

Capital Pet

newsletter
of the

Mohawk & Hudson River
HUMANE SOCIETY



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

NEW COALITION

Contagious diseases are an ever present danger for our pets and, for many people, it is difficult to afford veterinary care to get the lifesaving vaccinations that will protect our pets from suffering. On May 20th, 2007, the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society joined together with area rescue groups in the Cat Care Coalition to provide core vaccines and microchips to people who could not otherwise afford them. It was a very successful day for the Coalition, vaccinating 103 dogs and 74 cats for rabies and distemper while providing



microchips to 49 animals! A very special thank you to our very own Shelter Manager, Gary Robusto, and Medical Director, Dr. Roger Blankfein, for their work vaccinating and microchipping all day!

The Humane Society is excited about the new coalition with local rescue groups Robin's Nest, Guildershaven, Noah's Kingdom and Whiskers. Additional vaccination clinics are being planned and the Coalition hopes to provide low cost spay and neuter services to the public in the near future.

TWINKIE By Pamela Pociluk



Twinkie Before

and rushed to the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society.

As soon as the kitten, soon to be named 'Twinkie,' arrived at the shelter, staff quickly went to work warming her and encouraging her to drink some formula. The first few hours were nerve-racking for the staff and volunteers trying to bring back what little strength Twinkie had. Slowly over the coming hours and days, Twinkie began to gain strength, but still required intensive care.

Who knows how many cars sped by a small lump of fur in the middle of Route 32 in Feura Bush before one caring person stopped to see if it was a living creature. When she first got out of her car, the good Samaritan wasn't sure if the piece of fur in the road was alive or dead, but suddenly, it moved. The kitten, less than half a pound, was quickly scooped up

A Humane Society staff member took Twinkie home, closely monitoring her condition and feeding her every few hours. Thankfully, Twinkie did not just survive, she thrived. Eventually as she grew and built up her strength, she was able to go to a foster home and join another litter of kittens to play and cuddle with. That little ball of fluff in the road turned out to be a stunning beauty.

We may never know how a tiny kitten, her eyes barely open, could get into the middle of a busy road. We are simply thankful that someone cared enough to stop and help her. Now Twinkie has a new home where she is loved and safe.



Twinkie After



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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

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

518.434.8128

518.434.0217 (fax)

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Executive Director Brad Shear and Bastian, his cat

Last Friday, a pit bull came in wagging his tail. He was missing an eye, and covered in scars from being forced to fight. The obvious torture he had endured could not erase the love and trust for people that came so naturally. On Tuesday, a 7 week old kitten came in limp and lifeless. Her owner was angry, and kicked her tiny body across the room. This helpless baby was killed when she hit the wall of his apartment. Yesterday, a German Shepherd puppy arrived after being beaten with a hardhat. The owner was punishing the dog for urinating in his truck.

Unfortunately, these stories are all too common. As the oldest animal welfare organization in the Capital District, the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society has been battling cruelty and abuse for 120 years. We have made tremendous progress to improve the lives of our most faithful friends, yet there is still much more work to be done.

As the SPCA for Albany and Rensselaer Counties, our humane investigators work side by side with animal control officers and local and state police, to investigate these serious crimes and help prosecute the offenders. The recent addition of Dr. Roger Blankfein as Medical Director has enhanced our ability to assist prosecutors by providing expert medical evaluations of animals that have been abused or neglected.

Through the vigorous pursuit of prosecution for these dangerous individuals, we can help protect animals, as well as countless other victims. The connection between animal cruelty and violence against people has been well documented. By stopping these offenders now, we can help to prevent future violent acts against animals, children and other members of our families.

People often tell me that they couldn't do my job. They could not stand to see the suffering of animals at the hands of heartless people. I, however, have a different point of view. Any violent or inhumane act against a helpless animal is truly tragic; however, each case that comes through our doors does offer a glimmer of hope. Someone cared enough to bring this animal to a safe place where it will get the treatment it needs.

Working together as a community of concerned citizens, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, the media and Humane Society, we can stop the abuse, stand up for the defenseless and be a voice for those who cannot speak.

Please join in the effort to combat violence and end the suffering. By donating to our Animal Cruelty Prevention Fund you can support the work of our cruelty investigators and help care for animals who have been victims of violence. Together we can create a compassionate and understanding community that does not tolerate cruelty and that cares about the treatment of all living creatures.

MUNCHKIN AND KAMIKAZE

By Pamela Pociluk

Munchkin arrived at the Society at the tender age of one month, with her two sisters. When she arrived, Munchkin limped across the examination table because of her recently broken leg. No one could know how she was injured or which of the many dangers of the world befell her. Munchkin's leg was gently set in a bright pink cast by the Society's veterinarians.

The bright pink didn't quite suit her tomboyish nature, and Munchkin never let the cast slow her down for a second. She used it as a climbing tool to traverse the door of her kennel and even as a playful "weapon" to clobber other kittens. Munchkin's sisters were soon ready to go to their new homes, while Munchkin recovered in one of our volunteer foster homes. Munchkin's cast was removed a couple of weeks later with instructions for limited movement and rest. Of course, limited movement and kitten don't really go together! Despite encouragement to take it easy, she was immediately up playing and running around like nothing had ever happened to her.

Kamikaze arrived at the society at about the same time, but in far more serious condition. At only about three weeks old he had been separated from his mom and siblings and was found under a porch -- cold, dehydrated and starving. Had the homeowner not found him, he would not have made it. The Society's staff immediately began warming him and giving fluids to rehydrate him. Even with intensive care, his condition was serious and he continued to be lethargic and had no interest in food.

Soon, Kamikaze's will and spirit kicked in and he seemed to decide he was going to stay with us after all. He licked some kitten food off a staff member's fingers, and the difference made by a decent meal and water was quick and remarkable. He spent the first several days at the home of the Society's animal welfare manager and it was clear by then that he was going to pull through just fine. In fact, he turned out to be a little spitfire and his antics and daredevil stunts earned him the name Kamikaze. He quickly figured out how to get out of his kennel and wandered the house making it his own. He even put the large family dog in his place, letting the dog know who was going to be the boss.

Munchkin and Kamikaze's first meeting came at the shelter. They were both there for follow up treatment on the same day. Relatively close in age, they looked like brother and sister and both needed a kitten playmate. They went together to a new foster home and quickly became inseparable. With their similar coloring and temperament, you'd never know they weren't "real" siblings. They spent every waking moment chasing each other around and wrestling. They even had their squabbles, like true brother and sister, but at the end of the day, always slept cuddled up together.

Both kittens that came limping into the shelter cold and alone soon came back from foster care healthy and lively. Munchkin and Kamikaze are now in their new home together forever, running and playing with no sign of injury thanks to the love and care of the Humane Society's staff and volunteers.



Munchkin and Kamikaze

THE SOCIETY NOW OFFERS DOG TRAINING CLASSES

Six week basic training classes and one day workshops are available.

Classes are taught by Chris Danker, CPDT. Chris has over four decades of experience with 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.

Check our website www.mohawkhumanesociety.org for the latest class schedule.
Call 434-8128 ext. 207 for more information.

MOHAWK & HUDSON RIVER HUMANE SOCIETY TRIBUTES

Tributes listed here were received 1/1/07 - 3/31/07. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

IN MEMORY OF...

Vicki Adler	Donna Burby (cont.)	Jean Delano (cont.)	Lesley Elizabeth Grapka (cont.)	Lesley Elizabeth Grapka (cont.)
Mildred Wolfe	Diane DeLeon	Joseph Delano	Janet DiGianni	Carol Walts
All the wonderful dogs adopted in years past	Stephen Drozdyk	Robert Delano	Margaret Dilgen	Charles & Sharon Westfall
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	Angelo Delano	Lynn Corrigan		
	Helen Delano	Council for Exceptional Children		
		Council of NY Special Education Admin		

TRIBUTES CONTINUED

Tributes listed here were received 1/1/07 - 3/31/07.

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Wendy Beard & Morton Shulman
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Barth & Ann Neitzel
Bernice Vaughn
John Munkwitz
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Nico
Timothy Lane
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Robert Jarvenpa
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Chris Godfrey &
Julie Santamour
Missy, Sheena & Happy Bielawa
Bernard & Jane Bielawa
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Katherine Cultrara
Christine Jacobsen Wagner

SPECIAL THANK YOU

HOFFMAN CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING for cleaning all of our offices and public areas

GRECO CONSTRUCTION for the design of architectural plans for dog runs next to the admitting building

DIGITAL PAGE for designing and printing invitations for Art Saves Animals

SPIRAL DESIGN for creating a brochure for our bequest society

OFFICE FURNITURE USA for new office furniture and our new adoption counter

PRO SOURCE for new flooring in our offices and adoption lobby

ANIMAL HEALTH CENTER for discounting care for our foster pets

CANTERBURY ANIMAL HOSPITAL for donating x-ray and other diagnostic services for shelter animals

RESIDENCE INN OF EAST GREENBUSH/TECH VALLEY for their ongoing support

O'CONNELL AND ARONOWITZ for donating funds raised at their summer company picnic

TROY GERMAN HALL for their generous support

NTS PLUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS for maintaining our phone system

THE WOMEN'S FUND OF THE CAPITAL REGION for their capacity building grant

Third Annual Art Saves Animals raised over \$21,000



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Pepsi Bottling Co. of Albany ♦ Joseph Riley
W. J. Lyons Jr. Funeral Home

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Deidre Bruce, Volunteer Manager



Peg Buckley and Sheba

Every day Peg Buckley quietly walks from her car into the Humane Society's shelter. As she walks by many people may not notice that she is there, but as soon as she enters the building every little wet nose turns in her direction. All of the animals at the Humane Society know Peg's gentle voice and touch from the moment that they arrive. She is a calming presence in what can be an otherwise stressful place.

Peg was determined to return to the Mohawk & Hudson

River Humane Society after she walked her first shelter dog in March 2000. "I walked one dog," she told me. "It was such an emotional experience that I knew if I didn't make myself come back the next day, I'd never come back again." At the time anyone could come to the shelter, leave their driver license and walk a dog. When Peg got here there was no training for volunteers, no way of identifying them, and no system for organizing who came in at what time and what they did. Peg loves to organize and although she had no previous experience with animal shelters, she soon started a formal volunteer program.

"There were more animals taken in, with less space," Peg said. "The volunteers began raising funds to purchase items to improve the quality of life of the animals." She says she really became hooked when she took in her first foster dog, Gentle Jen. Today Peg spends at least 20 hours every week at the Humane Society helping wherever she recognizes the need, whether socializing animals or doing laundry when clean bedding is running low. "I'll always be a dog walker," she reminds me.

Peg was recently recognized for her public service as a medalist in the National Jefferson Awards for Public Service which are given to unsung heroes across the country. She will always be known for initiating the volunteer "dog walking" program and, later, the "Adopt an Older Pet Fund" at the Society, but most importantly, she has helped care for hundreds of animals and inspired as many volunteers and staff members with her dedication and compassion.

When asked how she handles the emotional aspect of her volunteer work, Buckley credits her friends at the shelter. "I think of the countless hours the volunteers and staff have served the animals over the years I've been involved. I feel how fortunate I am to be in a position to help these caring and passionate people. Remembering this helps me continue."

Peg helps us continue too.

PEBBLES' STORY

By Brad Shear

Pebbles spent the first 4 months of her life in a basement. Occasionally she was brought food and her water was filled until one day her owners noticed that something was wrong. There was blood coming from the young puppy's mouth. Her owner did not want to take her to the veterinarian so Pebbles came to the Humane Society.

When Pebbles first arrived at the shelter, staff thought that the blood might be coming from her gums and was simply due to a young puppy teething. She was brought to our medical director, Dr. Roger Blankfein, for a more thorough examination. Dr. Blankfein's patients can't tell him where it hurts so diagnosis can be difficult, but he soon determined that Pebbles had eaten rat poison. The medical staff leapt into action as they knew that Pebbles might not have much time.

An antidote for the poison was administered and Pebbles was prepared for a blood transfusion. Pebbles received the lifesav-



Pebbles

ing transfusion while lying in the arms of our concerned veterinary technicians. Once the treatment was completed we could only give her a warm, safe place to rest and watch her closely. Over the next several days bruising began to appear on her belly from the internal bleeding that she had suffered, but as her energy slowly came back her tail never stopped wagging. Her condition was soon upgraded from guarded to stable and Pebbles was on the road to recovery.

Once the worst was over, Pebbles went to one of our loving foster homes where her condition was closely watched and she could be brought in to Dr. Blankfein and his staff

for regular checkups. Once she came through the doors of the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society, the dark basement where her life was almost cut short became a distant memory. Today Pebbles has found a new home with a family that watches over her with love and care.