

# Capital Pet

newsletter  
of the

Mohawk & Hudson River  
HUMANE SOCIETY



3 Oakland Avenue 🐾 Menands, NY 12204 🐾 [www.mohawkhumanesociety.org](http://www.mohawkhumanesociety.org) 🐾 (518) 434-8128

## CHIHUAHUAS RESCUED

On November 29th, after over a month of investigation, The Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society served a search warrant to a Coeymans man who was housing Chihuahuas in unsafe and unsanitary conditions. Upon arrival at the home, our investigators discovered 25 cold, frightened dogs living in filth with no clean water, little shelter from the elements and all in need of veterinary care.

In the burned out garage that served as what little home the dogs had was a mother Chihuahua nursing 3 puppies while lying on a small rug covered in mud, feces and urine. The puppies were covered in fleas and mom was struggling to feed them with the little energy she had. Two other dogs were pregnant and seemed ready to deliver new babies any moment into the sad surroundings.

All 25 dogs were rushed back to the Society's shelter where they were seen by both of our staff veterinarians. It took all day to thoroughly examine and treat all of the dogs, but when we were done the dogs were all warm and safe from the neglect they had suffered. Two days later one of the pregnant dogs gave birth to three tiny puppies. Less than a week later a second dog gave birth to four more puppies, bringing our total to 32 little guests. The new babies were so small they could all fit in the palm of one hand. We can only imagine what it would have been like for these babies to be born in the

wretched conditions from which they came.

Charges were soon filed against the owner of the dogs and resolution of the case is still pending. Meanwhile the Society's staff and volunteers will continue to care for these lucky souls

who got out in time thanks to the work of our Humane Investigation Unit. Unfortunately we know that there are more like them out there, animals that are not being cared for and need our help. It cost the Society an average of \$750 per day to care for all of them and it is only with the support of the community that we can continue to do this important work. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals awarded the Humane Society a \$5,000 emergency grant to help with the dogs' care. Even with this generous grant, still more was needed. Thankfully there has been an outpouring of support from the many friends that animals have in the Capital District to help us care for the dogs, but as more cases arise we continue to need more funding for our humane investigation program.



The court gave ownership of the Chihuahuas to the Society at the end of December so they could be placed in responsible, loving homes. These dogs are now safe and our investigators continue to be on alert for the next animals in need.



THE  
**MENDELSSOHN CLUB**  
OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, INC.

*"The Oldest Performing Arts Group in the Capital District"*

### Save The Date

The oldest performing arts group in the Capital District is helping the oldest animal protection organization in the Capital District. The Mendelssohn Club of Albany's Spring Concert on May 16th at The Egg will benefit the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society. Please see our website for details.



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## LOCATION

3 Oakland Avenue  
Menands, NY 12204

## HOURS

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

## WEB SITE

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

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

518.434.8128  
518.434.0217 (fax)

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



Executive Director  
Brad Shear and  
Bastian, his cat

As I sit down to write this, the Humane Society's staff and volunteers are caring for 189 animals - just an average day at the shelter in Menands and in foster homes across the Capital District. With over 3,300 animals adopted from the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society in 2007, we are the most popular place for people to find new pets in the Capital District. Over 620 of those adoptions were from our North Greenbush and Glenmont adoption centers in PetSmart stores or other community adoption events outside of the shelter. All of the dogs, cats and rabbits adopted have been spayed or neutered so we can fight the immense problem of pet overpopulation. Each dog and cat also has a microchip so that they will have a permanent form of identification if they are ever lost.

Many people come to the Society looking for their new dog or cat, but when I walked around the shelter today I saw a rooster, a hen, two Amazon parrots, a boa constrictor, a ferret, and three rabbits. In order to truly provide a safe haven for all animals in our community, we must be prepared for anything. Each one of these animals has their own special needs and living environment that our hard-working staff and volunteers tend to every day.

Also in the shelter today were 25 Chihuahuas that were seized in a cruelty case (our cover story). When our Humane Investigators respond to a call they may be protecting dogs or cats, but they are often going to rural parts of Albany and Rensselaer Counties to check on the welfare of horses, donkeys, or cows. We must maintain a high level of training and knowledge of all of these species in order to continue operating as the Capital District's animal protectors. In 2007, our humane investigations led to the seizure of 184 animals that had fallen victim to cruelty or neglect.

We are constantly pursuing new partnerships that will help us to grow our investigations program and have been thankful that Rensselaer County District Attorney Trish DeAngelis started the Rensselaer County Animal Cruelty Task Force to assist The Society in our endeavors to end cruelty to animals in the Capital District. The task force model has already been duplicated in Columbia County and we hoped to see similar programs established in every upstate community.

In addition to the animals that are housed in the shelter there are always dozens more in our foster homes. Foster parents open their homes to animals that just need a little extra time, love and attention before they are ready for their new homes. In 2007 over 1,000 animals were cared for in these very special homes - almost one third of all animals adopted from the Society. It is only with the help of these very special volunteers that we are able to rescue the abandoned, stray and unwanted animals of our community.

As I walked through the animal shelter this morning and reflected on the past year, I am truly thankful. I am thankful for the hard work of our staff and volunteers. I am thankful for the generosity of our donors and corporate supporters. And I am thankful to live in a community that truly cares for the helpless and voiceless animals who want nothing in return but our love and care.

*Brad Shear*

# TRAINER'S CORNER

By Christine Danker, CPDT

(518) 439-2992

Hemlock Hollow LLC

[www.hemlockhollowdogtraining.com](http://www.hemlockhollowdogtraining.com)

## Barking!

Dogs bark for many reasons; they may be excited, they may be anticipating their dinner, or a walk, they may be anxious or fearful, they may be warning off intruders. Or, they simply want our attention, and they have learned that indeed barking does get our attention! (*Barking is one of the ways dogs communicate.*)

Some dogs are more prone to bark such as the herding breeds. They bark as they work, moving cattle or sheep. In our homes they transfer this type of barking to chasing a jogger or a child on a bicycle. They are not being disobedient or dominant, they are doing what their genes are programmed to do; they are doing the 'job' they were bred for. As their guardians, it is our job to make sure they are getting LOTS of exercise to burn off this energy, and redirect them to appropriate activities. Games of fetch, tug, agility, herding will be good outlets for this type of dog. If you are looking for a "couch potato," please do not get a herding dog!

Dogs also do what works at that moment. If you pay attention to your dog when she barks, chances are she will quickly learn to bark each time she wants your attention. Instead, be proactive: reward your dog for being quiet with petting, a treat or a toss of a ball. (*Reward the behavior you would like to see repeated.*)

A bored dog will find ways to entertain herself. It may not only be barking, but also chewing and digging. While you are busy at work, your dog needs something to do. Give her lots of physical exercise before you leave the house. Then give her some interactive toys when you are gone so she has something to keep her occupied (Kongs, Buster Cubes, Busy Buddy). See the September 2007 *Capital Pet* newsletter for games to play indoors.

### BUT HOW DO WE STOP EXCESSIVE BARKING?

**First**, rule out any health issues, especially if the barking has begun recently. Your dog may be in pain, be developing allergies, or other health concerns. Does your dog display other repetitive behaviors? A visit to your vet may be first on the agenda.

**Redirect** her barking. If she is excited when you come home, try giving her a toy to carry around. She can't bark if her mouth is occupied! Or teach her an alternative behavior like having her sit before you give her attention. A dog concentrating on a task will be less apt to bark.

**Manage the environment** so she has less reason to bark.

1) If your dog barks while cars or people walk past your house, try closing the shades. Make use of solid fence or double fencing.

2) If she barks at the neighbors' children, keep her inside while they are outside playing.

3) Keep a journal as to when your dog is barking. It may be as simple as her barking only on Tuesdays. Is that the day trash is picked up? Keep her inside during this time.

4) Perhaps a child playing near your fenced yard is teasing your dog. No need to reprimand your dog, talk to the neighbors.

5) When you are away from home, keep the radio on. Playing classical music has been shown to decrease arousal levels. It can also muffle a noise outdoors that may set your dog off barking.

**Help her out if she is scared.** A fearful dog will bark while backing away; her tail will be tucked. She is clearly saying "Stay away from me!" Begin a program of associating the scary things with something pleasant like yummy treats. If she won't eat, she is too overwhelmed. Set up her environment so the scary things stay at a distance away until she is more comfortable. Be patient. If you are not sure how to proceed, seek help from a trainer using positive training techniques. A fearful dog, if cornered with nowhere to escape, will use her teeth to tell you she is very uncomfortable with the situation! Never reprimand her for being afraid and don't force her to accept her fears - this will only increase her fear.

### Seek professional help if:

1) Your dog is acting aggressively and is an offensive barker. These dogs are standing their ground, or moving forward, tails held over their backs. They are clearly saying "Get out of my space or I will bite!"

2) Your dog is exhibiting signs of separation distress - such as chewing, digging, barking, whining, etc only when you leave her alone. These dogs usually follow you from room to room; they need to have you in sight at all times. As with the dog that is scared, do not reprimand. She is telling you she needs help.

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 [www.mohawkhumanesociety.org](http://www.mohawkhumanesociety.org) for the latest dates and times.

# MOHAWK & HUDSON RIVER HUMANE SOCIETY TRIBUTES

Tributes listed here were received 9/1/07 - 12/31/07. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

## IN MEMORY OF...

Abby, Tess, Boomer & Spuds Jody Howard	Vincent Fargione, Sr. Gary & Regina Ahl The Barber Family Laura Bartels & Family Judith Brindle Elizabeth Bucci Virginia DeMark Division of Military & Naval Affairs - J3 Domestic Operations	W. Robert Henningson (continued) Kathleen Conley & Deborah Horne Francis & Leanne Conron NYS Dept. of Health Carolyn & Gerald Vielkind John Hepp Marion Babyak Lise Bang-Jensen John Bartels Stanley & Jacqueline Bazycycki Margaret Breen Margaret Buckley Carr Public Affairs Janice Chass Janice & Nelson Darling Dog Walkers at Knickerbocker Park Michael Doyle Robert Gunderson Carla Humbert Dao Huynh Judy Kasianczuk Kim & Kevin Keithley James & Diane Leyhane George & Mary Ann Marble Nancy & Lee Miringoff Phyllis Morgan Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan Northeast Parent & Child Society Carolyn & William Plimley Susannah Quenelle Nancy Russomanno Roy & Christine Saplin Smiley Family - Mohonk Mountain House Joanne Travers Linda Valerino William Hillmann Ken & Jeanette Mortensen Mrs. Hotvet Donna & Stephen Price Karen Hughes Accu-Networks - Jeff Clesceri & Aaron Miller Vince & Maureen Bonanni Dr. Janet Gargiulo Kathleen Murphy Dawn Tybur Frances Underwood Shirley Wever R. Zohn, R. Grady, A. Cataldo, S. Hexemer, S. Marcus, N. Sapanaro Lorene Jackson Judy & Ashur Crawford Janet Fowler High Peaks Dental Care Interim Healthcare Jeffrey & Mary LaPorte Donna Lawrence Janey Lisa Audette Jasper Sharon Kantor Jinks Carol Jeffries Pepper Johnson & Brutus Gay Tarlo	Paul Jones Janice Hawk Joy & Jacques Joyce Plume JR James Sheppard Alexander Kasparian Birgit Asbornsen Birgit Asbornsen & Luis Leon Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza Aaron Dorman Kasparian Family Susan Keefer Sally Raymond Sarachan Family Valerie & Frank Venezia Kayla Kathleen Egan & James Hedderman Walter Kelle Joan Cahill Christine & Max Fischer Regina "Jeanne" Kelleher Michelle Hallock Richard & Marie Hallock Paul Niedbalec Marilyn Killelea Frances Carrk Genevieve Lawrence Jacqueline Wilson Korki & Ben Audrey Yingling Ruth Korotsky Jennifer & Sean Cope Robert Kroll Shirley Kroll Chablis LaCross Pam & Rob Pocilik Lightning Mark Mulson Joanne Luciano Arline O'Hara Lucius Richard Bedard Carmella Marra Angelo Delano Drena Matson William & Emilee Foster Ricky McGorman Colleen Gorman Philip Miazga Lou & Yvette Alexopoulos Carol Dziamba Marcia Goldfeder Peter Lacijan New York State Dental Assoc Pauline Restino Maria & Lee Schamberger and William Culkun Mary Stoll Molly & Amber Ralph & Kathleen Clinton Paul & Mary Monaco Rosemarie Melius Mr. Boo Boo Sandra Brunk Muffin & Winnie T. Pooh Cynthia Dashiell Murf Cat Marjorie McBride	Murphy Deborah Roberts Muxzii & Sasha Lydia Kosinski Barbara Nathanson Taube Rothenberg Nikki George & Doris Dean Christopher Nolin Albany Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Mary Jo Cosco Nicky Glassman Monica Heath Eric & Priscilla Johnson Kohl's Department Store Kohl's Dept. Store #691 Richard Lasky Michael Lounsbury Cindy Ogle Michael & Phyllis Ricci Nancy Roberts Samaritan & Albany Memorial Hospital Schools of Nursing Steve & Betty Shane Grace Thayer Salvador & Carol Vecchione Dianne White Kevin O'Brien Mr. & Mrs. John Dahl Marilyn Marvin Doris Oakley Jane O'Brien Kathryn Quinn Paisha Gaynell Jubrey Carol Ann Parisi Yvette Gebell William Partridge June Partridge Marion Pignone Francesca Bevevino Bob & Dolores Pignone Elizabeth Plunkett James Burger Anne Conroy Agnes Davidson Lois Diduch Marie & Stephen Filak Lucille Glasheen Mary McKeon Brian & Margaret McNab Irene Plunkett Marie Saluga Carole Schuman Cynthia Proctor Jaquelyn Ackerman Bernie & Marylou Geren Walter & Janet Haymon Richard & Maureen Johnson Dr. Beverly Kodama Ginger Sweeney Mary Quackenbush Betty Haviland G. Edward Quackenbush James Quackenbush Reba Nancy Molano Riley Colleen & Richard Keegan
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Duke Mary Ann Rosenzweig				
Neil Dwyer St. Peter's Hospital - Case Management Dept.				
Ellie John & Margy McKenna				

# MOHAWK & HUDSON RIVER HUMANE SOCIETY TRIBUTES

Tributes listed here were received 9/1/07 - 12/31/07. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

Rosabelle Dr. Lynda Hohmann	William Sweet (continued) Stan & Marlene Williams	Laura Brown Kathleen Hoffman Hart	Richard & Pat List Mary Ann Coffey	Naomi Segel Evelyn Segel
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## SPECIAL THANK YOU

### TAYLOR MADE CUSTOM PRODUCTS

For replacing our damaged awning.

### CAMELOT COPY CENTER

For copying and binding our volunteer and employee manuals.

### BLUE HAT HOME SERVICES

For building repairs at the shelter.

### DRUMM VETERINARY HOSPITAL

For providing x-rays for animals.

### CANTERBURY ANIMAL HOSPITAL

For providing x-rays for animals.

### POPPY'S PLACE, MORGAN LINEN SERVICE, MOSCATELLO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, SCRATCH BAKERY & CAFÉ, PRICE CHOPPER, HANNAFORD, AND DUNKIN DONUTS

For donating food and supplies for our volunteer holiday party, making it a huge success!

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Deidre Bruce, Volunteer Manager

It seems like Samantha Morris is always doing something to help animals. On this morning, she showed up at the Society's animal shelter with a cat that had been abandoned at PetSmart in North Greenbush, where she volunteers as team leader for the Society's adoption center. When PetSmart staff members found the cat abandoned after hours, they knew who to call. "I told them I would be over this morning to pick it up (from the groomer who had taken it home) and bring it here to the shelter," Samantha said.



Samantha Morris

Samantha was shopping at the same PetSmart location last winter when she met two of the Society's volunteers who were busy caring for the cats in our adoption center. She had never volunteered with animals before. "Sue Smith and Dianne Ammerman told me they were volunteers and handed me an application. I attended the next orientation," she recalled.

As soon as Samantha started volunteering, her enthusiasm and organizational skills shined. Not long after signing up to clean the cat cages in the mornings, she agreed to take on the position of team leader for the adoption center. Lucky for us and the cats at PetSmart, Samantha works from home as an Internet marketing consultant, allowing her a flexible schedule. She helps recruit new volunteers, manages the schedule for the 7-day-a-week operation, fills in when others can't make it, transports cats between the shelter and the store, and has been known to take sick cats home when foster care was needed. She even started a book club with the other adoption center volunteers.

Samantha's volunteer work with the Society doesn't end at

PetSmart. She's also helped us with community outreach efforts and events like Feline Fest, First Friday, LarkFest and the Menands Bazaar.

When asked what she likes best about her volunteer work with the Society, Samantha doesn't hesitate. "I like being able to give the unwanted cats a second chance," she says. She prefers the smaller, more intimate environment of the adoption center, where the volunteers develop relationships with each other, and with each and every cat that comes through the doors. "And I've made some really good friends there," she adds.

There seems to be no end to this 31-year-old Boston native's energy and enthusiasm. When not at the adoption center or at the shelter in Menands, Samantha might be rooting for the Red Sox, riding her motorcycle, or hanging out with her four cats (including a Bengal and a Siamese) and her two 6-month-old Siberian Huskies.

While winter storm warnings were in effect a few days ago, I sent an e-mail to the PetSmart volunteers, reminding them to be safe and to call the PetSmart manager if they couldn't make their shifts during the storm.

"Don't worry, I'll be there. I don't live far and I have a truck," was Samantha's reply. And I was not surprised.

This year, volunteers like Samantha gave over 83,000 hours of their time to care for the animals of the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society.

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

On Friday April 4, 2008, the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society will present our inaugural *Around the World for Eighty Strays* Gala at Wolferts Roost in Albany. This event will feature culinary delights from several different countries, paired wine selections and both silent and live auctions.

We are pleased to announce that Assemblyman Bob Reilly has graciously agreed to serve as Honorary Chair and FOX23 News Anchor John Gray will emcee this engaging Annual Event.

All proceeds from this fabulous event will provide direct support to the Society's important programs and services in our community.

We look forward to seeing you on April 4. To ensure an invitation, or for further information, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Mack at 518-434-8128, ext 212, or visit our website



### Gala Planning Committee

Cheryl Brenn  
John Kearney, DVM  
Joyce Klein  
James Kopp  
Laurie Michaels  
Samantha Morris  
Denise Ringer  
Dr. Richard & Lisa Shelsky  
Ed Sells & Eveline Ward-Sells

# SUCCESS STORY



'Breathless' came to the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society from Hoosick Falls after her owner was charged with felony animal cruelty. Her previous owner had picked up a kitten that lived in the house with Breathless and dropped the kitten into a sewer drain. Tragically, the defenseless kitten

did not survive. Luckily, witnesses called the police and rescued 3 other kittens, the kittens' mother and Breathless from the house. Breathless came to The Society covered in fleas and very afraid. After several months, the courts gave us ownership and allowed us to find her a new home. This is a message from her new parents:

Dear All!!!

Rose, formerly Breathless, is healthy and happy in our multi-adopted animal home. We have 4 dogs and now 2 cats (plus 4 ratties, too). She is so friendly and congenial to everyone. Our resident cat, Isabel, was not so enthused about having to share her domain but she is tolerating the transition and I believe with time, everyone will be happy! Rose is getting plenty of exercise trotting up and down our stairs and appears to be trimming down her waistline a bit. She is such a cuddler and hopefully this will rub off on Isabel. We utilized the "hello Kitty" info M.H.R.H.S. shared with us and found it to be so valuable!! The cats were very curious about the other unseen "creature" I believe if we had not used this method, we might not have such a happy home. Things went very smooth and we are prepared to return to the steps if things get rocky. So far, so good!!! Rose sleeps with our 11 year-old daughter every night; next to her head on the pillow. It is very cute. In the evening, she often checks in on our 17 year-old boy to see that he is finishing his homework. She is great with having her toenails trimmed and isn't much of a fighter when it comes to taking medicine. Thank you for caring for Rose until she was offered another chance for a happy life.

We are so grateful that she waited for us for so long!!! We all love her very much.

Warm wishes during joyous season,  
-Rose's new family

## THANK YOU

**TO ALL OF OUR 2007 DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!**

MHRHS experienced a record-breaking year. With gifts from individuals, foundations and businesses, we raised over \$465,000! Thank you for your support of our programs and services in 2007 - we couldn't have done it without all of you!

### A few highlights from this past year:

- We produced the Cutest Pets Calendar
- MHRHS published 2 "Capital Pet" Newsletters
- The Society attended **50** Community Outreach Events
- Nearly **3,000 new donors** were introduced to The Society
- *Art Saves Animals* was held for the 3rd year - **raising over \$21,000**
- Our Holiday and Year-End mail appeals produced a total of over **\$61,000**
- People volunteered over **83,000 hours**, helping the Society in so many different ways.

### All of the money raised goes to further all of the Society's programs and services:

- **184** pets were saved from cruel and dangerous homes
- **500** pounds of cat litter were used each week
- We spayed/neutered over **3,000** animals
- **3,300** pets were adopted out
- **7,000** vaccines were given

We have bigger and better hopes, goals and expectations for 2008 and invite you to join with us as we continue to improve the lives of animals in the Capital Region. **Together, we make a difference!**

KIDS! If you are in grades 1 - 5, you can celebrate **BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK** by entering the 6th annual *Be Kind to Animals Week Poster and Essay Contest*.

For the first time, the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society is joining with the Animal Protective Foundation to present this fun contest for kids from Schenectady, Albany and Rensselaer Counties.

The contest winners will be invited to an awards ceremony and reception during Be Kind to Animals Week May 4th - 10th. Please see our website, [www.mohawkhumanesociety.org](http://www.mohawkhumanesociety.org), or call 434-8128 ext 206 for contest information and details.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match most charitable contributions made by their employees. To find out if your company has a matching gift policy, please ask your corporate giving officer, or contact us - we can check for you!

If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it completed and signed with your gift. We will do the rest. **The impact of your gift to MHRHS may be doubled or possibly tripled!** Some companies even match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses.

The following are a few of the local businesses that currently match gifts: Aetna, Allstate, AXA Foundation, Bank of America, Citizens Bank, GE, Home Depot, John Hancock Financial Services, KPMG, LexisNexis, National Grid USA, and the Pepsi Bottling Group Foundation. Visit us at [www.mohawkhumanesociety.org](http://www.mohawkhumanesociety.org) and click on "donate" to view an entire list of matching gift companies.

**SAVE THE DATE**



***with Carmie Hope  
Saturday, March 8.***

***Visit our website  
or call 434-8128, ext 212  
for further details***



**Come visit us at Paws For a Cause in the Empire State Plaza April 4th and 5th. For the second year, the Mental Health Foundation is presenting the largest animal care expo in the Capital Region. Last year over 12,000 people visited the Empire State Plaza to visit exhibitors and learn more about animals.**

**This year, the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society and Animal Protective Foundation are partnering to present the expo's educational programs. We are very excited about our new partnership and hope to see you there! For more information visit [www.mohawkhumanesociety.org](http://www.mohawkhumanesociety.org).**