



Humane Society of Westchester

AT NEW ROCHELLE

from our home to yours

Fall 2018

FROM OUR SHELTER MANAGER

Dana Rocco

IF I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS

When I first began working for the Humane Society of Westchester, 16 years ago, I created a dream list. I titled this list "If I Had a Million Dollars," and pinned it on my bulletin board, where it has remained for the past 16 years. I had not read this list since creating it -- until today.

As I read it, I was astonished at how many of the goals that had seemed so out of reach back then have already been met!

I dreamed of purchasing medical equipment that would allow us to perform our own surgeries, mainly spays and neuters. Using donations from supporters like you, we purchased medical equipment and renovated a room dedicated for surgery. Though the surgery room is small, amazing work is performed in it.

Another item on my dream list was providing free spays for Pit Bull Terriers, to reduce the surging numbers of these dogs overwhelming shelters. I am so proud to say the Humane Society of Westchester has been providing this service to the public for over 5 years! Last year we spayed and neutered over 50 Pit Bulls, at no cost to the owners.

For many years Humane Society of Westchester has provided a low cost program to spay feral cats. The fee was \$50 which covered most of our expenses, veterinarian's salary and medical supplies. Those dedicated individuals caring for feral cat colonies had been digging into their own pockets to pay for these surgeries.

At \$50 per cat, paying for surgeries for an average-sized colony of 20 cats adds up quickly. I am so very proud to say that last year the Humane Society of Westchester spayed and neutered over 500 feral cats for free. The year before we spayed/neutered 450 feral cats and the year before another 450 feral cats! Best of all we are finally beginning to see the benefits of this program, with reduced numbers of cats and kittens coming into the shelter.

There are many dreams still on my list that are impossible to implement due to the space limitations of our building. I would love to have a large room dedicated to humane education - offered not only for school groups, but for pet owners as well. Our goal would be to educate the public on the proper care of their pets. Hopefully this education would result in fewer pets being relinquished to the shelter, and happier, better-cared-for pets. With additional space, we could build additional adoption rooms. With additional space we could design better living areas for our shelter animals, to help them heal and thrive while awaiting adoption.

Currently the Humane Society of Westchester is seriously considering a renovation/expansion that will allow us to increase the size of our building. With the help of some of our wonderful donors, we just may be able to make this dream come true!



Coming Soon - Our New 2019 Calendar!
From Our Home to Yours



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
Lee Anne Velej
Diane Wade

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New Rochelle, NY 10801
(914) 632-2925

www.humanesocietyofwestchester.org
info@humanesocietyofwestchester.org
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's and children's clothing, household items, jewelry and hidden treasures. Visit our web site for more information and pictures or the store's Facebook page.

SURRENDERED PETS

Unfortunately, people sometimes have to surrender their beloved pets to the shelter through no fault of their own. Sometimes, when an owner dies, there is no relative or friend willing to take on the responsibility of pet ownership. Sometime, an owner requires care in a nursing home, where dogs or cats are not welcome. This is particularly sad, because it is a time when a pet could provide support and comfort to someone who is upset and scared. Sometimes animals come to us from homes where a family member develops a severe allergy, usually a cat. And many come from someone who is forced to move and cannot find a place which will allow them to bring their companion animals.

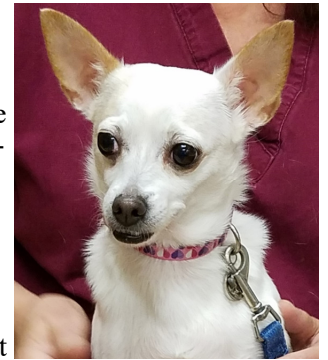


Two people and their pets faced such a situation where they recently had to bring their animal to the shelter.

Socksie, an 11-year-old cat, lived in an apartment with a man who was forced to evacuate due to a fire. The man brought Socksie to the shelter and asked if we could keep him until he found another place to live. We agreed to do so. The man visited his beloved Socksie almost every day, but

days and weeks went by and there was no luck finding affordable housing that would allow a pet. He then officially surrendered Socksie to the shelter, where he is still awaiting a new home.

Tiffany, an 8 year old Chihuahua, came to us when her owner was forced to move and could not bring a dog as small as Tiffany. She spent her first day sitting on the laps of staff members, but kept looking around, doubtlessly, for her owner who had loved her so much.



It is upsetting that there are so few rental apartments, condos or shelters that permit dogs and cats. We, as a society, really should establish a way to help owners at such difficult times, so they do not have to surrender their beloved pets. The owners and their pets both suffer due to the separation. We are glad to be able to help in such sad situations, but wish there was no need to do so!

FUR-TERNITY LEAVE

According to the NY Times some companies have started granting "fur-ternity leave," the ability to work from home to welcome new pets. A company in NY offers paid time-off for those who adopt a rescue dog. When an employee was bringing home a 2 month old dog he asked if he could work from home the first week to get the dog used to his new surrounds, including a kennel, and learning to go out to the bathroom. He received an immediate response - Absolutely!

What good news for new pet owners. Hopefully, the idea will takeoff

UNSUNG HEROS



Denise

The Humane Society is fortunate in having volunteers who walk and train our dogs, and socialize cats. But there is a group of volunteers who sometimes go unnoticed and who are very important for the smooth running of the shelter.

Denise Pallett is a great example of one of these volunteers. She sometimes socializes our cats, but most of the time she is doing what she likes to do best - **organizing**.

She sorts out the donations which arrive daily at the shelter. She washes, folds, and arranges the linens and neatly organizes them on shelves. She washes dog coats and jackets, sizes them, and puts them into individual plastic bags. We have set up a "Dollar Store," containing other donations, which Denise makes sure is neat and organized. She puts in a full work day every Thursday and Saturday.

Chris Satiro and Gwen Brown are volunteers who spend hours washing food bowls—Chris comes every morning for over 3 hours and Gwen comes Sunday mornings. When they are not cleaning bowls they find many other things to do around the shelter to make the place shine.



Gardening by Gail and Lisa

Lisa Thurlow and Gail Pfau, who have been volunteers for seven and nine years respectively, perform many valuable services. Lisa walks dogs occasionally, but spends much of her time making the outside of the shelter look pretty. She and Gail clean up the grounds and plant beautiful flowers every year. Gail even brings her own lawn mover and edger to cut our grass. Gail has fostered dozens of kittens until they are old enough to be brought back to the shelter and put up for adoption. Lisa traps outdoor cats and kittens so they can be spayed/neutered and medicated before being released into their outdoor colonies if they are feral, or put up for adoption if they are friendly.



Chris



Gwen

We are just so fortunate to have these volunteers. The help they provide contributes to the smooth running of the shelter and, best of all, the volunteers really enjoy what they are doing.

DOGS and SENIOR CATS FOR ADOPTION

Hogan



Loves to Swim

Cindy Lou



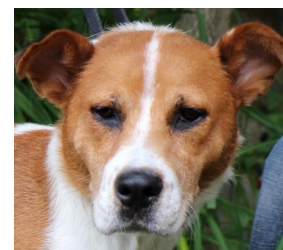
Friendly, Fun & Frisky

Momba



Sweet New Mom (1)

Trudy



Sweet New Mom (2)

Tabbatha



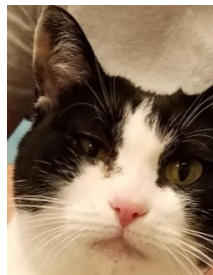
Queen Diva

Lucky



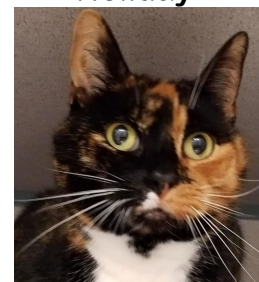
Shy, Sweet & Gentle

Mel



Lap Cat Extraordinaire

Holiday



Beautiful & Charming

HAPPY ADOPTION STORIES

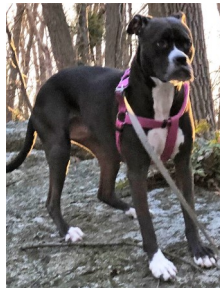
We are always so happy to receive mail from people who have adopted from our shelter. Here is a small sample:

"We adopted Jack Russell/Beagle mix Shelby from you last fall after she was rescued by an Ohio group and transported to your shelter. A few weeks ago, you successfully introduced her to Beagle, Arnold Palmer, who was named by rescuers who found him on a golf course, half starved. She and Shelby are inseparable. They eat together, hunt our 5 acres together, go on long leash walks and share a bed at night." Sharon C.



"I saw Rosie's picture on the website and fell in love with her sweet, kind face. My husband and I went to see her and were struck by how friendly and sweet she was. We're big Golden Girls fans in my household and we named her Rosie in honor of Rose Nyland, the sweetest of the Golden Girls. Rosie really is golden! She loves everyone." Haydee C.

"Five years ago, a sweet dog you named Casino was brought in just as she was ready to give birth. The staff named one of the puppies Domino. We brought her home and named her Maeve. She's a beautiful sweet girl who is silly and very loving. We celebrated her birthday this week and we celebrate HER all the time. Love this girl! Maureen G.



"We are so happy to have Tramp (Now Buddy) as part of our family. He is such a sweet and loving little fellow and seems very happy with his new home! His big sister, Betsy, is enjoying his company and they play together much of the day. Thank you for allowing us to adopt him! He is a real treasure! We love him soooooo much!

Thank you for all you do to help homeless dogs and cats! What a wonderful way to make the world a better place for all!" Susan K.



"Mila is a senior cutie that we adopted in August, seen here in black and white, with her senior sister Sonja. Mila and Sonja are partners in crime, they steal seats, snacks, hugs and hearts." Regina

LOST & HOPEFULLY FOUND

Unfortunately, pets get lost frequently in our community and pet parents are desperate to find their furry companions. The Humane Society of Westchester works hard to reunite local lost pets with their owners.

Here are some of the ways we help:

- Our front desk staff records every lost or found pet that is reported to us and keeps a log with photos at our shelter.
- When stray pets found in any of our 19 animal control municipalities arrive at the shelter, we check to see if they have a microchip. If they do, we all breathe a sigh of relief, because we can use that information to contact their owners. Of course we also check our lost and found log to see if anyone has reported the pet missing.

- If we are not able to determine who their owner is, we then photograph the pet and post the photo on our own Facebook page. We also share the photo with several other social media sites dedicated to reuniting lost pets with their owners. We give the pet some good food and a cozy kennel. We have had some incredible reunions between beloved pets and their relieved people.



Here are some of the ways you can help:

- Keep your cats indoors. That is a sure way to prevent their loss and protect them from many dangers such as cars, coyotes, dogs, lawn poisons and others. Yard fences cannot contain cats (they jump and climb!). A cat lounging on an outdoor deck or in the back yard will likely not stay on the deck or in the yard forever!

- Make sure that your cat or dog is microchipped. All veterinary offices and shelters have scanners to read microchips and subsequently identify owners.

- Make sure your dog always has a collar on with identification and phone numbers.

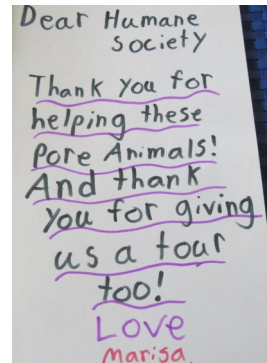
There is truly nothing more painful than losing a beloved pet. Our collective joy when a pet is reunited with its owner is evident in these photos!



HUMANE EDUCATION

During each of the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years over 250 children visited the shelter. We have had Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts from Daisies to Seniors. We have had school groups from their service or animal clubs ranging from 2nd grade to 12th. Some are there to earn badges, some for their silver certificates. Some are from public schools, others from private schools.

They listen to a talk about the shelter, learn what we do, how we take in dogs and cats who are lost and reunite them with their owners. They learn that animals who are not claimed are temperament tested and put up for adoption or receive special training if they have behavior problems. We talk about the things we need to give our animals like beds, food, socialization, walks and most of all love. We talk about how the children can help as volunteers (when they are 10) as part of our Family Volunteer program or as Junior Volunteers (when they are 14.) We tell them how they can help by soliciting merchandise using our Wish List as a guide. After the talk, the children have an encounter with one of our dogs or puppies. They are then given a tour of our cat rooms and dog kennels. The hardest part is getting them to leave when it is time to close the shelter for the night.



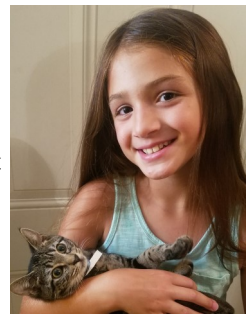
Sometimes, instead of having the children come to us we go to them. Over the past two years we visited all the second graders at the Murray Ave School in Larchmont where we did a Power Point presentation and a question and answer session. Each class did a merchandise drive either for cats or dogs, and the shelter received a van full of merchandise ranging from food, to toys to paper towels and hand sanitizers. We visited middle schools in Rye and White Plains and also a summer camp program at the Ursuline School in New Rochelle where the girls made toys for our dogs.

These young people are so enthusiastic about coming to our shelter or about our visit to them. It is wonderful seeing how motivated they are about helping animals. They are our future. It will be up to them to ensure that animals will be respected as valuable creatures who need to be protected as we move into the future.



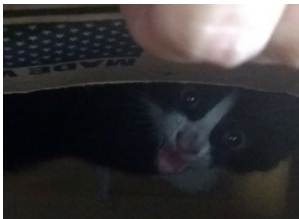
HAPPY TAILS - the Kia Kittens

On June 14th, a tiny kitten came to the shelter with quite a story. The owner of a Kia Sorento was driving when she heard meowing which sounded as if it were coming from inside her car. She did not see anything but decided to drive from Pelham to the Humane Society of Westchester to see if anyone could help find the kitten. It took the shelter staff an hour and a half searching, to finally found her, and get her out from a very precarious situation in the engine block under the car's hood.

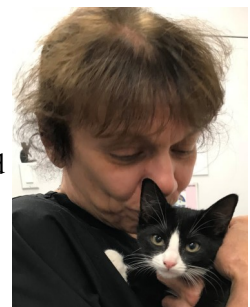


The very frightened kitten was taken into the shelter where she was comforted, cared for, and named Kia. She has since been adopted and seems to have completely forgotten her near fatal experience.

Exactly one week later, on June 21st, a woman heard meowing in thick bushes alongside her driveway. She spent about one hour until she finally found a tiny black kitten, but was unable to catch her. Because she had an appointment and needed to leave, she placed cat food and water in the bushes.



After driving a few miles, she heard meows which sounded as if a cat were somewhere in the car. She drove to the nearest gas station, where two mechanics, unable to find anything under the hood, raised the car, coincidentally another Kia, and finally found a little black tuxedo kitten under the top area of one of the front wheels. They had to open the casing above the wheel area in order to get her out. She too was brought to the shelter, and since the name Kia was already taken, she was named Sorento. She was cleaned, taken care of, and then adopted.



We are delighted to help in these strange and dangerous situation, and to bring about happy endings.

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

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 1795

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 9th - New Rochelle Street Fair - 11:00am to 5:00pm

The 6th Annual New Rochelle Street Fair, featuring vendors with great food, arts, crafts and more will include our volunteers with a Doggie Ambassador. The event takes place on Main Street between North and Centre Avenues.

Thursday, September 27th - A Savvy Affair's 2nd Annual Puppy Red Carpet on the Hudson - 6:00pm to 9:30pm

This fund raiser, at Hudson Social in Dobbs Ferry, NY will benefit the Humane Society of Westchester. Door admission \$25. Tickets are also available for purchase via Pay Pal at www.savvyaffairs.com.

Sunday, October 21th - Free Rabies Vaccination/Low Cost Microchipping Clinic - 11:30am to 3:30pm

This clinic will take place at the Humane Society of Westchester, 70 Portman Road. The clinic is sponsored by the Westchester County Health Department and is available to Westchester County residents ONLY. All pets must be supervised by an adult. Dogs aggressive towards people or other dogs are not allowed.

Sunday, Oct 28th and Nov. 4th - Holiday Pet Portraits at the Humane Society of Westchester - 11am to 3pm

A professional photographer will be taking Christmas and Chanukah-themed 5x7 portraits of you pet for \$25, Holiday cards will be available for an additional charge.

Saturday, November 3rd - Howliday Shopping at the Humane Society of Westchester

Trying to think of gifts for that special animal lover or for your favorite four-legged friend? Stop by the Shelter to shop for the holidays. Come see the many pet-related items for sale. All proceeds go the homeless animals at the Shelter.

For more information go to events@humanesocietyofwestchester.org or call 914-632-2925