

Humane Society of Schuyler County Newsletter



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Schuyler County Takes the Lead In Offering Free Spay/Neuter Clinics

We've all heard the statistics...approximately nine million cats and six million dogs are euthanized annually in shelters in the United States. This situation is deeply saddening for shelter employees, volunteers, veterinarians and for those of us who continue to rescue animals from their desperate situations. Successfully eliminating pet overpopulation must focus on drastically reducing pet reproduction by offering low cost and free spay/neuter programs.

In October of 2000, the Humane Society of Schuyler County sponsored a free rabies clinic in Watkins Glen. Dr. Margaret Ohlinger and Dr. Leslie Appel vaccinated a total of 274 animals and we were all stunned to realize that well over half of the animals vaccinated that day were not spayed or neutered. The overwhelming reason given by owners for not sterilizing their pets was the financial burden. Also, most owners were not aware of the health benefits associated with spaying and neutering, such as decreased incidence of mammary cancer, decreased likelihood of prostate disease in dogs, elimination of objectionable urine odor by intact male cats along with decreased territorial marking by cats, and decreased likelihood of roaming and fighting in intact male cats. Appreciating the dilemma that many pet owners face regarding wanting a healthy pet and affording these surgeries, the rabies clinic organizers decided right then and there that what Schuyler County needed was a free spay/neuter program, without a long list of expensive prerequisites. Less than three weeks later, the Humane Society had networked with the Cornell University Hospital for Animals, as well as other local veterinarians, to bring the idea of a free spay/neuter clinic closer to reality. The

idea of a free clinic was not new, but never before had we been able to put together the key people, facilities and expertise necessary to make it happen. Five veterinarians agreed to donate five days of their time and talents to spay and neuter as many dogs and cats as time would allow, with a projected goal of two hundred. A sixth local veterinarian, Dr. Fielder, donated the use of his clinic. With the help of Dr. Leslie Appel, Small Animal Surgery Instructor at Cornell, we set about contacting Ms. Joyce Briggs, Executive Director of PETS^MART Charities. A grant proposal for \$8,000 was prepared by Humane Society volunteers and submitted in late November. The grant was approved, and supplemented by a second grant for \$2,000 from the Pet Life Foundation. Along with our annual contribution from the Schuyler County United Way, we were well on our way to sponsoring our first free spay/neuter clinic. With these monies we purchased surgical instruments and all other necessary supplies. Donations of anesthesia machines and an autoclave were made by Surgivet Corporation and Tuttnauer.

For five days, beginning on January 8, 2001, Drs. Leslie Appel, Eric Christensen, Cameron Knight, Paul Mazza and Margaret Ohlinger performed 68 cat spays, 48 dog spays, 60 cat castrations and 45 dog castrations for a total of 221 animals. Cornell veterinary technicians donated their time to prep all the animals for surgery. Humane Society members kept the 20+ volunteers well fed, monitored animals in recovery, washed instruments, cleaned cages and did amazing amounts of laundry every night.

This initial clinic was so successful that the program was then offered to neighboring counties. Using Schuyler County's equipment and surgical instruments, Tompkins and Cortland Counties were added to the clinic rotation. By the end of the summer we had held six free clinics in three counties.

Schuyler County Takes Lead, cont.

Impressed by our success, the dean of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals offered the use of the new Junior Surgery Suite for all future clinics! Up until this time, a proper facility had to be borrowed, and all supplies and equipment were transported to that facility. Using the new Junior Surgery Suite with its eight operating tables and a separate prep room, has enabled organizers to schedule more surgeries at each clinic. The program has become such a success that there are now additional local veterinarians volunteering along with scores of veterinary students and technicians. During the year 2001, we sponsored or co-sponsored nine clinics performing 361 cat spays, 374 cat neuters, 63 dog spays and 65 dog neuters — a total of 863 animals!

Additional grants are being submitted to underwrite the cost of the surgeries and keep the program in operation. It is our hope that this program becomes contagious among other humane societies, veterinary colleges, and funding organizations. In this way, we can effectively and efficiently reduce the population of unowned pets.

Humane Society Recipient of Finger Lakes Kennel Club donation

Dennis Smith, President of the Finger Lakes Kennel Club, announced a donation of \$500 to the Humane Society of Schuyler County to support their dog related projects. The kennel club is an American Kennel Club affiliated organization of dog breeders, exhibitors and trainers in Tompkins County and the surrounding area. It sponsors many dog related activities, including two large dog shows each year, one part of a large cluster of shows held in Syracuse in the spring and one part of the prestigious Wine Country Circuit held at Sampson State Park in the fall. The group sends a delegate to all meetings of the AKC and monitors closely, legislation related to dogs and dog control laws, health issues and studies, and registration and competition related issues involving the AKC. The group frequently makes contributions of time and money to area organizations promoting projects for the health and welfare of our canine friends. The Humane Society of Schuyler County sends a hearty Thanks to the group for their support.

Happy Endings

Sometimes when one hears the statistics, it seems like an impossible task—finding homes for so many homeless animals! The pet overpopulation problem is a huge one, and the statistics can be depressing. 9 million cats and 6 million dogs are euthanized each year. Many wait in shelters to be adopted every day. But, there are some pots of gold at the end of the rainbow for many lucky animals. We have been privileged to share in the experiences of some of those animals, and to take part in making sure that the rest of their life is a happy one.

Casper was a white German Shepard who languished in the shelter for months. Bored and restless, he chewed on himself incessantly until he

had damaged his tail and the tip had to be surgically amputated. After he was neutered, he continued to lick at the surgical site until it became infected. One Humane Society volunteer who walks the dogs fell in love with Casper and decided that she would do what it takes to find him a good home. By good fortune, she found a foster home just in the nick of time. The foster home immediately loved Casper. They bathed him when he arrived, as he was filthy and smelly from having been in the shelter for so long. Over the weeks, they showed him the basics of life: housetraining, sit, down, how to go for a car ride, even how to go up and down stairs! They could see that Casper was going to be a very special dog. A family saw his picture on the internet and were immediately interested—and after meeting him they fell in love. Today, Casper lives happily in a home with a

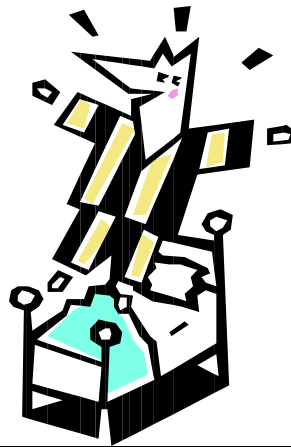
loving couple and their two sons, aged 2 years and 5 years. They can often be found laying on the floor together or with Casper asleep at the foot of their bed.

Sam, a shorthair pointer, came into the shelter as a cruelty case. He was very thin, and that's an understatement. His owner had decided to tie him outside and not give him proper medical care or enough food. Sam looked like an old dog, already tired of life at the age of 5. But after a few weeks of medical care, and plenty of food, and--probably for the first time ever--walks and attention, he started to gain back his beautiful appearance. The Glen Animal Hospital agreed to neuter him for free—he had been through so much—and a wonderful home was found for him. Now, instead of sleeping out in a dog house, he is a regular couch potato!

Chelsea, a mixed breed dog, was abandoned at the shelter by her owner. Problem was, Chelsea was old. Despite the fact that her owner told the Humane Society that she was 1 year old, she was clearly much older than that. It was guessed that she was well into her golden years—probably 9 years old. She was so frightened to be at the shelter, that she was the only dog who didn't want to go for a walk when it was time. She cowered in the back of her cage wondering what had happened to her. She even started to

experience hair loss due to the stress. After a few weeks in the shelter, a foster home decided to take her in. She fit in right away with the dogs and cats at the home. All she wanted was her food and her place on the couch! She was very eager to please and sweet. Finally, the right home came along—a retired woman looking for some companionship. The two old girls get along great together and they are so happy to have found each other!

There are many happy endings out there, and you can be a part of them! Join the Humane Society today in helping Schuyler County dogs with a donation of your time. We need people to spend time with the dogs by walking or playing with them at the shelter. You can even become a foster home and provide a dog with a temporary place to stay until a permanent home can be found. For more information, contact Laura at lauragrace-carver@yahoo.com or 546-7705.



Time to Garden!!
 Many common plants can actually be toxic to your pets. Take care when choosing where to put these plants—particularly if you have a small, enclosed garden where your animals might be tempted to chew. A lot of the same plants that can be toxic to humans are also toxic to our pets. Some common examples are:

- Angel's Trumpet
- Amaryllis
- Azalia
- Daffodill bulbs
- Yews
- Larkspur
- Periwinkle
- Foxglove
- Castor Bean
- Lily of the Valley
- Wisteria
- Rhubarb leaves
- Holly
- Elephant Ear

If your pet does chew on a suspected plant, remove it immediately and gently rinse their mouth. Identify the plant and call your vet. Watch for excessive or foamy salivation and changes in the skin around the mouth.

Memorial Donations have been made to the Humane Society in memory of the following individuals and animals:

Betty V, Decker
 Hazel DeLong
 Joseph Provera

Rocco, beloved Afghan of Cindy Kain

Humane Society receives ASPCA Scholarship to attend the first Empire State Animal Protection Forum

The first Empire State Animal Protection Forum will be held on May 19-21 with over 300 individuals from New York State's animal shelters, rescue organizations, animal control departments, and others convening at the Hudson Valley Resort in Kerhonkson, NY for an opportunity to learn, share and network.

The 2002 Empire State Animal Protection Forum, entitled 'Addressing a Peaceful Existence for All Animals', will present a three-day program with speakers from state and national animal protection organizations including the ASPCA, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the Humane Society at Lollypop Farm, the New York State Humane Association, the Center For Animal Care and Control, Inc. and the SPCA Serving Erie County. The event is being sponsored by Grizzard, the ASPCA, the HSUS, the American Humane Association, Dogwatch Inc., PetSmart Charities, Petfinder and PETCO.

The Humane Society of Schuyler County, Inc. was awarded one of a limited number of scholarships being offered to attend this forum. When asked why we wanted to attend and why we should qualify for a scholarship, Dr. Ohlinger replied "ours is a small but dedicated group with little financial reserves. We've come a long way in a short time...and I am most proud of accomplishments in the spay/neuter program having begun what is now known as C-ASAP (the Cornell Animal Sterilization Assistance Program with Dr. Leslie Appel, Instructor of Small Animal Surgery and Director of Cornell Companions)— thanks to grants from PetSmart Charities and Pet Life Foundation. We have set a goal to eventually build and operate our own shelter—acquiring this responsibility from the Sheriff's Department. I feel that the programs at this Forum would benefit our volunteers now with our involvement in the County dog shelter in terms of adoptions and redemptions, as well as help to prepare us for what lies ahead.

The Schuyler County Humane Society Listserv:

What is a listserv?

A listserv is an easy and convenient way to communicate with all members of a group by sending an email to one email address. For example, the Schuyler County Humane Society listserv has 15 members, and when one of them sends an email to the address schuylercohs@yahoogroups.com all 15 of them get that email. Other benefits to the listserv include readable archives of all messages, a place to post photos, and an address book all at a central website.

How do I join?

Simply send an email with to this address: _schuylercohs-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, with the phrase "subscribe" in the subject box and as the first line of the email. After sending that message, you will receive a confirmation email, and your request for subscription will be sent to the moderator. Then simply follow the instructions!

How do I send an email?

If you have a message that needs to go out to the entire Humane Society, simply send an email as usual and insert schuylercohs@yahoogroups.com into the TO: box.

How do I read messages?

Messages will simply appear in your inbox like a regular email with the preface [schuylercohs] in the subject heading.

How do I change my settings?

You will receive an introductory email that will explain how to use the list. However, by pointing your web browser at www.yahoogroups.com and by logging into the schuylercohs page by using your username and password, you can change any number of settings. You can do anything from set your account to receive all emails at the end of the day in a "digest" or get them individually to read old messages that are archived.

What kinds of messages can I expect?

Typically, you will see notices about upcoming events, meetings, logistical coordinating, meeting minutes, meeting agendas, and keeping the group up to date on a committee's activities.

How do I unsubscribe?

Simply send an email to schuylercohs-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com and follow the instructions.

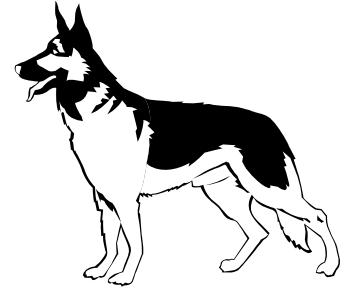
What are the rules?

This is an official listserv for official Humane Society. It is not for personal use or personal business. Off-topic messages will not be tolerated. Arguments or discussions will not be tolerated. Keep in mind that lots of people will read your email, and no one likes to open their inbox to 20 emails, so keep the messages short, to the point, and only send them when EVERYONE has to be in the know. People violating these rules will be subject to removal at the discretion of the moderator.

Who can I go to if I need help?

You can email the list moderator at lauragracecarver@yahoo.com

SURGICAL III ROTATION AT CORNELL BENEFITS SHELTER DOGS



Since January 2000 the Cornell University Hospital for Animals in Ithaca has been providing an invaluable service for dogs impounded at the Schuyler County shelter. Under the direction of Dr. Leslie Appel, Instructor of Small Animal Surgery and Director of Cornell Companions, fourth year veterinary students have been spaying and neutering shelter dogs, and an occasional cat, brought over by Humane Society volunteers. In addition to the surgery, animals are also tested for internal and external parasites and, if positive, are treated before returning to the shelter. Cats are also tested to be sure that they are not carrying the feline leukemia virus. Veterinary students perform complete physical exams, quick assessment blood tests and fecal analyses prior to all surgeries. This has been an excellent learning experience, especially for those students interested in shelter medicine. It gives them the opportunity to practice and enhance their basic surgical skills and anesthesia techniques while providing a valuable community service. Before going to Ithaca, animals are vaccinated for rabies and parvovirus using vaccine and supplies provided by Sheriff Maloney and the Health Department. Perry McGee, Dan Lee and Diane Thurm-Lee have been responsible for

transportation. During 2000, twelve female cats, twenty-eight female dogs and twenty-four male dogs were surgically sterilized. In 2001, forty-seven dogs (which accounted for 20% of the 2001 shelter population) and ten female cats went to Cornell for sterilization. Of this group, forty-three percent or twenty dogs were adopted while in the clinic! For the first three months of this year, one female cat, ten male dogs and seven female dogs have been part of this program and all eighteen animals have been adopted or fostered.

Words can hardly begin to express what a wonderful program this has been for the dogs and cats, and ultimately the people of Schuyler County. In conjunction with our free and low-cost spay/neuter clinics, state vouchers for dog surgeries and county and humane society-funded spay/neuter certificates to be used at local veterinarians, the result has been the impoundment of fewer dogs (approximately one hundred fewer dogs in 2001 as compared to 2000), an increase in adoptions (up from 27% in 2000 to 47% in 2001), a decrease in euthanasias (25% in 2001 as compared to 27% in 2000, and 35% in 1999) and fewer puppies and kittens being born.

Summer Heat is fast approaching—so don't forget to take care of your pet

Never leave your dog in a parked car, even if the windows are open. On a hot summer day, the inside of a car heats up rapidly. On an 85 degree day, after 10 minutes your car can be at 102 degrees, after 30 minutes, it can be at 120. On hotter days, it can go even higher. A dogs normal temperature is 101.5 to 102.2 degrees. Your dog can only withstand temperatures of 107-108 degrees for a short period of time before suffering irreparable brain damage.

It may seem like a kindness to take your pet with you, but it is much kinder to leave your pet at home with plenty of fresh water and a cool place to escape from summer heat.

Meet our Officers and Board of Directors

Dr. Margaret Ohlinger, President

Dr. Ohlinger has been a long time member and active participant within the Humane Society. She's served as President from 2000 to the present. In the fall of 1998 she organized and operated the first free rabies clinic, raising over \$500.00 in donations for the cat spay/neuter program. Margaret has lived in this area for over 20 years, keeping busy with her own ambulatory mixed animal veterinary practice since 1993. Besides her daughter and elderly mother, her life is devoted to her own animals (10 cats, 4 dogs, 2 horses and 1 Russian Tortoise), those of her clients, and the lost, hungry, abused, abandoned and forgotten animals of Schuyler County. As President of the Humane Society, Dr. Ohlinger welcomes the opportunity to continue making a difference.

Ginny Alexander, Vice President

Virginia Alexander is a graduate of SUNY Delhi in Veterinary Technology. A life-long resident of Schuyler county she spent approximately 20 years employed by area hospitals as a medical technician and as a medical transcriptionist. She also worked for several years at the Glen Animal Hospital both as a receptionist and as a veterinary technician. After a 40- year involvement with showing, breeding, and training Arabian horses, Ginny gave them up for health reasons and turned to raising English Springer Spaniels, a breed her family has had since the 1940s. Ginny has written articles for national dog magazines on training, and other topics. She has also won awards for writing poetry and art. Virginia is especially interested in canine behavior and takes continuing education on this as well as on grooming and training. She enjoys raising Springer spaniels and pet grooming. She is an active member of the ESSFTA, parent club of English Springer spaniels, NESSRC (New England English Springer Spaniel Rescue), Ithaca Dog Training Club, and is involved with the AKC's legislative watch. Ginny shares her home with 3 cats, a "flock" of spaniels, 1 Doberman and 1 Schipperke, Peter, her hearing assistance dog.

Pixie Senesac, Secretary

Pixie has been a permanent resident of Schuyler County since 1992. An ornithologist by training, she is an avid bird-watcher and gardener. Pixie shares her home (and barn) with 13 cats, 1 horse, 1 donkey, and 3 miniature mules. Topping her priority list for the Humane Society is the building of a proper animal shelter to service the needs of our residents and improve the welfare of the animals in Schuyler County. She would like to spend more time writing grants to fund more Humane Society activities such as the free spay/neuter clinics.

Dan Lee, Treasurer

Diane Thurm-Lee, Board Member

Dan and Diane moved here from Missouri twenty years ago and have lived in Schuyler County for thirteen of those years. Cats run their household!—18 at last count. They also share their home with chickens, geese, sheep and pygmy goats. Most of their free time is spent working in or planning their ever-increasing gardens.

They would like to see the Humane Society have a shelter of their own, so that in addition to dogs, there is a place to promote adoptions for cats and other animals. Having adopted so many cats of their own, they know first hand the number of unwanted stray cats that can be dumped off at neighboring farms, just because there is a handy barn. They are very active in promoting the free spay/neuter clinics and certificate programs in order to help county residents in just that situation.

Martha Hawksworth, Board Member

Martha has lived in Schuyler County for the past five years and helps out by walking dogs at the shelter, vaccinating the incoming dogs for parvovirus, keeping shelter records up-to-date and volunteering at

Humane Society sponsored spay/neuter clinics. While she loves Schuyler County, she will be leaving her position on the board in August to attend the Iowa State University School of Veterinary Medicine. She shares her home with two dogs, one permanent cat, several stray cats looking for homes, and one very understanding husband.

Verne Alexander, Board Member

Verne is a life-long resident of Schuyler County. A graduate of Corning Community and Brockport State college, he is an accountant. Verne is employed as Business Manager of the Statutory College Fleet at Cornell University, where he has worked for 22 years. He is Town Supervisor for the Town of Catharine and was formerly a member of the Odessa-Montour School Board. Verne and his wife Ginny, have an adult son and a daughter. For years he and his wife operated Carousel Farm where they raised Arabian horses and worked with driving and draft horses. He currently owns Carousel Kennels and Grooming in Odessa where he and his wife raise and train English Springer Spaniels and do dog grooming. He enjoys shooting sporting clays and making things at his blacksmith's forge. He shares his home with his pals -lue a cat, Hershey a field cocker and Rosie, a Doberman. They tolerate too many Springers, a psycho calico cat "Darcy", and a Schipperke.

Lori Bernagozzi, Board Member

Lori Bernagozzi has been a Schuyler County resident for her entire live. Two dogs, Dolly and Gunnar, spend their days filing her house with hair. She has been walking dogs at the shelter for the past 4 years and is also very involved in the mobile adoption program. Her goal for the Humane Society is to one day have a shelter of our own.

Carol Marion, Board Member

Carol Marion has been a Schuyler County resident for just over ten years and a Humane Society Member since 2000. She is currently owned by eight cats and her favorite horse, Jazz. An electrician by trade, Carol is an advocate for all animals and has always pitched in to help whenever possible. She is a common sight at our free rabies and free spay/neuter clinics. We were particularly grateful for her on-call electrician services when we were unable to use our German-made loaned autoclave for our first big spay/neuter clinic because of a strange plug. We were lucky to have her come to our rescue.

Humane Society Recipient of AOTS Gala Fundraiser

On March 2, 2002, Omega Tau Sigma, the veterinary fraternity at Cornell University, held their annual semi-formal gala fundraiser at the Lake Watch Inn located in Lansing, NY. Even with the threat of exams looming in the week ahead, professors, clinicians and students came out for an evening of food, drinks and fun with a live DJ to help raise money for the Humane Society of Schuyler County. Our organization was selected as a recipient because of our continued efforts to improve conditions at the shelter, while working to gain support for acquiring a shelter of our own. We were also recognized for organizing and implementing the spay/neuter partnership program with Cornell and surrounding counties. Our sincere and heartfelt thanks go out to Omega Tau for honoring us.

Good Groceries Dinner supports Humane Society

The Clute Community Center was recently the sight of a Vegan Potluck dinner to benefit the Humane Society. Good Groceries of Watkins Glen sponsored the April 28th event. A nice sized crowd came to sample delicious food, share conversation and some of their favorite recipes. We appreciate the wonderful people at Good Groceries for having thought of the Schuyler County Humane Society when planning this event.

You will always be lucky if you know how to make friends with strange cats." -- Colonial American Proverb

**HUMANE SOCIETY OF
SCHUYLER COUNTY**

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**Thank You for your
support**



Upcoming Rummage Sale Seeks Donations



The Humane Society will be sponsoring what we hope to be the first annual rummage sale on Saturday, May 18th. The sale will be held at Kurtz Enterprises in Montour Falls, and will run from 8 AM till 4 PM. From 8:00 till 2:00 items will be full price, from 2:00 till 3:00 items will be half price, and after 3:00 items will be free! Breakfast and lunch items will be available. Humane Society volunteers will also be showing off some of the dogs available for adoption. So... Please! Clean out those basements, attics and garages and bring us your goods for a good cause! (No clothes, please).

Drop off items at Kurtz's on Friday, May 17th or Saturday morning before 8 am. We're looking for volunteers to tag sale items, staff the sales tent, and bake breakfast foods or cookies to sell. For more information, or to volunteer to help, please call Georgie Taylor at 594-3639. Proceeds from the sale will go to the building fund.

We would also like to thank the following local businesses for giving their support to this event:

Carl's Rent-All
Carol Bower Catering
Chris Betts Pet Grooming
Kurtz Enterprises/Marina Gardens
Stillman's Greenhouse

Upcoming Events: Watch for our annual golf tournament and free rabies clinic later this year.