



Humane Society of Westchester

AT NEW ROCHELLE

from our home to yours

Spring 2018

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

John Feldtmose

Our former president, Carlette M. Allen, who retired in 2013, passed away in December of last year at the age of 89. She was on the board for 20 years, 16 of those as president. I feel privileged to have been able to work closely with Carlette on the board for most of that time, and I considered her to be a dear friend.

At our gala in September 2014, we honored Carlette and presented a wonderful video documenting testimonials from the Humane Society board and staff

Carlette came on the board during some very difficult times for the shelter. After becoming Treasurer and then President in 1998, she set to work to build the Humane Society to be the best and most admired animal shelter in Westchester County and beyond. The Society experienced remarkable progress during her tenure as president:



- The number of successful adoption went way up.
- The communities we serve increased from 12 to 19 today.
- The condition of the building and grounds improved markedly.
- And our financial condition is dramatically better.



As close friends and business associates often do, she and I didn't always agree over the years, and we fought like cat and dog, so to speak! (She's was dog gal - I'm a cat guy.) But we were always able to come to an agreement that was best for the shelter and best for the welfare of the animals. Above all, anyone who knew her or who did business with her had the highest degree of respect for her.

Carlette brought a keen sense of business and professionalism to the organization. She was uncompromising in her honesty and ethics. She was proper and gracious. She was a true lady with a tough mind and a warm heart. She will be sorely missed by the board, the staff and the many supporters who knew her over all of her years.

CATS FOR ADOPTION

Amelia



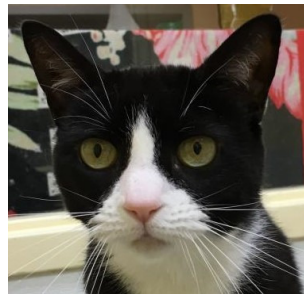
**Soulful
Sweetheart**

Tom



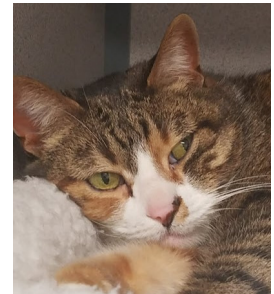
**Shy, Handsome
Senior**

Lady Kiya



**Strong, Independent
Woman**

Freckles



**Mellow, Gentle
Kindhearted**

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
Melissa Romita
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 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

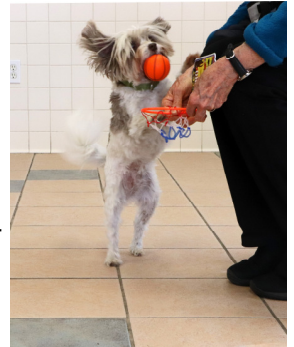


When Shana arrived at the shelter, she was very pregnant and very frightened. We quickly found a foster home for her, and a few days later she gave birth to three beautiful pups. Eight weeks later, her pups were all adopted, and her foster mom, Mary Cotter (aka "Mimi") decided to adopt her.

Shana was frightened of the world and kept her tail tightly tucked, avoiding just about everyone she came across during her walks.

So Mimi taught her to spin as a way to have her turn her head AWAY from the approaching fearful object. This trick enabled Shana to develop confidence when out in the big world.

To build a relationship with Shana, Mimi started training her for a few minutes each day. She wanted to teach Shana to bring her a ball, but Shana was afraid of balls (after all, balls MOVED!), and she certainly would not pick one up in her mouth. So Mimi trained her using "successive approximations" -- rewarding her first for



looking at a ball, then approaching it, then touching it with her paw, then her nose, then her mouth, etc.

Fast forward: Shana will now happily chase a ball, pick it up, run back to Mimi and drop it in a basket -- yes Shana plays basketball! Mimi taught Shana to retrieve a tissue for her when she "sneezes," ride a skateboard, wave her paw to say "hi," roll over, and ring a bell for treats.



Two years later, at a workshop we were attending, Mimi and I watched Shana approach a group of strangers eating their lunch on a bench. Shana walked right up to them, sat quietly until they noticed her, and then jumped up and offered a crisp "spin" in an effort to get a morsel of their lunch. It paid off. No way would this fearful little dog have done this when she had been adopted. Fast forward again: this past December, Shana earned her "Advanced Tricks" certificate from AKC! When Mimi is not teaching Shana new tricks, she can be found volunteering in the shelter's "Train to Adopt" group.



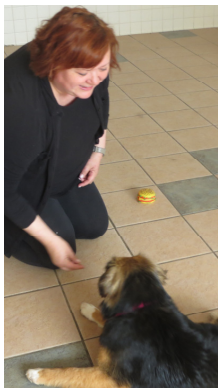
DOG TRAINER - Ann

Ann King hails from Scotland. She came to the United States to be an au pair but then became very interested in dogs and dog training.

She went to school to become certified in dog training, obtaining her CPDT certificate (Certified Professional Dog Trainer) and became Canine King. By word of mouth and through vet recommendations she began her in-your-home dog training. She offers private training sessions for basic obedience of new puppies plus behavior modification for specific problems in dogs.

In 2013 Ann co-founded a not-for-profit rescue, BestBullies.org, which rescues dogs and cats from high volume shelters, gets them medical help and trains them to become wonderful adorable pets.

It might seem strange, but her passion is for both pit-bulls and Chihuahuas, both of which she owns. They get along very well together.



For several years Ann came to the shelter as a volunteer to help train our dogs. She now comes to the shelter every Saturday where she offers classes on basic obedience and also classes for specific problems to owners who have adopted dogs from the shelter.

It is her hope and ours that this training will mean the dogs remain in their new homes rather than be returned to the shelter.

She recently completed a four week class working with six littermates of adorable puppies adopted from our shelter on the basics - sit, stay, down and come. I don't know who had more fun, the dogs or their owners.

DOG TRAINER - Ferdie

Ferdie Yau took a very circuitous route to being a part-time dog trainer at the Humane Society of Westchester. He received a BS in Ecology at the University of Michigan and a Masters in Conservation Biology at Columbia University.

He spent four years with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) as an Animal Keeper/Trainer - one year at the Bronx Zoo and four at the Central Park Zoo. At Central Park he worked with Gus and Ida, the stressed-out polar bears, by introducing enrichment activities to stimulate the bears and training them so routine medical checkups would not require them being anesthetized.

He left WCS to go to graduate school, after which he worked for the NYC Department of Parks where his job entailed working on the Bronx River Restoration Project, its aim: to bring oysters and river herring back to the river and to manage invasive species.

But Ferdie missed working with animals and decided to use his training skills to train dogs. He started his own business, "Sits and Wiggles." He visits homes and helps people who are having behavioral problems with their dog such as separation anxiety, over activity, guarding, etc. Some of these people have animals who are in danger of being surrendered to the shelter if the problem is not solved.

At the shelter, in addition to working with our dogs, Ferdie also works with shelter volunteers so they can reinforce the behavior that he has been teaching the dogs.

Besides working with our shelter dogs Ferdie volunteers at the Gotham Coyote Program. This involves his dog Scott and other dogs he has trained whose job is sniffing out coyote scat for DNA study to determine the number of different coyotes in residence at the city parks and to determine what they are eating. This year Scott will be searching for Diamond Back Terrapin Turtle eggs so they can be protected from predators.



DOGS FOR ADOPTION

Bowser



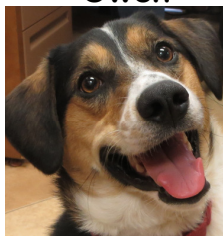
**75 Pound
Mushy Senior**

Izzi



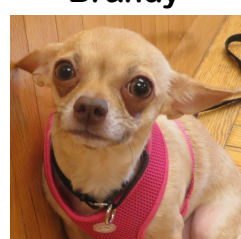
Happy-Go-Lucky

Owen



Gentler Leaner

Brandy



**1/2 Pint
Snuggler**



DOG WASH

If you have ever attended our Dog Wash event you know what a fun day it is for dogs, adults and children. If you have not, please come and see

what you missed. This year's event will be held on Sunday, July 15th with a rain date on July 22nd. Be sure to mark your calendar.

Your dog can be washed and get its nails clipped. There will be crafts for the children and face painting. You can visit vendors selling merchandise or handing out freebies, enjoy good food and win a raffle prize. You will also be able to pose for a family portrait.

We especially love to see dogs who were adopted from our shelter. We are delighted to see how happy they and their adoptive families are.

So come, bring the kids and the dogs, both adopted from our shelter or not. They will all have a great time!

GENERATOR SAVES THE DAY

In October 2012 Hurricane Sandy came up the East coast of the United States and hit New York very hard. The shelter lost power for several days so that we had no heat or lights. We were determined never to let this happen again and bought a full-building generator with the help of many generous donors who funded the entire cost of the generator.

Fortunately, on March 2nd of this year we were prepared when a Nor'easter took down a large tree in our driveway, taking a power line and our phone line with it. Our generator took over, so our animals and staff had light and heat. We were, however, still without Verizon lines so our computer network did not function and we could not take phone calls, process credit cards or get adoption applications sent to us on the website until March 8th.

We wish to thank the many generous donors who helped defray the cost of the generator by responding to the request we made on our web site and Facebook. A special thanks to Eric Alpert for continuous coverage of the annual maintenance fee on the generator.



Brody – Silver Whisker Foster

SPONSOR - A - PET

For many years the shelter has had a Sponsor-A-Pet program. For \$20 a month donors have been sponsoring a dog or cat until he/she is adopted.

At one time dogs often remained at the shelter for many months waiting for their new home. Now, thanks to our efforts to encourage and promote adoptions, most animals are getting adopted in weeks rather than months. This makes

the Sponsor-A-Pet program much less meaningful for sponsors – sometimes a dog is adopted before the letter even reaches the new sponsor.

As a result, we now decided to institute a wonderful addition to the program. The shelter currently has 14 dogs in our Silver Whisker program. This is a foster, rather than adoption, situation for older animals or those with a disability making it harder for them to be adopted. With the Silver Whiskers program, the dogs are able to get out of the shelter and into loving foster homes.

The shelter remains responsible for medication, periodic appointments with our vet and special food if needed. Getting sponsors for these animals helps defray the cost to us while making the animal's life far better.

We want to thank all of our sponsors, but a few in particular – those who have been sponsors for 10 or more years.

2003

Ken and Katherine Eichler
Bob and Joyce Kent
Ann Quilty
Zita Rivera

2004

Deborah Nargi

2006

Jennifer Kent

2009

Susan Deshensky
Pat Push and Peg Miller

A particularly interesting story is about Ken Eichler who, as a child of eight, moved to New Rochelle. Because he was so unhappy about the move, his parents bought him a dog. He saw that the shelter was having an event where dogs would be judged and given awards. His dog won two ribbons, and Ken was so happy he vowed that when he could, he would help support the shelter. As an adult Ken began sponsoring, sometimes one dog and sometimes two dogs. His sponsorship is now doubled due to his wife's company which matches their contributions.

For more information about this program please visit our web site, humanesocietyofwestchester.org, and go to "Donate" and then "Donate Now." There you will find the Sponsor-A-Pet program plus other donation options.

CAT SOCIALIZATION PROGRAM



**Junior Volunteer
Socializing Cat**

When cats arrive at our shelter, they have often lived through one or more significant traumas, such as the loss of their owner, eviction from non-pet-friendly buildings, owner allergies, or worst of all, abuse. As much as we try to provide for their physical and emotional comforts and get them adopted, the shelter can be a stressful place for our felines. With the noise, confinement, different food and bedding, and unfamiliar people, it is a lot to cope with.

Some cats prove to be remarkably resilient and find new homes quickly, while others become depressed and withdrawn. Some even develop aggressive behaviors. These cats needed our help, so the cat orientation for volunteers was created and initiated by volunteers Rena Schwartzbaum and Shawn Smith. In these workshops volunteers are taught how to read cat behavior and body language, the best way to patiently and gently approach (or not approach) a fearful cat, ways to maintain the health of our shelter animals and most importantly, things that can be done to improve their chances for adoption.



Frightened Eight-Ball

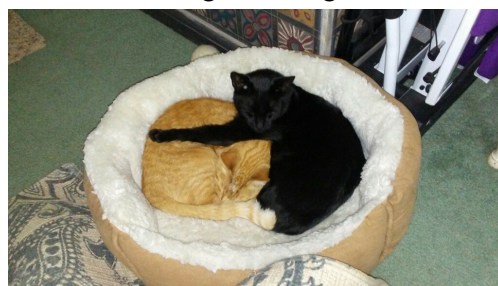
One example of a very successful outcome was a beautiful young black cat named Eight Ball who was so shut down and depressed that he sat tightly curled on the shelf of his cage, not even moving to get a treat. His eyes were lifeless; he had simply given up. When we picked him up his body remained in a fetal position. He didn't

even have enough energy to put up a fight, yet there was something about Eight Ball that was worth fighting for. In a coordinated effort, the volunteers took turns holding him on our stomachs often under a blanket.



**Eight Ball Going
Home**

After many weeks he started to uncurl, then to sit next to us, and slowly, in small steps, to trust. We all teared up when Eight Ball was eventually adopted into a home where he is happy and is enjoying his kitty sibling. This is just one of countless success stories about cats who have benefited from the loving and caring of our specialty trained cat volunteers. For more information on the cat orientations visit our website at humanesocietyofwestchester.org. Once there, go to "Volunteer", "Adopt or Foster", and then scan down to "Foster a Pet."



Eight-Ball with New Sibling

HAPPY TAILS



LOLA

Lola was only 6 weeks old when she was purchased by a family as a gift for their toddler. Within days, Lola suffered a painful, severely fractured leg. The family was financially unable to afford the veterinarian care the tiny pup urgently needed. This is when we were contacted and we took over her care.

Money set aside from our Help Heal Fund enabled Lola to receive the orthopedic surgery she needed. Lola was sent into a foster home with a registered nurse to give her the expert care she needed post-surgery. Lola's foster caretaker quickly fell in love with her and has decided to adopt her.



ELSA

Last January, a small, very thin kitten was found nearly frozen in a snow bank. We named her Elsa, after the Frozen movie character.

Elsa was treated by our veterinarian, given antibiotics and fluids, special food and B12 shots.

Once Elsa was strong enough, she was sent to a foster home for several weeks to continue her recovery. A few days after returning to the shelter Elsa, was adopted. The adoption occurred exactly two months after she had arrived almost frozen to death.

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 28, 2018 - Pelham Doggy Day - 11:00am to 4:00pm

The Village of Pelham will be hosting a dog licensing registration for Pelham residents at the Gazebo on Fifth Ave in Pelham. There will also be a blood drive and fair run by The Danny Fund. HSW volunteers will be attending with an information table, merchandise for sale and a few of our adoptable pets to meet and greet.

Sunday, June 10, 2018 - Pet First Aid Class - 10:30am to 11:30am

Dr. Sara Sosnow from Miller and Clark Animal Hospital will give valuable information on how to care for your animal in an emergency situation.

Saturday, June 16, 2018 - New Rochelle Grand Market - 9:00am to 2:00pm

June is National Pet Adoption month. The City of New Rochelle is raising awareness about the benefits of adoption. Our volunteers will be there with a volunteer table, merchandise for sale and our doggie ambassador to meet and greet the public. The event will take place at 1 Library Plaza, the Library Green at Ruby Dee Park.

Sunday, July 15, 2018 - Humane Society's Dog Wash - 10:00am to 3:00pm

See page 4 for details about this event which will be held at the Shelter - 70 Portman Road, New Rochelle.

Sunday, September 9, 2018 - New Rochelle Street Fair - 11:00am to 5:00pm

This event takes place on Main St between North and Centre Ave. in downtown New Rochelle. It features vendors, a large assortment of eating places, art, crafts and more. The Humane Society will be represented.

Sunday, October 21, 2018 - 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.