

Capital Pet



125 years for ANIMALS



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

www.mohawkhumane.org
Winter 2012



Railroad Puppies

On Saturday, September 8, railroad workers found three pit bull mix puppies on the railroad tracks between North Pearl Street and Broadway and brought them to the Society. The puppies, estimated to be 3-4 weeks old, were assessed and given

lifescaping treatment for dehydration, malnutrition and infections caused by wounds. The puppies each had similar injuries to their left rear paws and one puppy's paw had been severed. Puppies that young would not have lasted long on their own in the best of circumstances. They were extremely lucky to have been found in time.

MHHS Medical Director Dr. Sarah Madaio and the veterinary staff closely monitored the puppies all weekend. On September 11, Dr. Madaio was giving the smallest puppy IV fluids and additional supportive care since she was not eating or drinking. She seemed to respond, then took a sudden turn for the worse and her heart stopped. Dr. Madaio and the veterinary staff performed CPR and resuscitated her briefly, but her heart stopped again and further efforts to save her were unsuccessful.

As soon as news of the cruelty case reached the public, support and outrage began pouring in to the Society. MHHS' Guardian Angel Fund began receiving thousands of dollars for the care of the puppies. In addition, a reward fund was established to help find witnesses. The reward fund is currently \$7,000 and anyone with information is urged to call the Albany Police Department.

On September 13, board certified veterinary surgeon Dr. Tom Bowersox was called for a consultation to assess the condition of the puppies' injuries. He determined that Hudson, who was missing his paw, would be a good candidate for a prosthetic limb and Pearl, missing two center toes, was doing fine but would continue to be monitored. Both puppies were placed in foster care, where they did extremely well.

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Save the Date...

PUCK & PAWS WITH THE ALBANY DEVILS

Saturday, January 5, 2013 (5:00pm)
Times Union Center, Albany

AROUND THE WORLD FOR 80 STRAYS GALA

Saturday, April 27, 2013
Hilton Garden Inn, Troy

PAWS IN THE PARK

Saturday, June 8, 2013
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

Recently Albany was the site of one of the most disturbing animal cruelty cases I have seen in my 16 years working in the animal protection field. Many of you may already know the story of three puppies abused and abandoned on railroad tracks near South Pearl Street. Two would survive to be named Hudson and Pearl. There is an article in this issue about those pups and the horrors they experienced, so I won't repeat their story here.

I do want to acknowledge what happened when our community found out about them. I have always known that people in the Capital Region are passionate about animals. I see our volunteers and staff showing up every day and working hard to make sure animals are cared for. But when people found out about these puppies, something struck them in a way we don't see very often.

There was an outpouring of concern for the puppies' welfare, support for their recovery, and anger at the person or persons who did this to them. Reporters from every media outlet in the region contacted us to find out more about the plight of these puppies. In each interview I was asked the same question over and over again: "Does a case like this make you question humanity when you see how cruel people can be?"

It is disturbing to see what a person can do to an animal, how heartless someone can be. But that is one person. That person does not represent humanity or our community. The fact that one person could be so heartless and cruel does not tell me anything about other people. Cruelty is easy for some, I suppose.

My focus is and always has been on everyone else – the hundreds of people who contacted us, wanting to help these puppies and others like them. For me there is no better example of our humanity than the response so many people had to this incident. They refused to believe that something like this could happen in our community. They demanded that something be done. Most of all, the people I spoke to wanted to be clear that the person who did this is not one of us.

We are a community that cares, loves animals and wants to protect those who cannot protect themselves. It is because of our caring community that the Humane Society exists and is able to provide a safe place for puppies like Hudson and Pearl to go, get the treatment they need and find new homes. We are truly a reflection of our community, and these two puppies have happy lives ahead of them because of a community that deeply cares.

Brad Shear

Empties for Animals & Cat in a Box

Holiday season is party time! Don't forget the Empties for Animals program to recycle those cans and bottles. If you have too many to drop off at the Society in Menands, you can take them to a Goldstein Auto Group location or call them to arrange for a pickup. Last year, with your help, our volunteers sorted over 900,000 bottles and cans, which brought in \$74,000 for the animals. Goldstein Auto Group and our volunteers are working hard and hoping to hit \$100,000 or more for our 125th anniversary year. With your help, we might just make it!

If you know anything about cats and kittens, you know they love a good shoebox. Expecting to receive shoes or boots for the holidays? Donate the boxes to our Cat in the Box program. Our goal is for each cat and kitten to have a box while waiting to go to their forever homes.

Sunny Days for Abandoned Kittens

One month after three kittens were found abandoned in Troy, they all found forever homes.

On September 18, a woman discovered three grey male tiger kittens abandoned on the corner of Ida and Third Streets in Troy. A garbage bag covering the laundry basket in which the frail kittens were placed did little to keep the rain off: they were soaked and shivering. The good Samaritan took the tiny kittens to the Troy Police station and the officers immediately brought them to MHHS for care.

The kittens were examined by the Society's veterinary staff, who found them to be malnourished, dehydrated, hypothermic and covered with fleas. They were quickly treated and placed in a foster home, where they thrived. Less than a week later, Puddles, Thunder and Lightning were dry, fluffy and on the road to a healthy future.

The kittens were lucky to have been found by a very kindhearted person. They would not have made it in their condition without someone coming along so the Humane Society could help.

The person who left them on the street was presumably hoping someone would find them and do the right thing, but no animal should ever be abandoned. There are alternatives; animals can be surrendered to MHHS where they can be given proper care. We are fortunate to have foster homes that will take animals in need of extra special care and help them grow and become healthy.

Sunny days are ahead for Puddles, Thunder and Lightning in their new homes. This story has a happy ending because a woman in Troy found the kittens and, thanks to our supporters, the Humane Society has the ability to provide the emergency care these kittens needed.



Railroad Puppies *Continued from page 1.*

On October 12, Dr. Bowersox fitted Hudson's first prosthetic paw and a month later it was put in place. Hudson will need several additional prosthetics as he grows. Dr. Bowersox believes Pearl should not have any major problems caused by her two missing center toes. The fitting was the final step before the puppies were altered and ready for their forever homes.

The two made a special guest appearance at the Society's third annual Pittie-Palooza where they proved to be very popular, both in and out of costume. They are well-adjusted, playful, trusting puppies who are eager to give kisses and hugs to anyone who wants them. Luckily these puppies, found barely hanging on to life, had a place to go because of supporters like you who make it possible for the Society to provide extraordinary veterinary care.

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thank you!

PLEASE NOTE

Due to space constraints, only tribute gifts of \$25 or higher are listed in our print newsletters. Tributes of all amounts are listed on our web site, www.mohawkhumane.org.

Art Saves Animals

The eighth annual Art Saves Animals was a great success. The event, held October 11 at the Arts Center in Troy, brought in a net income of over \$28,000. Thanks go to our emcee and auctioneer, WNYT meteorologist Jason Gough, and the event planning committee – Sara Ayers, Jeff Bulger, Donna Garramone, Greg Haymes and Lisa Welsh. We are also very grateful to our featured artists – Muriel Danahy, Charlene Shortsleeve, Robert Gullie, Joseph Schuyler, Harold Lohner and Victor Juhasz – for their generosity and beautiful art.

A big thank you to our sponsors: Excelsior College, Arlene's Artist Materials, Communication Services, CSEA, Exit 9 Wine & Liquor Warehouse, Metroland, TD Bank, Camelot Print & Copy Center, Capitaland Motors, E. Stewart Jones Law Firm, Just Cats, McGlinchey Stafford PLLC, Nigro Companies, Price Chopper's Golub Foundation, Friends of Washington Park - Troy, Goldstein Auto Group, Operation Snip and Wells Fargo Advisors LLC.

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This year we added a wine pull to the festivities, which raised close to \$1,000. Special thanks to all who donated: All Star Wine & Spirits, Anthony's Wine & Spirits, Sandy Barringer, Jeff Bulger, Ken & Lindsey Deon, Empire Merchants, Healthy Living, Gail Landrigan, Loudonville Wine & Spirits, Lowe's, Mr. O. & Special K, Newton Wine & Spirits, Robert & Pamela Pociluk, Mark & Nancy Wilson and Upstate Wine & Spirits.

We also cannot forget to mention and thank the volunteers who helped us make the evening a success: LuAnn Antrim, Sandy Barringer, Roberta Bullinger, Terri Commerford, Lindsey Deon, Bonnie Devine, Diane Knight, Gail Landrigan, Dee Levy, Sheila Lobel, Jhane Marelo, Barbara McNamee, Patricia Miller, George Moore, Patti Mutterer, Kim Nies, Janice Ronner, Susan Smith, Maureen Taft, Anne Vandenburg, Audrey Williams, Deb Willson and Nancy Wilson.

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 this event continues to be great fun and raises much-needed funds for the animals in our care.



Trainer's Corner

Pets and Holidays

By Christine Danker, CPDT

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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.



The holidays are here again. It's a busy time, shopping and planning for family and guests. You barely have enough time to do all that you have planned. But wait, what about your family pet? Where does he/she fit into your holiday routine?

If you already have a pet, please give him top priority and keep him safe.

1. The excitement of the holidays may not be your dog's (or cat's) idea of a party. Give him space away from the crowds. His crate or a bedroom will give him some quiet time that he may welcome.
2. Your dog may be the life of the party and enjoy being around people, but the excitement may cause him to get overly aroused and he may forget his manners. If you are going to allow your pet to mingle among guests, it is best to have one person be in charge of him *100% of the time*. This means holding onto the dog's collar or having him on lead when doors are being opened and closed and monitoring that Aunt Ruth is not slipping food under the table. Watch the dog carefully for any signs of stress: moving away from people who are reaching for him, hiding under the table, panting, whining. Any of these mean he needs some quiet time away from the crowds. If he is comfortable around people, take the time for a training session by practicing greeting politely or lying quietly at your feet, with intermittent rewards for a job well done.
3. Not all dogs tolerate children. The baby who barely moved last holiday season is now crawling right toward your dog! The toddler from last year is now moving at warp speed, playing with the newest toy and making lots of noise. All of this may scare your dog. Or a dog may want to join in on the fun, grab at the toy and knock the child down. Monitor at ALL times. Better yet, let your pets greet visitors after everyone has settled, then place him back in his crate with a yummy interactive toy. This will keep timid dogs from getting overwhelmed and party dogs from getting overly aroused.
4. Tinsel on trees or ribbons on packages can be ingested and get caught in the digestive tract. Candles can easily be tipped over. Ornaments can be ingested, trees knocked over. Your dog has no idea that the bright red ornament hanging from the tree is not a ball for him to carry around! Perhaps forego decorating this year if you have a puppy, a young adult or a newly acquired pet. Your pet should be the priority.
5. Give your pet plenty of physical exercise before guests arrive so he will be tired and ready to curl up in his crate with his interactive toy.

If you are thinking about getting a pet for the holidays:

Training begins the moment you bring your new pet home. Crate, leash and potty training are all time consuming. You want to set up your new pet's environment to prevent any unwanted behaviors while you teach him proper behavior. You don't want to give your new friend the opportunity to practice unwanted behaviors such as eliminating in the house, jumping on guests or taking items from table or counters.

Many families won't want to give up holiday activities to be home with a new pet – we are social, we like company, and we get caught up in the holiday spirit. There are others who prefer to spend the holidays quietly at home. They may prefer not to travel and this time may be ideal for them to bring a pet home. In my family we have sometimes had young puppies join us around the holidays, but we gave up entertaining and declined parties to be home with our new family member. Not everyone is willing to do that, and neither decision is right or wrong. Know your lifestyle and what you can reasonably commit to.

If you have children and/or expect company for the holidays, prepare for your new pet by wrapping gifts your new four-footed friend will need. A bowl, a collar and lead, a crate and a gift certificate for training classes are just some examples. Then after the holiday season is over, choose your pet and bring him home. You will be more relaxed and ready to enjoy the relationship with your new friend.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

High Five for Pittie-Palooza

The third annual Pittie-Palooza took place October 26-28. Festival Day on Saturday was fun-filled for all who attended, two- and four-legged guests alike. There was a cookout courtesy of Mill Road Tavern, a kissing booth, pet vendors, activities for kids, a bake sale, raffle baskets and more. Michael Vick dog Jhumpa Jones and her therapy dog brother Piggly Wiggly were on hand to share information about their new humane education program. "Railroad puppies" Hudson and Pearl made a guest appearance in their Halloween costumes. The best news of all is that 15 dogs found forever homes and over \$1,000 was raised! Thanks to the Save-a-Bull program, MHHS staff and the volunteers, vendors and visitors who made it happen. Hugs and kisses to all!



Save
the
Date

APRIL 27, 2013



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