

# Capital Pet



3 Oakland Avenue, Menands, NY 12204  
518.434.8128 | [www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org)



## Adam

Last year the case of the Railroad Puppies made news around the country. Some may not be aware that the same person who was convicted of abusing the railroad puppies was arrested just weeks later for abusing the parents of those puppies. The parents, along with two other abused dogs, would become known as the U-haul Dogs. A detective on the case tells their story . . .

"I am a detective for an Albany County police department. It was January 26th, 2013, one of the coldest days of the year. Our dispatchers received a call for dogs locked in the back of a U-haul truck. The caller said they had been there for days. When the units arrived, they approached a male in the area of the U-haul and asked him to open it; he begrudgingly did. Inside were found four pit bulls — three pit bulls in a cage fit for one, and a pregnant female searching for food in the compartment (there was none). All of the dogs were freezing and starving.

"Adam was in the worst condition of all. We initially thought he was a puppy! He weighed only 27 pounds and was skin and bones — probably just hours away from freezing or starving to death.

"The dogs were seized and brought to the veterinary emergency clinic, where the staff worked to warm the dogs' internal body temperature. All of the dogs were transferred to Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, where the vets and staff worked around the clock to get them healthy. I fell in love with my



Photo by John Norton

**"After several months of TLC, Adam now weighs a robust 70 pounds. His before picture is unrecognizable, except for his beautiful eyes."**

Adam immediately and knew when the court case was over I would be adopting him.

"After several months of TLC, Adam now weighs a robust 70 pounds. His before picture is unrecognizable, except for his beautiful eyes. Adam has a warm home he shares with my four other rescues and his own pool to cool down in the summer.

He is the most gentle and loving dog. I am so grateful for the rock-solid case put forth by my department and the tireless effort of the veterinarians, staff and volunteers who worked so hard to save him."

The owner was arrested, pled guilty, and was sentenced to time served and probation. The other dogs rescued from the truck were all nursed back to health. The pregnant female gave birth to three pups within days of warming up, and all of the dogs and pups were adopted into good homes.



3 Oakland Avenue  
Menands, NY 12204-2718

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

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

518.434.8128 (p)

518.434.0217 (f)

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# From the Director

Too often we hear stories in the news about animals that are suffering and abused, with little legal recourse toward those causing the suffering. Even when offenders are caught, their sentences are often too short. Jail time is a rarity in animal cruelty cases. I share the frustration many feel when our felony-level cruelty laws are so rarely used and the maximum sentence is one of the lowest of any felony in New York State.

Whenever there is an animal cruelty case in the news, there is an outpouring of support for the victims and widespread demands for harsh penalties against the offenders. When we see stories about puppy mills and other unscrupulous breeders, people are outraged. So why aren't the offenders punished appropriately for their bad deeds?

There is overwhelming support for animals but few laws to protect them. The laws that are on the books are often poorly written, filled with loopholes and carry minimal penalties. In addition, we also have what I call a "real-estate problem." As someone said of real estate, the three most important things to consider are "location, location, location."

Animal laws are typically located in the state's agriculture and markets laws. If you flag down a state trooper or your friendly neighborhood police officer and ask them to show you their copy of the animal cruelty laws, they likely won't have one. What they will have (either in paper or electronic form) is something called the Graybook. The Graybook contains the state penal code and other laws commonly referenced by law enforcement, like vehicle and traffic laws – but no animal cruelty laws. Several companies publish the book. I think it's time to ask them to include the cruelty laws as part of the standard resource for New York's law enforcement professionals.

Book publishing is only part of the problem. It is common for police departments to send a dog control officer (DCO) to an animal cruelty call, which is another sign of the pervasive ignorance about these important laws. While most are well-meaning, DCOs have no training or authority to enforce animal cruelty laws. Animal crimes must be investigated and enforced by police officers and peace officers. When calling about suspected animal cruelty, we should all insist the police agency send a police officer.

A key to protecting animals is having strong laws in place that truly insure animal safety and prevent animal suffering. While 2013 was a good year for passing animal protection laws, we have a long way to go. That is why Mohawk Hudson Humane Society is one of the founding members of the New York State Animal Protection Federation, a group of animal sheltering and similar organizations working to pass stronger animal protection laws in the state.



Executive Director  
Brad Shear and Bastian, his cat

While organizations like ours can be strong advocates, it is still up to individuals to make it clear to their elected representatives that protecting animals must be a priority. The new state legislative session is fast approaching. If you want to be kept up to date on important legislative issues, please go to our website at [www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org) and join our email list.

Thank you for your continued advocacy and support.

# Columbia County Dogs Rescued

When investigators from the Columbia-Greene Humane Society entered a home in Ghent, they knew there were some dogs living in poor conditions, but they didn't anticipate finding 50 dogs in the worst squalor they had ever seen. That number of dogs overwhelmed their shelter, and they reached out to Mohawk Hudson Humane Society (MHHS) for help.

We immediately dispatched a rescue team to Columbia County and came back to MHHS with 15 of the abuse victims. Our veterinary team examined and started treatment for all of them. They were covered head to tail in fleas and filth, but loved the attention they were getting. Soon after their arrival, one of the little dogs gave birth to two puppies and our total went up to 17 new guests. Mom and puppies went to a volunteer foster home while the others were prepared for adoption.

Once we knew they were stable, two of our good friends volunteered to groom the dogs: Head to Tail, in Schenectady, and Pet Spas of America, in Latham. Two of the groomers at Head to Tail even ended up adopting two of the dogs!

Soon after grooming and spay/neuter surgery, all of the dogs were adopted into new, loving homes. As of publication, the investigation into charges in the case is ongoing.

We are always happy to reach out and help our neighbors in other counties when they are in need. This case is a great example of how our generous supporters are helping animals throughout the Capital Region.



# Thank you

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

**Dr. Douglas Cohn** – Albany Medical College  
Donating two surgical tables

**Dr. Rachelle Perry** – Colonie Veterinary Services  
Donating animal cages, equipment and supplies

**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

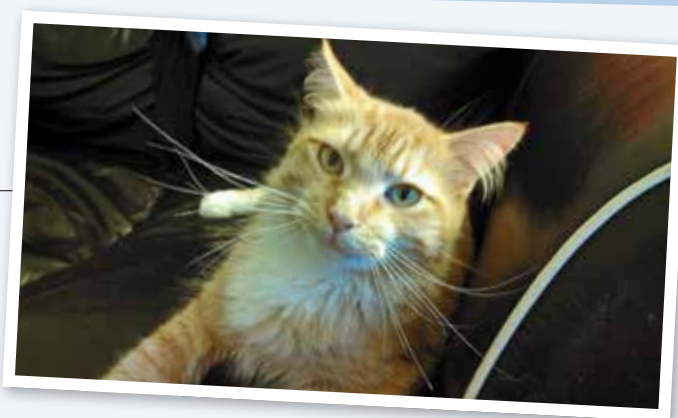
**Dr. Ed Becker** – The Animal Hospital  
Performing dental work for animals

**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

# Mya's Story



When a beautiful, long-haired orange tabby was brought to the Humane Society by a caring couple who found her, two things stood out right away: she was incredibly sweet, and she had a serious injury to one of her legs. The cat, soon to be named Mya, could not bend her right hind leg.

Mya was immediately seen by our veterinarian and later examined by Orthopedic Specialist Dr. Tom Bowersox. It appeared her leg had been twisted, causing issues with her tendons and her sciatic nerve. Both doctors agreed that there was no way to repair the leg and it was likely causing discomfort that would only get worse over time. Mya would go to a foster home prior to surgery, then go back to recover.

kept telling me what a sweetheart she was! When I met her, it was that 'love at first sight' feeling. I knew she was coming home to stay.

"A few days after she first came home, I was diagnosed with a serious chronic illness and was taken out of work. I was unable to do anything but sit on the couch and watch TV. I felt depressed and helpless. Mya understood, more so than my own animals. She sat with me constantly, purring in my lap and putting her paw on my hand.

"After her leg was amputated and she was limited to a crate to restrict her activity, she would cry and cry because she wasn't near me. I found myself lying next to the crate and scratching her through the bars just to calm her down. When her limitations were lifted, she was right by my side again, even to the point of sitting on the side of the tub while I take a shower.

"My fiancé and I soon realized the bond Mya and I shared through our respective disabilities couldn't be broken. He agreed that we needed to adopt her. She's like my therapy cat, and I'm like her therapy human."

Mya's foster family quickly became extremely attached. One of her foster parents shared their experience:

"When I first agreed to foster Mya, it was just because I thought it would be a good challenge to foster an animal going through an amputation. When I went to pick her up, everyone at the shelter



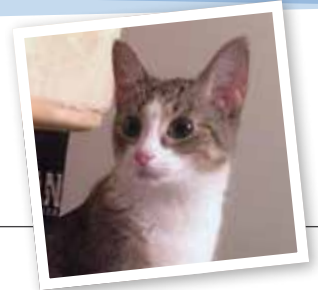
## Save the Date

**Around the World for 80 Strays Gala**  
Saturday, April 5, 2014  
Hilton Garden Inn, Troy

**Paws in the Park Walk and Community Day**  
Saturday, June 21, 2014  
Siena College, Loudonville



# A Happy Landing



Chloe came to us after some very traumatic events. Sadly, her owner died. Then, when her owner's daughter took Chloe to her home, the cat managed to fall out of a window, breaking her back right leg. The daughter took Chloe to a vet, but since she was moving to India the next day, Chloe came to the shelter.

Chloe was taken to one of our foster homes, where she could rest and heal. After two months, the bandages came off and she immediately started walking on all four legs.

After bonding with Chloe, her foster family could not bear to part with her. As Chloe's picture clearly shows, she is now a happy, healthy cat who loves to run, jump and climb!

## Share the Love



This is the fifth year for Subaru's "Share the Love" event. For every new Subaru vehicle sold from November 21, 2013 through January 2, 2014, Subaru will donate \$250, up to \$5 million total, to one of several nonprofit organizations. The company has donated nearly \$20 million to charitable causes since the program's inception four years ago.

Thanks to Goldstein Subaru, this is the first year Mohawk Hudson Humane Society will be one of the nonprofits to benefit.

When a customer purchases a new Subaru at Goldstein Subaru in Albany from November 21 through January 2, the new-car buyer can elect to have Subaru donate \$250 to Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.



A "Share the Love" kickoff party and adoption event was held at Goldstein Subaru (1754 Central Avenue, Albany), Saturday, November 23. Guests enjoyed live music, food, prizes and, of course, the real stars of the show: cats and dogs from the Society who were looking for new homes for the holidays.

Thanks to those who stopped by to Share the Love!

## Paws for Santa Photos

There's still time to get a photo of your four-legged furry baby with Santa. On Saturday, December 7, from noon to 3 pm, Community Resources Federal Credit Union (20 Wade Road, Latham) will host *Pet Photos with Santa* to benefit Mohawk Hudson Humane Society. Once again, Shawn Morgan Photography will donate part of their photography services. You will be able to get a digital image, a 5" x 7" print, or both. Cats and dogs are welcome, and reservations are not required.



PetSmart photos with Santa Claws will be held from 11 am to 4 pm at the PetSmart stores located at 241 Route 9W in Glenmont and at Latham Farms, on Saturday, December 14. New this year, pet parents will be able to bring their own cameras or smartphones and snap their own pictures with Santa in front of the holiday backdrop. No reservations required and no waiting for prints!

*Photo by Shawn Morgan Photography*



**Lucy Mosser**  
Mary Carmody

**Bill Murphy**  
Carol & Thomas Salli  
VA Medical Center  
Endoscopy

**William Murphy, Jr.**  
Jennifer Carlson  
Joseph & Marlene Dolan  
Jane Grugan  
Robert & Frances Isaacs  
Michael & Jeanine Nunziato  
Christina Schettino  
Tom & Lois Williams

**Nell**  
Donald & Susan Leonard

**David Neville**  
Connie Neville

**Eunice Emily Newkirk**  
Marie Scarangelo

**Inge Nicolaisen**  
Kimberly Donnelly

**Frank O'Donnell**  
Neil & Jerry Golub  
Linda & Bob Harrison  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Grimmer, P.  
Gerasia and Mr. & Mrs. G.  
LaMountain  
Elizabeth Moore

**George Opela**  
Susan Broscko  
Keith & Sue Eagle  
Helen & Michael Maxwell  
John Maxwell  
Lotte Moore  
Bonnie Myers

**Joseph Parvana**  
Calvin DeLorimiere and  
Melvin & Nancy Daniels  
Anna Echter  
Stacey Malatesta  
Forest Smith Family and  
Marjorie & Bill Chappell  
Darlene & Bob Wood  
Doug & Kathy Wood

**Sandra Pastori**  
Jeremy Dudley  
NYS OGS Design &  
Construction Group  
Employees  
NYS OGS Unit 3 & 4  
Vincent Rossi

**Peaches**  
Al & Jhane Marelllo

**Pepper**  
Paul Ladouceur

**Pepper**  
Suzanne Perry & Richard  
Friedman

**Carol Petruskevich**  
Rose Marie Reimer

**Piglet**  
Pam Holcomb

**Christopher Premo**  
Joanne Malpass

**Pretty Boy**  
Gail Taddeo

**Gully Price**  
Thomas & Georgia Decker

**Marion Rabjohns**  
Nancy Hajduk

**Raven & Misty**  
Deborah & Michael Montysko

**Ronald Rice**  
Betty Rice

**Elizabeth Clara Riley**  
NYS Department of Health  
Reproduction Unit

**Douglas "Rosie" Rosecrans**  
Jodie & Dave Ensel  
Sadie Lepage  
Sheila Meissner

**Rosie**  
Dr. Lynda Hohmann

**Roxy**  
Robert & Lisa Lewis

**Roxy**  
Audrey Yingling

**Ryan Salamone**  
Michele Barriere

**Sam**  
Gina Giuliano

**Elizabeth "Bette" Sanford**  
Ed & Margaret McCarthy  
and Rita Joyce

**Max Schreiber**  
Iliana Schreiber-Giacona

**Miss Paris Hilton Shaw**  
Stacy Wood

**Shea**  
Rev. William Turnbull

**Paul Snow**  
Doug & Ginny Amsden  
Donna Brown  
Alberta Cole  
Judith Cox  
Thelma Culver  
Helen D'Amico  
Judy Disco & Barbara  
Goldstein  
Kate & Paul Fogel and  
Michele Baralto  
Froehlich Family Irrevocable  
Trust  
Larry & Ann Gepfert  
Anne Harris  
Wendy Lang  
Karen Maher  
Margaret Romanzo  
Mary Beth Romanzo  
Mary Schillinger  
Shirley & Harry Sheets  
Ray & Jean Webster  
Wood Road Sunshine Club

**Barbra Spiak**  
Kenneth Mazzrillo

**Nancy Stuto**  
Cynthia Christie & Jim Peeke  
OSC Redesign/Scanning  
Unit/Retirement

**Bertha Susman**  
Louise Newton

**Leonard Sweeney**  
Sue, Ellen & Alaine and Keith  
Sarah Hellenschmidt  
Janet Manley

**William Sweet**  
Lois Atkinson  
Beverly Brown  
Barbara Coleman  
Carol DeLucia  
Hildegard Film  
Healthcare Association of  
New York State Employees  
John & Jean O'Brien  
Cleo Ostrandler  
Ann Rudolph  
W. Bryan Satterlee  
Sandor Schuman  
Fred Smith & Catherine  
Grellet  
SSEP Team - Special  
Operations Command  
Europe  
Taconic Valley Rod & Gun  
Club

**Adeline Sykowski**  
Janis Moss

**Tails**  
Bill Dellaire

**Lauren Tanski**  
Erin Simendinger

**Tawny**  
Jacqueline Hamilton

**William Theroux**  
Joseph Edson

**Norma Thompson**  
Joseph & Mary Brady  
Mary Dillon  
Cheryl Joy

**Tigger**  
Christine Ozack

**Tilly & Mr. Tibbs**  
Abigail Bienkowski

**Tristan**  
Karen Schrader

**Rev. William D. Turnbull**  
Mary Ellen Mallison

**Rubicon Turner**  
Claire DeChants

**Tyler & Homer**  
Nora Flores

**Peg Tyndell**  
Kathy & Duncan Tarentino

**Anthony Vergura**  
David & Deb Flashover  
David & JoAnn Read  
Reeves Chapel United  
Methodist Church

**Chester Vigars, Jr.**  
Barbara Clark  
Cheryl Comins  
Kimberly Frederick  
Rose & Norman Grounds  
Muldoon-Robinson Family  
Patricia Murray  
Marion Vigars

**Zachary Warner**  
Gail Friedman & Family  
Brenda Malone  
Jim & BJ Warner  
Susan Welsh

**Patrick Watson**  
Diane & John Sleasman  
Lauren Thomas

**Betty Wilson**  
Mary Martin, Patricia Turner  
& Susan Buckley

**Rose Zaccardo**  
Richard Zaccardo

**Zeke**  
David Krenn  
Jeff Krenn

**Wayne Zeller**  
Michael A.  
Stephen & Genevieve  
Chenette  
Office of the Medicaid  
Inspector General  
Co-workers  
LuAnn Pink

**Zoe**  
Janet Garry

**In Honor Of . . .**

**Alice & Philip**  
Sharon DiLorenzo

**Deb Bourque**  
Valerie Mackey

**Jane Burgdorf**  
Lee Stanton

**Jamie & Chris Cable**  
McSharry & Associates  
Realty Community Give  
Back Program

**Charlotte**  
Michael Scaringe

**Patricia Cumiskey**  
Paula Lattanzio

**Jean Decker**  
Ann Ogden-McDonough

**Dr. Richard Drumm**  
Merry Spinners

**Katie Duna**  
Megan Knoflicek

**Dusty, Janna, Angel & Gemini**  
Thomasine Walsh

**Sandy Engett**  
Kristen Day

**Fane/Mahoney Wedding  
Guests**  
Samantha Fane

**Nan Fremont**  
Muriel Frank

**Ruth Fremont**  
Muriel Frank

**Dr. Mark Fruiterman**  
Debra & Tom Lomma

**Sai Ganesh**  
Mithun Chittajallu

**Wendy & Charles Gilman**  
Sharon & Jim Miller  
Robert O'Bara

**Danny Goldberg**  
Frances & Mark Goldberg

**Kathy Gorneau**  
Antoinette Miranda

**Alicia Hoenzsch**  
Nicole Dintrone

**Emma Johnson**  
Gary Snow

**Joshua**  
Frances & Mark Goldberg

**Jim Kahler**  
Zak Kahler

**Kailyn**  
Alison Kolakowski

**Kiana Langdon**  
Priscilla Garlock  
Kara Langdon

**Pablo Leon**  
Birgit Asbornsen & Luis Leon  
and Emy Blohm  
Kasparian Family

**Karen MacWatters**  
Nicholas Cavin

**Kelly Mathews**  
New York Council of  
Nonprofits

**Dr. Andrea Miele**  
Dr. Mina Dunnam

**Jonathan Moeller**  
Anna Bass

**Christine Mott & Amir Feder**  
Kathy Hahn

**Ms. Jones' Class**  
Janice Jones

**John Murphy, Jr.**  
Graham Murphy

**Nakita**  
Dawn Paluba

**Blair Oliver**  
Sharon Krikorian

**Dr. Carol Popolow**  
Barbara Angellotti

**Puppystein**  
Jesse Olczak

**Gloria Jean Romano**  
Julie Nichols

**Farron Sawyer**  
SKS Bottle & Packaging Inc.

**Sima & Ben**  
Frances & Mark Goldberg

**Diana Steenburg**  
SKS Bottle & Packaging Inc.

**Dr. David Wagoner**  
Gail Spiak

**Wedding Guests**  
Nikita Welyczko & Stephen  
Valcik

**Wedding Guests**  
Jared & Alaina Bennett

**William**  
Debra Flagler

**Clifford Zaretsky**  
Maryjane Rooney

# Give a gift that helps animals

What do you get for the person who has everything? How about a gift that supports Mohawk Hudson Humane Society? You can give a gift not only to your loved ones, but also the gift of safety and care for homeless animals.

## 2014 Cutest Pets Calendar

Every year voters throughout the Capital Region choose the cutest pets in the area. The top 12 get their own page in our calendar and all of the cute pets submitted have their pictures throughout the calendar pages. One hundred percent of the proceeds from calendar sales benefit the animals at the Humane Society. The calendar makes a great gift for the pet lover in your life.

To get the 2014 Cutest Pets Photo Calendar, and for information on quantity discounts, please visit [www.mohawkhumane.org/gifts](http://www.mohawkhumane.org/gifts).



## Tribute Gifts

You can make an honorary donation for a special friend or family member who loves animals. The person you would like to honor will receive a card from the Humane Society acknowledging the gift that has been made in their name. Honorary gifts may be made:

- **Via mail or fax.** Print and complete our Tribute Donation Form at [www.mohawkhumane.org/docs/TributeDonationForm.pdf](http://www.mohawkhumane.org/docs/TributeDonationForm.pdf)
- **Online.** Visit [www.mohawkhumane.org/gifts](http://www.mohawkhumane.org/gifts), scroll down to the tribute gifts section, click the link provided and select your tribute designation

If you wish to provide us with any additional information (such as the honoree's or family's address), please email [donations@mohawkhumane.org](mailto:donations@mohawkhumane.org).

Thank you for your generosity to both your loved ones and Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.

## Sponsor a Kennel

Now you can name a kennel in a loved one's honor at the Humane Society.

Your gift will be recognized on your choice of either a cat or dog kennel for six months, one year or two years. A plaque will be placed in a prominent position on the kennel for all to see. The real gift is the knowledge that your kennel sponsorship will provide food, shelter and veterinary care for many of the thousands of animals we care for every year.

To order your custom kennel sponsorship plaque, please visit [www.mohawkhumane.org/gifts](http://www.mohawkhumane.org/gifts).

## Ripley to the Rescue

Ripley has a wonderful story to tell. When he was an abandoned puppy living on the streets, a tornado hit and whirled him across town. He wasn't harmed, and there was a rainbow at the end of the storm: he was taken to a shelter and adopted by a loving family. The spinning winds of the tornado had also given him amazing SUPERPOWERS that he uses to help other animals in danger.

You can order Ripley's book and plush toy for only \$14.95. If you enter promo code MHHS in the shopping cart, 50% of the sale will be donated to the Humane Society.

Visit [www.mohawkhumane.org/gifts](http://www.mohawkhumane.org/gifts) to order *Ripley to the Rescue* and remember to enter promo code MHHS in your shopping cart so the Humane Society will receive 50% of your purchase proceeds.

