

Capital Pet

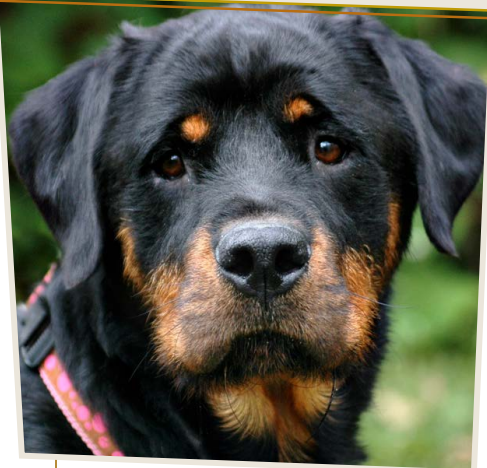


125 years
for ANIMALS



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

www.mohawkhumane.org
Fall 2012



Rescued

When the Fulton County Sheriff's Department entered a Mayfield woman's home to commence an eviction, they were surprised by what they found. The house was filled with animals -- over 30 dogs and puppies, along with 1 dog and 2 puppies that were deceased. An investigator was called in to document the poor conditions in which the animals were living, but the

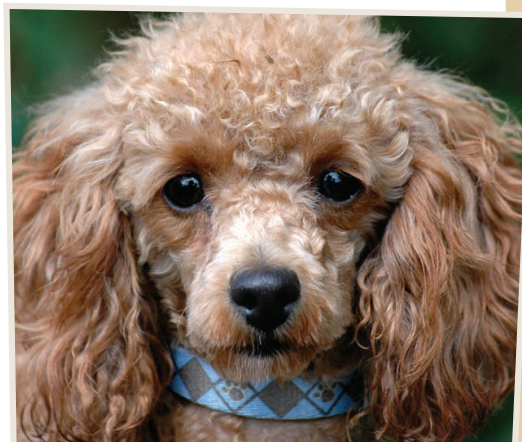
animals were not seized from their owner. Instead, they were temporarily moved to a local groomer and later to the home of a woman who had been charged with animal cruelty a year earlier.

As the town dog control officer explained, the dogs weren't seized because there was no shelter in Fulton County to take them; their SPCA had closed over two years ago. When we heard about the case, we called the Sheriff to offer our assistance. Although Mayfield is an hour away and far outside our service area, we wanted to be sure these dogs weren't continuing to suffer.

The Sheriff's Department asked our Medical Director, Dr. Sarah Madaio, and Humane Investigator, Tina Murray, to inspect the home where the dogs were being housed. After the inspection, Dr. Madaio and Officer Murray recommended removing the dogs from the home's unsanitary conditions. In addition, there were dogs in immediate need of medical attention: a dog with a leg that might be fractured, a nursing mother that was emaciated and her newborn puppies.

A warrant was issued and 33 dogs were seized and brought to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society. Every dog received a medical exam and treatment in a clean and safe environment. Those dogs must now be cared for by the Humane Society pending resolution of the case, which could take weeks or longer.

Although the Society is not the SPCA for Fulton County, we simply could not allow those animals to suffer just because there was no shelter to take them in their own county. Thankfully, we have a community that supports our animal shelter and allows us to reach out to others who have pets in need.



More photos of rescued dogs on page 8.

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Save the Date...

**8TH ANNUAL
ART SAVES ANIMALS**
Thursday, October 11, 2012 (5:30pm)
The Arts Center, Troy

**HAUNTED HOUND HALLOWEEN
COSTUME PARTY**
Friday, October 26, 2012 (6:30pm)
Lazy Dog Cookie Company,
Ballston Spa

6TH ANNUAL GALA
Saturday, April 27, 2013
Hilton Garden Inn, Troy

Going Green?

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

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

I am happy when I can report in our newsletters about our success and growth as an organization. Because of good planning, organization and a supportive community, we at the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society have been weathering the storm of a challenging economy that has increased the need for our services. Unfortunately, that is not the case in much of New York State.

You'll read in this issue about us reaching out to save dogs from cruelty in Fulton County. We had to go to Fulton because there was no shelter there to take the seized dogs. Their SPCA closed over two years ago and the county lost their humane investigator.

That same week, we took in 11 cats from a hoarding case in Schenectady. Earlier in the month, we helped Empire Rottweiler Rescue with the seizure of dozens of dogs in Orange County by providing temporary housing and veterinary care. The SPCA in that county was threatened with closure last fall, but has so far survived on growing donations. Earlier this year, we took in 25 cats from a hoarding case in Wyoming County because of problems at their SPCA. The only animal shelter in the Rockland County has announced they may close this summer because of a loss of funding.



In many parts of New York State, animal welfare is in crisis. Small organizations are struggling to survive and in some cases cannot take animals in need because they have no space or resources to care for them. You may be hearing that many non-profits are struggling because state funding has been cut. In the case of animal shelters, that state funding never existed. We do not get funding from the state or from any of the national organizations. Like other animal shelters, we are independent and rely on local residents to support our work. We will need that support because it is likely we will continue to be called upon to help animals throughout the region.

At the same time, law enforcement officials have come to depend on us to provide our services at no cost to the cities, towns and counties. Most do not budget anything to care for animals seized from cruelty cases. Government officials expect that we will be there to provide medical care and housing until their case is complete.

I have spoken with many of the leaders of animal protection groups throughout the state about how we have managed to continue operating in spite of challenges. My hope is that other communities will continue to support their own local shelters the way ours does. Until that happens, we will likely continue to be called upon to reach out beyond our community to help animals suffering from cruelty.

We may not be able to help in every case because the animals in need in our own community must come first, but we appreciate the support we receive that allows us to reach out across county lines. Nothing would be more frustrating than knowing animals are suffering and being unable to do anything for them. Thank you all for allowing us to fulfill our mission.

Brad Shear

Trainer's Corner School is Back in Session

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.

Education for our children is more than reading and arithmetic. Being safe around dogs should be part of every child's education. I am happy to see families walking their children to and from school and taking along the family dog. Moms and dads also wait at school bus stops with their family companion. Dogs are not only in our homes, they are in public a lot. Here are some dos and don'ts to keep everyone safe:

Do ask if you can pet a dog. Approach from in front and hold your hand out for the dog to sniff, then pet him gently under the chin.

Do monitor small children and pets at all times. Children can forget to leave "Max" alone while he is sleeping or eating. An adult should be present and vigilant when dogs and children are together. The dog is not to be ridden, poked at or have things thrown at him. There is no need for children to carry a puppy or small dog.

Don't run after a dog. He may become frightened and run further. He may have slipped out of the house and is now looking to get back home. If he is loose on the road, children should contact an adult to let them know which direction the dog was headed so it can be reported to Animal Control, who will help get the dog back home.

Do move slowly around a dog. Dogs like to chase not only balls and Frisbees but anything that moves fast. While teaching our dogs what are appropriate items to chase, children need to move quietly and not run around a dog.

Don't corner a dog. A dog that is moving away from you is saying in dog language that he needs more space. If his message goes unheeded, he may growl or snap.

Do teach children the responsibilities of owning a dog, but do not expect a young child to take on total responsibility of the dog. Children can be given a task such as changing the dog's water. Adults should acknowledge the child for doing such; a little verbal praise goes a long way.

Do become involve in training your family dog. Let training be a family activity. Children as young as three or four years old, with adult guidance, can join in on the training. When adults treat dogs kindly, children will learn to do the same.



Petco PARTNERSHIP

The Society has formed a new partnership with Petco in Clifton Park, which began July 7 with the store's grand reopening. This new satellite adoption center, located at 6 Halfmoon Crossing (off Route 9 near Route 146 and Northway Exit 9), will be staffed by Humane Society volunteers who handle care, cleaning and adoptions.

The first adoption happened the very first day when a family came in to find a companion kitten for the cat they adopted from us a year earlier. The Clifton Park Petco will join the Society's other two cat-adoption satellite locations, the PetSmart stores in Glenmont and Latham. Both PetSmart locations celebrated their 1,000th adoptions earlier this year.

tributes

Tribute gifts listed here were processed 4/1/2012 - 7/15/2012.

In Memory Of...

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Lydia & Bill Blankenship
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Jack McGrath

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Billy

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Martha Bohling

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Anne & Stu Fass
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Paws in the Park

Paws in the Park moved to the Siena College campus this year, and what a great place for our third annual Walk and Community Day held Saturday, June 9. Close to 300 people participated, raising over \$37,000. In addition, our very good friends at Goldstein Auto Group held an Empties for Animals bottle drive in front of Siena Hall and collected hundreds of recyclable cans and bottles in a few short hours.

We want to thank Marci Natale of WRGB CBS 6 and her dogs Roxie and Sergio for serving as Grand Marshals. A very special thank you goes to Siena President Father Kevin J. Mullen for presiding over the Blessing of the Animals – a highlight! Michele Tsamardinos helped warm things

up with some Zumba for pets and walkers, with the help of music from Grand Central Station. Rowdy the Rat, an MHHS alum adopted by the Tri-City ValleyCats after the River Rats left town, and Devil Dawg were both on hand to cheer on the walkers. Ayco's Community Team Works took on the task of judging the Best Costume, Best Trick and Parent/Pet Look-alike contests. It was tough to select the winners! Thanks to everyone who participated, volunteered and pledged, our animals are the true winners.

A great round of applause and thanks to our hardworking and dedicated volunteers who made everything run smoothly, and to our generous sponsors and vendors:

Animal Health Care Center, Coppola Design, Metroland, A Walk in the Park, Bark Busters of Upstate New York, Sand Creek Animal Hospital, All Dawgs Training Services, Barefoot Books, Big Monk Games, Hounds on the Hudson, Konyn Jewelry Creations, Rescue Me Dog Treats, TD Bank, Northeast Pyr Rescue, Save-a-Bull and the Pumpkin Fund.

Top Fundraising Team: Save-a-Bull
Top Individual Fundraiser: Laura Anglin

Who will win the trophy next year? It could be you. Mark your calendars for June 8, 2013 and plan to join us again at Siena College for our fourth annual Paws in the Park.



Ayco Paints for the Dogs

July 17 dawned hot and humid, but that did not deter a dedicated group of volunteers from Ayco Company, L.P. from their assignment. They came to scrape, prime and paint our main dog adoption area, and the results speak for themselves. Our adoption-floor kennels look better than ever and will help showcase dogs who are looking

for their forever homes. Many thanks to John Norton (not just a great photographer!) for organizing the project, to Ayco Company, and to all the Ayco employees who gave their time and energy to help our animals.



Storm-Displaced Cat Reunited with Family

There were eight people in Debra Folkes' home on Glenswick Road when Tropical Storm Irene approached the Capital Region, including her two-week-old grandchild. Debra also shared her home with two cats, a Quaker parrot and a five-year-old fish.

As the wind howled and the rain pounded down around them, Debra began to worry because her basement was filling up with water. She kept checking the tree in the backyard, concerned it would fall because of the wind. She jokingly told her family that if they heard the tree fall, they should all run. Shortly after her attempt to lighten the mood, Debra and her family heard a horrific noise. She grabbed her grandchild and everyone ran for the front door. She could hear trees cracking and falling as she ran, but she had an odd sensation that she was going faster and further than she was running. As they got to the front door, they couldn't open it so her son kicked it until they could get out. Debra didn't know it at the time, but her home had shifted 12 feet forward off its foundation because of a mudslide caused by the storm.

It slowly dawned on Debra that although everything she owned was gone, the human

residents of the home had escaped without injury. Miraculously, the fish and the bird were also saved, but Debra was saddened that their cats, 12-year-old Hannibal and 3-year-old Ming, had been lost.

Debra returned every day to search for the cats. She had a bad feeling about Hannibal, who usually stayed in the cellar, but she was hopeful that Ming may have gotten out. After waiting and looking for months, Debra finally concluded that she had lost both of her cats.

On April 1, a beautiful stray flamepoint Siamese mix cat came to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society and we named her Sandy. Sandy was not only beautiful but exceptionally friendly. She spent a few days in our infirmary as she was slightly dehydrated and underweight. When she was back to full health, Sandy made her way to our satellite adoption center at PetSmart in Latham.

By pure chance, Debra went to PetSmart with a friend and happened to walk by the adoption area. She immediately noticed Sandy, who she knew in her heart was her missing cat Ming! Since the adoption

center was closed at the time, Debra raced home and got on the computer to compare photos she had of Ming to the photos and videos we had posted on the MHHS website of Sandy. It was her! The family couldn't wait to go back and get their little survivor.



Ming was found only a few blocks away from her original home. We'll never know how she got out of the house as it slid down the hill or what she went through during her months on the streets of Troy. We do know that Ming is now back where she belongs, safe at home with her family. She has truly weathered a storm.



Happy Tails *jojo*

Jojo Finds His Way Home

In late June, a Society staff member found "Jojo" tied to a pole in the parking lot and brought him inside. Scanning for microchips is a regular part of the Society's intake process to see if there is a chip that can help identify the owner. Jojo had a 24 Pet Watch microchip and the company contacted the original owners, Nancy & Jose Alcala.

A year ago, the Alcalas had to sell their house and move into an apartment that did not allow pets, so they gave Jojo to what they thought was a good home. That family split up and gave him to another family.

No one knows how Jojo came to New York State and the Humane Society, but luckily there was a tiny chip that led to his original family. They drove from Michigan Friday night after work, arriving in Menands midday Saturday, June 30. They were overjoyed to be reunited with Jojo, who is now back in Michigan.

Jojo is the perfect example of the importance of proper identification and microchipping.

Before and after photos by John Norton / Grooming by Chiloe Hunt, The Animal House, Cohoes

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