

Capital Pet



3 Oakland Avenue, Menands, NY 12204
518.434.8128 | mohawkhumane.org



S.T.A.R. Partnership



Early this year, Brad Shear, the Society's Executive Director, met with Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple and proposed an idea: what if Mohawk Hudson Humane Society (MHHS) could have homeless dogs fostered in the County Correctional Facility, where the dogs would be trained

by volunteer dog trainers and inmates? Sheriff Apple was immediately interested. Humane Society staff met with Correctional Facility leadership, and the S.T.A.R. (Steps to Adoption Readiness) Partnership was on its way.

The Correctional Facility staff always has to pay close attention to safety and security. We carefully reviewed protocols for care and housing of the dogs, and looked at each individual piece of equipment that would be used to house and train them to make sure they did not present a risk to inmates or dogs. A space was then designated, where the first dogs would live with inmates and have close proximity to a yard where the dogs could go out for relief and play.

The first two dogs went to live at the Correctional Facility in March. Inmates and corrections officers attended an orientation by volunteer dog trainers Chris Danker and Glenn Pierce. Both trainers return once a week for additional classes and give the inmates homework so the dogs' training

is constantly improving. The dogs stay in the program for six weeks and come out well trained and ready for a new home.

The program has proven to be a tremendous benefit to the dogs and the inmates. The dogs, who are friendly, but have never been trained, come out of the program knowing how to behave in their new home, in addition to being able to perform quite a few impressive tricks. The inmates learn new skills and a new way of communicating. Our trainers use only positive reinforcement, reward-based training, which helps inmates learn a positive way to communicate with others.

Just as dogs make any environment a better place to be, the dogs make the Correctional Facility a more positive place with a better atmosphere to facilitate true rehabilitation for people and dogs. We hope to continue the program and see it grow to help more dogs transition to great homes. We thank Sheriff Apple and everyone at the Correctional Facility for going out of their way to ensure the program and the dogs' success.





MOHAWK HUDSON
**HUMANE
SOCIETY**

3 Oakland Avenue
Menands, NY 12204-2718

Hours:

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

www.mohawkhumane.org

518.434.8128 (p)

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Executive Director Brad Shear and Bastian, his cat

From the Director

The summer is always a busy time for us at the Humane Society. More strays come in during the summer, and more kittens and puppies are being born than any other time of year. Every day, we are finding new ways to find homes for animals. We are always looking for more volunteers in the shelter and to provide foster homes. In order to continue helping

animals, we must innovate and grow with a focus on building partnerships in the community.

In this issue of *Capital Pet*, you'll read about two types of partnerships that are extremely important to the Humane Society and homeless animals. The first is the growth of our partnership with the Albany County Sheriff's Department. We have been working successfully with the department to include animals in Albany's disaster response plans, resulting in the county obtaining two disaster response trailers and hosting live response exercises in cooperation with the Humane Society. Because of the relationships formed during the creation of that program, we launched the Steps to Adoption Readiness (S.T.A.R.) Partnership. The S.T.A.R. Partnership creates additional space for animals at the Humane Society and makes the dogs in the program more adoptable. Read more about the program on the front page.

Providing high-quality veterinary care is essential to finding homes for homeless animals. While we have a new full-time veterinarian, Dr. Patricia Schuster, we are often in need of assistance from additional veterinarians. In this issue, you'll see a list of some of the help local veterinarians have provided to animals in need. It is because of the generosity of so many veterinarians in the community that we are able to increase the standard of care for shelter animals and increase the range of illnesses and injuries we are able to treat, so more animals become available for adoption.

We are also continuing to reach out beyond our historically defined community to help animals throughout the Capital Region. In addition to accepting animals who were victims of large-scale cruelty cases in Schoharie County and New York City, we stepped forward to assist when the City of Schenectady temporarily needed help housing stray dogs while they build their own holding facility.

We are constantly seeking new ways to collaborate with other organizations. These are just a few of the relationships that are vital to making sure animals will be cared for when they are in need. It is through these expanding partnerships — and with the support of people like you — that we will stem the tide of homeless animals in the Capital Region.

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Sushi's Journey

Sushi came into my life because I was looking for a companion for my other tuxedo kitten, Tessa. I had adopted Tessa from MHHS after fostering her, and although she got along quite well with my older cats, she seemed lonely because she often had to play by herself. I met Sushi in one of the community cat rooms at the shelter, and she took to me right away. When I went out to speak to a staff member, Sushi lay on the floor with her paws sticking out under the door, trying to get my attention.

I found out that Sushi had been through a lot during the five months of her life. She had part of her tail amputated due to an accident, and three surgeries followed. She had also been declawed. Despite these challenges, Sushi appeared to have a sweet disposition. After some overnight deliberation, I went back and adopted her.

When I got Sushi home, it was clear she was going to need some time to adjust to her new life. She would growl to express her displeasure and did not want to be around the other cats. On the advice of the shelter, I kept Sushi in a separate room. Tessa waited by the door, extending her paws under the door to play. Soon, Sushi started extending her paws as well, and they would play under the door. The next step was to let the cats play together in the room, which led to lots of kitten play-fighting, followed by exhaustion.



Eventually, it became clear that Sushi's growling was due to fear, and one day the growling just stopped. It felt like she decided "It's safe here," and I never heard another growl from her.

More than anything else, I credit Tessa's patience with Sushi as she taught her how to be a kitten again. My little Sushi is now a very sociable kitten who greets all visitors to the house and gets along with the older cats, as well as Tessa. And I don't worry when I leave for work anymore, because Tessa is no longer looking out the window when I leave; instead, she is busy playing with her little sister Sushi.

Sincerely,
Sushi & Tessa's Mom

Thank you

to the veterinarians who have recently generously given their time and expertise to help homeless animals at the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society:

Dr. Tara Estra – Canterbury Animal Hospital
Providing X-rays and dental work for animals

Dr. Michael Rice – Miller Animal Hospital
Volunteering once a month at the Humane Society and performing dental work for animals

Dr. Matt McDaniel – Sand Creek Animal Hospital
Donating a microscope to the Humane Society

Dr. Calla Kinne – Colonie Animal Hospital
Volunteering at the Humane Society

Dr. Ed Becker – The Animal Hospital
Performing dental work for animals

Dr. Tom Bowersox
Performing multiple orthopedic surgeries

Dr. David Stone – Bloominggrove Animal Hospital
Providing X-rays and exams

Dr. Ashley Pederson
Volunteering at the Humane Society

2013 Gala Thanks

Fundraising and attendance records were set once again when animal lovers from across the Capital Region gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, on Saturday, April 27, for the sixth annual **Around the World for 80 Strays** gala.

Alan Goldstein, of the Goldstein Auto Group, was the event's Honorary Chair, while Paul Harding of Martin, Hardin & Mazzotti, served as the Event Chair. The ever-popular Steve Caporizzo, host of *Pet Connection* and Chief Meteorologist for NEWS10 ABC, kept the crowd laughing and bidding as the emcee and auctioneer, and Grand Central Station had guests out on the dance floor before the night was over.

Awards were presented to:

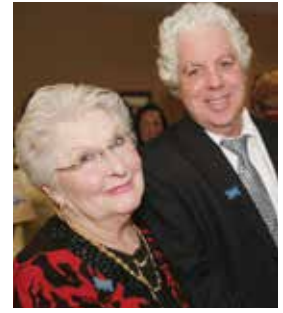
Lynn Kopka – Humane Hero Award

Tracy Muscatello and Pet Spas of America – Humane Business Award

Dr. Tom Bowersox – Humane Hero Award

Excelsior College – Humane Advocate Award

Albany County Sheriff Craig D. Apple, Sr. – Humane Leadership Award



Congratulations to all of our award recipients! Thank you for caring about the animals.

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 \$114,000 for Mohawk Hudson Humane Society's homeless and abused animals.

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

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Special thanks to all the wonderful companies and individuals who donated great items for our live and silent auctions, including Laura Anglin, Jeff Bulger, Camelot Print & Copy Center, Lindsey Deon, David Glatz and our volunteer moving crew, Hilton Garden Inn and the Rensselaer Banquet & Conference Facility, JCB Specialties, Millennium Business Communications, NEWS10 ABC's General Manager Andy Alford, General Sales Manager Ron Romines and News Director Dave Ciliberti, Christine Neely, John Norton, Paula Walker, RPI Circle K Members and Josie McPhail, a National American Miss, National Cover Girl.

All photos by Joe Schuyler

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- Shadow**
Maureen Colarusso
- Rebecca Sheingold**
Erik Peretta
Kathryn Sheingold
- Sima**
Frances Goldberg
- Dolly Lee Simmons**
John Articulo
- Carole Smith**
Barry & Tricia Smith
- Styles**
Donna Lustenhouwer
- Suzie-Q**
Harold & Carol Goldman
- Village Animal Clinic**
Dianne Ammerman
- Dana Wacksman**
Edward Wacksman
- Dr. Andrew Warheit**
Sharon & Jeffrey Radden
- Ruth Weston**
Rebecca Borden
- Richard Zachary**
Pamela Seh
- Roz Zorzi & Jeff Mallette**
Robin Barbera
Kathryn McKeough

Paws in the Park a Record-Breaker



Our fourth annual **Paws in the Park** Walk & Community Day was held at Siena College in Loudonville on Saturday, June 8, with nearly 400 people participating to raise over \$47,000 for the animals.

A special thank you goes to Siena President Father Kevin J. Mullen for presiding over the Blessing of the Animals. It was a highlight! Star Renzi helped warm things up with Zumba for pets and walkers, with the help of music from the Ed Salvo Band. We were delighted to have Albany County District Attorney David Soares and Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple on hand to encourage all the two- and four-legged walkers. Ayco's Community Team Works once again took on the task of judging the Best Costume, Best Trick and Parent-Pet Look-a-Like contests. Our good friends at Goldstein Auto Group collected hundreds of cans and bottles for the *Empties for Animals* program.

Driver Keith Flach was on hand again and is racing again this year with our logo. A new highlight came with our food vendors — Gwenie's Breakfast Wagon, Glen's Kona Ice and the Wandering Dago — who served up delish goodies. The Albany and Rensselaer County Sheriff's Departments and their K9 units each gave demonstrations. People got an up-close look at the Albany County CART (County Animal Response Team) and learned how it is ready to care for companion animals during evacuations and declared emergencies. The 4H Youth Development Office of Cornell Cooperative Extension Albany County was also on hand to demonstrate activities related to obedience and agility.



A big round of applause (and a-paws) to our hardworking and dedicated volunteers who made everything run smoothly and to our generous sponsors and vendors: Internet Marketing Ninjas, Tech Valley Communications, A Ribbon & a Dream, All Dawgs Training Services, Banfield Pet Hospital, Bark Busters, Blinky's Best Bites, Coppola Design, Dog Breed Boutique, East Side Collar, the Fresh Air Fund, Hemlock Hollow, Hounds on the Hudson, Metroland, Miller Animal Hospital,



Pets & Errands R "US", Pet Tech, The Pit Bull Princess, PJ Walker Photography, Price Chopper, Sand Creek Animal Hospital, Top Dog Pet Fence and Young Living Essential Oils.

Top Fundraisers

Top Team: Save-A-Bull

First Runner-Up: Team JJ

Second Runner-Up: 4 Paws Angels

Top Individual Fundraiser: Peter Gannon
Runner-Up: Laura Anglin

Who will win the trophy next June? It could be you.

Thanks to everyone who participated, volunteered and pledged to our fourth annual **Paws in the Park**, *our animals are the true winners.*

Stay tuned for the date for our fifth annual **Paws in the Park** at Siena College.



ART *saves* ANIMALS 2013

Thurs., Oct. 3
5:30-8:30pm

The Arts Center of the
Capital Region
265 River Street, Troy



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