

# Capital Pet

newsletter  
of the

Mohawk & Hudson River  
HUMANE SOCIETY



Winter 2010

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

## PETSMART VOLUNTEERS SET GOALS AND TOOK THE CHALLENGE

The PetSmart stores in Latham and Glenmont serve as home to an average of 20 of the Humane Society's cats and kittens every day. These two satellite locations allow us to offer more animals for adoption and raise awareness about the Society. How are we able to manage two additional locations? With a whole lot of help from our friends! There is a group of selfless, dedicated volunteers who care for the cats and kittens, staffing the two locations 7 days a week, 365 days a year (even holidays). They transport animals from the shelter to the PetSmart locations, clean the kennels, feed and interact with the cats and kittens, monitor their health and wellbeing, and serve as adoption counselors. They're there early in the morning to feed and clean the kennels, and they're there at the end of the day to manage adoptions and make sure everything is secure for the night.

When the ASPCA's \$100K Save More Lives Challenge was announced, the Glenmont volunteers decided they needed to increase their adoptions – and they did, moving from 34 adoptions in August, September and October 2009 to 58 in the same time period this year. That represents a 70% increase. The PetSmart in Latham maintained their high level of adoptions, posting 88 this year versus 82 last year. Awesome numbers from both locations.

However, these devoted PetSmart volunteers didn't stop there. They

helped with dog adoption events at both stores and were volunteers at many other off-site adoption events, making sure the community had an opportunity to see and adopt our wonderful pets. We are grateful for their hard work and for their commitment to the cats and kittens in their care.



When the Challenge came down, these volunteers took up the cause and made things happen. "Thank you" does not seem adequate to express how we feel about what they do for MHRHS and our animals day after day without fail.

**Latham PetSmart Volunteers** who took up the Challenge:  
Lindsay Adrian, Liz Bell, Cindy Bennett, Michelle Bianchetto, Jenny Brimley, Denise Bunday, Francine Campbell, Julie Chappell, April Chisom, Kaitlyn Close, Sharon Close, Kiran Correa, Debra Costa, Elisa Costa, Amanda Czech, Janna Del Vecchio, Kathleen Dougherty, Brittany Ensign, Lorraine Ferguson, Erica Ferri, Kristine Fisher, Cate Folan, Amy Fortin, Brittany George, Meagan Green, Tara Hanby, Danielle Henault, Courtney Hines, Shawn Hines, Nikki

*(continued on page 7)*

## RUBY, A REAL GEM



Ruby is a big, doe-eyed, floppy-eared hound dog. Like most young hounds, she is sweet, active and loving. But as soon as she arrived at the Humane Society, anyone could see that something wasn't right. She came to us as a stray from Bethlehem. Like many strays, she was underweight, but that's not what was unusual.

Ruby could not bend her right rear leg.

When she sat down, Ruby's rear leg would point almost straight out, ending up behind her ear. She was examined by our medical director, Dr. Sarah Madaio, who determined that she likely had an old injury that was never treated properly and healed at an odd, awkward angle. No one knew how long Ruby had been limping around on three legs with one leg awkwardly dragging behind her.

After sending Ruby out for x-rays, a determination was made that her leg could not be repaired and the decision was made to amputate the leg. Dr. Tara Estra came to the Society to perform the surgery, which was a success.

After a few weeks of recovery in a volunteer foster home, Ruby was as spunky and active as ever. She was ready to go on to a new, caring home where she will remain safe and healthy, thanks to the work of our Humane Society veterinary team.



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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](http://www.mohawkhumane.org)

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

518.434.8128

518.434.0217 (fax)

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



Executive Director  
Brad Shear and  
Bastian, his cat

The work the Humane Society does is full of challenges and victories every day, and the last few months are no exception. As many of you know, we have been one of the top contestants in the ASPCA's \$100K Save More Lives Challenge. Staying near the top of the list of contestants has resulted from a tremendous effort by everyone in the organization. Staff, volunteers, community members and corporate supporters have all pitched in to help. At the same time, the Society has faced the daily difficulty of increasing animals entering the shelter during the worst economy in decades.

In addition to the strays and animals surrendered by their owners that we receive every day, this summer the Society served as a sanctuary for a seemingly endless stream of cats from hoarding cases. These animals would come in by the dozens -- usually sick, afraid and in need of extensive veterinary care. As soon as one group found homes, it seemed another was on its way here. We went months without an empty kennel, staying just one step ahead of the constant influx of animals.

In spite of the odds against us, our community stepped up to help homeless animals. We launched the busiest time of year with our fourth annual Feline Fest, and people came to adopt and support the Society's animals. From that time on, we held adoption days throughout the region almost every weekend. Some weekends we had five different off-site events with animals for adoption. We continue to do whatever we can, wherever we can, to promote finding new homes for animals that have been cast off and forgotten.

All of the adoption promotions we held involved dropping the price of adoption by half and often making adoption completely free. These promotions increased adoptions, but they did not decrease the cost of caring for the animals being adopted. We went without much of our adoption fee income for months in order to save animals' lives. Those promotions put the Society into a difficult financial situation, trying to find savings and donations wherever we could -- but the resulting lives saved were more than worth the effort.

In addition to all of the work we've been doing to find animals new homes, at the same time we have expanded programs that prevent animals from becoming homeless. We have expanded our spay/neuter program for the pets of low-income people and have been assisting feral cat caretakers by spaying and neutering feral cats in their colonies. We have also created relationships with several food pantries in the area. Our volunteers deliver free pet food to them so people in need of a little extra help during these tough times can feed their pets as well as themselves.

Throughout these difficult economic times, the Humane Society has continued to grow our efforts to help homeless animals, but we also need help to continue the life-saving innovations we started this summer. It is only because of supporters like you that any of these programs exist. We do not receive funding from government agencies or national organizations to keep our most essential programs alive. It is private individuals who make each saved life possible. Thank you to everyone who came through for us and supported our efforts all year to keep animals off the streets and into new, loving homes.

*Brad Shear*



4<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Around the World  
for 80 Strays Gala**

**Saturday, April 16, 2011 • 7pm**

**Wolferts Roost Country Club**

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Tribute gifts listed here were received 7/10/10 – 10/31/10. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

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Tribute gifts listed here were received 7/10/10 – 10/31/10. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

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Tribute gifts listed here were received 7/10/10 – 10/31/10. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

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**Rainbow & Shadow Winig**  
Agnes Hurley

# HAUNTED HOUND HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY A HOWL-ING SUCCESS!

They came...they wore costumes...they had a howling good time at the Lazy Dog Cookie Company in Ballston Spa on Thursday, October 28. Many thanks to Keith and Amy Augustine for hosting the first Haunted Hound Halloween Costume Party and for helping us raise nearly \$1,100 for our animals.

Ghoulishly good food for people was donated by Fifty South, while the Lazy Dog folks provided ghostly treats for the canine companions. Thanks to "Howlin' at the Moon" for the music, and a special thanks to Marino Digital Printing, Shannon Rose and Heather Bohm-Tallman Photography for setting up her photo booth and donating proceeds from photo sales to the Humane Society.



## AFFINITY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Mohawk Hudson River Humane Society (Code: A1636)

### IT PAYS TO BELONG!

Help support our fundraising efforts by joining TD Bank's Affinity Membership Program. Your participation earns us an annual contribution based upon the number of members enrolled.

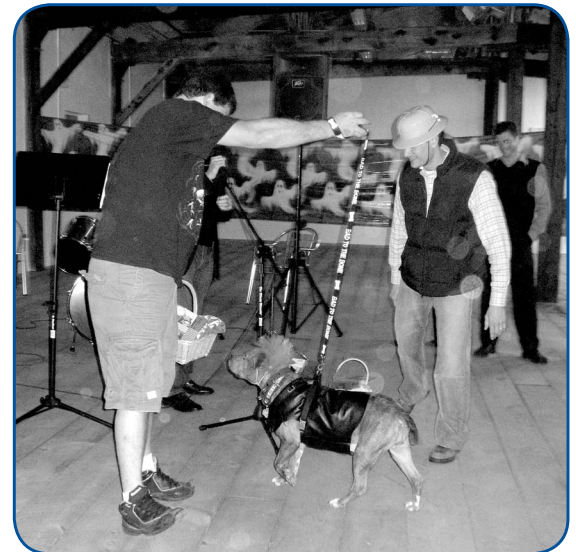
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# MHRHS ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE AND TOOK IT TO THE STREETS

August 1<sup>st</sup> arrived and we were off to find as many new homes for animals as we could in the three months of the ASPCA's \$100K Challenge to "Save More Lives." A new lost-and-found page was added to our website to help reunite missing families with their pets. Volunteers working with feral cat communities learned about our free TNR (trap-neuter-release) program to help control the kitten population as the hot summer got underway. Feline Fest and "Free Over 3" promotions were launched.



*Brad Shear and Paul Harding tape the PSA*

The law firm of Martin Harding & Mazzotti, their advertising agency and WTEN produced and distributed a 30-second public service announcement about the Challenge. MHM partner Paul Harding visited several area Clear Channel radio stations to talk about hosting an adoption clinic and urged other businesses to do the same. Word quickly spread, urging people to "help twice by adopting once."

We were on our way to taking "Got Pets?" to the streets. The Capital Region responded in a huge way! Before long, our lobby was full of people looking to adopt and the phones were ringing with offers for off-site adoption clinics. Some offers were from old friends, while many others were new friends in the making.

"Got Pets?" signs popped up all over the area. Our vans were primed and ready to roll; so, too, were our volunteers and all our great animals. We criss-crossed the area – east to west and north to south – visiting farmers markets, church bazaars, baseball games, banks, animal hospitals, law firms, college campuses, arts venues and more.



*Feline Fest, Face Painting*

Feline Fest and Cat-lumbus Day weekend events brought more people to the shelter in Menands, but we didn't stop there. Our volunteers took animals to the **Menands Farmers Market** and the **Colonie Farmers Market at The Crossings** – twice! We joined Steve Caporizzo at **The Animal Hospital's** adoption event; were at the **Altamont Fair** every day with animals looking for homes; enjoyed apple-picking and pumpkin seasons at **Indian Ladder Farms**; spent two super Saturdays at **Tech Valley Homes** in Loudonville, a wonderful fall Saturday adoption event hosted by the **Guilderland Animal Hospital** and a



*Feline Fest, Roller Derby Gals*



*Adoption Clinic at Colonie Farmers Market*



*The Animal Hospital*



*Tech Valley Homes*



*Guilderland Animal Hospital*



*East Greenbush Price Chopper*



*TD Bank on Route 9, Latham*



*New Jerusalem Community Block Party*



*JCC Event in Albany*



*JCC Event in Albany*



*First Friday at the Broadway Arts Center*

busy adoption Sunday at **Price Chopper** on Central Avenue; attended the **Living Resources' Traumatic Brain Injury Day** at

**Tawasentha Park**; enjoyed a sunny Friday at **TD Bank in Latham**, where thousands of cars saw our "Got Pets?" signs and adoption clinic; participated in the annual **New Jerusalem Church Block Party** in downtown Albany and an adoption clinic at the **Sidney Albert Jewish Community Center**; joined in Albany's **First Friday** celebration at the **Broadway Arts Center**; and, of course, were thrilled to have a mid-September adoption clinic at **Martin, Harding & Mazzotti**.



*YNN at Martin Harding & Mazzotti*



*New Buddies at Martin Harding & Mazzotti*



*Bark in the Park Steve Caporizzo & Crystal*

“Bark in the Park” in early August at **Joe Bruno Stadium** showcased some of our dogs to over 3,000 people and we saw the **Tri-City Valley Cats** baseball team move a game closer to their championship year. That was just the start of our Rensselaer County travels. We took part in Sage Fest on the **Russell Sage College** campus in Troy and the 3rd annual **Pet Festival at the Schaghticoke Fairgrounds**, and held adoption clinics at **LaCorte Companies** in Lansingburgh, **Advantage Subaru** and **Price Chopper** in East Greenbush, and the **Buy Local Bash** and **Troy Night Out** in downtown Troy.



*Cat Adoption at Advantage Subaru*

We also spent time in Schenectady County at the **APF’s Fireplug 500 Walk** and at the **Niskayuna Price Chopper’s Pet Event**, where we held a low-cost rabies vaccine clinic and adopted out several cats and kittens.



*Price Chopper East Greenbush*

The north country beckoned and we responded by spending Cat-lumbus Day weekend at the **Schuyler Farm Corn Maze**, where hundreds of families participated in our adoption clinics and several cats, dogs and kittens found new homes. **Freedom One Funding** in Clifton Park held an adoption event and **Abele Town Park** in Halfmoon was the site of the “Finally Found” adoption clinic and blessing of the animals. We finished our northern travels in Ballston Spa on October 28th at the Haunted Hound Halloween Costume Party hosted by **The Lazy Dog Cookie Company**.



*Buy Local Bash, Petey draws a crowd*

Thousands of people attended these adoption events, which were hosted by dozens of area organizations and businesses. Hundreds of homeless animals found new forever homes



*Price Chopper Niskayuna Pet Day*



*Schuyler Farm Corn Maze adoption*



*Freedom One Funding*

because the community responded to the “Save More Lives” challenge and our question and plea – “Got Pets?”

In addition to the dedicated staff at the shelter, hundreds of volunteers gave of their time on nights and weekends, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays to help “Save More Lives.” We are humbled by their enthusiasm and are grateful to Dianne Ammerman, Shonnell Anderson, Sharon Ansell, LuAnn Antrim, Corey Amott, Rachel Baum, Cindy Bennett, Heidi Bernhardt, Ryan Bernhardt, Brad Blauhut, Diana Britton, Jim Catlin, Julie Chappell, Amanda Czech, Jennifer Cole, Mark Cotch, Rachel Cotch, Kathy Couser, Katy Dorsheimer, Tracy Dufault, Beth DuPont, Cherrie Edwards, Andy Edwards, Donna Farber, Adam Figarsky, Alison Floyd, Caroline Flynn, Amy Fortin, Eileen Germain, Brittany George, Rachel Gerrol, Laurie Gibbons, Justine Gummer, Tara Hanby, Nicole Harmon, Nikki Johnson, Susan Joslin, Mary Lamb, Gail Landrigan, Frank Litty, Michele Litty, Caroline Lynch, Lindsay Malachowski, Jhane Mareello, Barbara McNamee, Ann McPherson, Andrea Miele, Samantha Morris, Pat Miller, Kathleen Moon, Louise Moore, Dianne Patterson, Scout Proulx, Margaret Radley, Janice Ronner, Matt Rossman, Kateryna Silvestro, Jackie Siudy, Susan Southerland, Maureen Taft, Paula Trexler, Brittany Webb, Grace Wiley, Audrey Williams, Lynn Wolfner, Courtney Wolfner, Jennifer Wright, Stacey Wright, Greta Yakel, Cody Young and Chris Zangara.

Thanks to all who helped us “take it to the streets.” No matter the outcome of the Challenge, we won, the animals who have new forever homes won and the Capital Region won by supporting our efforts to “Save More Lives” and increase awareness about the animals at the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society and about the plight of all the stray, abandoned and homeless animals who just need a chance to join a loving family.

## **PETSMART VOLUNTEERS SET GOALS AND TOOK THE CHALLENGE** *(continued from page 1)*



Johnson, Jason Kokkinos, Betsy Kriger, Elena Krikun, Nicole Lewis, Briana Link, Caroline Lynch, Courtney Mack, Jhane Mareello, Barbara McNamee, Louise Moore, Samantha Morris, Mike Norman, Barb Pelligrini, Cindi Pellegrino, Eric Platt, Kiana Pollacek, Shawna Sacher, Maeghan Sacklow, Kateryna Silvestro, Amanda Sinrod, Bethany Slater, Sue Smith, Rachel Ward and Carmen Warner

**Glenmont PetSmart Volunteers** who set a major goal and exceeded it: Shonnell Anderson, Anne Bailey, Sandra Bruns, Jenny Catalano, Alissa Caton, Luke Caton, Leslie Chaplin, Mary Anne Chiariello, Angela Cipollo, Jennifer Cole, Ellen Collins,

Amanda Czech, Dawn Drogo, Eileen Germain, Rachel Gerrol, Calla Jacobs, Hemwatie Jaipershad, Christine Jorge, Susan Joslin, Shannon Kerr, Andrea Lain, Mary Lamb, Kris Lanchantin, Alex Lanchantin, Catherine Matt, Ann McPherson, Jennifer O’Connor, Sherri Salvione, Kathy Schroder, Michele Shevlin, Emma Stouffer, Paula Trexler, Leslie Triner, Carol Turner, Suzanne Winkler, Courtney Wolfner and Lynn Wolfner



# ART SAVES ANIMALS SETS AUCTION RECORD

The night was warm and humid, heavy with anticipation. The sixth annual Art Saves Animals art auction set a live and silent auction record of nearly \$10,000 to benefit the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society. Animal and art lovers from around the region gathered at the Arts Center for the Capital Region on River Street in Troy on September 30 to raise funds for the Society.



A heartfelt “thank you” to Honorary Chairs Greg Haymes and Sara Ayers, founders of Nippertown.com; to the Event Chair, Donna Garramone, owner of Arlene’s Artist Materials; and all the members of the ASA planning committee for making the event such a wonderful experience for all. Special thanks to Marc Tetro for serving as the featured artist this year and for donating his dynamic artwork to the live auction, to pianist Dr. Ron Musto for adding to the ambiance of the evening, and to Rhymin’ Richie Phillips of WGNA’s “Sean & Richie in the Morning” for serving as our celebrity auctioneer. Even a false alarm and the arrival of the Troy fire engine could not dampen the mood. Of course, the mood of the evening was aided by Exit 9 Wine & Liquor Warehouse’s contribution of fine wines from the Mutt Lynch Winery.

Our thanks also go to the Honorary Committee members, sponsors, contributing artists and attendees who helped raise a net total of more than \$20,000 to benefit our animals. As with all we do, this event would not have been possible without the assistance of our dedicated volunteers and staff.



## Thank You to Our Sponsors

### Picasso



### Monet



### Matisse





# ONE HOUSE, 140 CATS

In early October, Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society investigator Tina Murray went to the home of Bertha Ryan with the State Police to discuss complaints about a strong odor emanating from the home. There were about 20 cats visible in the house that day, but the police were only invited into one room and most of the house was closed off. The officers were there to help people who had obviously acquired and bred more cats than they could possibly care for, but their offers of help were refused.

A few days later, the two women to whom the officers had been talking were arrested in Bennington, Vermont. They were found napping in two cars in a supermarket parking lot along with over 80 cats in the two cars. The women were arrested for animal cruelty because of the conditions, and officials seized the cats.

While 80 cats is a tremendous number, we were concerned there were more animals still suffering in the house. State Police obtained a search warrant, and a few days after the arrest in Vermont, we were back looking for cats in Ryan's North Troy home. We were shocked by what we found; the conditions were unfit for human or animal life. Since 80 cats had already been removed we hoped there wouldn't be many more, but there were another 57 cats still living in the house. We also found two cats that had already died.

The cats were all brought to the Society where our Medical Director, Dr. Sarah Madaio, examined all of the cats, documented their conditions and began treatment for their varied medical conditions. Dr. Madaio's reports were submitted to the State Police who charged the Ryan's with 59 counts of animal cruelty.

Within two days of the cats arriving at the Humane Society, two of the cats gave birth to a total of seven more kittens. Thanks to our volunteer foster parents, those and several other cats were able to recover and grow in homes before returning to the Society for adoption.

One hundred forty cats living in one small home is overwhelming just to think about, but to see it in person is shocking and disturbing, especially to people who have dedicated their lives to protecting animals. It may seem like a new case of animal hoarding is in the news every few weeks, and this year that has been true. More and more of these cases are coming to light and all involve animals in desperate need of our help.

A sudden influx of animals like this puts a tremendous strain on the Society's staff, volunteers, facilities and funds. There is no government funding for cases like this. The animals depend on our supporters to contribute toward the investigation and the animals' medical rehabilitation and care.



*Brazil*



*Jordan*



*Jasper*

The 2011  
Cutest Pets  
Calendar  
is here!



Get yours today!  
Stop in at the shelter,  
visit [www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org)  
or call 434-8128 ext 204.

## SAVE THE DATE

The dogs are going to the Devils  
Saturday, January 29 at 7PM

### 1<sup>st</sup> PUCKS & PAWS

to Benefit the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society

\$20.00 gets you and your dog a ticket to watch the Albany Devils take on the Rochester Americans.

Season ticket holders, your dog can join you for the night for just \$5.00.

Call 518-433-8457 for more details.



The Albany Devils, Albany's newest hockey team, are the AHL affiliate of the 3X Stanley Cup Champion New Jersey Devils.

# PUPPY RESCUE



In late August, David Adams was out for a walk in Rensselaer when he saw a black car with dark tinted windows pull to the side of the road and slow down up ahead. One of the windows was rolled down and two small puppies were thrown out the window as the car sped off. Mr. Adams immediately went to check on the puppies. One had already died and the second looked like he was barely holding on.

Mr. Adams had adopted a cat from the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society, so he knew exactly where to go. When he arrived at our animal care center in Menands, the puppy was rushed to our veterinary team where he was examined by Dr. Sarah Madaio. The puppy was emaciated, dehydrated and covered in fleas. Dr. Madaio's initial assessment was that the puppy only had a 50/50 chance at survival. Puppies of this age are very fragile and can easily succumb to illness, so Dr. Madaio would have to work fast to save her.

After giving the puppy her initial treatment, we put out a call for a foster home and Rob Perham stepped forward. Rob would have to watch the puppy, whom he named Millie, closely to make sure her condition did not deteriorate. After working long days at the Society, Dr. Madaio stopped at Rob's house every day to check on Millie, give her additional treatments and make sure she was continuing to recover.

It took time, careful monitoring and special attention, but Millie slowly regained her strength and started putting some weight on as puppies are supposed to. Although Millie was healthy, she was not destined to leave her foster home. Rob and his two other dogs just couldn't bear to let her go, so she'll stay in the loving home where she was able to recover.



## HAPPY TAIL

Dear MHRHS,

*Two weeks ago I made a stop at the Pet Smart store in Glenmont. My intention was simply to pick up supplies for Rogie, my cat. While in the store, I passed the adoption center with cats needing a home. I've passed that area before and have always felt bad for them. Everyone, even a cat, needs a good home. I hadn't planned on adopting a homeless cat that day, but circumstances and the forlorn look on the face of a homeless cat can change your plans.*

*You see, my wife Carol passed away from breast cancer 18 months ago. It has been a difficult transition for Rogie and me to adapt to the change in our lives. Rogie was originally a barn cat whom we adopted a number of years ago. He and Carol were very attached to each other. When she passed away, Rogie's temperament and behavior changed radically. Although I understood that the changes probably had a lot to do with her absence, it became very difficult for us to co-exist. Rogie became a daily frustration. I have to admit that there were a number of times when I thought about finding him a new home or taking him to a shelter. Of course, I never did; he was still part of the family and I couldn't bring myself to do either.*

*As I looked at the cats in PetSmart, I wondered if Rogie might snap out of it if he had the companionship of another cat. I wondered if it might be a good thing for me as well. As those thoughts were going through my mind, I came across Spencer. Spencer grabbed my attention immediately. He looked so calm and had an endearing look to his face. Needless to say, he came home with me that day.*

*Spencer has been a wonderful addition to the family. He is playful, warm, friendly and a calming influence. Rogie, of course, was not happy to have Spencer come into his home and spent the better part of two days stalking him. Rogie has now come to accept Spencer, although that most often comes in the form of ignoring him.*

*Spencer has also settled in. For the first week or so he was always under foot. He followed me everywhere and would lay down at my feet whenever I stayed put in one spot long enough for him to believe I would be there for a while. Now he wanders off to explore, take a nap or chase one of the toys through the house (as he is doing now). Like Rogie, he especially likes to go out to the attached greenhouse when I open it for them on sunny days. It's fun to watch the two of them race each other to get there first!*

*As for Rogie's temperament and behavior? Spencer's presence has made a big difference. Rogie may ignore his roommate, but his disposition has dramatically changed for the better. And to be honest, Spencer brightens my days as well.*

*I want to thank you for giving Spencer and me an opportunity to meet. Rogie and I have benefited greatly by his addition to our family.*

Bill

