



Spring 2009

# Pet Adoption Center News

## New Rochelle Humane Society

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Carlette Allen*

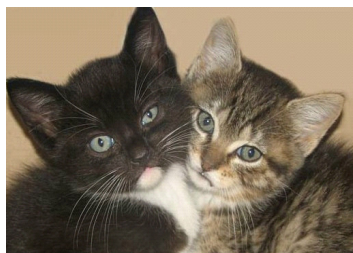
Gas prices are going up and down — the stock market is gyrating crazily and even the weather is being unpredictable — warm and sunny one day, cold and dank the next!

Need a little serenity in your life?

If you have ever had an animal as a pet, you know what I mean. Why not come down to our shelter and adopt one of our older cats or dogs who will not have the exuberance of a kitten or puppy, but will bring contentment and love. Who knows — you as well as the animal may benefit tenfold.

Unconditional love is a mighty arm of contentment. Take it from me — our Honey, who was adopted from the shelter in July 2003 has brought such joy!

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### CAT ADOPTION DAY AT LARCHMONT FLORAL DESIGNS

Saturday, June 13

Come, see and adopt an adorable kitten (or two) at 114 Chatsworth Ave. from 12 noon to 2 pm.

### DOG WASH 2009

Sunday, July 19

Once again we will be holding our annual dog wash at the shelter from 10 am to 3 pm. In addition to a dog wash there will be micro-chipping, games, contests, vendors, raffles, an auction and a special guest— Annemarie Lucas, ASPCA Special Investigator and star of Animal Planet. Please see page 5 for more details.



### Walk-A-Thon

Sunday, Oct 4th

The New Rochelle Humane Society and Pet Rescue of Larchmont will join together to hold a dog walk/fair at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle. This will be an annual event that will provide funds to both organizations for the care of homeless animals. At this time we are looking for vendors, sponsors and raffle donations. Please send an e-mail to [www.walk@newrochellehumanesociety.org](mailto:www.walk@newrochellehumanesociety.org) if you can help. Our web site will have more information as we get closer to the event.

The New Rochelle Humane Society is a not-for-profit organization established in 1911 and governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

### Services

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

The Society is dedicated to providing individual loving care for lost, abandoned, injured and mistreated stray animals in Westchester. Through the generosity of many caring donors we are able to continue to make our shelter a truly humane place.

### Board of Directors

Carlette Allen  
Paul Amerling, DVM  
John Feldtmose  
Dianne Heim  
Marilyn Monsanto  
Gloria Shulman  
Carole Springer  
Lee Anne Veley  
Diane Wade

### **New Rochelle Humane Society**

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**New Rochelle, NY 10801**

**(914) 632-2925**

**FAX (914) 632-0445**

**[www.newrochellehumanesociety.net](http://www.newrochellehumanesociety.net)**

**E-mail: [nr.shelter@verizon.net](mailto:nr.shelter@verizon.net)**

### **Thrift Shop**

Springtime means flowers, grass, birds and house cleanup. When you think about getting rid of things you have not used for years, don't just pack them away—donate to **the Humane Society Thrift Shop** instead. It's located at **313 North Avenue** in New Rochelle across from the railroad station. The store is open from 11 am to 4 pm Wednesday through Saturday. Clothing, household items and jewelry are most welcome and Lucia Kim will be glad to give you a tax receipt. Call her at 633-7683 with any questions.

## **FROM OUR SHELTER MANAGER**

*By Dana Roca*



The economic situation has affected every part of our lives. So it is no surprise the New Rochelle Humane Society is seeing pet owners affected by the financial crisis. Though we are not seeing many pet owners losing their homes through foreclosures, we are seeing a rise in the number of evictions from rented residences. Having to relinquish your beloved pet due to the inability to find a rental that allows a pet is devastating for many families.

Finding rental properties that allow pets in Westchester County can be extremely challenging. We would love to see more building owners allow "responsible pet owners" to bring their furry family members with them. I have listed below some suggestions to pet owners looking for rental apartments that will hopefully improve their chances of finding a rental that allows pets.

When looking for a rental that allows pets, keep in mind that many landlords have had bad experiences with previous pet owning renters. You will need to show a prospective landlord that you are a responsible pet owner. A letter of reference from your veterinarian can demonstrate to a potential landlord that you take good care of your pets. An additional way to impress a potential landlord is to provide a letter from your previous landlord. A letter confirming how clean you kept your apartment with your pets could go a long way in convincing a landlord to allow your pet. Other references can be from a trainer attesting to the temperament or general manners of your dog.

As for landlords, it is understandable that you may be hesitant to rent to pet owners after having had bad experiences. We would hate to see all pets banned due to some irresponsible pet owners. Instead of banning all pet owner, you might require a pet deposit. As mentioned previously, references from former landlords, veterinarians or trainers can be invaluable in ensuring that you will not have a problem. Great pets owners will go out of their way to comply with these types of requests in order to allow them to bring their beloved pet with them into a new apartment.

### **Sun Conures**



Yes, we usually take in dogs and cats, but when these birds were found in a box outside of Costco our staff went to the rescue. Although their wings were clipped, one managed to escape and our undaunted staff member followed her into a ditch where she was rescued. They are in a home now and hopefully will stay put and be safe.



## FROM THE TRAINER

*Ann King*

With the huge success of a certain dog training TV show, I am often approached by owners who feel they need to dominate their dog and prove who is “alpha.” This can sometimes lead to a rather unpleasant outcome.

The truth is that dogs, like children, need boundaries and guidelines. Being a benevolent leader to your dog will teach him respect and help build his confidence.

As a good leader you should control all the resources. Food is a very valuable resource, but I think some dogs think there is an ongoing buffet service that magically keeps their bowl full. Instead of free feeding your dog, feed him twice a day and leave the food bowl down for 15 minutes at most. You can also take half of your dog’s meal and make him work for it – practice simple obedience behaviors such as “sit” and “down” and make your dog earn his meals.

Teach your dog that Nothing In Life is Free and that he needs to earn his resources with good manners and good behavior. Resources are everything your dog needs and wants – food, treats, toys, and even attention and affection.

He must do something for you in order to earn anything that is valuable to him, whether it’s food, toys or even if he wants to be petted, ask him to sit first.

Remember, being a good leader does not mean you have to be a Bully! Alpha rolls, collar jerks, scruff shakes and hitting have no place in training your canine companion. As the saying goes - “In dog training, jerk is a noun, not a verb!”

### Coco Mulch Can Kill

The ASPCA confirms the potential effects of theobromine and caffeine on dogs. Dogs are highly sensitive to these chemicals which are found in coco mulch. Low doses can cause mild gastrointestinal upset; higher doses can cause rapid heart rate, muscle tremors, seizures and death. Not all coco mulch contains these chemicals so please check to see if it does or not — better still, buy other types of mulch instead just to be on the safe side.



## FROM THE VET

*Dr. Paul Amerling*

Spring is typically a very active time of year for most pets and their owners. As we start our spring routines we realize that

we may not be as nimble as we were back in the fall. Maybe a few extra pounds have created more problems than we were aware of, and maybe our flexibility has decreased a bit as well. Does this sound familiar? Remember, these same issues affect your pets as well. Working into things slowly will benefit your pets, just as it does you. You may have been walking/running on a treadmill all winter, but likely the dog has not. So when you finally hit the road for a stroll/jog, it may be your dog’s first walk/run in months. Take it easy and wean them into an exercise routine.

Other issues of concern this time of year are the ingestion of plants and planting materials (mulch, soil). As flowers begin to sprout, they look very attractive to many dogs and cats and if ingested, may indeed be harmful. Garden supplies we use may also be harmful, like mulch, fertilizer, and soil additives. Be sure to keep your animals away from these products, and read the labels carefully before applying in an area where your pet will be spending time. Cut flowers can also be a threat to your pet. During spring holidays flowers are commonly received as gifts. Be aware of what you’re giving someone who has a pet, and be aware of what you bring into your own home. These plants and flowers are a very common source of toxicity in dogs and especially cats.

Spring is a big season for parasites. Ingestion of parasite eggs through contaminated dirt, food, or toys, and even grooming can transmit intestinal parasites. External parasites, especially ticks are also a big concern this time of year. As the weather gets warmer, fleas will rear their ugly little heads, and mosquitoes will also appear to spread disease. It is extremely important to discuss these issues with your veterinarian and decide on an appropriate protocol to address these parasites.

Spring is a wonderful time of year, and your pet does not have to suffer needlessly if a few simple precautions are taken. In addition, educating yourself about the potential hazards/toxins in your environment can go a long way to preventing problems. Your veterinarian is your best and most reliable source of information on all these issues, so feel free to contact them and ask their advice. **Remember, prevention is the best medicine!**





## Pet First Aid

More than 30 people attended an excellent Pet First Aid talk by Dr. Paul Amerling of Miller-Clark Animal Hospital, at our shelter on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Amerling was accompanied by Magnum, his 16-month-old handsome and very well behaved black Lab who he

used for demonstration purposes. Dr. Amerling is a member of the New Rochelle Humane Society board.

The course's purpose was to teach how to give immediate care to an injured or suddenly ill pet as temporary assistance until proper veterinary care can be received. The course was not intended to replace veterinary care, just to allow a pet owner to potentially save a pet's life or to minimize trauma after an injury.

Dr. Amerling dealt with such topics as restraints, CPR (checking airways, breathing and circulation), bleeding, orthopedic injuries to bone and muscle, other wounds such as penetrating objects, puncture wounds and degloving wounds (skin torn off), burns, cold and heat emergencies and poisonings.

A flier was handed out which listed items that should be included in a pet first aid kit such as gauze (roll and pads), saline solution for rinsing wounds, bandage tape, cold pack and scissors. One should also always have the ASPCA Poison Control Hotline available. The number is (888) 426-4435. Also have your credit card number available since there is a charge for this service.

Watch our web site for more talks in the future.

"If you don't have a dog—at least one—there is not necessarily anything wrong with you, but there may be something wrong with your life."....Vincent Van Gogh

"Cats can be cooperative when something feels good, which, to a cat, is the way everything is supposed to feel as much of the time as possible.".... Roger Caras



*Our home had been catless for nearly six years when I decided that I needed to adopt a cat for my 62nd birthday. I realized I didn't want a kitten—they are usually very adoptable—I wanted to do a bit of a rescue operation. I spent literally two hours peering into cages and holding cats, grey and striped, black and white, long haired and short haired, young and one very old lady Persian. It occurred to me that this was not going to be easy—how could I ever choose. I spied a tabby in a cage in the corner. His tag read "Newby 2 years." The volunteer told me to stand in front of the cage while she opened it. Newby calmly put both paws on my shoulders, looked at me directly in my eyes and clung to me. I had not selected a cat—this cat had selected me.*

*Almost a year later Newby (renamed Percy (after King Arthur's most valiant knight, Percival) continues to amaze my husband and me. This is a cat with a large measure of feline personality and is the MOST affectionate companion imaginable.*

Caroline Romans



## Young Caring Hearts

Girls Scout Troup No. 1829 from the Hommocks School in Larchmont and Ursuline

School in New Rochelle visited the shelter to plant flowers using money they raised by collecting change and running lemonade stands. They brought flats, soil and fertilizer and, along with some parents, helped beautify our shelter. We are so pleased when young people want to help our animals — directly or indirectly. Making our shelter more appealing to visitors certainly brings people through our doors in a happier mood and more ready to adopt.

This is just one example of how young people can help. Others, ages 14 to 18, participate in our junior volunteer program, and 10-14 year olds come with a parent and take part in our family volunteer program.

Other children help raise money or collect merchandise which they bring when they come to our shelter for a talk, a tour and a visit with some animals.

Every year the Greenwich Catholic School brings two bus loads of merchandise to the shelter. This is thanks to Jeff Stumpo who used to be a junior volunteer at our shelter and is now a teacher at the school. The classes participate in a contest to see which one can collect the most. The winning classes get to visit the shelter and have a pizza party.



If you have a group of youngsters who would like to visit the shelter, or take up a collection or volunteer, please call to make an appointment by calling 932-2925. We would love to have them.

## The Birthday Cat



## Puppy Reunion

Mandy and five of her six puppies meet for the first time since they were all adopted one year ago. They, together with 20

other dogs, met moms and/or siblings at the Shelter's Puppy Reunion held on May 3rd.

Although the weather was dreadful, which meant outdoor games had to be cancelled and everyone had to be moved inside, a wonderful time was had by all. Dogs got acquainted, owners compared notes, treats were eaten (by dogs and humans), pictures were taken and play dates arranged.



## newrochellehumanesociety.org

Please be sure to visit our web site even if you are not interested in adopting an animal. It has been spruced up and now has a monthly theme and up-to-date information on all upcoming events as well as a featured dog and cat.

April's banner article was on "Kitten Season" between March and November, during which time shelters are overwhelmed with kittens. There was information on ways you can help through our Trap/Neuter/Return program.

Since April was Prevent Animal Cruelty Month there was a link to an article with tips on how to recognize abuse, who to call if you suspect abuse and ways to support anti-cruelty legislation. Articles from past months are easy to retrieve as well.

You can read heart-warming stories along with pictures sent to us by very happy adopters under the "Happy Tails" section.

We now send out a short monthly e-mail newsletter and also a monthly letter entitled "**Fresh Starts**" which features two animals who have been adopted and are now living the good life. The Flopsie article (next column) is one of these stories. If you would like to receive these e-mails please go to our web site's home page and enter your e-mail address in the box which says "Join our Newsletter." You can ask to be dropped from the list at anytime if you wish, and be assured your address will not be shared with any other organization.



## Dog Wash

As reported in our last newsletter, our 2008 dog wash was bigger and better than ever. Over 100 dogs were bathed, 75 had their

nails clipped and 25 were microchipped. We had raffle prizes, dog contests (including best costume) a hot dog and an ice cream truck, a fire engine and two special guests: Annmarie Lucas, the ASPCA animal control officer who is the star of Animal Cops on Animal Planet and Goomba Johnny, a disc jockey on WKTU.

This year the dog wash will be held on Sunday, July 19th. It will be even bigger still, with more vendors, more games and more prizes.

Annmarie has promised to come again and hand out more signed autographed pictures.

Please plan on joining us on this FUN day.



## Flopsie

Flopsie, obviously uncared for, was left in her cage outside the NRHS a few months ago, but after their first visit to the Shelter, Barbara and her daughter left for home with Flopsie under their arms.

They were "*impressed by the staff, the cleanliness and the health of the animals in the Shelter. Flopsie is very sweet, loving and happy in his new home, settling in quite nicely with his new family. Everyone loves him.*"

He enjoys napping under the kitchen table with Annakin, the cat, who snuggles up as close to him as he can. He also enjoys following around Daisy, the Chihuahua. When he is not playing with his new friends, he is busy throwing his toys in the air and learning to use the litter box in his cage. "*He has a big personality and his antics always make us smile.*"



From "Fresh Starts"