

Capital Pet

newsletter
of the

Mohawk & Hudson River
HUMANE SOCIETY



🐾 3 Oakland Avenue Menands, NY 12204 🐾 www.mohawkhumane.org 🐾 (518) 434-8128

BREAK-IN BRINGS SUPPORT

It has been said that every dark cloud has a silver lining. In the case of the cloud that recently passed over the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society, the lining was platinum.

One of our storage sheds was broken into in late January, and cans and bottles worth more than \$500 in returnable fees were stolen. This money was to have been used to buy food, vaccines, medicine and supplies for orphaned animals.



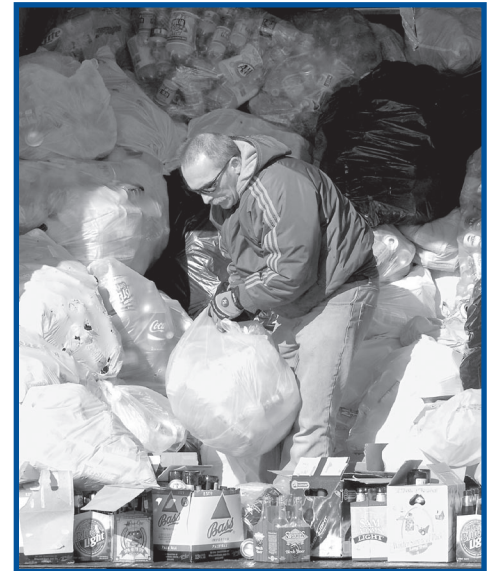
Tom Killips/Troy Record

In response to media coverage of the break-in, the community rallied around the Society to help recoup this loss. Their support – in both funds and friendship – was more than we could have ever hoped for.

Chief among these efforts was a January 31st bottle and can drive by the Town of Colonie, coordinated by Town Supervisor Paula Mahan. Thousands of dollars in returnables were brought to The Crossings, along with over \$5,500 in monetary donations and more than 1,000 pounds of pet food. There were so many kind donors eager to help that Colonie Police were called in to direct traffic. Standard Commercial Interiors donated use of their trucks to bring all the donations back to the shelter. Price Chopper loaned us a tractor trailer to store the containers in, and doubled the redemption value on all of the bottles and cans.

In addition to countless individual donations, many local companies showed their support for the Society. The Nigro Companies, Janney Montgomery Scott, Deli & Brew, Innovative Performance Automotive and Capital Financial Planning made some of the largest gifts to assist the Society.

People came in droves to our animal care center in Menands with donations of cash, checks, food, bottles and cans, or sent messages of support and donations through our web site at www.mohawkhumane.org. All of the money raised will be used for the feeding, veterinary care and placement of our homeless animals.

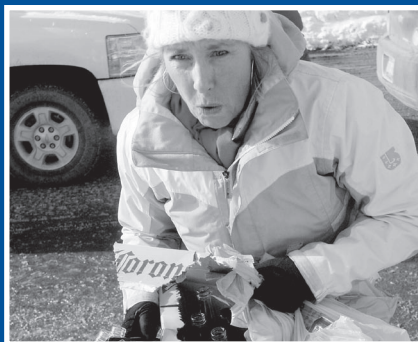


Tom Killips/Troy Record

After weeks of investigation, the Menands Police Department arrested three men from Ulster County for the theft. Their diligence and hard work has made us all feel safer, and secure in knowing that your generous donations will be protected.

The MHRHS board, staff and volunteers are deeply grateful to the people of the Capital Region who thought of the animals during this time of need. We are truly fortunate to be a part of such a caring, responsive community.

COMMUNITY RALLIES



Tom Killips/Troy Record



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MANAGEMENT

Brad Shear, Executive Director

Tina S. Murray, Director of Operations

Roger Blankfein, DVM, Medical Director

Deidre Bruce, Community Outreach Manager

Nancy Haynes, Animal Welfare Coordinator

LOCATION

3 Oakland Avenue
Menands, NY 12204

HOURS

Monday-Friday 10am-6pm

Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 1-4pm

WEB SITE

www.mohawkhumane.org

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

518.434.8128

518.434.0217 (fax)

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Executive Director
Brad Shear and
Bastian, his cat

Every day I see new animals arrive at the Society. Some are lost, with nowhere else to go; some have been left by their owners whose circumstances have changed. I like to make eye contact with every animal in our animal care center every day. I hope that by doing this, they will know someone is still here for them, they have not been forgotten, and I can see if they are comfortable in their temporary home. Every day our staff and volunteers do the same, making sure that every animal receives attention and compassion. Each animal touches my heart in its own way, but sometimes there is a special one who stands out.

I was walking by our intensive care kennels when I noticed a new cat. She was grey and white, with a small round face and slight build, so small that I assumed she was just seven or eight months old. Her most noticeable feature, however, was her front left leg. Her leg had been shattered in several places and part of the bone was exposed. The injury looked unimaginably painful, but the cat was unusually calm. I quietly opened the kennel and reached out my hand for her to sniff. Instead of sniffing my hand, she tilted her head to the side and gently rubbed her cheek against my finger. Even after all of the trauma she had been through, she just longed for a person's touch. As I gently rubbed her head, being sure not to touch any of her injuries, this little cat began to purr.

Our medical director, Dr. Blankfein, had already examined the cat and gave her medication to ease her pain. I asked about her prognosis and he said he would likely have to amputate the leg. After the surgery, she would need time to recover and learn how to walk without one of her limbs.

At home that night I kept thinking about that little cat -- who turned out to be three years old, not the kitten that she appeared to be. How scared she must have been, and how painful her injuries were. I felt proud -- pleased that our team was able to provide a place for her to rest and that we had the ability to provide the medical care that she needed.



The next day, I checked on her to see how she was recovering from the previous day's surgery. She was already alert and still purring when she was gently petted on the head. I offered to take her home to recover.

At first, she would only sit in a bed in the corner, not ready to walk, and probably in some discomfort in spite of the pain medication. We brought food to her so she didn't have to get up for it, and moved her to the litter box regularly. After a few days she started to test her single front leg, at first just dragging herself along while we encouraged the beginning of her physical therapy. Soon she ventured out more and more, gradually learning to balance on her one front leg.

TRAINER'S CORNER

Hot Summer Days

By Christine Danker, CPDT

(518) 439-2992

Hemlock Hollow LLC

www.hemlockhollowdogtraining.com

Summer is in full swing with vacations, beach time and family picnics. If you are planning to include your dog in these activities, some planning ahead of time is recommended:

ACCOMMODATIONS

Make sure the place you are renting allows dogs before you leave home. If you are planning to stay at the home of a family member or friend, check to see if they are okay with having a canine visitor. We love our dogs, but not everyone likes to share space with a dog. Bring your dog's crate, dog bed or whatever else will make him feel most comfortable.

TRAVEL

Summer temps reach into the 90s. Temperatures inside a parked car can be double that. Temps climb high very quickly, in minutes. Your pet can die if left inside. Having the windows cracked will not keep the temperature from climbing. Never leave your dog in a parked car when going "just to run in" to get a cold drink. Make plans accordingly. Take turns running in to the rest area and pack a cooler full of cold drinks, not only for yourself but also for your best friend.

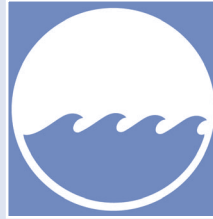
Be a responsible dog owner. Walk your dog in designated areas, clean up after your dog and be courteous of those around you. When passing another person, I usually have my dog sit at my side and let them go by.

Beware of hot pavement. We wear shoes or sandals; dogs only have the pads on their feet to protect them. The pads can easily feel the heat and get sore. Walk in shady areas or on grass.

SWIMMING

Some dogs know how to swim naturally, some do not, and some don't like

water at all. Never force your dog to enter the water if he is reluctant. Sometimes throwing a ball will entice him to enter the water. Sometimes being at his side will give him the encouragement he needs.



A plastic kiddie pool filled with an inch or two of water is a good place to begin for those who are reluctant to get their feet wet.

Icy cold water can discourage first-timers.

If your dog is not reliable at coming when called, consider having him on a long line when swimming from shore. I usually have one line on the dog and one line on a toy for those just learning to fetch. I can easily retrieve the toy from the water without going in!

Beware of strong currents. Just like people, dogs can be swept away quickly.

If taking your dog out on a boat, a life jacket made especially for dogs should be considered.

Whether swimming in the ocean or in a pool, rinse your dog off after he is finished. Salt, sand and/or chlorine can dry his coat and cause him to scratch.

Beware of ponds that have what is known as "pond scum." This may be the blue-green algae known as cyanobacteria, which is lethal during certain times of the year. Dogs swimming in such ponds can show symptoms within minutes of being in contact with the water.

RETRIEVING

Just like swimming, some dogs are naturals at retrieving. For those dogs who need some incentive, try tying a toy to a rope and pulling it around. Many dogs like to chase and this is a good way to get them started on interacting with a toy. For some dogs, chasing a toy while you pull it is all they need to have

fun! Allow them to catch it sometimes. Other times, pull it a bit faster just as they are ready to pounce on it.

If your dog does not have a "give" cue and will not readily give up the toy, you can do one of two things: either pull out another toy and begin to play with it, or just drop the rope/toy and walk away with a "we're done." Getting into a confrontation with her over the object is not going to teach her to relinquish it to you; it will only make that object even more valuable. Make a mental note to add "give" to the skills to teach your dog.

Some dogs will retrieve until they collapse, literally. On hot, humid days, keep the fetching games short. Better yet, play the game in the water where everyone can stay cool. Even on cloudy days, stop before your dog is showing signs of being tired: panting excessively, tongue hanging out and wanting to lie down.

PICNICS

For dogs who like a more sedate way of life, packing a picnic and heading out to the nearest shady spot is an alternative activity during the nice weather. It is a great way to socialize your dog and give her some mental stimulation. It is a change of pace for her; she gets to see different sights and hear different sounds. A few things to consider:



Family picnics can be overwhelming for even the most stable dog. Just because your dog seems okay doesn't mean she is enjoying herself. If she is interacting with people by readily going up to them to be petted, great. If she is lying around without interacting, or moving away when people come close, she is telling you she's had enough. We enjoy visiting with many people, but our dogs can be overwhelmed by noise, movement, balloons, having strangers invade her home or being in a strange

(continued on page 6)

MOHAWK & HUDSON RIVER HUMANE SOCIETY TRIBUTES

Tributes listed here were received 1/7/09 - 3/25/09. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

Dinay Lechleiter (continued)

Susan LaPlante
Joanne McCarthy
NEMA, Inc.
Patricia Parrotte
Ralph & Alice Polumbo
Pamela Relyea
Charles Sewell
Robert Sharkey
Franceen & Dan Shaughnessy
Charles Smith
Judy, Hal & Brooke Tanzman
Teammates and Friends at
24th Annual Gathering
Frank & Terri Wade
Deborah Walsh & Lindsay Bonn

Ernest Legenbauer

Paul & Gail Booth

Samuel Lentine, Jr

Cheryl & Brian Harwood

Lucky

Mary Ann Mathews

Mandy Moo

Kimberly Clonch

Mary

Jennifer Warner

Teddy Masterson

Maureen Masterson

Barbara McDermott

HVCC Library Sunshine Club
Thomas & Lynn Marino
Ralph & Judith Pinto

Buddy McGarry

Jan Anderson & Hank Knapp
Barry & Linda Romano

Michael Messier, Jr

Eric Moore

Missy

Mabel Monagle

Adrian Mitchell

Arlene Leff

Mo's Sister

Andi & Kevin Cush

Molly

Erika Somers

Paul & Mary Monaco

Rosemarie Melius

Duke Moran

Kate Bergeron

Maria Morant

Allen Kaplan

Morgan & Valentine

Helen Pelcher

Philip Morgan

Phyllis H. Morgan

Marcia Morrill

Albany Nursery
John Carey, Jr.
Gladys Connelly
Mark Gallagher
Pastor Paul & Gloria Gingrich
Dorothy Halloran
Ann Mahar
John & Patricia McEvoy
Lynne & Doug Roberts
Justin & Catharine Smith
Larry Teal & Jean Paduano-Teal
Beate Tobin
Christina Wiesnet

Tess Murley

Debra & James Murley

Nike

Sue Schultz

Nikita

Bruce & Susan Darrow

Nina

Kathleen O'Shaughnessy

Tammy O'Melia Taylor

Gerald & Lorraine O'Melia

Our dog

Joyce & Terry Sunkes

Virginia Pallozzi

Paulette & Raymond Bach
Florence Barbata

George Bowen

James & Jeanne Bowen

Eugene Cocca

Francis Cocca

Michael Cocca

Vince & Cheryl Cocca

Gail Lawrence

Michael Murphy

Daniel Pallozzi

Lon & Fran Pallozzi

Marjory & William Roddy

Peggy Sturtevant

Carol Peterson

Patty & Emma Jo Godell

Barbara Johnson

Gloria Romano & David Marshall

Marjorie Secor

Jeanne & Ed Van Acker

Beverly Piazza

Deborah McGuire

Cheryl Terzian

Dorothy Powell

Art & Arleen Blackstone

Mary & Larry Brin

Ida Daly

DerOhannesian Families

Marge & George Deveneau

Sigmund Englander

Ken & Pally Jarrett

Christina Raponi

Carol & Steve VanBuren

Pumpkin

Robert Jones

Ralphie & Alice

Joan de Paz

Rascal & Mischief

Amber Tibodeau

Rex

Nicholas Rose

Dr. Jean Rissacher

City of New York Office of the
Mayor - State Legislative Affairs
& NYC Dept. of Education

Dave Hillmann

Susanne Menia

John Roberts, Sr.

Jeffrey Opalka

Ray Roberts

Denise Wright

Rocket

Patricia Smith

Jean Rockwood

Judith Sook

James Rogers

Pamela & Andrew Semeiks

Kira Romano

Susan & Jim McGarry

Sahara

Barry & Linda Romano

Saige

Jessica Wolpert

Joyce Salocks

Curtis Richardson

Anthony Sano

Robert Bernhard

Yvette Terplak

Sasha

Jeanne Powell

Scooter

Lorraine Van Der Werken

Shadow

Mark & Terri Braaten

Brian Shafer

Charles Sewell

Arthur Shelmandine

Denise Ellison

Cindy Shepard

Vesta Bartholomew

Susan Brome

John & Margaret Butterfield

Sherry Church

Nancy Cummins

Gregory Dole

Joseph Drew, Jr.

Nancy Davis Grenier & Family

Michael Hughes

Assistant Leader Troop 431,

MaryBee & Bob Longabaugh

Lisa McLoughlin & Richard

Templeton

Yvette Nadeau

Carrie Naylor

Timothy Ryan

Theodore & Annette Soroka

James & Maria St. John

Elaine Talmadge

Clara Tucker

USPS - HRM Office

(A. Lee, A. Nygren, M. Hall, A.

Trojan, L. Coulombe, D. Panek)

USPS Mailing Requirements Office

Margaret Zotta

Karen Shepard

St. Paul Travelers Employee Club

Rose Simpkin

Streeter Family

Skippy

Nancy Russomanno

Snowman

Patricia McSparron

Song

Dawn & Joseph Mullins

Sonny & Florence

Kathy Tamaroff

Carmen Spadaro

Richard & Phyllis Drew

M. Christine Murtagh

Elizabeth Page Smith

Spat Cat, a/k/a Wee Wee

Linda Lamouree

Molly Spina

Maria Sgarlata

Shelley Zansky

Patricia Stricos

Florence Andresen

John S. Bartlett, Jr.

Marianne Bolam

Grace Brennan

Sandra Brokaw

Kathryn Cassimeris

Virginia Cholakis

Patricia Stricos (continued)

Fillpoint

Margaret Fraterrigo

Robert & Rebecca Hoffman

Michael Lazaro

Lubomir Mihaylov

Mark Sumner

Tara Vassar

Tabouli

Daniel Krug

Tails

Linda Konitski

Taz

Rachel Winters

Taz

Judith Ferguson

Dai Thompson

Viktoria Bombardi-Wilson

Tikki

Karen M. Stiles

Bernice Vaschereau

Claire Murray

Gerald "Murf" Vielkind

Tom Adams

Susan Bourret

Edith Cumini

Susan Ferrara

Michael Fisher

Cindy Gerster-Zubrick & David

Wenger-Keller

Bonnie Hohman

Diane Horton

John Horton, Jr.

Patricia Kilgallon

Peggy & Bob Kropp

Leslie Tash

Whiteman Osterman & Hanna

Margaret Wojeski

Joyce Vohnoutka

June Partridge

Glen Walizer

Mary Whitney

Mary Dale Wallace

Bernard & Barbara Dussault

Lorna & Ed Reamer

Waterford-Halfmoon Union

Free School District

Eleanor Wilson

Jan Warren

Delmar Kiwanis Foundation

Catherine Wieland

Eric Adams

Pat & Tony Crookshank

Jeannette Udway & Michael

Bromirski

Willoughby

Anne Richmond

Kenneth Eric Wiltsie

Goff Middle School DOME Club

Nancy Wise

Therese Houser

Rose Zaccardo

Richard Zaccardo

Zack & Sabre

John & Maryanne Harper

Zoe

Margaret Feeney

IN HONOR OF...

Paul Bayba

Reed & Elizabeth Parvis

MOHAWK & HUDSON RIVER HUMANE SOCIETY TRIBUTES

Tributes listed here were received 1/7/09 – 3/25/09. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

Roger Blankfein, DVM
Dorothy & Gary Carlson

Sue Brooks
Beth & Neal Lane

David & Sandra Bruns
Robert & Janet Bruns

Dr. Jennifer Bull & Staff
Laura & Ed Jacobs

Campbell Pets Past & Present
JoAnn Campbell

Brodie Campbell
Scott Campbell

CC & Stewart
Gene & Wendy Van Dyke

Charlie
Jeffrey Williamson

Cinder Ella
Angela Zambella

H. Jaymi Cook
Renaë Rolley

Jade Cox
Janet Bowman

Chris Danker
Mary Jane Crotty

DJ, Patches & Jake (the Bum)
Warren W. Fane, Inc.

John Ebersole
M. Bridget Nettleton

Suzanne Hasbrouck & Rick Carlson
Barbara McNamee

Maureen Hood
Patricia Pittack

Jack
Kelly Kowalski

Norine Jones
Mary Yurista

Lydia Kosinski
Peter Yolles

Tiffanie Helena LaFleur
Vickie LaFleur

Lily
Mary Abbruzzese

Dr. Sarah Madaio
Susan Breslow

Munchkin & Iggy
Nancy Farley

Deb Oliver
Lynn Larson

Wayne Raczkowski
Frances Day

Terri Reese
Teresa O'Connor

Mary Savage
Kathleen Ostapeck

Abby Scheuermann
MaryAnn Ginnan

Brenda Scheuermann
Todd Scheuermann &

Karen Hunter
Vickie Smith-Moyo
Michael Vyent

Emily Seawall
Performance Plus

Simba & Buster Brown
Clare Mertz

Christine Standish
Jeannette Hall

Stebbins Family
Fred & Patricia Zeserson

Rhonda Teal
Erin Teal

Thor
Gordon & Beverly Emerick

Toby
Tina Lecuyer

Hans Toch
Diane Mancini

Bob Vancavage
New York State Automobile
Dealers Assoc. Employees

Skye Wilcox Zeldin
Lane Kai

TRAINER'S CORNER

(continued from page 3)

place. Make sure she has a place to take a rest. Putting her in a crate where no one can bother her or moving away from the festivities for a nap on her favorite blanket can renew her interest and reduce her stress level.

Keep her on lead so you can monitor her behavior at all times. Uncle Roger will not appreciate a dog jumping up and spilling his drink, nor will Grandma Lucy enjoy her hamburger being grabbed from her plate. Your dog will be happier in the long run, as will you, with no gastric upset to deal with later from eating too much food, or food to which she is unaccustomed.



Consider getting together with a friend and having a picnic. There does not need to be a special reason other than to spend time with two- and four-footed friends. Or head out alone, just you and your dog. Summer time should be relaxing...take some time to enjoy it!

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.

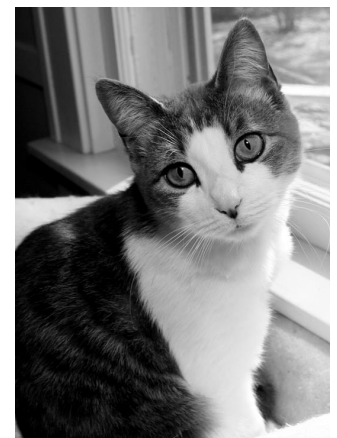
Chris is now teaching classes and workshops at the Humane Society. Check our website www.mohawkhumanesociety.org for the latest dates and times.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

(continued from page 2)

Finally she was ready to get out of the room that she had been living in and explore more of the world (within our house). She ventured out, sniffing and slowly moving along finding her way in unfamiliar territory. Soon she would meet our dog (who is a little afraid of cats). She walked right up to him, touching nose to nose. She learned to navigate stairs and the other cats began to accept her, one by one. We discovered that twist ties are her favorite toy. (Of course, she ignored any expensive cat toys.)

We were amazed when one day she suddenly jumped onto the kitchen counter as if she had all of her legs intact. We realized that she had recovered and it was time for her to go find a permanent home...or was it? When we saw this little cat, who was named Luna for her little round grey and white face, curled up with our dog, we just couldn't imagine letting her go. So once again, another foster animal has taken up permanent residence in our home and she has settled in just fine. We will continue to foster cats -- especially now, when the need for foster homes is at its greatest -- but Luna will be the last one to join the permanent family for a while.



Really, she's the last for a while. I mean it.

Brad Seaw

SPECIAL THANKS

Colonie Animal Hospital: donated medications; provided specialized deep-ear exam and treatment on a cat, orthopedic consultations, x-rays and splinting

Guilderland Animal Hospital: orthopedic consultation and surgery on a dog

Nassau Veterinary Clinic: specialized dental treatment

Animal Health Center: surgical consultation

Canterbury Animal Hospital: x-rays for cruelty case and ferret vaccines

Bethlehem Veterinary Hospital: surgical consultation with x-rays, medical treatment and off-site adoption for sick cat

Just Cats Clinic: cat dentistry and hip x-rays

Drs. Sikule and Kearney: volunteered to perform spay/neuter surgeries at the shelter



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518-783-2273 Mid-Day Walks Available

New Cat Room Opens

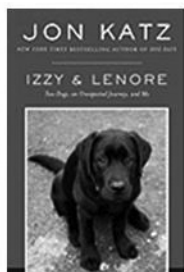
The Society has just opened a new community cat room in our adoption center. The walls of the room are graced by a mural painted by local artist Jeri Degener. The cats live in the new room until they are adopted. They roam free, lay in soft beds and explore different levels in the room. Visitors can sit in the room with adoptable cats and get to know them in a relaxed, welcoming environment.



Save the Dates

Dog Days of Summer Reception Thursday, August 20

Union Gables Bed & Breakfast
Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs



With special guest
Jon Katz

Best Selling Author of *Izzy & Lenore: Two Dogs, an Unexpected Journey and Me*

UNION GABLES
BED & BREAKFAST

Art Saves Animals Thursday, October 8

Albany Institute of History & Art
Washington Avenue, Albany

5th Annual Art Auction
with Honorary Co-chairs
Guha & Karthik Bala
of Vicarious Visions

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART



EMMA'S NEW BEST FRIEND



Emma in her new home.

Like so many other lost or abandoned dogs, Emma arrived at our shelter afraid and confused after her time wandering the street in Albany. Dr. Blankfein, our Medical Director, went into Emma's kennel to examine her but she was too afraid. Emma just laid on the floor, shaking, and wouldn't move.

Our kennel caretakers saw something special in Emma and patiently worked with her every day, first just sitting and speaking quietly to her, feeding her by hand and gently petting her until she became more comfortable. Eventually Emma came to trust us. The dog that wouldn't stand up or let Dr. Blankfein in to examine her now just wanted to be loved and cared for.

Dr. Blankfein noticed a problem with one of Emma's legs. It appeared that she had torn a ligament in one of her back legs.

To help her learn to be comfortable around people and rest her wounded limb, Emma went into foster care with Tara Ostrander, one of our wonderful foster caregivers. It wasn't long before Emma's sweetness came out. She became inseparable from Tara and loved being around her family and her cat.

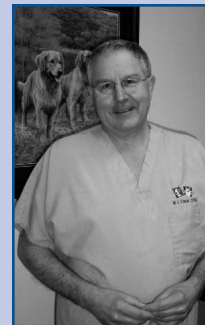
After x-rays and further exams, it was clear that Emma's limb needed surgery. Repairing an injury like this one in such a large dog is a challenge and can be extremely expensive for the Society. Fortunately, we have many supportive veterinarians in the community who are willing and able to help us care for these homeless animals in need.

Dr. Michael Casler of Guilderland Animal Hospital offered his specialized skill to repair the damage to Emma's leg. Dr. Casler is one of our "go-to guys" who has always been there to take on a challenging orthopedic case. His practice has all the latest equipment designed to minimize pain and speed healing.

Dr. Casler has treated a number of our dogs with injuries that could not be mended with our available equipment and expertise. All of those animals have recovered well and have found new, loving homes.



(top) Dr. Roger Blankfein assisting Dr. Casler with repairing Emma's leg.



(left) Michael Casler, DVM Guilderland Animal Hospital

(below) Emma dining with her new house mate, Tara's cat.



But that isn't the extent of Dr. Casler's talents or the efforts he's taken for our organization. He also is a member of the Mendelssohn Men's Choir, which has performed fundraising benefit concerts for the shelter.

Emma has several months of recovery and rehabilitation ahead of her. But luckily for her, Tara decided to adopt her. Emma will not only be healing in her home, but now she can stay in her favorite spot: Tara's lap.



Tara and her 90-pound lap dog, Emma.