ending. I am planning on some extra time in my schedule to allow for this.
- 3 MEETING OUR TWO DOGS:** We allowed them to meet on neutral ground. Our two girls have always gotten along with other dogs, but Katie has not met many new dogs for several years. She never had a problem in the past, but the combination of the many stressors associated with the move could cause her to be a bit anxious. Our two dogs were well exercised before they met Katie. This took their exuberance down a few notches so not to overwhelm her. They were off lead in a fenced area when they met Katie; she dragged a lead in the event we needed to remove her. Katie met one dog at a time; two dogs at once may have been overwhelming. The initial introduction went well and within a few minutes all three were off running.
- 4 MEAL TIME:** I had no idea if Katie would try to eat my dogs' food -- and indeed she did. I started to put an interactive toy down filled with dinner for one of my dogs and Katie walked over thinking it was hers. Perhaps in her previous home the dogs did share food bowls. I feel mealtime should be totally stress-free. No dog should have to eat faster or hide food in order to keep it from another dog. I put Katie behind a baby gate and all the dogs ate at their own speed. Lucy gobbles, Melissa lies down and eats slowly, Katie eats standing up and chews each mouthful...also at a slower pace.
- 5 HOME ALONE:** Crate-trained as a puppy, Katie no longer used a crate in her previous home, but our house is different. She no longer had her familiar canine companions to keep her company. Would she be comfortable being left alone? I arranged my schedule so I could spend time getting Katie acclimated to our home. I began by leaving her alone in one room with a baby gate while I sat on the other side of the gate. She could see into our family room and into the kitchen. She was given a Kong to work on. She finished the Kong and then climbed onto the couch (we do allow our dogs on furniture) and fell asleep. I left the room for short periods of time but continued to check on her. When she woke, Katie continued to be calm by herself. Gradually she has been left for longer periods of time. I usually find her settled in Melissa's crate or on the couch.
- 6 COLLARS:** Katie wore a flat-buckle collar in her previous home. I use Martingales (and no-pull harnesses when necessary for dogs just learning) for walking my dogs, which means putting it over her head. She was not too sure what I was doing when my hands reached over her head with the collar dangling. She moved her head away. I helped her out by showing her a treat and allowing her to put her nose thru the opening of the collar. As she nibbled, I placed the collar over her head. It may seem that putting a collar on is a simple thing, but it was yet another change for Katie. I am doing my best so her adjustment to our home goes smoothly by removing as much stress as possible. I am setting her up for success while she builds a trusting relationship with us.

By Christine Danker, CPDT

(518) 439-2992

Hemlock Hollow LLC

www.hemlockhollowdogtraining.com

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.mohawkhumane.org for the latest dates and times.

tributes

Tribute gifts listed here were received 1/4/11 – 3/31/11.
More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

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Jamison Nevins
- Mick**
Thomas Meyers
- Tom Mortati & Erica Lane**
Julie Santiago
- Amber Nunziato**
Nancy Schulman
- Paprika**
Lisa Mossey
- Veronica Pastecki**
Elizabeth Pastecki
- Phyllis**
Lundy La Buda
- Libby Post**
Sandra Cohen
- Precious (Fat Cat)**
Ralph Bulson
- Dr. Gattu Rao**
Beverly Herman
- Gabrielle Rendo**
Ann Notro
- Torin Root**
Valerie Messina Root
- Ruby, Luke, Herman, Lily & Eddie**
Janine Neal
- Samson**
Gordon & Beverly Emerick
- Mary Savage**
Kimberly Kane
- Abby Scheuermann**
Todd Scheuermann & Karen Hunter
- Dolly Lee Simmons**
John Articulo
- Super 400**
James Meaney
- Linda Taylor & Bruce Raver**
Linda Reddy
- Rhonda Teal**
Betsy Kindlon
- Mary Walczyk**
Joseph & Beverly Olander
- Wedding Guests**
Matt LaFleur & Katherine Labnon
- Zinny & Bruce**
Lindsay Taylor

In Honor Of...

- Barry Bredice**
Mary Walczyk
- Pat & Cliff Carpenter**
Linda Marowitz
- Cooper**
Tyler Feane
- Cathy Couser**
Susan Ellis
- Khalen Cruden**
Lorraine Mara
- Chris Danker**
Linda Marowitz
- Jason Doling**
Patricia Cocca
Joseph DeCelle, Jr.
John & Audrey Hanlon
Kathleen Palmieri
- Mikayla DuBray**
Melissa DuBray
- Mandy Dugan**
Burke Adams
Linda Baker
Deborah Kaback
- Donna Fox**
Richard O'Brien
- Peter Gannon**
Melanie LaRose

thank you!

Good Friends and Good Times Warmed Up Winter

Saturday, January 29 found hockey fans and their canine companions at the Times Union Center to watch the Albany Devils take to the ice. The first-ever “Pucks & Paws” was a huge hit. We would like to send a special thank you to the Albany Devils for arranging the event and to everyone who came out to watch the game and support the Humane Society.

Super Bowl Monday, as you can see from the photo, was a huge success: we nearly doubled the number of redeemable cans and bottles that were donated to support the animals. Thanks to Super Bowl fans who brought their empties.

Courtesy of Spitzie’s Harley on Central Avenue in Albany, we were able to “Beat the Winter Blues” on February 12th and several of our cats and dogs visited with potential new families. One small grey tiger kitten quickly found a new home and celebrated Valentine’s Day with her new family.

Later that evening, Super 400 held their 15th anniversary benefit concert at the Ale House in Troy. It was a concert not to be missed and all the proceeds from the raffle benefitted the Humane Society. A great big “Thank You” to our volunteers, the Ale House, all the businesses who donated to the raffle and to Super 400 for their generosity.

Harmony Hills third graders have raised over \$1,000 in their “Empties for Animals” campaign. An ice cream social was held when they surpassed the \$500 level, and they’re still going strong!

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

- 1 Dog’s eye view of the Albany Devils hockey game at “Pucks & Paws”
- 2 It was in the bag – or a mound of bags – on Super Bowl Monday.
- 3 For this little grey kitten, it was love at first sight and a new home at the adoption clinic at Spitzie’s.
- 4 Dogs and volunteers “Beat the Winter Blues” at Spitzie’s Harley on Central Avenue in Albany.
- 5 MHHS volunteer Audrey Williams, along with her husband and daughter, were super raffle ticket sellers at the Super 400 concert.
- 6 Thanks to the Ale House in Troy and Super 400 for a great fundraising event!
- 7 A Harmony Hills third grade student shows off a card the classes made for their “Empties for Animals” bottle drive.



COMING SOON!



125th Anniversary Edition of the MHRHS Cutest Pets Calendar

The 5th Annual Cutest Pets Photo Contest runs Monday, June 27 through Wednesday, August 10

Visit www.mohawkhumane.org for more information

Enter as many of your pets as you like – all will appear in the calendar



Bring your dog to the park!

Support Mohawk Hudson Humane Society

**Join us at "The Joe" for
"Bark in the Park Night" on
Monday, June 27 at 7 PM**

For tickets, please visit www.mohawkhumane.org



Lilly's Story

Lilly and her sister Caprice came to us after being abandoned by their owners. On the outside, they looked almost like twins -- young, happy puppies in love with everyone they met. But on the inside, they weren't identical. Caprice was healthy in every way and ready to go to her new home just days after her arrival at the Humane Society. Lilly's time with us would take a very different course.

Our veterinarian noticed something odd about the sound of Lilly's heart. Lilly had a heart murmur, but this one was unusual: it seemed to come and go, not like most that could constantly be heard. Lilly would need a specialist to determine what was wrong with her and what could be done, but specialists are expensive and we didn't have enough money to pay for her care.

Luckily for Lilly, we live in an especially caring community. We reached out to our supporters and asked for contributions to our Guardian Angel Fund to help pay for Lilly's care. The Guardian Angel Fund pays for veterinary care for animals that need to be seen by outside veterinarians. Unfortunately, these cases seem to be more and more common.

The specialist discovered that Lilly had Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA). The part of her heart that separates oxygenated blood from oxygen-poor blood did not develop properly. Her heart would need to be repaired. The surgery would be even more expensive, but our generous supporters came through and Lilly was scheduled for surgery.

Heart surgery is never easy, but Lilly pulled through like a trooper, recovered and is now in a happy home. Thanks to all of you, Lilly will live a long healthy life with her new family.

Vet's Corner Molly

By Sarah Madaio, DVM

I recently told a group of eighth graders that the best part of being a veterinarian is my job changes and is different every day. I also told them the worst thing about being a veterinarian is that when my day changes, it's usually because there is an emergency.

Tuesday, March 8 was a good example of this. Late in the afternoon when most of us were thinking of going home, one of the staff members came into the vet room with a Golden Retriever who was just brought in to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society. Good Samaritans found Molly and untangled a wire that was wrapped around and embedded into her left rear leg. She was also severely emaciated, weighing only 40 pounds.

While it was obvious that Molly's leg was badly infected, we had no idea as to the extent of her injuries. Under normal circumstances, we would have sedated Molly to clean up her wounded leg, but because she was so emaciated and dehydrated and her "internal" health was unknown, we decided to proceed with extra caution.

For the next six days, we soaked Molly's foot several times a day, fed her many small meals and started antibiotics, pain medications and supplements. There was a tremendous response from people who saw Molly on the news. They brought her beds, toys, food and good wishes. Many people also donated money so we could perform additional tests on Molly, like blood work, which would give us a good idea of her internal health in case she needed to have her leg amputated. Molly happily gave everyone she met her form of "thank you," which was a tail wag or a kiss.

Molly proved to be a dream patient! She never fussed when we unwrapped, rewrapped or soaked her foot. She also gained over 16 pounds in 6 days! Molly stayed with us in the vet room and could frequently be seen trying to "help" us with whatever we were doing that day.

“Molly proved to be a dream patient!”



Unfortunately, one week after Molly came to us, her leg needed to be amputated. Her wound and infection were actually improving, but the blood vessels that would normally go down to her foot were too badly damaged to keep working. Thanks to Dr. Tara Estra of Canterbury Animal Hospital, who performed the surgery, Molly had a great recovery.

Only two days after her surgery, Molly attended career day at Doyle Middle School in Troy. Her message to the eighth graders was if she could be at school two days after having her leg amputated, there were no excuses for them skipping school!

Molly lived in a foster home for a few weeks, learning how to do all the things dogs normally do but with three legs. Her adoptive family eagerly waited for her to be able to come to her new home, where food will be plentiful and she won't ever have to worry about being hurt again. She has another Golden Retriever and an eight-year-old girl as companions.

I am fortunate to work at the MHHS, where every day is different and full of challenges. I just hope all of my challenges are as sweet as Molly!



Happy Tails *Freshetta*

When Freshetta came to the Humane Society in November, she would cover in fear with the slightest noise or eye contact. She had obviously come from a bad place, with her ears scissored into a crop. The staff spent a lot of time talking to her and sitting with her to help build her confidence. Volunteers spent days standing outside of her kennel offering her treats just to get her to inch closer to them.

When she was finally ready for adoption, we knew she needed a very special home. In the three months we cared for her, she had learned to play and to crave treats and attention, and had several canine companions whom she loved.

When Amanda and Jennifer came to the Humane Society to meet her, it was love at first sight for everyone. Where Freshetta would usually hide from visitors, she went right up to them and snuggled in. She knew she was home.

After a week in her new home, this is what her family said about her: "Freshetta (now Izzy) just celebrated her first week in her furever home. After one week, she is housetrained and crate-trained. She has learned to come, wait and leave it, and it only takes a treat for her to warm up to ALL house visitors. We are so happy with her, but most importantly, she seems really happy here with us! We are so glad she picked us!"



Volunteer Recognition Event Held at Wolff's Biergarten

This year's volunteer recognition event was held at Wolff's Biergarten in Albany. Close to 100 volunteers were joined by Humane Society staff to celebrate the increase in adoptions, the many off-site adoption clinics and all the Save More Lives challenge events that were held in 2010. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of all our volunteers. We could not do what we do without their help and support. Good food, German beer and great friends – a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Matt Baumgartner, Mark Graydon and the entire Wolff's staff for making it a special evening!

Free-roaming Cats

Last summer, residents of the Town of Colonie complained about the number of free-roaming cats continuously multiplying in their neighborhoods. Several people approached town leaders looking for a solution to their growing problem. After several meetings with stakeholders, the Town decided to promote TNR (Trap, Neuter and Return) programs.

Colonie had enough money to purchase traps for cats, but could not afford to pay for surgery and vaccinations for all of the cats that were to be trapped. Several local veterinarians offered discounted services for the cats that were trapped, and the Society wanted to help as well. Providing veterinary services is expensive and we couldn't afford to do it on our own, so we went looking for help: we applied for a grant from Assemblyman Bob Reilly, who has a fund set up to donate his salary to worthy charitable causes throughout the area.

In February we received \$3,000 from the Assemblyman's fund to spay and neuter free-roaming cats in Colonie. Those cats can then be returned where they were found. Over time this process will reduce the population of cats, satisfy the needs of town residents and result in fewer kittens coming into the Humane Society. Thank you to Assemblyman Reilly for making this program possible.



The Gala

Sold out! That's what happened on April 16 as animal lovers from across the Capital Region gathered at Wolferts Roost Country Club for the fourth annual **Around the World for 80 Strays** gala, with Assemblyman Ronald Canestrari serving as Honorary Chair. Steve Caporizzo, the ever-popular animal advocate and Chief Meteorologist for WTEN News Channel 10, served as emcee and celebrity auctioneer and kept the crowd laughing, crying and bidding – all to help the animals!

Humane Heroes awards were presented:

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Paul Harding, Martin Harding & Mazzotti

HUMANE BUSINESS AWARD

Curtis Lumber

BUSINESS MAKEOVER AWARD

Chiloe Hunt, The Animal House

HUMANE BUSINESS AWARD

Christy Ann Coppola, Coppola Design

DR. WILLIAM O. STILLMAN AWARD

Michelle Crowley, Town of Colonie Police Investigator

Congratulations to all of our award recipients and thank you for caring.

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

All photos by Joe Schuyler

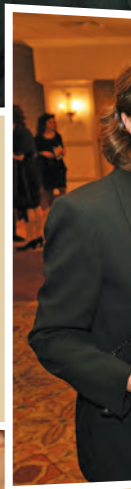
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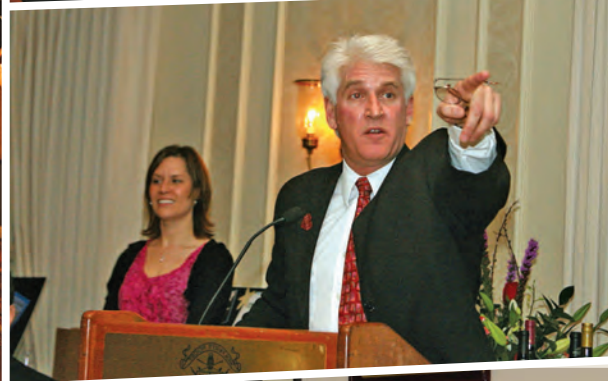
to our Wonderful & Generous Sponsors

Joseph Carr Wine; East Greenbush Animal Hospital; McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC; Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate - Tech Valley; Coppola Design; Our Towne - Rensselaer County's Community Resource; Head to Tail Pet Wellness Center; The Petango Store; CDL Training School; E. Stewart Jones Law Firm, PLLC; KeyBank; Martin Harding & Mazzotti, LLP; New York Press & Graphics; Nigro Companies; Price Chopper; CDPHP; Carter Conboy, PC; Friends of Washington Park, Troy; L.A. Pet Salon; Siemens Industry, Inc.; Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology (TOAST); Upstate Appraisal Services

Special thanks to Camelot Print & Copy Center, James F. Dees, Fleurtaocious Design, JCB Specialties, Samantha Morris, John Norton, Wolferts Roost Country Club and our dessert providers: Anthony's Chocolate Dipped Fruit, Bella Napoli, Coccadotts, Barbara McNamee and Moscatiello's

An extra special Thank You goes to Honorary Board Member Jeff Bulger for donating all the great wine, liquor and micro-brew beer for the live auction's Wheels & Wine and for all the "extra" additions to our silent auction.





SECOND ANNUAL

PawW IN THE Park

woof!

Saturday, June 11, 2011 9:30am - 1pm at The Crossings of Colonie

Marci Natale — Grand Marshal
Music — Grand Central Station