



Spring 2010

# Pet Adoption Center News

## New Rochelle Humane Society

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Carlette Allen*

Let's hope that Spring is finally here after the harsh weather we have had to endure this year – what with heavy snows, wind and rain damage to trees and the loss of electric power everywhere – Westchester deserves better now!

We have persevered through it all and you can be assured that the animals never suffered from deprived conditions – although perhaps the members of our staff did! Dedication to the comfort of our residents is our first priority and if ever you come by during one of these emergencies, you will see it in operation!

Perhaps this would be a good time to come and visit. You will find our staff and volunteers busily engaged in taking care of things including making the shelter pretty with flowers, shrubs and sapling trees. We could always use the help if you would like to volunteer!!

### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### CAT ADOPTION DAY—Saturday, June 19

Come see adorable cats and kittens available for adoption at **Larchmont Floral Designs** located at 114 Chatsworth Ave. We will be there from 12 Noon to 2:00 PM.

#### DOG WASH/FAIR—Sunday, July 18 (Rain date July 25)

We will be holding our 10th annual dog wash and fair at the shelter from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM. In addition to a dog wash there will be microchipping, games, contests, vendors, raffles, an auction and demonstrations. Please see page 5 for more details.



#### HOUNDS ON THE SOUND WALK-A-THON—Sunday, Oct 3

The New Rochelle Humane Society and Pet Rescue of Larchmont will join together to hold their second dog walk/fair at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle. This event which was a huge success last year provided funds to both organizations for the care of homeless animals. Please go to [www.houndsonthesound.com](http://www.houndsonthesound.com) to see pictures and a video of last year's event. See page 4 for more details.

#### SHELTER OPEN HOUSE

The shelter has been offering monthly open house tours through the facility as well as workshops. These workshops have included, CPR and First Aid For Your Pet, Fostering a Cat and Feral Cat Trap/Neuter/Return. Please check our website, [www.newrochellehumanesociety.org](http://www.newrochellehumanesociety.org) for the dates of future Open Houses and Workshops.

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  
John Feldtmose  
Annmarie Gordon  
Dr. Richard Goldstein  
Dianne Heim  
Marilyn Monsanto  
Gloria Shulman  
Lee Anne Velej  
Diane Wade

**New Rochelle Humane Society  
70 Portman Road**

**New Rochelle, NY 10801**

**(914) 632-2925**

**FAX (914) 632-0445**

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

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

### **Thrift Shop**

Once again we are asking you to think of the **New Rochelle Humane Society Thrift Shop** when you do your spring cleaning. Don't just pack away those things which you have not used in years—donate them instead. The store is located at **311 North Avenue** in New Rochelle across from the railroad station and is open from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM Wednesday through Saturday. Clothing, household items and jewelry are most welcome. Lucia Kim will be glad to give you a tax receipt. Call her at 633-7683 with any questions. All sales benefit our shelter animals.

## **FROM OUR SHELTER MANAGER**

*By Dana Roca*

Looks can be very deceiving. Imagine a large dark-colored dog, with dark patches of missing fur. The hairless skin reminds you of an elephant's skin, dark and wrinkly. You might assume this dog is unfriendly simply due to her size and unusual appearance. However, if you allow yourself to look past the patches of missing fur and look into Melanie's eyes, you will see a dog that yearns to be in a home, dancing at the front door upon your arrival home. Spend five minutes with Melanie and you will discover a sweet lovely dog that behaves more like a puppy than an adult dog.

"Mel," a friendly Shepherd Rottweiler mix loves to toss a toy into the air and playfully pounce on the toy. I can guarantee a smile will appear on your face as Mel completely loses herself in a game of fetch. At the New Rochelle Humane Society we take great pride in getting to know the personality of each dog and cat. Getting to know each animal's unique personality allows us to guide our adopters to the perfect match for their family. It would be a shame to judge any animal on outward appearances and miss out on the gems that come our way.

So if you are interested in meeting a charmer named Melanie, visit the New Rochelle Humane Society any day and ask for "Mel".



### **Rabies Clinic**

On April 25th, the shelter held a free rabies clinic for dogs and cats. Open to anyone, this program was encouraged and funded by NY State. By the time the day was over, 135 animals had their shots and many people also opted to implant a low cost microchip into their animal, who if lost, could easily be reunited with its family.

Our newest board member, Dr. Richard Goldstein gave shots to dogs big and small plus lots of cats. We thank him for offering his services for the entire day. He came with his brand new mobile clinic in which he offers full-service home veterinary care. The name of his business is the Mobile Vet Squad and his motto is, "bringing our hand to your paw." He can be contacted at [www.mobilevetsquad.com](http://www.mobilevetsquad.com).





## FROM THE TRAINER

*By Bobbie Bhambree*

*Question:* What is Resource Guarding?

*Answer:* Resource guarding occurs when a dog deems something in his possession

as valuable and feels the need to protect it from others. The dog may growl, snap, show teeth or even bite to protect the item. Some dogs will appear “guardy” by blocking you with their bodies, consuming food faster, or becoming very still as if a statue. If you are seeing any of these behaviors, make sure to contact a local positive reinforcement professional dog trainer to assist you. There are many things you can do to alleviate the situation. Most resource guarding behaviors are based on the emotion fear—the dog is worried (sometimes to an extreme degree).

When I was growing up, guarding behavior was easily dismissed and often expected in dogs living in the home. “Leave Lexi’s stuff alone,” I was instructed by my parents. Things are much different today. Resource guarding is a stress-related behavior and a dog in a constant state of stress can suffer emotionally and physically over time. Not to mention it can be dangerous to live with a dog that is resource guarding—especially if you have children living with you. Another reason you should deal with the behavior head-on is for the safety of the dog. I have met with clients who finally decided to address the issue because their dog picked up something dangerous and decided to guard it from their desperate owners who were trying to protect their pet. It was always a precarious situation when those dogs would not give up the dangerous objects and went into displays of growling and snarling at any hands that came near them. It’s at this point that a professional dog trainer must be brought in to try to correct the behavior.

*Bobbie Bhambree helps train NRHS dogs. She is a Trainer and Behavior Counselor at Divine K-9 and can be reached at [www.divinek-9.com](http://www.divinek-9.com)*

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

Don’t forget to check our web site for all kinds of information about animals for adoption, upcoming events, volunteering, fostering, over 1,000 stores where the NRHS gets a percentage of your purchase, buying merchandise with our logo at Zazzle and much more.



## FROM THE VET

THE DREADED WEATHER  
FORECAST...  
THUNDERSTORMS!

*By Dr. Rich Goldstein*

April showers bring May flowers, but they also bring thunderstorms. While you may enjoy the beauty of a rain shower on a warm night, thunderstorms and loud noises can cause tremendous fear responses in pets.

Why are some dogs so fearful of loud noises?

Dogs develop the problem when young, and it worsens with age. Interestingly, WE as pet owners are a big source of continued fearful behaviors. Our natural instinct is to comfort our pets when they show signs of fear. But this actually reinforces and rewards their fearful behavior!

Fear can be shown through barking, shaking, hiding, destructive behavior, even inappropriate soiling. Loud noises, like thunder and fireworks, are the most common triggers. Static electricity in the air may also play a role, especially with all that hair!

Here are some things you can try to alleviate some fear and anxiety:

- Start treatment at the first sign of developing fear, especially in young or new pets
- Provide a quiet, dark, safe refuge
- Provide background noise, like music or TV
- Try DAP – Dog Appeasing Pheromone, which helps calm anxious dogs
- A Storm Protection Jacket, may help diffuse static electricity
- Speak to your veterinarian about one of the many quick-onset, short-acting anti-anxiety medications. Some herbal remedies (such as chamomile or lavender) may also help

Consider desensitization and counter-conditioning behavioral techniques like CD’s that play recordings of low levels of the trigger sounds to desensitize dogs to the noise. Reward CALM behavior and do not reward fearful behavior. Maintain a calm, normal routine during storms to teach your dog that it’s “no big deal”.

Storm phobias and fear of loud noises are common. But with early detection and intervention, you can make storm and fireworks season much more pleasant for you and your pet.

*See page 2 for information on Dr. Goldstein*





## Dog Walk/Fair

Last October on a bright sunny day more than 300 dogs and their owners

walked the 1.6 mile path around the perimeter of Glen Island Park on Long Island Sound to benefit the animals at the New Rochelle Humane Society and Pet Rescue of Larchmont.

The event was a huge success and will be repeated this year on Sunday, Oct



3rd, from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

In addition to the walk 35 vendors sold everything from art work to jewelry to denim bags and stuffed toys. The Pelham Police Department provided a K-



9 demonstration, and the Port Chester Obedience School ran dogs through an agility course. There was food and live music plus dog games and contests. Visitors bought raffle tickets in the hopes of winning one of the beautiful raffle baskets, and others had caricature pictures drawn by a skillful artist. Both the New Rochelle Humane Society and Pet Rescue brought wonderful dogs



who were available for adoption.



**In preparation for this year's event we are looking for sponsors, vendors and raffle prize donations.**

**Please contact the shelter at (914) 632-2925 or e-mail**

**petadopt@verizon.net if you can help.**

Pictures and video of last year's event can be seen at [www.houndsonthesound.com](http://www.houndsonthesound.com) At this site, starting in July you will be able to register to walk and e-mail your friends and relatives to ask them to sponsor your walk with a donation.

We hope those who came last year will return and those who missed it will mark their calendars **now** and be sure to attend this time. You'll have a fun day!

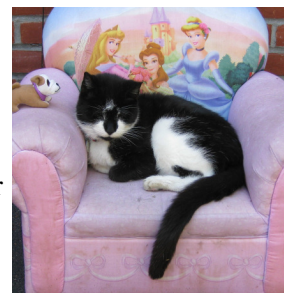


## Grant

Visitors entering the shelter walk by our sign and are often greeted by a cat named Grant. They might not realize that

the cat in the sign is none other than Grant, our shelter mascot. Grant came to the NRHS in 1997 making him 15 years old since he was approximately 2 when he arrived. He was adopted twice and returned both times since he would NOT use a litterbox. It was clear Grant had an aversion to litterboxes making him unadoptable. It was then we decided to make him a "house cat" and official greeter, allowing him to spend days outside in the shelter driveway, but inside at night. Not only is he the official greeter but also the official beggar. If you have treats for him he will be at your side in a flash.

Two years ago Grant disappeared for two days and returned with a severely injured back leg. For months we tried to save the leg but eventually it had to be amputated. It is for this reason we tell people to keep their cats inside. They will be perfectly happy being on a sunny window ledge looking out. Fortunately Grant was able to make his way back to the shelter. Many peoples' cats are not so lucky.



Grant is doing fine with just three legs. It does not stop him from running down the driveway to meet and greet new and old friends every day.

## NRHS - 100 Years Old

In 2011 the New Rochelle Humane Society will be celebrating its 100th birthday. We are glad to say we are alive, very well and better than ever. From a group of 15 city residents who mobilized on May 18, 1911 to form the Society and after being in several different locations we now service 17 communities in lower Westchester. We rescue lost, injured and abused animals 24/7, provide them with medical services, training and lots of love and attention from our staff and volunteers. We found homes for approximately 500 dogs and 900 cats last year as well as returning hundreds to their owners.

Watch for Centennial celebration events in our next newsletter and on our web site.



## Trooper

Trooper, a handsome pit bull, was brought to the shelter by a good Samaritan who saw a car hit him and drive off. Trooper was unable to use his front legs but we were told to give him some time because he might heal by himself since his problem was nerve damage.

One leg did heal, but unfortunately the other did not and had to be amputated. But just a few days after the operation, Trooper was standing, walking and even running, hardly missing the leg at all.

It's not easy to get pit bulls adopted due to their reputation, but getting a three-legged one adopted proved to be harder, even though Trooper is a sweetheart of a dog.



After being at the shelter for months a couple decided to foster him for a few days while they made up their mind. It did not take them long to realize how wonderful he is, and the adoption was finalized. We hear he is doing great as this picture which they sent seems to prove. He is indeed living the "good life."

## On-line Newsletters

In attempt to "Go Green" we have created two on-line publications: a newsletter and a publication called Fresh Starts. The newsletter usually features a dog and cat looking for a home as well as upcoming shelter events. Fresh Starts, on the other hand, features a dog and/or cat who has been adopted and is in its "forever home." These two publications are sent out once a month. We think you will find both informative and enjoyable.

You can sign up to receive both by going to the home page of our web site and entering your e-mail address in the box which says, "Join our Newsletter." You can ask to be dropped from the list anytime if you wish and your address will never be passed on to anyone else.

*"If you can't decide between a Shepherd, a Setter or a Poodle, get them all ... adopt a mutt!" – ASPCA*



## Dog Wash

On Sunday July 18th the shelter will be holding our 10th Annual Dog Wash. It has gotten bigger and better every year. From an event where we washed a few dogs, cut some nails and sold shelter merchandise and baked goods we have grown to an event where last year we washed 120 dogs, clipped the nails of 81, microchipped 20, had vendors selling all kinds of things, raffle prizes,

K-9 and agility demonstrations, a giant blow up slide for the children, food trucks selling hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream and a DJ.

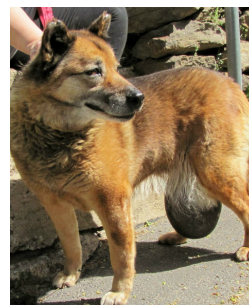
This year our dog wash will be held on Sunday, July 18th from 10 AM to 3:30 PM with a rain date



on July 25th. We hope you can attend. Bring your dogs, children, friends and relatives. Check our web site [www.newrochellehumanesociety.org](http://www.newrochellehumanesociety.org) for additional information. If you can help by donating towels prior to the event that would be very helpful.

## Help Heal Fund

When Akira arrived at our door, we were so saddened by what we saw. A thick heavy chain, likely meant for towing trucks, was attached to her dirty collar. A weary medium-sized shepherd mix looked at us with the eyes of someone who had given up hope. She was so dirty, we



doubted if she ever had a bath. Then we saw what was hard to miss— a huge basketball-sized growth stretching from her belly, and nearly touching the ground. The chain was immediately taken off, a cleansing bath was next and then a trip to Tuckahoe Animal Hospital to see if this dog could be saved. A surgical specialist,

Dr. Richard Goldstein, was called to perform the difficult surgery. After the grueling four-hour surgery, Dr. Goldstein and Dr. Meglino repaired a hernia that might have made a Guinness world record. Her name is now Akira and she is recovering from her surgery as we write. Akira's surgery was made possible by donations to our "Help Heal Fund."



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

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Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
New Rochelle, NY  
10804  
Permit No. 1795

### Current ADOPTION GALLERY

**Buster**



**Big Baby  
Big Cuddler**

**Shelly**



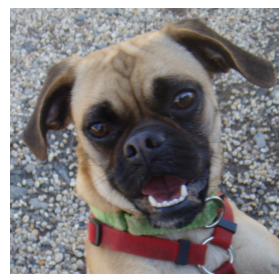
**Rub My Belly  
I'm Yours**

**Otis**



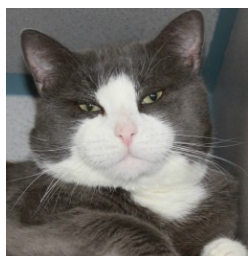
**Will Make  
You Laugh**

**Coco**



**Great Thing  
In Small Package**

**Pookie**



**Gentle Giant**

**Leo**



**Cute and  
Quirky**

**Jessie**



**Sugar and  
Spice**

**Katie**



**Adoringly  
Attentive**