Capital MOHAWK HUDSON HUMANE SOCIETY Pet



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

www.mohawkhumane.org
Winter 2011



Kelvin...

the Charmer

Early this past spring, Kelvin and his brother, Douglas, were brought in as strays. Kelvin was quickly adopted and just as quickly returned. You see, Kelvin had a limp. He was placed with a foster mom who was advised by our vet to watch him. The limp did not go away so Kelvin went to see

Dr. Stone at Bloomingrove Veterinary. X-rays revealed the reason for his limp: Kelvin's kneecap was not where it belonged, but rather on the side of his leg!

With a referral and x-rays in hand, foster mom Barb and Kelvin saw Dr. Besancon at Upstate Veterinary Specialties. Dr. Besancon delivered the bad news: Kelvin's injury was very serious. As a kitten Kelvin had probably broken his leg but not received proper care, so the leg did not heal properly. Amputation was a possibility, but everyone wanted Kelvin to have the opportunity to have a fairly normal leg. He was operated on in May and according to Dr. Besancon, it was one of his most complicated surgeries. The prognosis was guarded and a quiet recovery was an absolute necessity.

For six weeks, Kelvin lived in a large dog cage -- no running, no jumping, no being a normal, active young cat. At his first follow-up visit, Dr. Besancon was pleased but Kelvin needed to strengthen the muscles by stretching and using the leg. In June, pins were surgically removed. A few months later, Dr. Besancon said Kelvin was doing fine and was no longer in any pain, but would probably always limp. He remained with Barb but was ready for a new forever home.

According to Barb, Kelvin had always been pretty shy around people. When Linda met Kelvin, it was different. Although he didn't climb on her lap, he went over to her readily, allowing her to pet him. Linda wanted to think about it. A week after that first meeting him, she picked him up and became Kelvin's new mom.

Linda has emailed and called Barb several times to report on Kelvin's progress. He is a real love and running all over the house. Shortly before adopting Kelvin, Linda had to put down her 11-year-old Golden Retriever and since she is only a year away from retirement, she did not want another dog. This was a match meant to be. Kelvin has become the very affectionate boy he was while in Barb's care.

Linda and Kelvin have a final follow-up appointment scheduled with Dr. Besancon. Linda wants to meet the doctor who saved Kelvin's leg and Dr. B. wants to see his "favorite white cat." Kelvin has charmed Linda and Dr. B., just as he did Barb.

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2012

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PUCKS & PAWS WITH THE ALBANY DEVILS Saturday, March 31, 2012

Times Union Center, Albany

125TH ANNIVERSARY GALA Saturday, April 21, 2012 Hilton Garden Inn, Troy

3RD ANNUAL PAWS IN THE PARK Saturday, June 16, 2012 Siena College Campus, Loudonville

Going Green?

If you would prefer to receive our quarterly newsletters via email, please send an email request to newsletter@mohawkhumane.org.



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Executive Director Brad Shear and Bastian, his cat

From the Director

All too often I have written about animals who have been abused and neglected. Each time I talk about one of these stories, I'm asked how we can prevent more animals from being harmed. Considering there are so many people who are passionate about preventing animal suffering, I think it's amazing that it continues to happen so often. Yes, we

need better laws, better enforcement of those laws and the resources to provide humane education. Unfortunately, we have seen very little attention to these issues from government officials who are forced to look for ways to cut budgets.

I am happy to say there is a bright spot for animal lovers. Recently, Albany County legislator Bryan Clenahan introduced a county bill called Local Law K. The law establishes a registry of animal abusers convicted in Albany County. The law passed the legislature unanimously and was signed into law by County Supervisor Michael Breslin. The law will go into effect 90 days after he signed, which was in mid November.

The law requires anyone who is convicted of animal cruelty, dog fighting or other similar crimes to submit their name, address and photo to the Sheriff's Department, along with a \$50 fee. That fee will be paid annually and will be the only source of revenue to maintain the list so there is no cost to taxpayers. Offenders will remain on the list for 10 years. If they are convicted a second time, they must remain on the list for life. The registry will be housed on the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society's web site and maintained by the Society.

This in itself is a huge step forward for animal advocates. Now we will have a central place where we can look for people who have harmed animals. But wait, there's more.

The law also requires any animal shelter, rescue group, pet store, breeder or individual giving, selling or adopting an animal to check the registry before handing over the animal. It will be a crime for anyone to provide an animal to a person on the registry. With this provision, we keep animals out of the hands of abusers, prevent future suffering and reduce the number of cruelty cases that need to be investigated.

It should be noted that over the course of several public hearings about the law, the only person to speak out in opposition was a lobbyist for the pet store industry who said the law would create too much paperwork. It appears some pet stores may not be concerned enough about providing animals to convicted abusers.

The new law is a huge step forward, but it is still not enough. I have already started speaking to legislators in other counties in an attempt to spread these protections throughout the region. My hope is that ultimately we will see a state-level registry so no matter where an abuser moves in the state, they will not be able to hide – and, more importantly, they will not be able to abuse more animals. Statewide protection may be difficult to achieve, but with this new law, Albany County is demonstrating itself to be a role model and an animal protection leader. I believe the Society will play an integral part in leading the state forward toward becoming a safer place for animals.

Thank you to everyone who came out to various gatherings and sent emails and letters to voice their support for Local Law K.



tributes

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thank youl

PLEASE NOTE

Due to space constraints, future newsletters will list donors who contributed \$25 or more. All tribute donors will be listed on our web site, mohawkhumane.org.

Responding to Orene

In late August many upstate communities were devastated by flooding caused by Hurricane Irene. Some of our neighbors are still recovering and will be for some time. The night of the storm, Society employees staffed our shelter in Menands until 1:30 a.m., taking in animals so their families could spend the night in evacuation shelters where pets were not allowed. Many of the animals brought to the shelter were picked up within a few days because those evacuees were able to return to their homes, but some animals stayed for weeks while their owners recovered and rebuilt.



The Humane Society was also called upon to assist people and animals devastated by flooding in Schoharie County. When we arrived we found a beehive of activity, with personnel from across the state and country gathering to coordinate responders to help people and animals. Our team was first sent to the Village of Schoharie. We were dispatched to a local farm that had been devastated by flooding. We received six cats from the owners, and left food and supplies for the other dogs and cats that were still living with the family and their neighbors. We spent the remainder of the day going between Schoharie and Middleburgh helping people with pets where we could, taking reports of lost animals and distributing food and supplies.



When we returned to the Humane Society our response continued. Animals continued coming to us from throughout the affected region from people whose lives had been upended. At a time when the intake of animals typically slows down, we were taking in more animals than ever.

MHHS does not receive any government assistance to respond to disasters. We depend on the steadfast support of our donors to continue helping those affected. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our efforts!

art Saves animals

Our 7th annual Art Saves Animals on October 6 at the Arts Center in Troy was a great success, with a net income of over \$22,000.

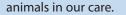
Special thanks go to our Honorary Chair, the Honorable Kathleen M. Jimino, Rensselaer Country Executive; our emcee and auctioneer, Jason Gough, WNYT 13 meteorologist; Event Chair Lisa Welsh and planning committee members Sara Ayers, Jeff Bulger, Donna Garramone, Greg Haymes, and Jason and Sarah Martinez. We are very grateful to our featured artists -- Joleen Button, GG Roberts, Marie Triller and Bonnie White -- for their generosity and beautiful art.

A big *Thank You for your support and generosity* to sponsors AccuCare Home Health Services, Communication Services, CSEA, E. Stewart Jones Law Firm, East Greenbush Animal Hospital, Exit 9 Wine & Liquor Warehouse, Friends of Washington Park in Troy,

Fusco Personnel, Jermaine "Port Schulyer" Women, McGlinchey Stafford, Metroland, Mike's Pest Service, Our Towne Rensselaer County, Shampoodle and TD Bank. In addition, we give a special thanks to Arlene's Artist Materials, Jeff Bulger, Camelot Copy Center, Chris Danker, Dave Glatz, Jennifer Haraburda, Chris Kobuskic, Morgan Linens, pianist Ronald V. Musto, Nicole's Catering & Restaurant, Pamela Pociluk, Lillie Ruby and the Arts Center of the Capital Region.

We also cannot forget to thank the volunteers who helped us make the evening a success.

We are deeply grateful to our Honorary Committee and all those who attended the event. It is because of all of you, our sponsors, volunteers and special friends that the event continues to be great fun and raises money for the





Haunted Hound a Spook-tacular Time

Despite the early snow on October 27, the 2nd annual Haunted Hound Halloween Costume Party at the Lazy Dog Cookie Company in Ballston Spa was a howling success for all the canines and their human companions! We made over \$1,700 thanks to all those who attended and the creativity and dedicated efforts of Lazy Dog's Amy and Keith Augustine. A special thank you to all those who donated to the silent auction, the band Special Delivery, Heather Bohm-Tallman Photography, Shannon-Rose Design, and of course our wonderful volunteers and attendees who "weathered" the early snow decked out in their Halloween finest!











Looking for cats at Feline Fest

Party with the Kitties and Pitties

Our fifth annual *Feline Fest* was July 28 through 31. On Saturday, hundreds stopped by to help us celebrate, visit Coccadott's cupcake truck for a gourmet treat or two, listen to 2 Broads with Alotta Sound and find a new feline family member. In addition, we had a cookout, bake sale and rummage sale. There was face painting and other activities for kids, plus vendors like Konyn Creations, Photo Creations by Mary Pace, TD Bank and others with goodies for pets and people. The best part: over 100 cats and kittens were adopted and now have wonderful new families!

Not to be outdone, pit bulls took center stage for our second annual *Pittie-Palooza* October 20 through 23 to coincide with National Pit Bull Awareness Day. This year's theme was "Give Pits a Chance" and tie-dye was the order of the day! The Society's Save-a-Bull

group educated the public about these dogs, who make great family pets and companions.

A fun-filled community day was held on Saturday, October 22 and dozens of pit bulls brought their family members to the shelter to enjoy the festivities. Treat vendors like Hunde Haus were a favorite with the canines. Their family members enjoyed the pet psychic and professional photographer and watched the Canine Good Citizen and Therapy Dog International testing.

The best news of all is that 14 pit bulls and pit mixes now have great new homes!





A Victory for Victor

At the Humane Society we feel every animal has its own inherent value; they are all unique individuals who deserve our love and protection. Unfortunately, not everyone agrees with us. Many people who breed dogs for profit see dogs and puppies as nothing more than a commodity to be bought and sold. If they can't profit from an animal, that animal has no value to them. A little Yorkshire Terrier named Victor found himself born into a home with just such a person.

Victor is a beautiful, young, friendly puppy. Like any puppy his age, he just wants to be loved by everyone he meets. Unfortunately, Victor developed a limp in one of his back legs, which meant his breeder couldn't sell him. Rather than find out what was wrong and have him treated, the woman who bred Victor left him at the Humane Society.

The Humane Society does not have much money available for expensive orthopedic care, but we were not going to abandon Victor as his breeder had. The veterinary staff examined Victor and x-rays were donated by Canterbury Animal Hospital so we could determine the extent of the problem with his hip.

Thankfully, the examination determined Victor's issue was developmental in nature. Some time in foster care allowed Victor the time he needed to simply grow out of his condition.

Victor turned out to be fine because of the time, care and attention of Humane Society staff and volunteers who saw value in him as an individual. Now Victor is a new home where his early life challenges will soon become a distant memory.

Corporate partner worth "gold"

The Goldstein Family Auto Group and the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society teamed up to hold off-site adoption events at all four Goldstein Auto dealerships (Goldstein Buick GMC, Goldstein Mitsubishi, Goldstein Subaru and Goldstein Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge-Ram) on Saturday, October 29. Despite the surprisingly snowy weather forecast, many friends of animals stopped by and several cats and dogs found new forever homes. Thanks to all those who helped make us and our animals feel so welcome.

The partnership began when MHHS Board member Miguel Berger reached out to the Goldstein family about the need for a vehicle for the shelter and the Goldstein Family Auto Group very generously donated a van to the Society. The Goldstein Family Auto Group, Alan Goldstein and his family are shining examples of what businesses can do to help non-profit organizations. We are very grateful for their generosity.





MHHS Board Member Miguel Berger with his wife Bonnie and Alan Goldstein at adoption clinic

