Capital MOHAWK HUDSON HUMANE SOCIETY



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

www.mohawkhumane.org Fall 2011



Hot Kittens!

On June 8, an elderly gentleman came to the shelter and explained that three feral cats had given birth in his shed and he had more than a dozen kittens to surrender. He had captured the kittens and kept them in his garage so they wouldn't be feral like their mothers. We offered the good Samaritan information on our low-cost

spay/neuter program and were impressed by his efforts

to capture the kittens, feed and take care of them until they were old enough to find homes.

As he walked out to get the kittens, I thought there must be some mistake when he opened the trunk of his car. What he pulled out was a large cage of panting, soaking wet and some collapsed kittens.

You see, on June 8 it was 93 degrees and the good Samaritan had approximately a 20-minute drive to the Humane Society. On a 93-degree day, the interior of a car can reach over 125 degrees within 20 minutes. The trunk averages 20 degrees hotter as it is an enclosed space and the exhaust system is in close proximity.

The kittens were suffering from hyperthermia and clearly in distress. Their temperatures were over 105 degrees, they were soaking wet from the condensation of hyperventilating during their ride and some had collapsed. We immediately brought them into the veterinary room, placed the cage in front of a fan and started working quickly as there were 14 of them! Initially they received subcutaneous fluids and got a quick exam, then were placed in a cool cage with ice packs, food and water. After all of them were stabilized, we went to work treating fleas and ear mites and administering vaccines.

Of course, I also took some time to speak with the good Samaritan. He said he initially got some cardboard boxes and placed the kittens in them, but they kept escaping so a friend lent him a wire cage. The cage wouldn't fit in the car so he placed it into the trunk and turned the air conditioning on, not realizing the cool air didn't reach the trunk. I gently explained that the kittens' condition was guarded and some might not make it. I also told him that although his intentions were good, people get arrested for leaving animals in the car and if they do die from hyperthermia, it is a very distressing, unpleasant experience. He was clearly upset and even waited at the shelter until we were able to let him know the kittens appeared to be doing very

well.

Thankfully, the kittens recovered and within a few days were able to enter into foster homes. They are appropriately referred to as the "hot kittens" and were given names like Lava, Jalapeno and Scorch. Meanwhile, the good Samaritan has made an appointment for the stray cats who call his shed home through our low-cost spay/neuter program.

- By Sarah Madaio, DVM

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Save the Date...

ART SAVES ANIMALS Thursday, October 6 5:30-8:30pm The Arts Center of the Capital Region, Troy









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Hours:

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

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Executive Director Brad Shear and Bastian, his cat

From the Director

The phrase "endless summer" conjures images of surfers walking into the sunset with no plans other than to come back tomorrow for another beautiful day as the perfect weather continues seemingly forever. In an animal shelter, that same phrase conjures images of a continuous stream of young abandoned animals coming into our care in a

line that seemingly goes on forever.

As you read this, we are approaching the end of summer on the calendar, but summer continues at the Humane Society with large numbers of cats, kittens, dogs and puppies entering every day. Recently we had one day when we took in over 40 animals. As I write this we have over 530 animals in our care, with 157 of those animals in foster homes -- a record for us.

While I am happy we have more foster homes than ever, I wish we didn't need them. This year we have taken in almost 20% more animals than we did last year by this time. As people question their future and money gets tighter, many cannot continue to care for their pets. For others, the decision to acquire more pets and care for them for their remaining lives requires more thought than in the past.

At the same time, we are working diligently to address the problem. The number of spay and neuter surgeries we have provided to the pets of low-income people has more than doubled and continues to rise. We recently received a grant from the John A. & Jane T. Weiderhold Foundation to purchase additional spay and neuter surgical equipment, so our capacity to provide more surgical procedures has increased dramatically.

As I have mentioned before, we also received a grant earlier in the year from the Assemblyman Bob Reilly Salary Fund to provide free spay/neuter surgeries for feral cats in Colonie. We continue to provide services from that grant.

Still, we need to do more. The numbers of animals in need continues to grow and our resources are not growing in pace with them. We will continue doing everything we can for every animal in need, but we need our community's support for our lifesaving mission. Thank you!



2012 Cutest Pets Photo Calendar

125th Anniversary Edition

(Ready to ship in October)

Start your holiday shopping early! All the cutest pets to enjoy and share all year long for only \$10.00 per copy (plus shipping).



Please visit mohawkhumane.org for an order form. Also available in our main lobby.

All proceeds benefit the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.



By Christine Danker, CPDT (518) 495-7387

(516) 495-7567

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.

Kids and Puppies

Your children want a puppy. No, they are begging for a puppy. But are you, the adult in the household, ready for a dog?

Having a dog is a commitment 24/7. Will your schedule allow time for caring and training a new family member? Will you have time to strictly supervise your children and your new puppy? Is everyone in the household in agreement on getting a dog? Are you ready for a long-term commitment of 12 to 15 years? If the answer to all those questions is yes, here are some tips to help your children and dog live in a safe environment.

- CHILDREN SHOULD LEARN HOW TO PET THE PUPPY CALMLY -- no need to grab, poke or pull. There should be no running, leaping or screaming around the puppy. This behavior will only entice your puppy to play inappropriate games by chasing and pulling at clothes.
- PUPPIES EXPLORE THE WORLD WITH THEIR MOUTHS; THEIR TEETH WILL TOUCH YOUR SKIN. Children can find this frightening, but it is part of puppyhood. With appropriate chew toys, and appropriate playmates of the four-footed variety, your puppy can ease though this stage and be taught how to use his mouth appropriately. If you are unsure how to proceed, seek guidance from a professional dog trainer who practices humane methods.
- THE PUPPY'S CRATE IS HIS "ROOM" -- his place to sleep, eat and have quiet time.
- 4-H camp. These children bring their own dogs to camp and have worked all year long with their dogs. Throughout the years I've seen such wonderful relationships between the children and their dogs; there is a mutual respect. Start training early and get your puppy on the right track.
- MANAGEMENT IS A MUST. An infant crawling on the floor is not a play toy for the puppy, nor is the puppy a toy for your child. All children visiting should be shown how to greet the puppy, and the puppy at the same time should be learning how to greet people politely by keeping four feet on the ground. A nine-week-old puppy is not going to know how to do this automatically. We need to teach him, as we teach our children. Until he learns, we need to gently put a finger in his collar as each child approaches slowly and allows the puppy to sniff his or her hands. An open hand, palm upward, allows the puppy to have a treat without using his teeth on fingers.
- CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO BE SOLE CARETAKER OF THE PUPPY. Adults in the household should supervise the care of the puppy each and every day. Acknowledge when your child offers to change the water bowl, brush the puppy or takes the puppy for a walk. A child may be too young to do some of these tasks on her own, but with your help she will learn a sense of responsibility for caring for another family member.

Puppies keep us busy. If you still want a dog, but feel a puppy may be a bit too time consuming, consider an adult dog. Training will still be necessary but the mouthing stage will be over, and more than likely the dog will be housetrained.

When considering an adult, take your children with you when selecting the dog. How does the dog react to your children? Does she move away and prefer not to be touched? Perhaps this dog had a bad experience with a child and is now afraid. Is she eager to spend time around your children? You want a dog who is comfortable with all family members.

By following these few guidelines, your family and dog should have a very happy relationship for years to come.

You Make Ot Happen!

We'd like to send our thanks to those who collect and sort bottles for our Empties for Animals program, like Community Resource Federal Credit Union, Siemens and the third graders at Harmony Hill Elementary School in Cohoes (who collected over 26,000 bottles and cans!), to name just a few. What a great way to have some fun and help raise funds for the Society. We can always use more bottles and cans and more people to help us sort them. Did you know we make eight cents per can/bottle because of how we sort?



We deeply appreciate those who make things happen for our animals!

If you, or a group or organization to which you belong, would like to organize a drive or help sort, please contact Volunteer Manager Jennifer Haraburda at (518) 434-8128 ext. 212 or volunteers@mohawkhumane.org for information.

Then there are the community organizations and companies that organize donation drives, collecting dollars and goods to help care for the animals, and those that host off-site adoption events to help raise awareness and find new homes for our cats and dogs. Many thanks to Coldwell Banker, Curtis Lumber and Pet-a-Palooza, Fed Ex, 1st New York Federal Credit Union, TD Bank and Dogs and Divas, Bark in the Park with the Tri-City



ValleyCats and so many more who helped us make great matches between people and pets! "Thank you" does not seem big enough to express just how important you are to our efforts, so perhaps a happy face will say it better.

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Vet's Corner Valentine

By Sarah Madaio, DVM

Occasionally we send out a note to our email list requesting help with a special animal who needs above-and-beyond care. Thankfully, we have supporters whose generosity is also above and beyond! The fund which we have designated to represent these animals is called the Guardian Angel Fund and it has assisted countless animals since I started working at MHHS. While you usually get to read a story about how we helped a dog like Molly the Golden Retriever or Lilly the Sheltie, there are also cats who have been helped that you should know about.

This story starts like most others at MHHS, with animals being dropped off to be put up for adoption. Since it was February 11, we were preparing for Valentine's Day and named this handsome black cat and his tortoiseshell sister Valentine and Heart. Unfortunately, after not being adopted for several weeks, the two kitties became sick with upper respiratory infection (URI) and moved into our cat infirmary. One of our dedicated foster parents, Barb McNamee, had liked the kitties from the first time she had met them and volunteered to foster them until they became well enough for adoption again.

Approximately two weeks after she began fostering this sweet duo, Barb brought them back to the shelter as they appeared much better but she had some concerns about the way Valentine was breathing. Barb described him as "breathing with more of an effort and sometimes his sides heaved in and out." Although I could hear his heart and lung sounds well, we discussed the possibility of getting a radiograph (x-ray) done. Barb brought Valentine to Bloomingrove Veterinary Hospital where Dr. David Stone saw him immediately and performed a radiograph, giving us a generous discount. We were surprised to see that Valentine had pulmonary edema (fluid in the lungs), and it was a severe case. In fact, from the look of the radiograph, we were surprised that he wasn't doing much

worse than he appeared to be!

When he returned to the shelter, Barb and I discussed his prognosis, which seemed poor. It is always important to listen to the person who knows the animal best, and in this case it was Barb. We decided to treat Valentine with Lasix to try to decrease the fluid he had accumulated and help him breathe better. Surprisingly, Valentine made it through the night and continued to let us know he was still engaged in living his life by eating, drinking and interacting with people, as well as other cats.

The Guardian Angel Fund had some funds available,

so we decided to bring Valentine to Upstate Veterinary Clinic where he saw a cardiologist, Dr. Cassidy

Sedacca. What Dr. Sedacca uncovered was our worst fear: Valentine had significant enlargement of his heart wall, called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. The ultrasound findings along with his blood

Guardian Angel Fund really gave Valentine the quality of life he deserved."

The funds from our

work suggested that the enlarged heart may be due to lymphoma, or in words that we can all associate with, heart cancer. What Barb heard was "worst fear, cancer, 1-3 months, quality of life," which are words we all dread hearing about our pets. What Valentine must have heard was "Blah blah blah" as he surprised us all by continuing to thrive at Barb's home!

If we hadn't had the funds from our Guardian Angel Fund, I am sure Valentine would have passed away in March when he was in respiratory distress. Luckily, this kitty was able to obtain a diagnosis, which has helped him have a good quality of life. With the help of the Guardian Angel Fund and all those who have helped Valentine along the way, we continue to monitor his condition and keep him comfortable in Barb's home, where he is happy and safe.

Paws in the Park Walkin' in the Rain

Neither torrential rain nor near-gale-force winds could keep us from our destination: the second annual Paws in the Park Walk and Community Day at The Crossings on Saturday, June 11. Over 200 people were there to walk in the rain, and our intrepid volunteers and staff helped keep a grip on the tents! Many thanks to Grand Marshal Marci Natale of WRGB CBS6 and her dogs Roxie and Sergio, and to Grand Central Station for songs like "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head" to keep us all in the mood. The ValleyCats' SouthPaw and the Albany Devils' Devil Dawg were both on hand to cheer the walkers on to the finish. Despite the weather, we were able to raise over \$42,000.

A great round of applause and thanks to our hardworking and dedicated volunteers who made everything work smoothly and kept a sense of humor all morning long. And, a very special thanks to our generous sponsors and vendors: All Dawgs Training Services, AT&T, Bark Busters of Upstate New York, Coppola Design, Chris White the Dog Walker, F.A.B. Pet Things, Hunde Haus, Konyn Jewelry Creations, The Lazy Dog Cookie Company, Metroland, NEADS.org, Our Towne Rensselaer County, Photo Creations by Mary Pace, Rescue Me Dog Treats, Sandra O'Donnell Dog Coats, Shampoodle, Shawna's Dogs Doggy Daycare, TD Bank and Time Warner Cable.

Our top fundraisers were team Save-a-Bull with \$5,557 and individual Libby Post with \$2,516. Congratulations and a big "thanks" to them! Who will win the trophies next year?

We do know that thanks to everyone who participated, volunteered and pledged to this year's Paws in the Park, our animals are the true winners. Thanks to all for an amazing second year, and here's to a dry, sunny day and a fantastic walk in 2012!

Save-A-Bull

In February MHHS staff and volunteers met to get our new pit bull program off the ground. After much deliberation on names -- there were so many to choose from -- Save-A-Bull was born!

Tara Hanby, a veteran volunteer and foster parent, said, "It's been my goal for quite a while to help start a pit bull awareness and advocacy program at MHHS. Last year I began the necessary research and legwork to do it, and in January I pulled together a group of people who share my love of pit bulls and see the need, as I do, to help the breed."

The mission of the Save-a-Bull program is to reshape misperceptions regarding pit bulls, educate the public about what wonderful pets they can be, promote spay/neuter and training programs, and ultimately reduce the number of pit bulls that end up in shelters. The average pit bull stays at the shelter twice as long as other dogs before finding a home (an average of 30 days for pit bulls, versus 15 days for other breeds).

To date, Save-A-Bull has created a brochure to promote the program, scheduled low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for area pit bulls, held pit bull adoption events and vaccination clinics, and raised almost \$6,000 for the MHHS annual Paws in the Park walk.

For more information on how to promote, donate to or volunteer with Save-A-Bull, please email saveabull@mohawkhumane.org.











After reading an article about the tornado dogs that were brought up from the South, we decided we would make the trip from Saratoga Springs to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society. It didn't take long before we spotted Skye, the cutest little furball we had ever seen. We couldn't actually meet her until the next morning, but we knew immediately that she was going to be a part of our family.

After a sleepless night, we made the trip back the next morning to MHHS to meet Skye. When we finally got to meet her, she was the sweetest, happiest little girl we had ever seen.

Skye's new name is Bailey and she is the sweetest little girl ever. The whole family has fallen in love with her and she has brightened our home with her sweet little face and her wonderful personality. She is a perfectly mannered girl

who loves to get her belly rubbed. She loves her nightly walks and romping around with her new brother, Max.

Bailey has found her forever home and we don't know what we ever did without her. Thank you so much, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, for opening your doors to our wonderful new little girl, and thank you for everything you do to give so many wonderful animals a second chance.

Also a very special thank you to the caring, generous lady who made it possible for Skye and all the other animals to have a second chance in this area by transporting them out of the tornado-ridden South. Your generosity will never be forgotten!

- The Baitinger Family

Mohawk Hudson Humane Society goes Mobile

Over the past few months we have brought numerous dogs in need, like Skye, to the Humane Society from other parts of the country. We are lucky to be part of a community that cares enough for animals to come forward and open their homes to pets in need. The animals we transferred from other shelters were in dire circumstances and facing

euthanasia within just a few days, if not sooner.



Under normal circumstances, shelters are inundated with animals and have few adopters. When disaster strikes, such as the string of tornadoes that struck the Southeast, animals quickly run out of options.

Like Skye, most of the dogs transferred to us quickly found good, loving homes. In other cases, dogs needed extensive and expensive medical assistance before becoming available for adoption. Six of the dogs brought in had heartworm, which takes months to treat and costs hundreds of dollars. Those are just a few of the dogs that needed medical care once they arrived.

While we always want to help animals in need wherever they may be, we never turn away a local animal to make space for animals from other regions. Only when we have available kennels do we take animals from outside of our community to give them new hope for life and a home.



Tribute gifts listed here were received 4/1/11 – 7/15/11. More recent tributes will appear in future editions.

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Nino Abate

Joy Centofanti
Albert Harold Adams

Financial Accounting Foundation

Agnes & George Maureen Smith

John, Margaret, Tim & Happy

Albert

Pam Holcomb

Alexander the Great

Lynne Kaiser All our precious departed friends

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