



Humane Society of Westchester

AT NEW ROCHELLE

from our home to yours

Spring 2019

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

John Feldtmose

The Humane Society of Westchester is proud to announce that we are one of 13 animal shelters across New York State to receive funding from the New York State Companion Animal Capital Fund. Nearly \$4.5 million was awarded in total, and, along with five other shelters, we received the maximum award possible, \$500,000! The New York State funds will be used to expand and upgrade our facilities by adding a new second floor, including space to improve animal socialization, training, and community humane education.

We will also be building out a significant extension to the front of the building to better serve our customers and adopters, for which we have already received several significant gifts from foundations and supporters. We are working closely with our architect to finalize the plans for the expansion on the first and second floors and are moving forward with building approvals from the City of New Rochelle. Over the summer, we will obtain bids from construction contractors with the hope of breaking ground in the Fall.

We will share more details about our renovation and modernization plans in the not too distant future. Stay tuned.

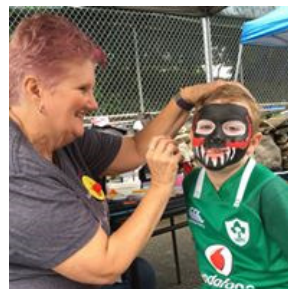


UPCOMING EVENT

Sunday, July 21st - 19th Annual Dog Wash - (10:00am - 3:00pm)

This event will take place on the shelter grounds at 70 Portman Road in New Rochelle. It has been getting bigger and better every year. In addition to dog washing there will be nail clipping, microchipping, food, raffles, vendors and activities for kids and dogs. We will have a professional photographer who will take family portraits and someone who can answer any questions you might have about dog training problems. Come for a fun-filled day.

If you are interested in being a vendor please send an e-mail to events@humanesocietyofwestchester.org.



Mission Statement

The Humane Society of Westchester is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to promoting the human/animal bond through the compassionate care and treatment of animals throughout the communities we serve in Westchester County and beyond. To that end, our goal is to create a living environment that is not just a shelter, but a transitional home for stray, lost, abandoned, injured, and abused animals, until they can ultimately be placed in loving permanent homes.

Through promotion of successful pet adoption, animal population control, and public education of animal welfare issues, we advance our belief that pet ownership is a lifetime commitment.

Services

Adoptions
Animal Rescue
Lost and Found
Animal Welfare Education
Spay/Neuter Certificates
Dog Training
Pet Therapy

Board of Directors

Dr. Paul Amerling
Judith Elkin
John Feldtmose
Dianne Heim
Carol Marinaccio
Shawn Smith
Lee Anne Veley
Diane Wade

Humane Society of Westchester

70 Portman Road

New Rochelle, NY 10801

(914) 632-2925

FAX (914) 632-0445

humanesocietyofwestchester.org

E-mail: petadopt@verizon.net

Look for us on Facebook

"No amount of time can erase the memory of a good cat and no amount of masking tape can ever totally remove his fur from your couch."

Pam Brown

"Without my dog my wallet would be full, my house would be clean, but my heart would be empty" aplacetolovedogs.com

"The best therapist has fur and four legs."
aplacetolovedogs.com

FROM OUR SHELTER MANAGER

Dana Rocco

K9 Officer Hype

Dottie, a pretty, gold-colored pit-bull mix, came to the shelter with a bouncing body and ever-wagging tail. She loved men, women and children, and – most of all – tennis balls! She was given up by her family, who said she was "too active."

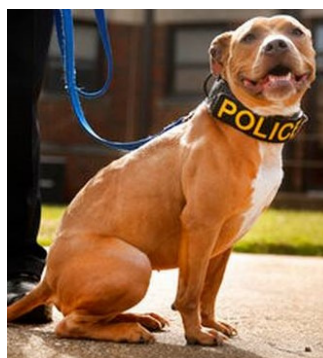
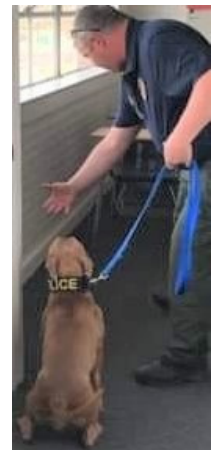


Dottie lived at the shelter for several months while we tried to find a home that could handle her level of activity. It proved to be an enormous challenge. When Dottie was put in our main kennel, she would become very "hyper" – endlessly barking and spinning. We had to keep her in a small isolation area. Even there she struggled.



Then one day, Animal Farm Foundation* came to the shelter, hoping to recruit dogs for various programs. They immediately noticed Dottie, took her out for a preliminary evaluation, and

quickly realized she had the potential to be a working K9!



GRADUATION

Animal Farm took Dottie back to their facility to further evaluate her. Dottie was eventually sent to a program in Texas, run by Sector K9 that trains dogs to search for illegal substances during law enforcement.

Dottie successfully completed her training, graduated, and was officially renamed "K9 Officer Hype." With her new partner, Officer Don Kowe, on their first shift after graduation, Hype and her partner had their first illegal drug find!

We could not be prouder of K9 Officer Hype!

**Most police departments will only consider German Shepherds and Malinois for police work. Animal Farm Foundation, founded in the 1980s, is working tirelessly to change that. Animal Farm Foundation has been strong advocate against breed discrimination, particularly for Pit Bull Terrier mixes.*

PUTTING SOME TEETH IN ANIMAL RIGHTS

Judith Elkin J.D.

New York State currently ranks 33rd among U.S. states based on the weakness of its animal protection laws according to the Animal Legal Defense Fund. But changes are afoot in the New York State Legislature. Two recent bills seek to significantly increase protections for companion animals and the people who love them.

Bella's Bill, introduced by Assembly member Linda Rosenthal, seeks to clarify, modernize and restructure the animal crimes law of New York State by promoting greater enforcement and consistent interpretation of animal crimes by members of law enforcement, attorneys and the judiciary. Bella was an 11 year-old Shepherd mix who was beaten and strangled by her owner. She died from her injuries in December 2016. Because of the lack of clarity in NYS animal abuse laws, her owner served only 4 months of jail time. In order to rectify these inadequacies, the focal point of Bella's Bill is to move many of the animal cruelty provisions for companion animals currently found in the Agriculture and Markets Law to the Penal Code. The bill provides for expanded definitions of animal cruelty to companion animals and increased penalties for violations, gives prosecutors and law enforcement new enforcement tools and empowers the courts to order mental health counseling as part of probation. Given the many documented studies showing a direct link between animal cruelty and violence towards others, including children and intimate partners, stronger penalties for animal abuse can have a direct impact on the health and well-being of New York communities.

Another set of bills pending before the NYS Assembly and the NYS Senate seek to ban pet stores from selling dogs, cats and rabbits. The mirror bills (introduced by Rep. Linda Rosenthal in the Assembly and Sen. Michael Gianaris in the Senate) are an attempt to eliminate so called "puppy mills" which breed and house animals in unhealthy and unsafe ways. Pet stores will continue to be able to sell pet supplies and services, and will be encouraged to establish relationships with local shelters and animal rescue organizations fostering the adoption of dogs, cats and rabbits. From the animal protection standpoint, the purpose of the bills is to end the pipeline from puppy mills and kitten and rabbit factories, create penalties for inhumane conditions at such operations and increase the placement of shelter animals, thereby reducing euthanasia rates.

From the consumer protection standpoint, the purpose of the bills is to educate consumers who are unaware of the conditions at mills/factories and adopt animal who often have hidden health issues (congenital due to breeding practices and others due to inadequate care and conditions at mills). Currently, only two other states, California and Maryland, have passed similar legislation, though several NYS communities have done so on a local level. While reputable breeders of purebred dogs and cats are registered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and follow strict breeding guidelines, current federal law and enforcement of USDA guidelines are inadequate. Many national pet store chains like PetSmart and Petco have adopted policies similar to those set forth in this proposed legislation and no longer sell dogs or cats, but rather team up with local shelters and rescue organizations fostering adoptions.



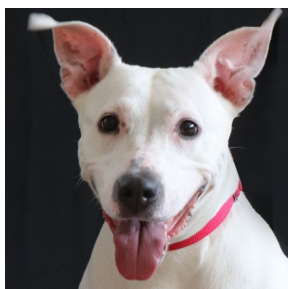
DOGS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

BORIS



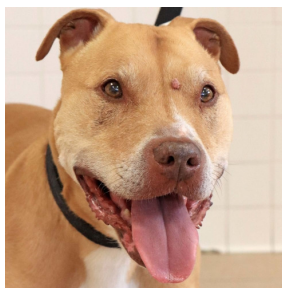
**TRULY A GENTLE
GIANT**

DIAMOND



**WILL BE THE GEM
IN YOUR LIFE**

CLYDE



**VERY SWEET
FRIENDLY SENIOR**

SHOLI and DUA



**BONDED SISTER AND BROTHER
BEAUTIFUL SHEPHERDS**

HE'S NOT A CHILD'S TOY. HE'S A REAL, LIVE, 10-YEAR COMMITMENT.

It's that time of year again. Pet store windows are filled with adorable baby bunnies. Your kids are begging you to buy one. It's so hard to resist. After all, you think, wouldn't this be the perfect, low-maintenance "starter pet" for a young child?

Think again! Every year, many thousands of rabbits are abandoned to shelters or released outdoors (a sure death sentence for a domestic rabbit), often because of misunderstandings on the part of the parents who bought them for their kids.

Rabbits are prey animals by nature. They are physically delicate and fragile, and require specialized veterinary care. Children are naturally energetic, exuberant, and loving. But "loving" to a small child usually means holding, cuddling, carrying an animal around in whatever grip their small hands can manage—precisely the kinds of things that make most rabbits feel insecure and frightened. Rabbits handled in this way will often start to scratch or bite, simply out of fear. Many rabbits are accidentally dropped by small children, resulting in broken legs and backs.



Those rabbits who survive the first few months quickly reach maturity and are no longer tiny and "cute." Kids often lose interest, and the rabbit, who has no voice to remind you he's hungry or thirsty or needs his cage

cleaned, is gradually neglected.

Parents, please help! If you're thinking about adding a rabbit to your family, think about this: pet rabbits have a life span of 7-10 years. Don't buy on impulse. Make an informed decision by learning about rabbit care first. Consider adopting a rabbit from your local shelter or rescue group. For the rabbit's health and well-being (as well as for your child's) make sure an adult will be the primary caretaker and will always supervise any children in the household who are interacting with the rabbit. Domestic rabbits are inquisitive, intelligent, and very social by nature. A rabbit is a delightful companion animal as long as you remember: he's not a child's toy. He's a real, live, 10-year commitment.

For more information on rabbit care and adoptions in your area, contact your local humane society or visit the house rabbit society at www.rabbit.org.

© Mary E. Cotter, 2002

ANIMAL RESCUE BY THE NUMBER

In most of our newsletters and on our Facebook page, we relate "Happy Tails" – feel good stories about dog and cat rescues (like cats taken out from under the hoods of cars or in wheel wells), adoptions of hard to place animals, rescues from hoarders and other heartwarming stories about animals whose lives started out tough but got the golden ticket of a loving home. Today we want to give you the broader picture of the labor of love that the Humane Society of Westchester, through its dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters, performs, which lead to those Happy Tails.

From January 1 to December 31, 2018, 438 dogs were adopted from our shelter. During that same time period, 142 lost dogs were returned to their very happy owners. Additionally, 696 cats, ranging from kittens to senior, were placed in loving homes.



Our Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) program resulted in 429 cats being spayed (female) or neutered (male) in

2018. This program consists of volunteers who trap cats living in colonies in many areas of Westchester. The cats are brought to the shelter and fixed so they cannot reproduce again. The adult cats who are tame are kept at the shelter and put up for adoption, as are the many kittens who are trapped. Kittens who arrive without a mother are hand raised by staff members in their homes and by volunteers who are trained for the job. The feral cats (those that cannot be habituated to living with a family) are returned to the colony from which they were taken where they have caretakers who provide them with food, water and shelter for the remainder of their lives.

Our contracts with 19 communities in Westchester stipulate that we will take in lost, injured and abused animals in their service area. Thus, we respond to police calls about stray dogs and assist with rescues from animal hoarders. We also take in animals who can no longer be cared for by their owners for whatever reason. When our kennel is not full, we rescue animals from over-crowded shelters, mainly in the south and mid-west. Many of these areas do not have spay/neuter programs as a priority, as we do, and as a result they have more animals than space or potential adopters. A transport brings these animals to us where, after being in isolation to make sure they are not bringing in any illnesses, they are evaluated for temperament and put up for adoption. In 2018, 284 dogs who most likely would have been euthanized for space reasons at other shelters found a second chance with us.

These statistics, as well as our individual animal stories, are the true "Happy Tails."



NEW YEAR'S EVE PUPPIES

On December 2, 2017 Kasie, a pregnant dog, came to us from an overcrowded shelter where her chance of surviving was not great. We were happy to take her in and on Christmas Day she gave birth to nine adorable puppies. Since we had had a Christmas litter, all of whom received Christmas names, we decided to give Kasie's puppies New Year's Eve names since it was so close to the end of 2017. Their names were Champagne (F), Confetti (F), Clink (M), Bubbles (M), Swizzle (M), Cork (M), Toast (M), Wish and Party (M). All of them were adopted including mom.



Fast forward 16 months. The puppies, some with new names, are now all grown up. Six of them get together for a brother and sister play date about once a month. One of the dogs, Wish, was recently returned since a new baby was allergic to him. The very good news is that Wish has been adopted. His new name is Sam and he is living in Manhattan. Hopefully, he will become one of those who joins the monthly play group with his siblings.



TO INSURE OR NOT TO INSURE

Paul Amerling DVM

Over the past 10 years, pet insurance has become much more commonplace, and people ask me every day about my opinion on whether or not they should get insurance for their pets.

When most people get a pet, they are prepared for the fact that they will need regular veterinary care, including visits, vaccinations, and medications for various ailments, and they budget accordingly. The cost of an unexpected emergency can make the difference between a successful outcome or an unfortunate decision to euthanize or surrender their loved one.

Also, with the high level of care we can provide these days, comparable to equivalent care for people, and the level of technology commonly used in veterinary offices, the bills can get very high, very quickly. Having an insurance policy that allows you to make medical decisions instead of financial ones, can make the difference in an already tense situation.

There are many pet insurance companies out there, and many different policies that these companies carry, so doing your homework to find the best policy for your family may take some time. I'm sure your veterinarian can help you make some of these decisions, so please have this conversation with your vet. at your next visit.

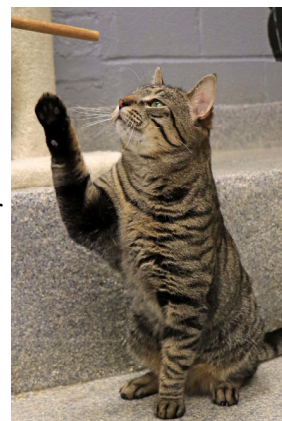
KITTENS, KITTENS, KITTENS

Kitten season has begun. This is when new born kittens are arriving at the shelter in need of care. Why not sign up to become a foster mom or family. Visit our web site - humanesocietyofwestchester.org for more information.

TRAINING GOING TO THE CATS

When we think of training our pets, most of us envision training dogs or puppies. Most of us, but not all of us! On April 12th our trainer, Ferdie Yau, presented "Feline Behavior and Training," a workshop for our volunteers, most of whom walk and train dogs. A fascinated group of volunteers listened intently as Ferdie described cat behavior and explained the importance of shelter enrichment.

Ferdie has begun working with a very shy cat named Nelly Rose, teaching her to touch her nose to a "target stick," in order to receive a cat treat. As a result of patient training, this formerly shy cat has recently been coming out of her hiding box.



Here is a simple behavior that everyone can teach their cat. Present a short stick to your cat. Then, when your cat sniffs to investigate, verbally "mark" that behavior (we use the word "yes!"), and offer the cat a very tiny treat (we use Temptation cat treats, broken in half). Present the stick again and repeat the process. Keep these mini-training sessions short (only 1-2 minutes long), and repeat them whenever you have a moment throughout the day. As your cat begins to understand, you can present the stick a few inches farther away, so that the cat must move to touch the stick. You can then use this behavior to teach other tricks that involve moving the cat in different directions, such as spinning.

Want to become a better dog trainer? Come on down to our shelter, become a volunteer, and learn how to train cats. Any dog trainer will tell you, training a non-canine species will improve your training skills immensely!

Humane Society of Westchester
70 Portman Road
New Rochelle, NY 10801

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
White Plains NY
Permit No. 1795

SENIOR CATS FOR ADOPTION

HARRY



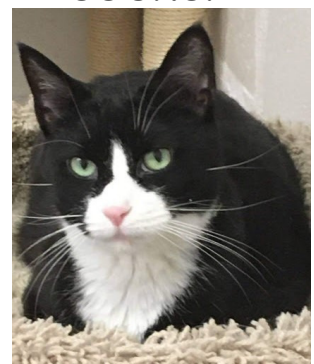
KITSY



REPETE



SOCKSIE



Soon kittens will be coming into the shelter in large numbers. They will all find homes very quickly. Who can resist an adorable kitten? But it's our old friends we are hoping will find loving homes in which to finish out their lives, no matter how much time that will be. They deserve a second chance! Please come and open your home and hearts to one of our seniors.