



Humane Society of Westchester

AT NEW ROCHELLE

from our home to yours

Spring/Summer
2021

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

John N. Feldtmose

Dear Friends,

It is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I share with you that the shelter renovation is complete! As you can see from the photos on pages 3 and 6 of this newsletter, our new home is absolutely beautiful! As you can imagine, we're very excited – first of all, to be done with the construction, but mostly because we have a beautiful, modern and functional humane society for the first time – ever!

Thanks to *you*, we have been able to remain operational since the onset of the pandemic – we have adopted out more kittens and cats than any winter season in our history – set records with small animal adoptions such as guinea pigs and hamsters, survived the pandemic, and completed our shelter renovation. Our staff, and a core of dedicated volunteers, have worked tirelessly over this past year to keep us going – sheltering strays, rescuing abandoned animals, and finding the perfect “forever” homes.

Our capital campaign is also near 99% of our goal, thanks to you. There are still a few select opportunities to fund specific needs. Please contact us immediately if you wish to support this project.

Mark your calendars: We will be Live Streaming our ribbon cutting celebration on July 13th at 12 noon. More information will be shared on our Facebook and website!

On behalf of all the animals who come to us in need, thank you for providing them a transitional home that is modern, safe, and full of love while they await adoption.

John N. Feldtmose
President, Humane Society of Westchester



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

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Look for us on Facebook**

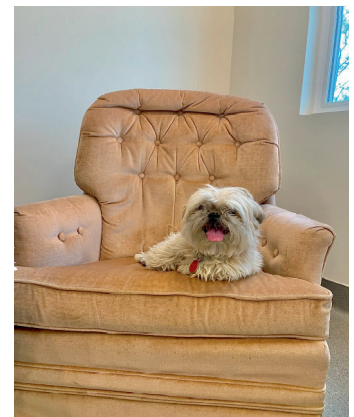
FROM OUR SHELTER MANAGER



One of my favorite things about our construction project involved creating a real-life room. I am sure you are wondering, “what is a real-life room?” The real-life room is designed to be home-like. Comfy living chairs, coffee tables, end tables, and other furniture are more like where the animals came from and where they will be going when they are adopted.

Living in a dog kennel can be very stressful for most dogs that came from a home. The real-life room can help stressed animals experience a calming environment where staff can get to know the animals better in a relaxed way. Studies have shown most dogs are much less stressed living in real-life rooms. The calming effect of the real-life room benefits the animals during their time with us, helps us get to know their true personalities, and matches them with the right owners.

I’m happy to share a few pictures here, but watch our Facebook and Instagram as we start to introduce animals into the room in the upcoming months.





Our New Home

We are excited to open our new, state-of-the-art shelter! The capabilities of our new facilities and some lessons learned during the pandemic have shown us that we can operate in a smarter, more efficient way that will be safer for our animals and adopters and provide a more personalized adoption experience.

Our hours of operation are **10 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily**. The shelter is open, but for everyone's safety, adopters must make an appointment in advance to schedule a visit with potential pets. Our beautiful, new adoption rooms provide the perfect setting to get to know your new pet. To make sure that we are choosing the perfect pet for you, please fill out an application form in advance so that we can get to know you, your home, and members of your family to ensure the perfect match.

Applications can be found on our website at <https://humanesocietyofwestchester.org/information-about-adopting-a-pet>.

We are so grateful to our wonderful volunteers. While we are still scaling up to reopen to volunteers in person we have begun a virtual volunteer program. Please see page 5 for more information about this program.

We hope you will love our new facilities as much as we do. Here's to happy adoptions and forever homes!



A New Partnership

The Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, located in the Red Rock country of Kanab, Utah (near Zion and Bryce National Parks) is comprised of 3,700 acres and houses nearly 1,600 homeless animals.

When their New York office reached out to our shelter to assist an overcrowded shelter in Polk County, Florida we couldn't say no. The cats were living in dog kennels with 20-30 cats per kennel. Most of them would never make it out. Best Friends working with this shelter, created the Cat Bus! Thanks to their creative and out of the box thinking, the Cat Bus transports were launched! Many rescues and shelters stepped up to save lives. Since then over 264 lives have been saved. Teamwork makes the dream work!

The Humane Society of Westchester received more than 70 of these cats and kittens over a four month period.

The Humane Society of Westchester, Columbia-Green Humane Society/SPCA, Humane Society of Walden NY, Paws Crossed Animal Rescue, Ulster County SPCA, Pets Alive, Jersey Shore Animal Center and Dutchess County SPCA all opened their doors and hearts to helping pets in need!

In the future we are hoping to help them with overcrowded dog situations as well.

When shelters and rescues work together to #SAVETHEMALL, (SAVE THEM ALL) miracles truly happen!





Nickie

Layla

Two Dogs Are Better Than One

Long-time dog owners Bob and Kathy Curran came to the Humane Society of Westchester in late February 2020 looking for a second dog to be a companion to their Basenji mix, Layla. The Currans had visited a few rescues before coming to the shelter, but no dog had yet stolen their hearts until they met Nickie. Nickie, then “Nicky,” had been patiently waiting for Kathy and Bob to take him home. He had been in the shelter for a month, but no one was the perfect match until Nicky, Bob, and Kathy met. Bob and Kathy shared that when they brought Layla to meet Nickie they hit it off like brother and sis-

ter right away, “at first, they were ignoring each other,” Bob recalled, “but then they were quickly playful and got along well together.” Nickie knew he had found his forever home when he arrived at the Currans and found his own comforter and a comfy spot on the couch. He promptly settled in for his first of many naps with his new family.

The Currans were the perfect home Nickie had been waiting for, but even as long-time dog owners, the pandemic was not an easy transition for Bob, Kathy, Layla, and Nickie. With everyone home a lot more, the family started to find relief in long walks to downtown Ridgefield, Connecticut and back home. Nickie and Layla enjoyed the walks, and locals would often stop, smile, and pat Nickie and Layla. The dogs brought joy to so many in town each day.

Nickie was a great source of joy for Bob and Kathy, who lost their beloved Sammy just a month before adopting Nickie. Bob and Kathy always believed that having two dogs was better and even easier than just one; Kathy shared, “having two dogs is better than one – especially when you are out of the house working, or away for a long time. Dogs can reduce each other’s anxiety and create stability when the owners are away.”

We asked the Currans for some tips and advice on adopting an adult dog, socializing, and finding a place in your heart when you might still be missing a dog that has passed away; they share:

Let the dog settle in: Share the couch with your dog and a good book or light music. Just let the dog be in his or her new home and relax.

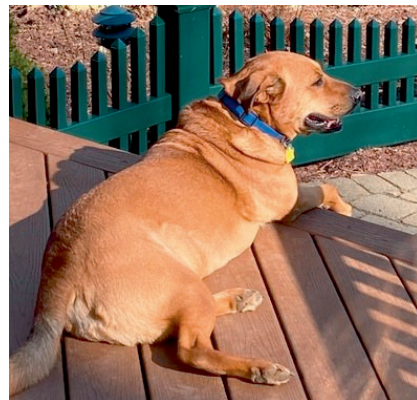
Don’t expect that your dog will be ready to socialize right off the bat, and it might take a few tries interacting with other dogs.

Senior dogs are lovely and can be just as full of life as a puppy.

Keep an open mind when you adopt – you won’t *replace* a dog that has passed, but you will *give* another dog a new chance at life.



First Day Home



Loving the Outside

Virtual Volunteer Program

Volunteer opportunities that strengthen college applications and offer required community service hours have been severely limited due to Covid.

In keeping with Covid restrictions, we are now launching our VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM!

This will enable volunteers of all ages, all walks of life, and all areas of the country to volunteer time to help us help our animals. While we are unable to host volunteers in person at the shelter, you can still HELP by collecting monetary and in kind donations. You might even want to partner with your pet in a virtual dog walk. All this will go to a great cause - The Humane Society of Westchester!

To find directions on how to participate, suggested events you might like to hold, plus a list of items needed at this time please go to:

<https://humanesocietyofwestchester.org/virtual-volunteer-program/>

From Hero to Rescuer

On Wednesday evening, Mike Vaccaro was in the parking lot of Chickens Gone Wild in New Rochelle, when a tiny kitten was discovered trapped in a car engine. Safeway Towing was called in to jack up the car, (which they gladly did, free of charge!) and 3 hours later, (3 HOURS!!!), the kitten was saved! The tireless work and kindness was all well spent, to give "Lucky (Chicken) Nugget" a chance for a long, safe and happy life.

"Lucky (Chicken) Nugget" recovered from this scary ordeal and was soon adopted by the man who rescued her. What a great ending for both of them.



From Our Home To Yours



Mercedes-Benz of New Rochelle

A HUGE thank you to Mercedes-Benz of New Rochelle and the Pepe Auto Group for an amazing day! We visited there on Thursday,

May 20th with some adorable adoptable puppies and kittens who definitely enjoyed all of the love and attention they received.



Pepper

We raffled off three great baskets, one for cats, one for dogs and one donated by Mercedes-Benz which will benefit our "Help Heal Fund." This fund helps pay for extensive and expensive medical care for animals such as our kitten Pepper, who recently underwent open heart surgery to repair a congenital disorder.

We are so proud to partner with an organization that truly cares about homeless animals and supports our mission of finding them forever homes.



We cannot wait for the next event!

Children Save Kittens

These cuties were fortunately found near our amazing neighborhood school, Jefferson Elementary! Some sharp-eyed students spotted these guys, alerted their teachers who called us. And thank goodness, as the kittens were in need of medical attention. Now safe and sound, they will be available for adoption in a few weeks.



Humane Society of Westchester
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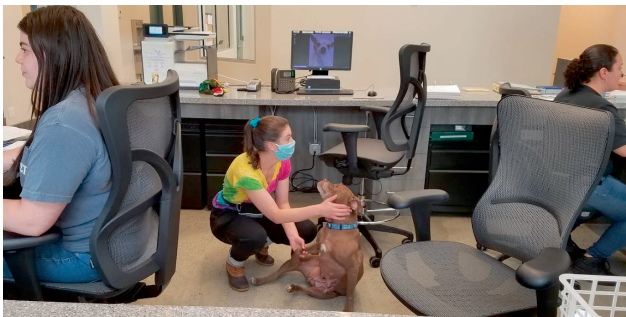
New Dog Kennels



Get Acquainted Room



New Cat Room



Reception Area



Staff Office



Real-Life Room