



Carol Cook Named the Humane Society of Schuyler County Volunteer of the Year

We are pleased to name Carol Cook as our first Volunteer of the year for 2003. Carol has been instrumental in the success rate of adoptions in the Racehorse Retirement Program. Horses are brought from Canandaigua race track through the efforts of Dr. Margaret Ohlinger, who works with the owners and trainers to keep these retired track horses from facing an uncertain future at auction. She redirects them into foster homes while they await adoption. A foster home often means Carol Cook, where Carol and her husband Bernard have sometimes cared for as many as 15 racehorses at a time. Bernard supports Carol in much of the day-to-day care of these horses, allowing Carol to spend the time necessary to meet potential adoptive families and to educate them in how to help these beautiful horses make the transition from racehorse to newest family member.

Bernard and Carol both own

their own businesses and work at home, thus giving them the opportunity to give the Throughbreds the care that they need. Bernard is a fabricator with metals, wood and plastics and Carol is a medical transcriptionist.

Carol brings a life long interest and love of horses to the RHR program. She is a resident of Tompkins County, living in the hills of Newfield since 1965. She started with Cornell polo ponies and progressed to her own horse at a very young age where she rode competitively in many local fairs and shows doing pole bending, barrel racing and mental hazard. She was also a 4-H member for many years. She currently owns a small breeding farm called KC Paints of Newfield with a Tobiano Paint stallion and 3 broodmares. She has 2 daughters and 3 stepsons, and also grandchildren that have inherited her love for riding. They spend much time in the summer out on the trails enjoying nature.

Carol got interested in RRP at the

recommendation of Steve Regnier (another foster farm), who thought she might be good at this because of her love for horses and her love to talk to people about them.

Her biggest hope for RRP is that she can help Dr. Ohlinger build its' success by getting more people and foster farms involved in this fantastic program. This year alone has seen the adoption of 31 horses, with 7 still awaiting adoption. Carol and Bernard have been instrumental in many of these adoptions. We are thankful for their commitment to the Racehorse Retirement Program.

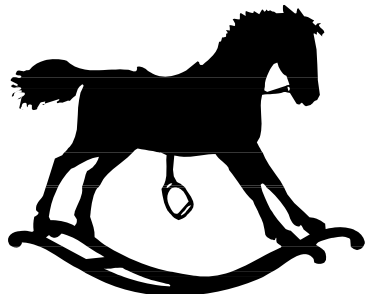


**Carol Cook being presented a
pewter horse statue by
Dr. Margaret Ohlinger.**

**Please help
with a
donation**

Please consider making a donation to help care for the 7 remaining racehorses awaiting adoption. A \$25.00 donation will supply feed and basic care for one of these beauties for a week. We are also looking for donations of good quality hay or willingness to transport hay donations. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Please mail your donations to Humane Society of Schuyler County, PO Box 427, Montour Falls NY 14865 or contact 546-7710

Would You Make a Good Foster Parent for the Racehorse Retirement Program?



There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.

- **Winston Churchill**

Some of my best leading men have been dogs and horses."

- **Elizabeth Taylor**

"Horse sense is the thing a horse has which keeps it from betting on people."

- **W C Fields**

Fostering can be a very rewarding experience, but just like taking the step to adopt, fostering is also a commitment—even if only a temporary one. If you already have horses or have experience with horses, you might be an excellent candidate. Fostering thoroughbred horses isn't for beginners, because the transition from the track to pasture requires patience. Many of these horses have never been out on pasture of any kind. They go from the fast pace of the track to their stall, where they may spend most of their time. This can lead to behavioral problems such as wood chewing, weaving (weaving back and forth in their stall) and cribbing (grasping at hard surfaces and gulping

air). Many of these behaviors develop from boredom.

If you are interested in fostering, here are some things to consider:

- 1) Have an adequate pasture area no smaller than two acres, larger if fostering more horses. It should be free of machinery and rubbish so that they won't injure themselves. You need to be constantly aware of the safety of the animals. Fencing needs to be sturdy—preferably wood plank, multi strand high tensile wire or electric tape. The fencing needs to be easily visible to the horses. Time should be spend showing the horses around the fence before letting them loose.
- 2) Horses should have a 10 x 12 or larger run-in shed with adequate running water or a tub that can be changed frequently and kept clean.

- 3) Be prepared to spend adequate time just brushing, talking, socializing and getting them used to the totally different environment of a pasture. Carol suggest one or two hours a day at first.
- 4) If not willing to show animals to prospective adopters, keep in touch with RRP Personnel for others willing to do so.
- 5) Adoption success comes from constantly promoting the program.

If this sounds like a commitment you are willing to make, please considering fostering. Imagine how nice a feeling it will be knowing that you helped one of these beautiful animals find a new home rather than being sent to auction. If interested in fostering, contact Dr. Ohlinger at 387-5104 or at Animaltrax@htva.net.

Coming Events for Spring

Earth Day

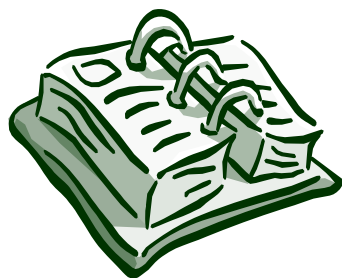
We hope to see everyone at Earth Day on April 24th, held at Fireman's Field in Montour Falls.

Rummage Sale

Help us raise money for our building fund by

donating your gently used treasures to the Third Annual Humane Society Rummage Sale planned for Memorial Day weekend. Last years' sale raised over \$3000 and was a lot of fun

for both shoppers and volunteers. If you have merchandise to donate or would like to volunteer, please contact Georgie Taylor at 594-3639 or Diane Thurm at 387-6589. Donations are tax deductible.



Kit Cat Connection Update

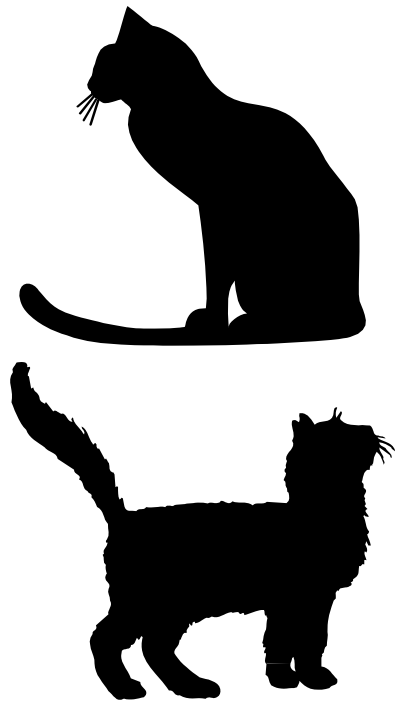


Since its' beginning in August of 2002, the Kit Cat Connection has resulted in the adoption of over 100 of our feline friends. Unfortunately, we are now in a position of having to step back and re-evaluate our program. Fall of 2003 found us with far too many cats needing adoption (many with health issues) and far too few foster homes willing to care for them until a space could open up at Lakes End Pet Store, or until they were healthy

enough to be put up for adoption. Our thanks to Sharon and David Comfort at Lakes End for donating space and volunteer time to help us get so many cats placed through the program, but we realize now that to handle the volume of cats needing homes, we need to secure a larger space where we can showcase more of the cats needing adoption.

We also thank Mr. Neils Miller for allowing us to house some of our HSSC cats at his home until

they could be adopted. While we search for a larger adoption space, we need to redirect our efforts toward funding spay/neuter certificates, promoting low-cost spay/neuter clinics, and to building an effective trap/neuter/release program to prevent unwanted litters and homeless kittens. If you are interested in helping with our Kit Cat Connection Program, please call the Humane Society message phone at 546-7710.



Cats Tan at Village Christmas

The Humane Society braved the cold at Village Christmas — Not True!!! The Humane Society volunteers and some very adoptable felines were toasty warm

inside the Touch of Tropic tanning salon. Many thanks to Lynette Perry for loaning us space to show off some of our special felines. We weren't able to find anyone a forever home,

but we enjoyed the fun —dishing out cookies, cider and hot chocolate, selling cat and dog treats and trading cat tales (tails). We enjoyed talking to everyone who really did brave the cold.

**A Celebration
Donation was made
in honor of the 1st
birthday of
Parker Thomas
Winkey Wade**

Memorial Donations have been made in memory of the following people and pets

Midgie, Canine companion of Robin Beaudoin

Firecracker, companion of Thomas and Patricia Needel

Samson, canine companion of Charles and Gezelle Nelson

Jacques, special dog friend of Fred, Deb and Charlsey Yahn Bailey

Miss Kitty, Companion of Phyllis Radke





HUMANE SOCIETY OF SCHUYLER COUNTY

Humane Society of Schuyler County
PO Box 427
Montour Falls, NY 14865-0427



We need your help!

**Contact the
Humane Society
at 546-7710 and
become a member**


Spay Day USA February 25th



The 10th Anniversary of Spay Day USA was celebrated on February 25th of this year. The original spay day was established in 1994 by the Doris Day Animal Foundation to increase awareness of the importance of having your pet spayed or neutered. The Humane Society of Schuyler County celebrated by scheduling a low-cost spay/neuter clinic for income-eligible residents. This clinic through Shelter Outreach Services, has become a regular event, allowing



low-income residents that might not otherwise be able to afford the surgery be able to get their pets spayed and neutered at a reduced cost. For more information on the clinics, to determine eligibility or to schedule an appointment, call 594-3639 Monday through Friday 9-5. The February 25th clinic saw our 400th animal spayed or neutered since July, 77 if them already this year. Unfortunately, of the 8 female cats scheduled in this clinic, three were already pregnant. Two unaltered



cats could theoretically produce up to 420,000 offspring in just 7 years and two unaltered dogs could produce 67,000 offspring in 6 years. Imagine those figures times 400. Please help us control pet overpopulation by having your pet spayed or neutered.



We continue to offer certificates toward the cost of a spay or neuter for all those that do not qualify for a low income clinic. Please contact our message phone at 546-7710 and an application will be sent to you. Most of our local vets honor these certificates.







 **Pet of the Month** 



 Our lovely Matilda 



 needs a home with a 



 mature, gentle, 



 special companion 



 that will match 



 Matilda's own loving 



 personality. Our 



 special kitty is about 



 13 years old, a 



 beautiful gray with 



 cream markings. 



 She does have 



 special diet needs, 



 but is in good health 


 overall and just 

 needs someone who 

 can watch over her. 

 Please become that 

 special someone for 

 Matilda. 