



# Humane Society of Westchester

AT NEW ROCHELLE

*from our home to yours*

Fall 2016

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*John Feldtmose*

Over the last 20 years we have increased the number of municipalities that we service from 12 to 19, and we have greatly expanded the services we offer and the people we serve. We presently service 19 communities in Westchester County, all the way from Tarrytown up on the Hudson River down to Rye on Long Island Sound.

Our current services include animal rescue and control, adoptions, lost and found, dog training, humane education, low cost spay/neuter certificates, and trap/neuter/return of feral cats. In addition to increasing the areas we serve (basically all of Southern Westchester), we have increased the number of animals we care for, the volume of adopters, and the number of customers and volunteers who visit the shelter.

As a result, it is becoming critical that we expand our current cramped facilities to be able to continue to provide excellent services to the increased number of animals and people we care for. We have retained an architect and have begun the preliminary planning regarding the space we need for both the animals in our care and the people who visit and work in the shelter. Once we determine our needs and objectives, we will have final plans drawn and get estimates of the cost of such an expansion. And at that time we will initiate an expansion fund campaign to raise the money for the building project. We're hopeful construction will begin sometime in 2017.

So keep your eyes out for mail and email from the Humane Society of Westchester where we will keep you informed about our expansion progress.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Hounds on the Sound Dog Walk/Festival - Harbor Island in Mamaroneck - Sunday, Oct. 9th - 10am to 3pm**

See page 4 for more details. **MARK YOUR CALENDER TODAY!**

**Rye Brook Howl-O-Ween Party - Pine Ridge Park in Rye Brook - Saturday, Oct. 22nd - 10 am to noon**

Games, raffles and doggie costume contest to benefit the shelter.

**Free Rabies Vaccination/Low Cost Microchipping Clinic - Sunday, Oct. 23rd - At the Shelter - 11am to 3pm**

**Howliday Holiday Shopping - Nov. 5th - 11am to 3:00pm**

Stop by the shelter for your holiday shopping.

**Holiday Pet Photos - Sunday, Nov. 6th and Saturday Nov. 12th - 10am to 3pm**

Celebrate the holidays with your pet. \$25 for a 5x7 Christmas-themed or Chanukah-themed photograph. Additional prints and holiday card options are available. Photographers - Nov.6th Lisa Wallis Margulies of Snooty Dog Photography - Nov.12th Matt LaMonica.

**HSW Facebook Online Auction - Friday, Nov. 25th (6pm)to Friday, Dec. 9th (8pm)**

Check our web site [www.humanesocietyof Westchester](http://www.humanesocietyof Westchester) for more details.

## 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

Carlette Allen - Honorary  
Dr. Paul Amerling  
Judith Elkin  
John Feldtmose  
Dianne Heim  
Carol Marinaccio  
Melissa Romita  
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**

Please visit our **Thrift Shop** at 54 Centre Avenue in New Rochelle to drop off merchandise or to search for bargains. The store hours are Tuesday-Friday 11:00 to 3:30 and Saturday from 11:00 to 4:00. There you can find clothing for women, including shoes and purses, men and children clothing, household items, jewelry and hidden treasures. Visit our web site for more information and pictures, or the store's Facebook page.

## **FROM OUR SHELTER MANAGER**

*Dana Rocca*

Browsing Facebook one night, a photograph immediately caught my eye. The photo was of a dog standing in the middle of the road. This photo was taken by an

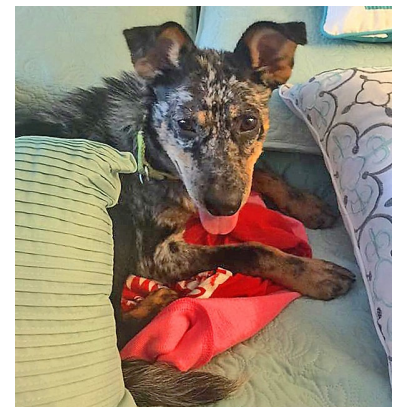


animal control officer sent to investigate a complaint about the condition of the dog. The dog was an older puppy, only 7 months old. Most pups of this age are enjoying the attention of their families, surrounded by toys and enjoying cuddles in laps. This pup was clearly neglected. There was no fur covering her body as it was completely covered in sores. Within a few minutes and a few messages going back and forth between the person posting the photos and me the Hu-

mane Society of Westchester made the commitment to rescue this dog. The pup was in Ohio, part of a rescue group we have worked with for several years. When the Humane Society of Westchester has empty kennels, we reach out to this group asking if we can help. This Ohio rescue pulls dogs and puppies out of shelters where euthanizing dogs and puppies to make room for the next day's surrenders is a sad reality.

The Ohio volunteers named her Junie B after the children's story book series. It took several weeks of medical care before Junie B. was well enough to travel to NY. When Junie B arrived she had a beautiful multi-colored spotted coat. Quite a surprise since we had no idea what color or even what breed type she was. For Junie B. adjusting to NY was initially quite challenging for her. For this country gal walking on a leash was something that was new to her, though cuddling on laps was something that came without any coaxing.

Although Junie B. required more treatment for her skin after arriving at the Humane Society of Westchester and needed the attention of our trainer and volunteers to overcome some fears, it was not too long before she captured the heart of an adopter. Junie's new mom wrote the following "She's made herself at home right away, we love her so much !"



That is what it's all about, **"From our home to yours!"**



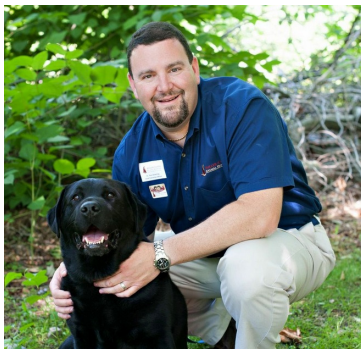
## FROM THE VET

*Paul Amerling, DVM*

The fall is usually a welcome time of year for many. The relief of summer's relentless heat and humidity allows us to return to the active lifestyle we enjoy. This should include our pets too. Too many of our pets put on a few extra pounds during the oppressive heat of summer, and extremely cold of winter. Many of us don't like to be too active during these months, and our pets suffer the same lack of activity. This decrease in activity level, without a commensurate decrease in food intake, results in weight gain.

Use these next few months to get outside, take a walk, enjoy the cool weather and beautiful fall foliage, and get yourself and your pet back into shape. This goes for cats too!!

And remember, the fall is the second peak tick season of the year, so protect yourself and your family (2 and 4 legged) by using regular tick medication. Last year the weather stayed warm right through Christmas (I remember spending Christmas Day 2015 riding bikes at the beach with my kids), so continue the preventatives all year round.



## HAPPY TAIL - FINALLY

We get so many emails from people who have adopted from us it could fill this whole paper. Most come with pictures of our dogs and cats comfortably fitting into their homes with nothing but praise about the animal and the shelter. We needed to share this one with you since it was quite different.



*Cannot believe it's 2 years since we adopted Jack as a puppy in August 2014! He has thrived and is now fully grown at 20 pounds. Here is a recent photo with one of his favorite toys.*

*It has been a period of growth for all of us here - his 'Dad' and I both had taken early retirement right before we adopted him, so he spends most of his time with us day and night.*

*Jack is our first dog, and his vet says he is mix of mostly Jack Russell and Beagle. His personality is all Jack Russell: always active, always jumping, always loving.*

*Jack is a huge part of our life and so loved. But it was not always easy. Starting when he was nine months old, he became very difficult - still biting, still nipping us when we walked, shredding up all fabrics and papers in his path. He had been to two doggie schools - including one run by an individual who trained police dogs. I cried daily, it was that difficult. But he was always loving. Impossible, but loving, and on the day we adopted Jack and brought him home, we promised him it was forever.*

*Today, he is so much easier, still a shredder, but we've adapted. The days began to get easier as he grew and matured. He loves to play games, run with us in the yard, cuddle when we are resting. We could not imagine our life without our sweet Jack.*

*I wish everyone who adopts a dog would understand that it may get really hard at times, and they may have days they begin to wonder if they will survive. Yes, they will. The journey may be tough at times, but just keep loving their dog. Don't give up. It is so worth it - I would do it again in a heartbeat!*

*To all of you, a big thank you!! We would not have our Jack if you weren't there. You make a huge difference in the lives of so many animals. May your lives be filled with many blessings and love.*

*With deep appreciation,  
Carolyn and Casey*

We wish everyone would realize that a dog is a dog and some need more work than others but in the long run it is worth the effort - repaid with years and years of unconditional LOVE!



The shelter has had a **Buy-A-Brick** program for several years and it is still going strong. People seem happy to honor or memorialize their pets by purchasing an engraved brick for our Dog Park.

Now we have a new way you can honor or memorialize a pet or just honor a dog or cat loving friend and at the same time directly support the animals we rescue. It is our **Sponsor-A-Kennel Program**.

For more information, go to our website – [humanesocietyofwestchester.org](http://humanesocietyofwestchester.org) – and to “Donate Now”, then to the Sponsor-A-Kennel picture. A click will explain the program and will provide an application form.



## Memorial Day Rescue

On Memorial Day we got a call from someone who heard a kitten meowing down in a storm drain. Our shelter manager and people

from the Rye Brook DPW took care of the situation, the frightened kitten was rescued, brought to the shelter and soon adopted.





## A TRIBUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEER

Our shelter would not be as great as it is if it were not for our dedicated volunteers. The staff does a great job providing for our animals' basic needs – clean kennels, beds with blankets, food, water, toys, a daily walk or two and love. But volunteers provide the extras which make our dogs and cats so special. Extra walks, extra playtime, extra belly rubs, training and extra love make them much more social and much more adoptable. We have so many volunteers there would not be enough room to mention them all but some stand out for their dedication and should be acknowledged.

Bill Spinelli has been a volunteer for many years, coming to walk dogs when it is very hot or cold or rainy, because he feels he must be there for them. His wife has a hard time getting him to travel to see the grandchildren and says when they return home, he drops his bags on the bed and rushes off to the shelter.

Jim Goff is a newer volunteer but no less dedicated, coming every day. Not only does he walk all of our dogs but spends lots of time with the cats who he also knows. He is there to help potential adopters with his knowledge of the animals. Jim recently adopted a Chihuahua from us but that does not stop him for volunteering. He simply brings his dog with him.

Bill and Jen Fenty come together most of the time and bring dogs into the outside pens where the animals can have doggy play time. It's great seeing dogs racing around together expanding their energy. Or they walk dogs together, buddy style, getting the animals used to being close with another one in case they get adopted to a family which already has a dog.

We also have cat socializers like Leslie Howard, Rena Schwartzbaum and Shawn Smith. They work with shy and frightened cats and kittens so they will not hide when potential adopters are looking for the one they want to take home. They also take cats, who are in cages, out into a play room where they can have fun and exercise. A friendly cat who feels comfortable with people is the one most people will want and that's why volunteers are so important. Lyde Sizer and her children Nancy and Ry are frequently seen in the cat room socializing them also. *(cont page 5)*



### Maltese Family

Unfortunately, victims of a divorce, this family of six arrived severely matted and in need of immediate grooming. Their coats were beyond saving and the only choice was to shave off their matted coats.

Within the group of six was mom, dad and their four pups.



The family was quickly given individual make-overs and just as quickly all were adopted into loving homes.



### Sauvignon

attention he deserved.

Sauvignon was surrendered to the shelter by his owner who said he worked too long a day and felt the dog was not getting the

Unfortunately, the man who is a vegetarian thought the dog could be on a diet of veggies and blueberries which he loved. While people are omnivores meaning they can eat meat or not, dogs are carnivores and must eat meat to be healthy. Our vet felt his extremely thin coat and weight loss were the result of the incomplete diet. Just six weeks later after a proper diet you can see the results for yourself.



## HOUNDS ON THE SOUND

Don't forget to attend our fun-filled Dog Walk/Festival at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck on Oct 9th. from 10:00 to 3:00. Details about the event as well as an application to register for your walk can be found by going to [www.houndsonthesound.org](http://www.houndsonthesound.org). Besides the walk there will be food, music, vendors, dog contests (including best Halloween costume), activities for your children as well as your dog, and animals for adoption. **See you there!**





## A TRIBUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS (continued)

Some volunteers have the very important job of fostering kittens. In the spring and summer the shelter fills up with kittens. Volunteers take the very young ones, who come to the shelter without a mother, into their homes to bottle feed them. Others take older ones who are eating on their own. Then comes the hard part - bringing them back to the shelter when they are 8-weeks-old and ready to be adopted. Karen Roman has been doing this for so many years that she has lost count of the hundreds of kittens she has fostered. Others like Sheila Peragine, Dana Hirsh and Elizabeth Rothstein are also fostering and loving every minute of it.

One of our vital programs, TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) involves trapping feral cats, neutering them and then returning them to their colony where they will no longer be able to reproduce. Volunteers like Sheila Peragine, Lisa Thurlow and Lori Mele are some of the people involved with this program which is time consuming but very rewarding. Many of the same people are involved in fostering and socializing too.

Lisa Thurlow, besides being involved with TNR is a fabulous dog walker and gardener who, together with Gail Pfau, are responsible for the beautiful flowers growing at the shelter. Gail comes all the way across the county with her lawn mower to cut our grass. And recently she was on our roof cleaning gutters. When she is not gardening she can be seen working with our cats and dogs at the shelter and fostering as well.



Behind the scenes volunteer Zita Rivera, has been answering all the shelter's emails ever since she moved away and was no longer able to walk dogs. She answers the questions when she know the answers or sends them off to someone who does. She also forwards all the wonderful Happy Tails sent to us by the people who have adopted dogs and cats, many of which can be seen on our web site.



Lori Swink can be seen face painting at all our events and will now also be making balloon animals at our Hounds on the Sound event. She fosters kittens too.

Last but certainly not least are the volunteers in our Train-to-Adopt group who work with dogs with behavioral issues that might hurt their chance of getting adopted - too exuberant or too shy or somewhat food bowl aggressive or anything else that might prevent them from finding their "forever homes." The service this group provides is invaluable.

To all the other volunteers who work at the shelter with the animals, at events, on-site or off-site, too many to mention, we offer a great big THANK YOU! We'll get the people we missed in our next newsletter. We appreciate you more than you know.

## A SPECIAL VOLUNTEER



**COWBOY**

Unlike other volunteers who come to the shelter for several hours and take out several different dogs, Jon Nardelli works with one dog at a time until it is adopted. An article in our Fall 2013 newsletter highlights some of the 32 dogs Jon Nardelli had known and loved up until that point, all of whom have enjoyed trips to the Adirondacks with Jon and his wife.

Jon spends six days a week with his dog, taking Saturday off. He says his day feels complete only after he has taken the dog for a good hour or two outing.



**ZOEY**

As of now John's 43<sup>rd</sup> dog has been adopted and he is deciding who will be number 44. A few of his most memorable include **Cowboy**, an energetic Cattle Dog and **Zoey**, a small bundle of energy brindle Pit Bull. **Luigi**, a beautiful black pit bull gave Jon a problem. As Jon puts it he was unable to do his yoga exercises in the woods because Luigi would lick his face and walk all over him. **Norman**, a wonderful, gentle friendly Pit Bull loved long ball throwing hikes at the Larchmont Reservoir. **Mel**, part Rottweiler got lost in a snow storm during the holiday season. John worked with Mel until the person who found him decided to adopt him. Jon then moved on to his next adoption project as he always does.

---

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

---

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

### **ADOPTION GALLERY - Dogs and Sunshine Cats**

**Roxy**



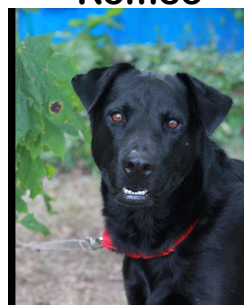
**Fun Loving Gal**

**Bruno**



**Handsome Guy**

**Romeo**



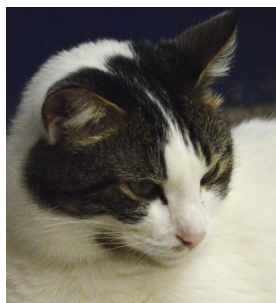
**Name Says It All**

**Bounce**



**Bundle of Joy**

**Milo**



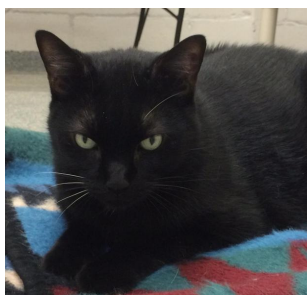
**Sweet Lap Cat**

**Larry**



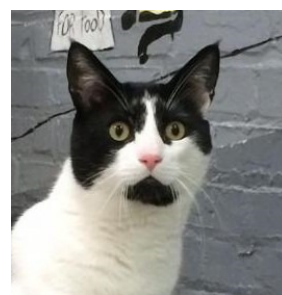
**Can Do No Wrong**

**Murphy**



**Extra Large Lover**

**Pedro**



**Top Notch Guy**