

Humane Society of Schuyler County Newsletter

Volume I Issue 3

Summer 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Whew!!! What a busy past eighteen months we've had! Together we have achieved many successes. In 2000, sixty supporting members contributed nearly \$10,000, and family memberships continued to increase. A much needed revision of the by-laws has been completed and will be sent to the general membership to be voted on at year end. We held several successful fund raising and public relations events, including a Benefit Concert, Golf Tournament and a Fall Rabies Clinic.

Thanks to our weekly dog posters of impounded dogs, continued presence on the Internet, and local business support of the Adopt-A-Pet page in local papers, the adoption rate from the County Dog shelter has reached an all time high. Our participation with the Surgical 3 Rotation at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals enabled over 50 dogs and cats to be spayed and neutered, thereby facilitating their adoptions. Funds for the County supported spay/neuter program for dogs have increased 33%, and a spay/neuter resolution for Shelter animals has been approved by the County Legislature. The Public Health Department has supported our efforts in rabies prevention and education, and has agreed to provide the necessary materials for future October clinics.

We continue to work with the Sheriff's department to further our shared goals in the humane treatment of animals. Following continued discussions with Sheriff Maloney, we were granted permission to begin a Mobile Adoption Program, with funding for rabies and distemper/parvovirus vaccines coming from the Animal Control Budget. We in turn, have been able to help support the Shelter by our participation in the Hill's Pet Food distribution days offered every month at Cornell. In further recognition of Sheriff Maloney, a deputy was sent to

two continuing education events this year---the Adoption Options Seminar and the New York State Humane Association's Investigating Animal Cruelty Workshop. The Sheriff department now also has the ability to issue dog licenses.

Last year, we were recognized by United Way as an organization that indeed addresses the needs of our residents, and became a United Way Agency. Last November, we were awarded a scholarship by the American Humane Association to attend a two-day Shelter Planning, Design and Construction workshop at the Huberts Animal Welfare Center in Madison N.J. We were awarded almost \$12000 from Pet Life Foundation and PETsMART Charities, which enabled us to organize two free spay/neuter clinics here in Schuyler County (January 8th-12th and June 24), and to loan equipment to facilitate clinics at the Cortland and Tompkins County SPCAs.

Remaining activities planned for this year include the Benefit Golf Tournament in September at the Watkins Glen Golf Course, and the free rabies clinic in October at the Watkins Glen P & C.

It's been a pleasure to work with such a talented and motivated group of individuals to achieve such worthy goals on behalf of our animal friends. I encourage everyone to get involved in Humane Society activities. It's some of the best medicine available to lift the spirit and bring joy into your life. In closing, I leave you with a thought from Milan Kundera: **Mankind's true moral test, its fundamental test (which lies deeply buried from view), consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals.**

Margaret Ohlinger, D.V.M., President HSSC

2nd Annual Humane Society Golf Tournament

Our first Golf Tournament was such a success that we are having a 2nd Annual Golf Tournament in support of the Humane Society of Schuyler County. Last year's contestants had such a good time that many were asking to sign up long before a date had been set. In addition to having had a great time playing Captain's team golf, the food was great, and area businesses were generous in giving us some of their best wines, goods and services as prizes for the contestants.

We hope to see you there !!!!

WHEN: September 22nd, 2001
WHERE: Watkins Glen Golf course, Route 14 North of Watkins Glen
WHO: Anyone who can swing a golf club in the FingerLakes Region
WHY: JUST "FORE" FUN TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF SCHUYLER COUNTY

FORMAT: Captain and Crew Foursomes—SCRAMBLE

GOLF and LUNCH

TEE TIME: 9:00 A.M. LUNCH/PRIZES: 2:00 P.M.

COST: \$45.00 dollars per person

(make checks payable to the Humane Society of Schuyler County)

Send registration to: Greg Coon
Watkins Glen Golf Course, Rte 14
Watkins Glen NY 14891

**Registration Due
September 8th,
2001.**

Paid
Registration on
First Come, First
Served Basis.

Name _____

Please List Foursome Participant Names

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Mark Twain on Animals

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man...

If a man could be crossed with the cat, it would improve man, but deteriorate the cat.

The fact that man know right from wrong proves his intellectual superiority to other creatures, but the fact that he can do wrong proves his moral inferiority to any creature that cannot.

You May Be the Perfect Dog Owner— If You

- ◇ Think chewing books and furniture is a sign of intelligence.
- ◇ Think 15 years of caring for a pet does not seem like a lifetime.
- ◇ Look forward to big, wet kisses when you come home each day.
- ◇ Don't mind sharing your house with someone who sheds, tracks dirt occasionally, and possibly drools.
- ◇ Don't mind sharing your home with someone who never cleans up after themselves.
- ◇ Want to take care of someone every day.
- ◇ Don't mind a playmate who likes to chase balls and drag off shoes.
- ◇ Don't mind a playmate who likes to slobber on balls and shoes.
- ◇ Would like to spend your extra money on pet food, toys, veterinary care, chew bones and more chew bones.
- ◇ Want someone to adore you even on a bad hair day.
- ◇ Believe that spaying and neutering your pets will help solve the pet overpopulation problem.
- ◇ Can't imagine leaving your devoted pet behind when you move.
- ◇ Want to keep an ID tag on your pets, so they can get back to you no matter what.
- ◇ Enjoy unconditional love and constant companionship.



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American Humane Society

**If you think you have
what it takes, than
please visit our local
dog shelter and con-
sider adopting one of
these homeless
animals.**

**He who is cruel to animals
becomes hard also in his
dealings with men. We can
judge the heart of a man by
his treatment of animals.**

Immanuel Kant

Please become a Humane Society Member !!!

Thanks to all of you who are already active supporting members of the Humane Society. You may have wondered why your renewal date came and went, and you did not receive a notice from us. We are changing our renewal times to an annual mailing at years end. Now is a good time to renew or to become a new member. Your \$20 dollar membership fee now, will continue your membership through December of 2002. Even if you cannot renew, we are always in need of volunteers. Volunteering your time means that we can continue to expand our presence and programs in our Community.

Examples of how you can help:

1. Loan crates and carriers during a free spay/neuter clinic.
2. Donate old towels and blankets for bedding.
3. Help with a membership drive and renewal mailings.
4. Help make phone calls and write thank you notes.
5. Donate food or drinks for an event.
6. Help walk dogs at the County shelter.
7. Volunteer to help at our mobile adoption outings.
8. Man a booth during an event.
9. Volunteer to work at a Spay/Neuter or Rabies clinic.
10. Foster some cats or kittens until we can find adoptive homes.

Donations have been made to the Humane Society of Schuyler County in memory of the following people and pets

John Priano
Lee M. Gage
Raymond Cannon
Mary Forgatch
William A. Weiss

Tinner, companion cat of Mary Churchhill
Fox's Brother
Rusty, Companion pet of the Wilson's
MacDougal, companion cat of Shannon Dortch
Robin, beloved dog of Annette Finney and Martha Fischer
Macy, beloved cat of Pixie Senesac

Humane Society or Animal Control! What's The Difference and What Does It Mean in Schuyler County?

Humane societies (also called animal rescue leagues, SPCA's etc.) were created by concerned individuals to protect animals from people. Animal control agencies, on the other hand, were created by governments to protect people from animals.

Their source of funding usually matches their purposes: animal control agencies are funded by the local government (city or county) that they serve; humane societies often survive only on donations from individuals and businesses in their community. These non-profit agencies are not chapters of any national group, but are private organizations governed by a volunteer board of directors made up of people from the community. Both types of agencies work for the welfare and humane treatment of animals, and often have similar programs.

In Schuyler County, the dog shelter is County run, while there is no Humane Society run shelter. **The ultimate goal of the Humane Society is to raise enough money to have a shelter that can include cats and other homeless animals.** We work with the Sheriff's department to help increase the number of dogs adopted from the local shelter by having mobile adoptions, producing the weekly dog poster, and manning the Shelter on Saturday mornings from 10:00 to 12:00.

Animal Control and Animal Cruelty complaints

are handled by the Sheriff department. The local townships contract with the local authorities to do so. The Humane Society of Schuyler County is made up of local volunteers that have no formal training as animal control officers, and therefore must pass any complaints received to the local authorities.

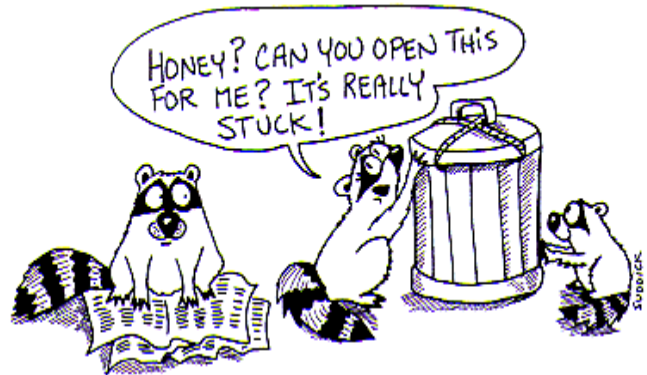
A major focus of the Humane Society of Schuyler County is to raise money to promote spaying and neutering of companion animals in the county, so as to lessen the number of animals that are surrendered, or picked up and housed in the dog shelter each year. We are fortunate in receiving money from the County to fund dog spay/neuter certificates. We in turn raise money through donations and fund raisers, to fund cat spay/neuter certificates, and low-income free spay/neuter clinics. We continue to keep working in partnership to improve the welfare of animals in our community.



Picture reprinted with permission from the American Humane Society

10 Ways to Reduce your Risk of Rabies

- 1) Vaccinate your pets against rabies.
- 2) Don't keep wild animals as pets. More than 1.5 million exotic animals are kept as pets by Americans—animals that cannot be vaccinated against rabies.
- 3) Do not handle wildlife—dead or alive. While the virus won't survive very long in dead animals, you should wear moisture-proof gloves before picking them up.
- 4) Avoid animals displaying unnatural behavior. Wild animals who are unusually friendly or displaying other unnatural behaviors may have the rabies virus.
- 5) Discourage contact between pets and wildlife. Don't let your pets roam or encourage them to interact with unfamiliar domestic or wild animals.
- 6) Feed your pets indoors if possible. Food left outside often attracts stray dogs, cats, and wildlife to your yard.
- 7) Animal proof your trash. Make sure your trash lids are locked, and don't leave bags of garbage outside the cans.
- 8) Prevent wild animals from getting into the house. Prune tree branches that overhang the roof. Keep the screens on windows and cover small openings such as chimneys, furnace ducts and eaves.
- 9) Report all stray animals to animal control. Stray animals may not have been vaccinated for rabies. They also run a high risk of exposure to wild animals who carry the disease.
- 10) Give your child some guidelines to follow. Do not frighten young children, but make sure they learn some basic rules about protecting themselves from strange or unfamiliar animals.



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63 Inverness Drive East
Englewood CO 80112

Fall Rabies Clinic Scheduled

The Schuyler County Humane Society will hold a free rabies clinic for Schuyler County Residents on October 6th, at the P&C store in Watkins Glen.

This will be the only Fall clinic scheduled this year.

What if my pet is exposed to a rabid animal???

If your pet has been in a fight with another animal, wear gloves to handle it, and isolate it from other animals and people for several hours. Call your veterinarian. If your pet has been vaccinated, it will need a booster rabies vaccine within five days of exposure. Unvaccinated pets exposed to a suspected or known rabid animal, must be confined for six months, or humanely destroyed.

Please Vaccinate your pet!!!!

We would like to thank the many community members and businesses that have been so generous this year in their donations for fund raisers, rabies and spay/neuter efforts, building fund, kennels, food and so much more.....

We appreciate your help and support!!!.

Ace Hardware
 Mary Abbene
 Nancy Adams and Richard Paige
 Advanced Family Chiropractic Service
 Atwater Estate Vineyards
 Dr. Thomas and Margaret Albert
 Dr. Leslie Appel and her team of vets and techs from the CU Hospital of Animals
 Sharon Bingell
 Frank Blanchard
 Irene Brown
 Annie Campbell
 Wesley and Kaye Canfield
 Donna Carl
 Chateau LaFayette Reneau
 Mary Jane Claire
 Jane Cleveland
 Greeba and George Conklin
 Amber Cook
 Curt and Darwin Connelly of Curly's Restaurant
 Melissa Clark
 Corning Leader
 Clifford Motors
 Carousel Kennels and Grooming
 Cornell Lab of Ornithology
 Daily News
 Patty DelRosa and The Jellicle Cat
 Thomas and Sharon DeRoos
 Shannon and Bruce Dortch
 Doug's Auto World
 Amber Duntley
 Carolyn and James Elkins
 Exercise Enterprise
 Elmira Star Gazette
 Dr. Frank Fielder for the generous donation of the use of his clinic for our low income spay/neuter clinics.
 Falls Mobil
 John and Karen Fesmire
 Diana Kreutzer and Albert Foote
 Marc Fisher
 Gail Fulkerson
 Famous Brands
 Fox Run Golf Club
 Fox's Pizza

The Frame Shop
 Farm Sanctuary
 Glendale Farms
 Mary Graham
 Glenora Winery
 Grapevine Deli and Café
 Grace Gaige
 Gaige Farms
 June Gal
 Glen Grocery
 Lynn Glukis
 David Joshua Goldman
 Good Groceries
 Gold Mine Jewelry
 Glen Auto Supply
 Bob and Kristen Grotke
 Helen Hammond
 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyard
 Laurie Hensley
 John and Susan Herbert
 Harold and Betsy Hoffmier Jr.
 HiLites
 Ithaca Bakery
 Ithaca Grain & Pet Supply
 Jim's Barber Shop
 Johnathan Jenkins
 Rob Johnson
 Mark Jones
 Kurtz Enterprizes
 Kelly's Home and Hardware
 Mary Kline
 Lakewood Vineyard
 Lesli LaRocco
 Learn Motors
 Gilly LeRoux
 Linda's Citco
 Mrs. Margaret Long
 Audrey S. Long
 Mecklenburg Fire Department
 Linda Mikula
 Carol Marion
 Pat Miller
 Neils Miller
 Margaret and Seth Marks
 Gwendolyn McCabe
 Shelly Newsom & Gyula Paszdor
 Holly McNulty

Betty Neilan Hughes
 Janette Peet
 Dr. Kirk Peters
 William and Carol Peters
 P & C Foods of Watkins Glen
 Pizza Hut of Watkins Glen
 Pepsi Cola International
 PETsMART
 Petlife
 Past and Present
 Pick a Flick Video
 Isabel Rachlin
 R & T Sound
 Anna Riley
 Rich Raba
 Tanya D. Salcedo
 Sangary Kennels
 John and Joanne Smith
 Duane Spilde
 Secrets of Pleasure
 Stillman's Greenhouse
 Carl's Rent-All
 Schuyler County Chamber of Commerce
 The Savoy
 Sheriff Mike Maloney, Deputy Bill Everett and the other Members of the Department
 Sullivan's Candy
 Town of Montour
 Georgie Taylor and Friends
 Vegan Epicure
 VFW Post 2674 in Watkins Glen
 Betty Malloy Vinti
 Village Takeout Pizzeria in Odessa
 Watkins Glen Golf Course
 Willgro Perennials
 Wildflower Café
 WOKN Radio
 Watkins Glen Sporting Goods
 Watkins Review and Express
 Wright's Beverage
 (Our apologies if we overlooked any donations)

Successful Free Cat Spay/Neuter Clinic

Doctor Fielder's Fingerlakes Clinic in Odessa was once again the site of a free spay/neuter clinic for low-income families in Schuyler County. With the help of a new Pet Life grant of \$1500 awarded to us in March, we were able to replenish suture materials, scalpel blades, drugs, and other medical supplies used during our week long clinic held in January of this year. This most recent clinic was held on 6/24/01 and focused on barn, stray, feral and other outdoor cats----many of which might have never seen a Veterinarian any other way.

Thanks to continued volunteer help from local vets, volunteer techs and vets from the Cornell Hospital of Animals, Humane Society and community volunteers, we were able to spay or neuter a total of 61 cats— 33 females and 28 males.

Most of us know there is a cat and dog overpopulation problem; the American Humane Association estimating that 15 million perfectly healthy dogs and cats are killed by lethal injection each year. Anyone living on a main road in a rural area, particularly with a handy barn, knows how many unwanted cats are thoughtlessly dropped off to fend for themselves.

Zoom

My Zoom is a special cat! He's a pretty marmalade orange with dark markings and a very special plume tail. Zoom is named after a storybook cat who has great adventures while in search of his Uncle Roy, a seafaring cat. The storybook Zoom has the kitchen sink as his ocean, the attic as the North Pole, and Egypt and the Nile are just behind the Library bookshelves. My Zoom is perhaps having the best adventure---that of just having a chance to live. Zoom and his six brothers and sisters were thrown into a dumpster in Montour Falls, when just new born kittens. They were lucky enough to have someone find them, to have another caring soul foster them until old enough to adopt, and then continue to see that they found loving homes.

I can only hope that the decision to discard these kittens was seen as the only financial alternative for their original owner, but it brings close to home the number of unwanted dog and cat litters that are discarded each year. Please have your pet spayed or neutered, to prevent unwanted litters.

The Humane Society can help, with a certificate of from \$20 to \$50 towards the cost of the surgery for your dog or cat companion. Most of our community veterinarians honor these certificates. If you desire financial assistance, please leave the Humane Society a message at 546-7710 and an application will be mailed to you.

Many are adopted and fed, whether we can afford to or not.

This clinic hopefully helped some of the people that are in just that situation. Of these 61 cats, 55% were definitely drop-offs and strays, while another 30% came from owner litters or friends (probably with unwanted litters of their own). Almost 80% of these cats had never had a rabies vaccination and 72% had never seen a veterinarian. The animals participating in the clinic were not only spayed or neutered, but also left with a rabies vaccination.

The saddest statistic of all is that of 33 females, two-thirds were pregnant or had already had litters this year. Think of these 33 females having a possible two litters a year. Even if only two kittens survive each litter, that is a possible 132 cats in one year. If 66 of these are female, and reproduce the next year along with their 33 mothers (two litters of two kittens each), by year two we are up to 396. No matter how wide we open our hearts to adopt animals in need of homes, there are not enough available homes for all the cats and dogs that need them. We must all do what we can to get our pets spayed and neutered as soon as we can, so that there is no need to kill 15 million animals a year.

Dogs come when they are called, Cats take a message and get back to you. Mary Bly

