

Capital Pet



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

www.mohawkhumane.org
August 2016

Special Pets, Special Adopters

Benny

So many supporters followed Benny the beagle's story. He came from a large hoarding case in Kentucky last fall with more than 60 animals living in horrible conditions. He was placed at the ASPCA Behavior and Rehabilitation Center in New Jersey and eventually made his way to us in March, along with two other beagles. All were quite shy, but by far Benny was the most traumatized by his past experiences, very fearful and wary of everyone. He began to trust our staff, who spent much quiet one-on-one time with him. But all the love we could give him could not replace what he needed most – a real home.

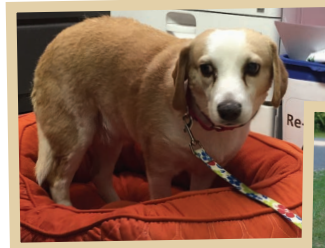
Along came Janice who gave Benny a brand new "leash" on life. Janice writes, "Benny is just a sweetheart and his four feline housemates are trying to get to know him, but he is playing hard to get. Benny is engaging in his own way. He does make eye contact and I see him watch me walk around and when I sit and watch TV. He now comes to the front of his crate to get his little face washed each morning to clean his small eye drainage. (I think he likes the warm face cloth.) He still keeps his tail down, not as tucked under, but I look forward to the day he takes his walks with tail held high and wagging. We're taking it one day at a time. Thank you, MHHS, for all the care and love you gave my little boy!"

Benny and Joon

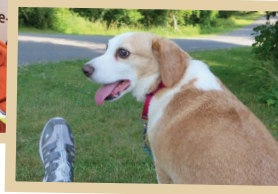
Our supporters were also concerned about Benny and Joon, a unique pair of kitties who became fast friends and needed to stay together. When Joon came to us, her eyes were very damaged by untreated eye infections – so much so that we had to remove them both. Fortunately, Benny had become Joon's best buddy.

Their mom Elizabeth said, "I wanted to adopt after my cat passed away. I saw Benny and Joon, now Moneypenny and Boop, on Facebook. For about three weeks I checked the website and was surprised to see they hadn't been adopted yet. That's when I knew it was meant to be.

The first day home, Boop explored everything. I'm pretty sure she doesn't know she's blind, or doesn't care. She's absolutely fearless! She climbs to the top of the cat tree and then does clawing type acrobatics to get down. She loves chasing foil balls. Moneypenny is a big snuggler and turns to liquid in your lap, while Boop is almost like a puppy. She loves to get right up to your face and rub, and rub, and rub. As for the litter box ... first, there were a couple of accidents, but after a few days she knew exactly where to go. I'm so happy I adopted them. They make me laugh with their shenanigans and are great napping buddies."



Benny was wary of everyone at first. Day by day he's learning to trust and enjoy life.



Benny and Joon, now Moneypenny and Boop, are doing great!

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Upcoming Events...

4th Annual Pints 4 Paws
Saturday, August 27
The Ruck, 104 3rd Street, Troy

Capital Region Pet-Ex
September 10
Saratoga City Center

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 President and CEO



President and CEO Brad Shear and his cat, Bastian.

Most people know the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society as the place you go to adopt a pet. That's true, it is the best place to get your new best friend, but we are much more than that. With a depth and breadth of programs across multiple counties, the Society has grown tremendously in recent years. That growth can be attributed to two important factors: a community that generously supports our efforts and a large contingent of volunteers who give their time and talents.

Like most not-for-profits, our organization is not just supported by volunteers – we are overseen by them. Our board members generously give their time to set the strategic direction for the organization and keep us moving forward. It is these volunteers who have the ultimate responsibility for and control over the success of the Society.

Volunteers are integrated into every aspect of the Society's mission and programs. Whenever we start thinking about a new initiative, one of the first questions we ask is how we can involve volunteers. Thankfully, we have a core group of people that is ready to step up, try new things and help out in any way that will help animals and people.

Some of our programs are completely volunteer led and staffed. Our humane education program has been created, managed and implemented by



Volunteers are integrated into every aspect of the Society's mission and programs.



volunteers. Education volunteers work with children both at the Animal Care Center in Menands and in schools throughout the Capital Region.

Volunteers help with cruelty investigations and disaster response, they sort bottles we exchange for much needed funds, and help with every fundraiser we hold. Volunteers care for the Society's grounds, planting flowers, pulling weeds and keeping the facilities presentable.

Our S.T.A.R. program at the Albany County Jail is only possible because of our volunteer dog trainer, Jody Diehl. Two of our adoption locations, PetSmart in Glenmont and Petco in Clifton Park, are completely staffed by volunteers. They provide all of the animal care and perform adoptions.

Most of our volunteers are engaged in direct animal care at all five of our locations and often in their own homes when they take an animal in need home to foster.

If I haven't convinced you by now of the importance of volunteers to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society and to our community as a whole, I don't know if anyone can. We are lucky in our community to have such big-hearted people willing to give of their time to make it possible for us to keep animals safe. I appreciate the dedication of each one of them and I know the animals are thankful as well.



Get all the latest MHHS news and updates at facebook.com/mohawkhumane.

MHHS President and CEO Named to National Board

President and CEO Brad Shear has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA), an international, nonprofit membership organization of professionals in animal welfare, care and control, dedicated to the growth and prestige of the industry. SAWA strives to advocate humane ideals through professional advancement of members. Animal welfare leaders network with peers, establish mentor relationships, share best practices, form successful collaborations, and advance the field. Founded in 1970, SAWA currently has more than 1,000 members from the United States, Canada and Australia.



Community Programs Manager
Caitlin Davis with Saydee.

Marguerite Pearson Joins MHHS

MHHS welcomes new Marketing & Communications Manager Marguerite Pearson. Her role includes public relations, advertising, social media and overall communications strategy, as well as management of special events. Marguerite has more than 20 years of experience in animal welfare and advocacy, including 15 in animal sheltering, as well as an extensive marketing, communications and fundraising background. She is also a licensed veterinary technician. She lives in Troy with her husband, Norris, and their four beloved felines.



Marketing & Communications Manager
Marguerite Pearson and her cat Lance.

MHHS Names Community Program Manager

Caitlin Davis has been named Community Programs Manager. This new position leads our pet retention efforts and brings focus to increasing programs that make resources easily accessible to all members of the community. A strong emphasis will be on expansion of the Pet Food Pantry, low-cost vaccination clinics, and setting up a pet behavior helpline, all with the goal of keeping animals safe, healthy, and with their families. Caitlin began her career with MHHS in 2012 as an animal care and customer service associate. Since the opening of PetSmart Charities' Everyday Adoption Center in Latham in 2014, Caitlin has managed that facility. Caitlin is pet mom to a 2-year-old lab mix named Millie.

\$10,000 Petco Grant Will Help North Country Pet Owners

Representatives from Petco Foundation presented a check for \$10,000 to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society to be used to subsidize income-qualified residents of Saratoga, Washington, and Warren Counties. In 2015, the Humane Society expanded its service area to include Saratoga County. Located at 4255 Route 50 in the Town of Wilton, MHHS Saratoga provides low-cost spay/neuter, microchipping, and cat adoption to North Country counties.



Petco Clifton Park Manager Amanda Schoen and Store Leader Erin Eaton present a \$10,000 check to VP for Philanthropy and External Affairs Mike Buckley.

"This \$10,000 gift continues our support of MHHS's commitment to help animals, following our Lifesaving Impact Investment of \$250,000 last year towards creation of MHHS's new facility," said Petco Foundation Executive Director Susanne Kogut. "We are proud to partner with MHHS to help them succeed in their mission and sustain a lifesaving community."

A Big Round of A-paws for Walk Supporters!

The sun was shining, the tails were wagging and everyone there cared as much about homeless pets as they did their own beloved companions. Our thanks to all who had a part in making our 7th Annual Paws in the Park a wonderful day for the animals by raising over \$40,000 to support MHHS programs and services.

Top 5 Teams

Marissa's Pawsome Treats	\$6,482
Camp Bow Wow	\$4,530
Lucy's Legacy	\$2,987
Upstate Underdog Rescue	\$2,330
Unity House	\$2,298

Top 5 Walkers

Richard Nash	\$3,140
Samuel Dearth	\$2,400
Laura Anglin	\$1,675
Jenn Nolan	\$1,555
Maria Murzda	\$1,500



ValleyCat mascot SouthPaw gives the Empties for Animals program two paws up.

Our Caring Sponsors



4 Paws Veterinary Care • Albany Chapter of the National Canine Cancer Foundation
Coppola Design • Guilderland Animal Hospital • Warren W. Fane

Cats Plus Cans Equals Cash

A big meeee-ow to the Tri-City ValleyCats for partnering with MHHS to donate all bottles and cans from this season's games to our Empties for Animals program. This could add up to an additional \$6,000 for the animals! Big purrs also to our volunteers. We couldn't operate this program without their daily dedication. Last year they sorted over 1.6 million bottles, netting over \$130,000.

Ready to Respond

Albany County's new cruelty investigation vehicle is ready to roll into action. Thanks to donations from the Office of District Attorney David Soares, Albany County representatives and many individuals, the van now has all the necessary equipment and supplies to act onsite when an incident occurs. Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this lifesaving vehicle a reality.



Attending the press conference announcing completion of the cruelty vehicle: Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple; Albany County Legislator Frank Commisso; District Attorney David Soares; Legislator Lynne Lekakis; Comptroller Michael Connors; Legislators Gary Domalewicz, Mark Grimm and Paul Burgdorf (at podium); President and CEO Brad Shear; Legislator Richard Mendick; MHHS board member Eileen Clinton.

No Pet Should Go Hungry

It is one of the most basic of needs for our animals, and seemingly the easiest to provide ... but that's not always the case. That is why MHHS has expanded its Pet Food Pantry program. In 2015 the Society provided over four tons of pet food to seven local food pantries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties to distribute to pet owners in need.

We expect to provide more than 20,000 pet meals this year. Donations of canned and dry dog and cat food (preferably small bags that do not have to be repackaged), collars and leashes are always appreciated.

If you know someone in need, please tell them they can pick up food at the times and locations below. If you would like to become a pantry partner, please contact Caitlin Davis at cdavis@mohawkhumane.org.

MHHS Menands

3 Oakland Avenue
Every day, 10am-5pm

MHHS Saratoga

4255 Route 50
Monday-Thursday, 10am-2pm



The Ultimate Zen

We held our first Meow-maste Yoga with Cats program in May to a delighted group of cat-loving yogis. As they stretched and downward dogged, they were met nose-to-nose with three friendly, available felines who equally enjoyed their company. The program came about when certified yoga instructor Vicki Brignati reached out to us to offer up her time to teach the class. The class filled immediately and we plan to hold another in the near future. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates.



Everyone enjoyed relaxation at our first Meow-maste Yoga with Cats event.

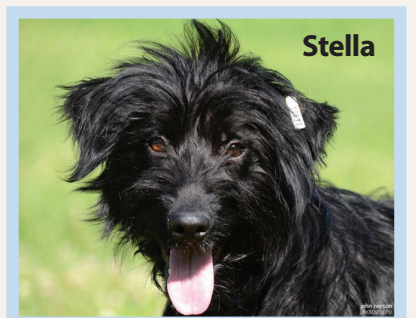
MHHS Completes First International Rescue

In early June MHHS was contacted regarding two stray dogs found near the American Embassy in Sarajevo. While our commitment to local animals always comes first, we viewed this as an important opportunity to keep two dogs safe while also highlighting the treatment of animals in other countries. Worldwide, so many places simply have no safe haven for unwanted animals as we do here. Homeless dogs like Stella and Rose roam the streets, malnourished, never receiving veterinary care, and producing multiple litters of puppies a year.

Sarah Wockley, a Schenectady native whose husband is stationed at the American embassy in Bosnia, found the dogs and contacted us hoping we could help. When Sarah learned she would be traveling stateside for a few days, she decided to bring them with her.

In mid-June Stella and Rose landed at Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. and our Director of Animal Welfare Nancy Haynes was waiting to bring them to their new home. "We were very anxious about getting them through customs," she said, "but it was fine. The dogs were a little shy at first, but give them some food and they're just like any other dog. It has been amazing to experience this journey with them."

Both Stella and Rose are under assessment for injuries by an orthopedic surgeon. It was an unusual and first-of-its-kind rescue for MHHS, but it comes with a happy ending. "To take in two unwanted dogs from half a world away and know that people here are going to open their hearts to them is just incredible," MHHS President and CEO Brad Shear said.



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, mohawkhumane.org.

In Memory

Rosie Abbruzzese

Patricia & Anthony Zappala

Clyde Ableman

Ruth Klee

Laurelee Akens

Carol & Eric Bogerd

Alex & Casey

Helene Kruse

Alice, Lionel & Jack

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Bubbles

Meranda Kugler

Louis Buck

Harry Wickham

Emily Budesheim

Ann Biese

Budwinkle

Maureen Seidel

Bugsy

David Palitsch

Ligia Burridge

Lynne Landrigan

Buster

Lois Gordon

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Patricia McGuire

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Kenneth Sbraga

Stephen & Lynda MacDonald

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Michele Tierney

Robert Sedlak

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Winston Senecal

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Wayne & Theresa Wright

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Richard Zaccardo

Rachel Zareski Walts

Colleen Farnan

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Charles Foster

Anya

Diane Muraven

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Buford

Robert McMahan

Maria & Rick Byron

Elizabeth Thomas

Larry Calvert

Alexis Mitchell

David Campochiaro

Liz & Lou Campochiaro

Carol Charton

Shelley Plaskie

Chewbacca

Rickie Diaz

Craig Collins

North Colonie Teachers Association

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Lynn Dobert

Dexter & Caroline

Wendy Meola

Karen Dudley

Kerstin Medwin

Sally Fitzsimmons

Lori Fitzsimmons

Margaret Gallagher

George Coffey

Karen Hotchkins

Donald Gendron

Rose Foley

Gianna Gervais

April Seney

Theresa Girvin

Anna-Maria LoGiudice

Marguerite Gisondi

Kathleen Gallacchi

Sheri Harriman

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Hearthstone Village/Elizabeth Lattanzio

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Linda Ingraham

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Paula Ives

Maria DiDonna

Joseph Kaiser

Timothy O'Brien

Margie Kirsch

Donna Goldsleger

Noah Kittleson

Theresa Farrell

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Guests

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Bailey Lanahan

Collette Lozoff

Maureen Masterson

Jaqueline Hammond

Jeffrey Moran

Robert Shellhouse

Megan Moran

Mackenzie Moran

Tracy Muscatello

Erin Conway

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Jacob Pincher

April Seney

Deborah Raucci

Elizabeth van der Goes

Santi & M. L. Fitzgerald

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Libby Zucker

Kathryn Sheingold

Nelson Sheingold

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Jon Beaulac

Jim "Cinder Block" Smith

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Lyn Tatro

Hilary Anderson

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Jack Moorby

Murielle Vaillancourt

Eleanor Laviolette

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Nicole & Charlie Monroe

Dana Welch

Laurel Skultety

Judy & Dave Wos

Ann Marie & Ken Rogers

Bischoff Family Living Trust

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Linda & Jude Clemente

Ruth Tazbir

Tammy Kirwin

Sabine Yannone

Christina Croll

We are very grateful for the support of our Tribute donors at all levels; however, it is becoming more difficult to include all gifts in our printed newsletter. Starting in February, we will not be including them here, but will list them online, as well as in an annual report. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Above and Beyond – Volunteers Answer the Call

We received an unusual request seeking help for an individual who was hospitalized and desperately needed his service animal at his side during this stressful time. The hospital was amenable to the dog being there, but required someone other than hospital staff to be with the dog at all times. We issued a volunteer "call to action," which is used when we have an urgent situation, and they immediately responded with willingness to cover around-the-clock shifts.

When that individual left the hospital, another person who was alone also needed her dog by her side, so our volunteers continued on. In total, 15 volunteers and staff members gave 200 hours of their time to help these people in crisis. A grateful hospital employee wrote, "The dog and human relationship is absolutely amazing and it was evident that these patients needed their dogs by their side in their hardest of times. On behalf of my co-workers and me, we truly appreciated your support."

Inmates Make Good Use of their Days Helping Pets

Expanding upon our S.T.A.R. program with the Albany County Jail, which gives model inmates a chance to live with and train dogs in order to make them more adoptable, we have introduced a new program for female inmates. It is in the best interest of nursing moms and kittens to be housed outside of the shelter in their early weeks of life, so if foster homes are in short supply, we send them to jail for some TLC. The first family, a mother cat and five kittens, has now been adopted – one by a corrections officer. It's a win-win for both the animals and the inmates, who find purpose in doing something meaningful while they are paying their debt to society.

Happy Tails

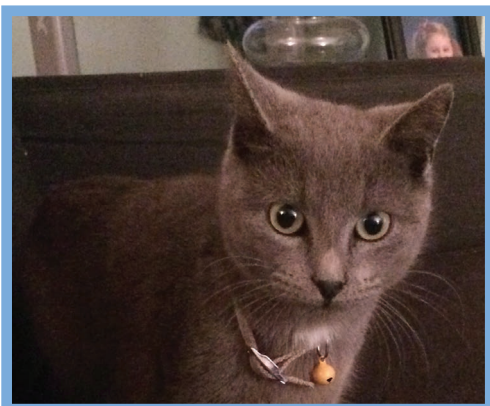
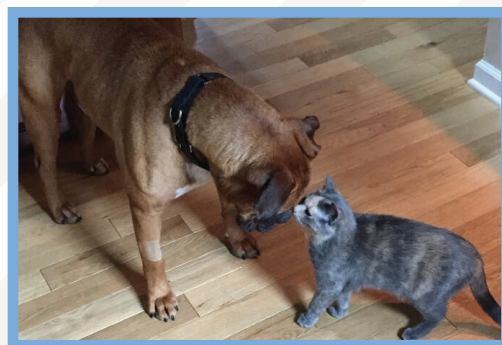


Diamond

Diamond came to us with serious injuries after being thrown from a porch. She was very fearful and shy. We concluded that she needed femoral head and neck ostectomy (FHO) surgery, which was performed by board certified surgeon Dr. Tom Bowersox. FHO is the removal of the "ball" part of the ball-and-socket that makes up the hip joint. This way, the bones of the joint are no longer in contact, which eliminates the pain that is caused by the abnormal contact of the bones in a dog with a hip injury, like Diamond. She is doing wonderfully!

Winter

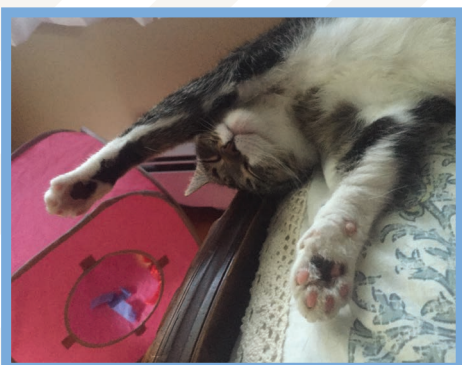
Winter came from a house with more than 30 other cats. Due to neglect, many were blind or vision impaired. Though she is blind, Winter is sweet, lively and loving. Winter immediately made friends with her other siblings and quickly acclimated to her new surroundings.



Neville

I adopted Turbo, now named Neville, from the Glenmont PetSmart. I happened to see his picture on your website and knew I needed to go meet him. He hopped right up on my lap and came home with me that night. Since then he's been my little buddy; he loves to be held like a baby and snuggle on the couch all night. He's also very playful and loves sitting in the window to see what is going on outside. He's the most lovable little thing and I'm so glad we found each other! Thank you! -Laura

Send your Happy Tails to happytails@mohawkhumane.org.



Sophie, now Mabel, is greatly loved by her new family.



Brutus (top) and Shadow are loving their new life!