

Capital Pet



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

www.mohawkhumane.org
May 2016

Cruelty Response Vehicle Will Expedite Investigations and Care

In partnership with the "Making Crime Pay" initiative, Albany County District Attorney David Soares has supplied the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society with a Sprinter van for use during animal cruelty investigations. This mobile veterinary forensics vehicle will allow the Humane Society to assess animals onsite, rather than having to transport them back to Menands for treatment. Once completely outfitted, this van will have examination tables, kennels, a refrigerator for medications and all other necessary equipment to treat abused animals.



The animal abuse response vehicle was provided by the "Making Crime Pay" program of the Albany District Attorney's Office.

"Animal cruelty is a crime that we continue to see many forms of," said DA Soares. "It is also one of those bridge crimes where, if it's happening to a four-legged friend, rest assured that it's only a matter of time before it starts to happen to a person."

In 2015, the Humane Society partnered with local law enforcement to investigate over 30 cases of suspected animal cruelty. These investigations resulted in over 110 animals being seized and kept safe by the Humane Society.

"This vehicle will be an invaluable asset to our organization," said Dr. Patricia Rockstroh, MHHS Medical Director. "This van will allow us to assess and care for these animals onsite and expedite providing detailed evidence to law enforcement."

Thanks to the generous support of the District Attorney's office; members of the Albany County legislature and Sheriff Craig Apple; individual donations and dedicated fundraisers, there is now enough funding to outfit the vehicle with necessary equipment and supplies.

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Upcoming Events...

PAWS IN THE PARK WALK & COMMUNITY DAY
Saturday, June 25, 2016
Siena College

New Sunday Hours

The Humane Society is now open on Sundays from 10am to 5pm



**3 Oakland Avenue
Menands, NY 12204**

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

www.mohawkhumane.org

**518.434.8128 (p)
518.434.0217 (f)**

Satellite Locations

**Saratoga
4255 Route 50
(518) 886-9645**

**PetSmart Latham Farms
609 Troy-Schenectady Road
(518) 785-4621**

**PetSmart Glenmont
241 Route 9W**

**Petco Clifton Park
6 Halfmoon Crossing**

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From the Director



Executive Director Brad Shear and his cat, Bastian

“ I have known the statistics about how many people delay leaving an abuser because they are protecting their pets ... but it is different when you actually meet a survivor. ”

Today I had the opportunity to speak to one of the people who made use of our Safe Haven program. If you are not familiar with the program, we partner with Unity House in Troy and Equinox in Albany to enable survivors of domestic violence to leave their abuser and take their pets with them. I have known the statistics about how many people delay leaving an abuser because they are protecting their pets or don't know they can bring their pets with them, but it is different when you actually meet a survivor.

In this case, the survivor I was speaking to was being interviewed for a video we were creating about our Safe Haven program. She had been able to leave and stay away from a man who abused her. She could leave, in part, because she was able to take her pets with her. The Safe Haven program allowed her and her animals to find safety. The program has housed almost 300 animals since its inception, with each staying for an average of three months. That is a large number of animals, and an even larger number of days for those animals to be cared for. But those numbers don't tell us why Safe Haven is important.

We often talk about the work we do in terms of thousands of animals helped, thousands of spay/neuter surgeries performed, tons of food distributed and tens of thousands of volunteer hours given, but it is always individual animals and the people who love them who make up those big numbers — each with their own unique story and individual needs.

The woman I spoke to today had a story that few survivors want to talk about publicly. I asked her why she would step forward for all to learn what happened

to her. She was here because the staff and volunteers at MHHS were so kind to her and the program was so important to her escape and ongoing recovery. She feels strongly that others need to learn about the program and hopes that someone will see this video and realize they can leave because help is available. It was an act of great bravery and devotion to step forward in the way she did.

We need more people with similar passion and determination to protect both people and animals.

At the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, new animals arrive every day and new people come with them looking for help. Sometimes they are fleeing abuse to a person, sometimes the pet has been abused. Often animals come in who have been lost or abandoned. We see the results of cruelty, neglect and carelessness. Every day, while the numbers of people we have helped and animals we have cared for grows, we continue to look at each individual – both person and animal – to do everything we can to meet their needs and keep them safe.

Brad Shear

Visit mohawkhumane.org to watch our Safe Haven video.

MHHS Welcomes New Director of Operations

MHHS is excited to announce the arrival of its new Director of Operations, Todd Cramer. Todd comes to us with humane expertise and presence on a national level. Prior to joining the Society, Todd served as Senior Vice President of Community Engagement and Chief of Staff at St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center in Madison, NJ. Before that, he oversaw the PetSmart Charities in-PetSmart store adoption program for North America, responsible for nearly 450,000 adoptions annually, and spent six years as a Community Initiatives Director for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

Todd is also a popular national speaker, delivering workshops on animal welfare topics at the Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey conference, the Humane Society of the United States Expo, the Best Friends Animal Society conference and the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies conference. A native of the Capital Region, this position brings him back to the area where he began his career in animal sheltering, at the Animal Protective Foundation in Scotia. Todd has earned Certified Animal Welfare Administrators (CAWA) status, the gold standard for credentialing in animal welfare leadership, management and experience. He shares his home with his three dogs – Lila, Lulu and Jack Flash Lightning McBeagle – and his cat, Nora Jones.



Director of Operations Todd Cramer
and his dog, Lulu

Tales From a Foster Mom

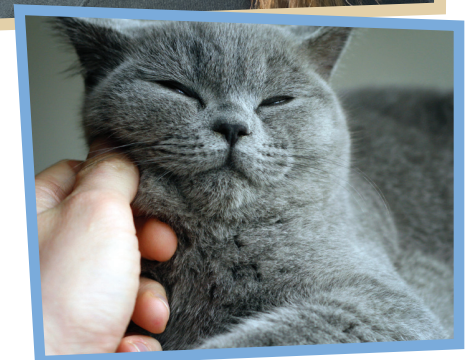
A career in foster care all began for Michelle McKay over 10 years ago. She started out volunteering as a dog walker and helping with cats. Then one day she was asked if she would be up for fostering a mother cat and kittens. It was right around Thanksgiving and, feeling that she and her family had much to be grateful for in their lives, they decided to share their home with this furry little family in need.

Today, over 350 foster dogs, cats, puppies and kittens later, Michelle is still loving her job. At first she took on the simpler cases, such as mother cats who do most of the kitten care themselves. But as she gained experience and confidence, she began to care for animals recovering from illness or surgery, along with orphaned kittens, and frightened pets in need of a quiet home environment and extra TLC.

Though the care happens in the foster home, she calls the program a real team effort with involvement of MHHS staff. Her advice to those who would like to help is not to hesitate for lack of experience. She stresses that staff is always there for guidance and support. All supplies are provided as well.

As for the challenge of giving them back when it's time, Michelle says it's bittersweet, but tempered with the realization that there is always someone else who needs that special place in her home. Of course there have been a few keepers along the way, including her cats, Jack and Charli.

Will you become a foster parent? Please contact us at fosters@mohawkhumane.org to learn more.





Around the World for 80 Strays Gala Hits Record!

Over 500 people joined the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society at its annual Around the World for 80 Strays Gala on Saturday, April 9. This year's event broke the record for both attendance and revenue.

The highlight of this annual event is our Humane Hero Awards. These awards provide the opportunity to recognize groups or individuals in our community who have partnered with us to enrich the lives of animals and the people who love them. We are fortunate to have three very worthy recipients this year: iHeartMedia, Benson's Pet Centers, and Wes Laraway of Northeast Llama Rescue and New York Wildlife Rescue. These three partners have provided an incredible level of support to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.

During the event we also had the opportunity to highlight our Safe Haven program, which is an invaluable resource for survivors of domestic violence. Working with Equinox in Albany or Unity House in Troy, we will care for domestic violence survivors' animals while they seek a safe new home for themselves and their families, including their pets. Owners are welcome to visit their animals at any time and the Humane Society provides safe housing and medical care, as needed.

The Safe Haven program was established to eliminate this barrier for survivors leaving their abuser. Since its inception nearly 200 animals have been housed through this program. Each animal stays in our care for an average of three months. Every animal in this program represents one survivor of domestic violence.

This event would not be possible without the support of countless individual and corporate partners.

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Happy Tails

Autumn

When Autumn first came to us in September of 2014 she was very sick and had lived with 44 other cats. While the Humane Society nursed her back to health, it became very clear what an amazing purrsonality she had. She would talk to anyone who would listen and if you stopped to pick her up you were instantly hooked! She was adopted in October, but unfortunately that home wasn't meant to be hers forever and she came back to us. As soon as she returned, the staff were reminded of her beautiful, dilute coat, her chirping voice, and her cloudy eye (from an old injury she received before coming to us). But most importantly, her purrsonality hadn't changed a bit; she was still as social and loving as ever. It only took her a few days before she was scooped up by a MHHS foster family and adopted ... this time forever.



Loki

"We adopted Loki Memorial Day weekend 2015 and as soon as he got to our house he made himself right at home. It was like he was meant to be there with us! He is still working on his manners, but he does try really hard. He knows a ton of new tricks and will throw them all at you, all at once, when you show him a ball or a treat. He LOVES to play and explore. He is always ready for a game of keep-away, fetch or tug. And of course he also LOVES to snuggle. We are learning more and more about each other every day."

- Erin



Send your Happy Tails to happytails@mohawkhumane.org



Volunteer Appreciation Week

The Humane Society could have not found new homes for 3,858 animals in 2015 or sorted 1,625,000 redeemable containers or educated 1,650 children through our humane education program if it weren't for our volunteers! During 2015 alone, our volunteers gave more than 30,000 hours to help the Humane Society.

During the week of April 11 the Humane Society staff celebrated "Volunteer Appreciation Week." We couldn't be more grateful for the commitment of our volunteers!

If you're interested in joining our volunteer team, please reach out to Volunteer Manager Barb Cotton at volunteers@mohawkhumane.org.

Wish List

Enrichment Supplies for Cats and Dogs

- Feliway Spray
- Kongs (large and extra large)
- Kong Wobblers (small and large)
- Catnip
- Pipe cleaners
- Ping pong balls
- Essential Oils
 - coconut, almond, peppermint, vanilla, lavender, cinnamon, fresh linen
- Squeaky Dog Toys
- Tuna
- Low sodium bouillon
- Rawhides
- Cat Toys
- Interactive Toys

Please visit our website for a list of other supplies we can use.

Luba Mahler-Field

Frances Goldberg
Carole Maiwald
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Princess & Sheriff Ho-Bo

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Pumpkin

Nancy Goerold

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Sampson

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