Capital MOHAWK HUDSON HUMANE SOCIETY Pet



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

www.mohawkhumane.org Spring 2012



1,000

While many people would look at a black cat with a little white spot on her chest and think she's like thousands of others, they would be wrong. The same could be said about a long-haired white cat with a few dark spots. Not only are these cats special to their new families, they also represent milestones for the Humane Society.

The Society partners with PetSmart stores in Latham and Glenmont. Like all PetSmarts locations, there are spaces set aside for animal rescues and shelters to house cats available for adoption. We bring cats to the stores and they live there seven days a week until they are adopted.

Our two satellite locations in PetSmart Latham Farms and PetSmart Glenmont are unique not only because of the lives saved there but because they are completely volunteer-run. It takes about 45 volunteers at each site to keep the centers running. Volunteers are there at least twice a day, every day, no matter the weather — holidays, weekday or weekend — to make sure the kitties are taken care of and find new homes.

This past February the 1,000th cat was adopted from each of these locations. In Latham it was a little black cat we called Infinity, renamed Minnie by her new family. We've been told she has fit perfectly into her new family. In Glenmont it was a cat named Hoosick. Hoosick had a special place in the hearts of our staff and volunteers because she was a very shy cat from terrible circumstances -- one of two cats who came from a cruelty case in Valley Falls along with 26 dogs. Hoosick came out of her shell and turned out to be a sweet, friendly cat who just wants to be held.

These two cats stand out because they happened to mark the 1,000-cat milestone for each of our adoption centers. For us, we are thankful for every adoption that led up to these two and look forward to the next 1,000. A special thanks to all of our volunteers who make this possible and our partners at PetSmart who donate space in their stores for our lifesaving cause.



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Save the Date...

3RD ANNUAL PAWS IN THE PARK WALK AND COMMUNITY DAY Saturday, June 9, 2012 Siena College, Loudonville

2013 CUTEST PETS
CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST
Starts Monday, July 2, 2012

8TH ANNUAL ART SAVES ANIMALS Thursday, October 11, 2012 The Arts Center, Troy

Going Green?

If you would prefer to receive our quarterly newsletters via email, please send an email request to newsletter@mohawkhumane.org.



3 Oakland Avenue Menands, NY 12204



Hours:

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

www.mohawkhumane.org

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Executive Director Brad Shear and Bastian, his cat

From the Director

"In the spring of 1887 a case of neglect and unkindness, if not of positive cruelty, to a little girl who was born in the poorhouse in Albany County but was then living with a family in West Troy called into existence what proved to be the beginning of the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society. This organization was incorporated on June 9th, 1887, as the Albany County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, under the

general children anti-cruelty society enabling act of the State of New York, known as Chapter 130 of the laws of 1875."

These words are the introduction to a history of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society that was written by one of our founders, Dr. William O. Stillman, in 1904. The history was part of a display at the 1904 World's Fair exhibition and was awarded a gold medal. It may surprise some to know that the Humane Society was founded to protect children. It would be just two years later when this fledgling child protection agency would add animals to their charges and for the next 70 years would protect both. The child shelters were closed in the late 1950s and the Humane Society dedicated itself purely to the protection of animals.

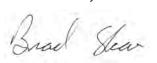
The history of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society is long and storied, with many successes as an influential voice for animals throughout the Capital Region, New York State and the nation. Times were not always easy for the Society with many difficult decisions along the way, like whether the group could continue caring for children. Money has always been tight for the Society, but it still managed to build the region's first animal shelter and the second non-profit veterinary clinic in New York State. Expansion continued throughout the years and helped the Society lead the animal protection movement in the state.

The Society was one of the first SPCAs in New York, giving it the authority to commission peace officers who investigate animal cruelty (and originally also investigated child abuse). Times change and the focus of the Society shifted from the early days of primarily protecting horses and children to a focus on domestic pets. Spaying and neutering has become a strong focus of the society, and so has animal adoption.

Reflecting on the first 125 years of the Society reminds me how many people give so much of their time, passion and energy to the Society and the animals we protect. This is a good reminder that as executive director I am just one in a long line of people who are stewards of a movement that was here before me and will hopefully be here long

after I am gone. My job is to continue to strengthen the Society and help more animals while I am here and leave a better, stronger organization for the people who will follow.

Our entire community should be proud to have had the foresight to create one of the nation's first animal protection organizations and of our shared passion for the growth of a vision that is now 125 years old.





Trainer's Corner











Basic Manners and Tricks

Are you wondering what tricks have to do with teaching your dog basic skills such as sit, down and stay? Teaching your dog a few tricks engages his mind and continues to build the trusting relationship the two of you have already begun to form.

In the past two years I have added to the curriculum of the Family Manners class I teach. During the six-week class, students are asked to teach their dog a trick. Along the way, we discuss how things are progressing as each student demonstrates how they're coming along with their trick. Students learn to observe their dogs and learn when it is best to mark the correct increment of behavior, and they become better trainers. On graduation night, we all enjoy what the dogs and handlers have accomplished.

By Christine Danker, CPDT

(518) 495-7387

Hemlock Hollow LLC www.hemlockhollowdogtraining.com

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.mohawkhumane.org for the latest dates and times.

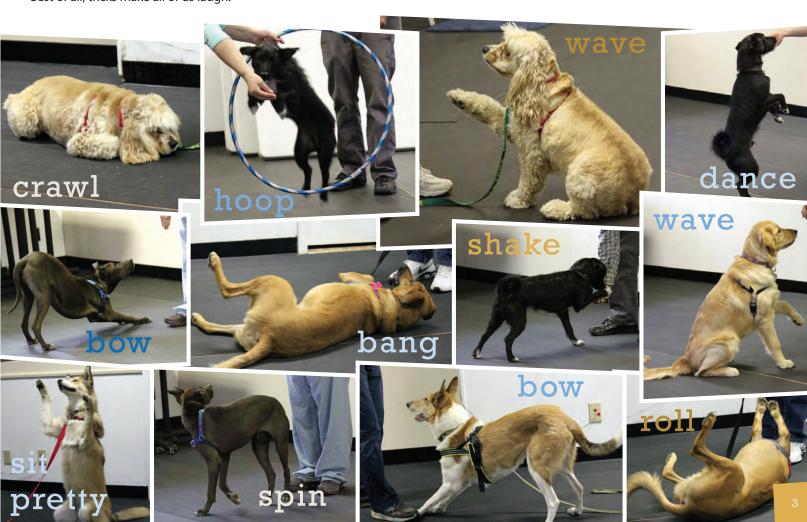
Teaching a dog a trick is stress free -- everyone has fun. And the more your dog learns, the more quickly he will learn the everyday behaviors of sit, down and stay.

Teaching tricks helps owners think about how their dog is learning. Tricks also engage your dog's mind. Tricks are a form of mental exercise. Have your dog perform a few tricks before giving his dinner. Entertain guests while your dog shows off what you have taught him.

For the dog who might be a bit distracted in certain situations, tricks can keep him focused on you. A barking dog can be kept quiet if you ask him to bring a toy to you while guests enter the house.

Thinking of doing some pet therapy work? Patients, visitors and staff will have their day brightened when they see your dog performing a repertoire of tricks.

Best of all, tricks make all of us laugh!





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thank you!

PLEASE NOTE

www.mohawkhumane.org.

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,

Over 1,200 MHHS animals were cared for last year in volunteer foster homes. most of them kittens. Foster parents take animals home with them for a few weeks

We Need Your Help Now

"Kitten season" has arrived again in the Capital Region, flooding the Humane Society with orphaned kittens. These kittens need people with big hearts, not big wallets. Each animal you foster is a life you save.

Join us today for a rewarding experience! Email fosters@mohawkhumane.org or call (518) 810-2568

save Lives in the comfort of your home

and care for them until they're ready to come back to the shelter for adoption.

The Gala

Record-breaking attendance and fundraising goals shattered – that's what happened on April 21 when animal lovers from across the Capital Region gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn on Hoosick Street in Troy for the fifth annual **Around the World for 80 Strays** gala. The event celebrated the Society's 125th anniversary.

Paul B. Harding served as the Event Chair and the ever-popular Steve Caporizzo, Chief Meteorologist for WTEN News 10, was emcee and celebrity auctioneer. Steve kept the crowd laughing, crying and bidding – all to help the animals! New this year was the paddle raiser auction to support the Veterinary Supply Fund. Live music by Grand Central Station had guests on the floor dancing the night away.

Humane Heroes awards were presented:

BUSINESS AWARD

Goldstein Auto Group

NON-PROFIT AWARD

Community Resource Federal Credit Union

BUSINESS EDUCATION AWARD

Harmony Hill third grade students and their teachers

Congratulations to all of our award recipients!

The event was a grand success with fabulous food and wine. We are grateful to all our attendees, Honorary Committee members, sponsors, auction item donors, volunteers and supporters. With your help, we raised over \$100,000 for the Society's homeless and abused animals!

ADVOCATE AWARD

John Norton, volunteer photographer

DR. WILLIAM O. STILLMAN AWARD

Steve Caporizzo







Thank You to our generous Sponsors:

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Special thanks to Casa Flora, Lindsey Deon, David Glatz and the volunteer moving crew, Hilton Garden Inn and the Rensselaer Banquet & Conference Facility, JCB Specialties, John Norton, and Circle K Members from RPI and SUNY Albany

Extra special thanks to Honorary Board Member Jeff Bulger for donating all of the great wine, liquor and beer for the silent auction and champagne for our anniversary toast.

All photos by Joe Schuyler











Injured Cat Finds New Life

Recently, a beautiful Siamese mix cat from the streets of Troy was brought to the Humane Society by a good Samaritan. There are many cats wandering the streets in our neighborhoods, but this one was unusual not only because of her beautiful coloring (and crossed eyes) but because of a severe injury to her leg.

The cat, soon to be named Stormy, had one front leg that was broken so badly that it was at almost a 90-degree angle to her body. She was quickly taken to Canterbury Animal Hospital where Dr. Estra x-rayed her leg and determined the extent of the damage. Luckily the leg could be saved, but it would need to be set and splinted. Stormy then had several weeks with a bright red wrap on her leg while resting and recuperating.

Throughout the healing process, Stormy continued to be nothing but a sweet kitty always looking for a little scratch on the head. Her leg was soon healed and, while it might never be quite perfect, she can now walk on it like a normal cat.

We'll probably never know how Stormy was injured, but thanks to a caring neighbor, a caring veterinarian in our community and the work of the staff and volunteers at the Humane Society, she has recovered from a traumatizing injury and is ready to find a new home where she can stay inside and remain safe from injury.

Breeder arrested FOR CRUELTY

At MHHS, we frequently find ourselves called by state and local police to assist with animal cruelty cases. Of course we want to help, but we wish it did not happen so often. When we receive that first call to assist, we often get a very general description of the situation and don't know what we'll be facing until we arrive.

When State Police called and asked us for assistance at a house in Valley Falls, we were told there were about 15 dogs in very bad conditions. It was already late in the afternoon so we knew there would be a long night ahead. When our staff arrived, we found numerous dogs and puppies and two cats living in filth. The owner of the dogs said she had purchased them to start a breeding operation and had just sold three of her puppies to a pet store in a local mall.

We immediately started working on finding all the dogs and puppies in the house, which was difficult because of the large accumulation of trash and debris. The animals themselves were covered in their own urine and feces. Ultimately, we would remove 26 dogs and two cats from conditions that Social Services and town officials labeled uninhabitable.

Removing animals from cruelty is only the beginning. They were brought back to the Humane Society, where Medical Director Dr. Sarah Madaio and her staff worked late into the night to examine and treat all of the dogs and cats. Thorough exams must be done immediately by a veterinarian in case they are needed as evidence in any future criminal prosecution.

The next day our friends at the Animal House in Cohoes came to groom the dogs and ready them for adoption to new homes. The cats and some of the dogs were ready for adoption after just a couple of weeks of recovery, while others were with us for months before they were healthy enough to find new homes.

Thankfully, because of our supporters, all the animals seized on that day have found new loving homes and have been spayed or neutered so they can never again be bred for profit. Animal cruelty charges are still pending against the previous owner.

