



With this edition of The Humane Society Newsletter we introduce “The Volunteer Spotlight”, with the hopes that meeting our volunteers will inspire others to join the fun and share in the rewards that come along with the hours of hard work. You’ll soon see that everyone has a skill to contribute to make our programs possible.

We would like to introduce our two youngest, but perhaps most active volunteers—sisters Misha Foote and Alex Kreutzer.

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Misha Foote and Alex Kreutzer volunteer at a spay/neuter clinic.

Both Misha, who turned 12 in April, and Alex who is 10, attend Trumansburg Middle School. They share their home with Mom, Diana Kreutzer, Dad, Al Foote and a host of furry and feathered friends. Among them are the cats, Autumn and Willow, adopted when the girls hosted a Humane Society Adoption Day. Autumn and Willow joined 13 year old Sequoia, a part of the family since she was a kitten. Noko the rabbit and Rosie the guinea pig joined gerbils Basil and Fawn, after having finished their education at Trumansburg School.

The barn is a refuge for a plethora of neglected, abused and abandoned fowl, including chickens, geese and ducks. In the past it has been home for goats, turkey and sheep as well.

Misha and Alex started their work as volunteers at ages 10 and 8, respectively, when they participated in the spay/neuter clinics at Cornell. When asked about their responsibilities, the girls replied, “We started out warming rice socks to keep the animals warm after surgery, but then were able to

take on more and more responsibility like changing cages, checking to see that animals were recovering, even holding animals that needed to be warmed up. It made us feel good because we were helping animals.”

Today, Alex and Misha participate in the twice monthly spay/neuter clinics, eagerly arriving after a long day at school to carry cats from the surgery table to the recovery room, feeding kittens awaking from surgery, cleaning the cages and the facility, walking dogs and helping with the paperwork. They also instruct clients in appropriate after-care for their pets.

When asked what she found most surprising or interesting about working at the clinics, Misha replied, “It was a shock when I found out how many kittens can be had in one year by a cat and all her litters and the kittens they would have. It has changed the way I think about animals. Now I know that there are lots of animals without homes and I now think my animals are lucky because we adopted them and that makes fewer animals without homes.” For Alex, “the most surprising thing is that I didn’t think I would make so many new friends helping out. Also, I had no idea there were so many homeless animals without enough food, health care and a cozy place to sleep at night. Some people think it’s all right just to dump animals at farms or on the side of the road but they don’t know that these animals are like babies in many ways. Cats and dogs have kinda short lives. When you dump them on the side of the road with no one to care for them, their lives become even shorter and harder.”



Foster Dogs visit Odessa Montour School to say Thank You for Caring

Some of our area students and teachers have made a difference in the lives of the dogs in the County shelter this past year, and we wanted to give them a big thank you for caring.

Kate Mizzoni currently takes care of the shelter dogs and knows first hand how much they appreciate the treats and blankets collected by area students.

Kate sends a special thank you to two area teachers and their classes for their help in keeping the dogs warm and happy during a rough winter.

Kelly Conway from the Watkins Glen Middle School set up a Pizza party challenge for her students by asking them to collect treats, towels and blankets for the dogs in the shelter. Mrs. Vanderzee from the Odessa Montour school also did a chart of

things for all her students to bring in goodies for the dogs. As a thank you, Kate was able to bring some of the foster dogs to visit, so that the students could see some of the special faces that their donations have helped.

Kate's son Michael Mizzoni, with help from his sister Kelly, also collected treats and supplies from his classmates to make the dogs more comfortable. Blankets and towels help keep them warm. Treats and washable chew toys like Kongs help keep the dogs from getting bored.

Thanks to everyone past and present that have helped make the lives of these dogs a little easier, and a special thank you to the caring anonymous donor that yearly sends a box of blankets.



Foster Dogs visit students in Odessa Montour classroom



Ways you can help

Donate or collect:

- **Treats and food**
- **Tough washable toys like Kongs and balls (no stuffed toys)**
- **Leashes and collars**
- **Old towels, sheets and blankets**——for keeping the shelter dogs more comfortable or for use as bedding at the twice a month spay/neuter clinics.
- **Donations of paper towels, disinfectants and bleach based cleaners are also needed for clinics.**
- **Local food banks can also use donations of pet food, treats and litter. People in need also have pets that they love.**

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These energetic young ladies participate in other Humane Society activities. Says Misha. “At the rummage sale we help bag and add up people’s purchases. We also put the price tags on before the rummage sale. At the pet adoption days we help take care of the animals, walking the dogs, giving the cats water, petting them, holding the kittens, and asking people who pass if they would like to adopt a pet. Alex adds, I also enjoy Earth Day. I guess you could say I enjoy doing all the things I do with the Humane Society.”

Is volunteering for everyone? Maybe not, but it is for Alex and Misha. “I think the best thing about volunteering has been helping all those animals by giving them food and shelter and spaying and neutering them, “says Misha. It makes you feel good because you know you are doing something to help. Volunteering isn't for everybody because it takes up lots of time which some people don't have, but for everybody else it's a good idea.

Fourth Grade Teacher Uses Humane Society Project as Classroom Experience

Trumansburg Teacher, Diana Kreutzer's Fourth grade class also got involved last year in giving the Humane Society a helping hand. Diana asked that rather than give her a Christmas present, they instead give their gifts to the Humane Society. They succeeded in collecting 7 cases of dog and cat food, dog and cat toys, paper towels, blankets and towels for the shelter and spay/neuter clinic.

Diana believes that when students learn about others less fortunate than themselves and work together toward a common service goal, it creates a shared positive experience which brings the community of students in the class closer together. "It is important

children learn that there are ways to help those who need a helping hand. Being able to take a positive action leads to good citizenship and makes us feel good about ourselves. It is a powerful feeling to know that you have helped others." Diana stresses that any service project that involves donations from students is voluntary, but everyone in the class seems to get excited seeing the collection of items grow.

Why a service project to help the HSSC? Diana says that children seem to have a natural curiosity and affinity for animals and since many children already have pet companions, they connect at an emotional level to learning about the Humane treatment of animals,

especially local dogs and cats that don't have permanent homes. Diana fits in mini lessons in science, discussing why population control of pets is important not only to the individual animal, but to habitats and food webs of wild animals, and the safety of humans. "The children learn important Social Studies concepts and skills like citizenship and the role of non-profit organizations. So much comes out of a simple service project that fits right into the fourth grade curriculum.

"It is important children learn that there are ways to help those who need a helping hand. "

Schuyler Hospital Auxiliary Honors Outgoing President Betty Vinti

The Humane Society recently received a generous donation from Schuyler Hospital Auxiliary to honor their outgoing President Betty Vinti..

We are grateful for having been the recipient of this thoughtful donation to benefit a need in our organization and community, but we are even more grateful to count Betty as a longtime supporter and friend of the Humane Society.

Betty's generosity and caring have made both our organizations better.

Carol Cook Thanks Well-Wishers

Carol Cook of Newfield was introduced in February as our first Volunteer of the year for her efforts in finding homes for so many retired racehorses in the year 2003.

Carol wanted us to pass on her thanks for all the special congratulations, best wishes and gifts she had received in response to her being chosen.

Thanks also to Carol for her continued work in the program.

Wildkind Care—A Haven to Help Injured and Orphaned Wildlife

Many in Schuyler County may not know that we have an experienced wildlife rehabilitator in our midst. Shelly Schlueter is licensed by the New York State and US Fish and Wildlife Service as a Rehabilitator and operates a non profit wildlife rehabilitation facility called Wildkind Care. She started rehabilitating wildlife in 1973 when she ran a facility in Ft. Lauderdale Florida. She moved to the Montour Falls area in 1990, and soon started Wildkind Care.

State law actually mandates that only licensed rehabilitators can raise or treat injured animals. The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) maintains a list of licensed wildlife rehabilitators that you can contact. Shelly is one of those people and is a wealth of knowledge. In an average season, she handles between 200 and 300 injured or orphaned animals— her goal being to provide care so that they might eventually be released back into the wild.

Shelly offers some do's and don'ts for encounters with injured and orphaned wildlife—too much to cover in one article, so we plan to include an expanded article closer to Spring when it can be a useful reminder for proper handling. Most of our encounters with wildlife are with babies in spring and early summer as our own activities disturb temporary homes of nesting wildlife. Lawn mowing, tree and shrub trimming, brush clearing, cutting hay, pesticide applications, chimney cleaning etc. are all activities that might disturb a nesting area. Be aware of that when going about home and yard activities.

If a nest is disturbed, and the babies have been injured, contact a wildlife rehabilitator or Cornell Wildlife Clinic. Otherwise, it is best to let the mother come back to take care of the babies. Keep pets, children and other disturbances away.

- A disturbed rabbit nest (if babies are uninjured) can be repaired as closely as possible, and then left alone to allow the mother to return. Don't be alarmed if this doesn't happen immediately. Rabbits usually only nurse their young after dusk. Shelly suggests putting a few pieces of

string across the entrance. If in the morning, the string is disturbed but the nest is still intact, the mother has probably been back to nurse her young.

- Squirrels will answer the distress calls of their injured babies and take them back to the nest.
- Unfeathered baby birds should be replaced in the nest. It's not true that birds reject their young if handled by humans. Feathered baby birds will often be still cared for by their parents on the ground where they fell.

Turtles crossing the road are another animal that you may encounter. By all means, help them across the road, but don't turn them around or decide to relocate them to a better pond or place. They know where they are going and where their home is.

Fawns often wander into people's yards , but if left undisturbed, the Doe will usually come looking for it in a few hours. Only attempt to go near the fawn if it is injured or has been crying for hours.

Attempting to feed milk, water or formula to a young injured animal is not necessarily the proper thing to do. Young birds can actually drown. Fawns can sicken on cows milk. Call a wildlife rehabilitator for proper instructions.

Shelly cautions against ever touching baby raccoons, skunks or bats due to the possibility of rabies. Contact the DEC immediately for the phone



Injured Great Horned Owl being cared for at Wildkind Care.



Shelly Schlueter at Earth Day

number of a certified Rabies Vector Species Rehabilitator. Keep people and other animals away at all times.

Birds such as herons, raptors, owls, or for that matter any frightened wild animal, can injure you or themselves if not handled properly. If in doubt, please call Wildkind Care or another wildlife rehabilitator.

Wildkind Care is run entirely with donations, which can be sent to Wildkind Care, 3674 Cronk Rd, Montour Falls NY 14865. Shelly can be reached at 535-6089.

Please watch for more information in the Spring newsletter.

Visit Our New Website!!!

Thanks to Amy Reges, one of our very talented members, we now have a website at www.geocities.com/humanesocietyschuylercounty.

Visit to find information on our Racehorse Retirement Program——whether an ex racehorse is for you, and for information about becoming a foster home.

Pass our website along to a friend, so that they can learn a little more about us. You'll find our membership application and a list of ways to volunteer. Your membership dollars are important, but your volunteer time is invaluable. We need your help!!

Best of all, we showcase some of our adoptable horses, cats and dogs needing forever homes.

Visit www.cafeshops.com/HSSCNY, where we are selling a selection of our paw print men's and women's logo tees, doggie tees, cups, caps, totes and aprons to raise money for our programs.

Thanks again to Amy for getting us started. Visit our new site and watch us grow.

Rummage Sale Update

Watkins Glen Community Center was once again the site of our third annual Memorial day rummage sale to raise money for our building fund and other programs. Sunny weather meant we had fewer shoppers than last year's rainy day, but those that came were a small but mighty shopping force. They were also very generous in their donations, allowing us to still make over \$3000 to help fund our efforts.

Thanks to everyone who shopped and made it a successful day. A special thanks to four local merchants that donated food and other services:

Carol Bower's Catering
Cronk Press

Carl's Rent-All
Wal-Mart



These chipper volunteers were pretty tired by the day of the sale. Thanks to all the members and friends that donated goods and a special thanks to the great volunteers that turned out to price and work the sale. We couldn't have done it without you.



Building a Healthy Feral Cat Colony

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In an ideal world, every cat would live in a loving, responsible home. Sadly, some people leave cats behind when they move or dump them at parks or barns. Some cats are born in the wild, and have never experienced the friendly touch of a human being. Many homeless cats breed litter after litter, adding to the spiraling cat overpopulation problem. By definition, a feral cat is an animal that is too poorly socialized to be handled and who cannot be placed into a typical home as a pet. An abandoned cat is a free-roaming cat that may be tame but does not currently have an owner. A stray cat is a currently or recently owned cat that may be lost; usually well socialized but may become wary over time. Kittens born to abandoned and stray cats may become feral. When these feral, abandoned or stray cats turn up at an animal shelter, they are typically euthanized.

Cats in all these categories, stray, abandoned and feral, often make up barn cat colonies. Some are friendly, some are wary, and some disappear the moment they hear human noises. Most farmers don't mind a couple of cats, but barn cat populations can quickly become unmanageable. Not only are the females having litter after litter, but irresponsible cat owners often dump cats at barns, thinking they will have a good life there. There are too many cats to even consider spaying and neutering them all; even getting them rabies vaccinations is an overwhelming task and is typically not done.

The Humane Society of Schuyler County can help farmers and other barn owners "raise the bar" and create stable, healthy cat populations in their barns. By methodically trapping, spaying or neutering and vaccinating every cat in the barn cat colony, barn owners will have a healthy population of cats with none of the hissing, spitting, fighting and cater-wauling that arrives with each breeding season. Best of all, there will be zero population growth! The Humane Society has already helped a number of Schuyler County barn cat colonies. Sandy Miller had a colony of 16 cats when we first met her. Her major complaint was all the fighting that was always going on, and the fact that many cats always

had "war wounds" and looked unhealthy. She would have preferred to get rid of the cats altogether, but understood that it would be a temporary fix: the space created would soon be filled by more strays. Over the course of a year, the Humane Society spayed or neutered every adult cat, vaccinated all cats for rabies, placed two litters of kittens in homes, and placed three adults in homes. The resulting barn cat colony today looks a lot different from when we first saw it. With adequate nutrition provided by Sandy, all cats are in good condition, are healthy, and have shiny coats. Gone are the fighting, territorial males, and with it the "war wounds." Gone are the emaciated females struggling to feed yet another litter. The spring of 2004 marks the third year in a row of zero population growth at the Miller Farm. Sandy couldn't be happier. "You guys are a blessing," she told us. "I can't believe the difference it's made around here - and I haven't seen a single rodent in my barn!" Another colony we are currently working with is the barn cat colony at John and Dot Winger's Farm. With an already large housecat as well as outdoor cat population, the last thing John and Dot needed was more "drop-offs." When 2 new pregnant cats showed up on the doorstep things looked like they could get out of control in a hurry. With traps borrowed from the Humane Society, the wary cats were trapped and brought to our spay/neuter clinic where they were sterilized and vaccinated, then returned to the colony. John and Dot are well on their way to having a stable, healthy outdoor cat population. "We're looking forward to zero litters next year," says Dot.

If you have a barn cat colony and are willing to provide them with adequate nutrition, we can help you transform your colony into a healthy, stable group of cats with zero population growth. Please call Georgie Taylor at 594-3639 and get started.

Help us make a difference. Make a donation to spay or neuter a feral cat!!!

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

**Kimberly Fuller, daughter of George and Karen Fuller, a
memorial given because of her love and caring for animals.**

Emma	Canine companion of Georgie and Mark Taylor
Symbalyn	Feline Companion of Dawn Spencer
Misty Dog	Canine Companion of the Eisman/Schlueter family

**A life that
touches
others
goes on
forever.**

Trap, Neuter and Return

Many people believe that trapping and eradicating feral cats populations to clear them out of an area will solve the 'problem'. This is a very temporary solution. Clearing out an area usually results in new cats just moving to the freshly vacated territory. A more permanent solution is to trap/neuter and release these cats back into the same territory. Yes, it is a slow method, but it is effective where eradication programs are not. A stable, healthy neutered colony will protect it's territory and keep other cats from moving in.

If you are interested in stabilizing a cat colony, you must consistently work to get unneutered and spayed cats altered. Plan to trap a feral cat so that they don't have to be held too long before surgery. It's best to trap them the night before a scheduled appointment. In preparation for this, they usually have to become accustomed to being fed in the same place and same time so as not to be wary of the trap when it is baited. You might consider leaving the trap (covered with a towel) in the area where then are fed so that they get used to seeing and smelling it. Havahart and Tomahawk both make live traps. Other people have success with putting the food in a large dog crate and then quickly closing the crate door with cat inside. Bait the trap or kennel with a smelly food like tuna or mackerel and be patient.

Get an appointment with your local vet or call Georgie Taylor at 594-3639, M-F 9-5, to schedule an appointment with Shelter Outreach Services before you attempt to trap. A feral cat won't give you a lot of chances to miss before they become wary. The Humane Society has some traps available to loan.

Yes it is a slow process, but it works. Spay and Neuter!

Annual Golf Tournament

September 25, 2004

Watkins Glen Golf Course

**9 to 3 Captain & crew format \$50.00 per person
Lunch and prizes**

Call John Yeager at 535-4367 to sign up.



**HUMANE SOCIETY OF
SCHUYLER COUNTY**

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

Phone: 607-546-7710

**WE'RE ON
THE WEB!**

[www.geocities.com/
humanesocietyschuylercounty](http://www.geocities.com/humanesocietyschuylercounty).



Renew Early for 2005 or pass this along to a friend!
**Our volunteers are a small dedicated group, but could do so much
more with your help! Please Volunteer!!! Become a Member!!!**

Yes! I want to join the Schuyler County Humane Society to help improve the welfare of animals in Schuyler County.
Yes! I want to renew my membership for 2005. (I've checked the membership level below)

\$20 Single (\$5 for each additional Family Member) \$50 Friend \$100 Sponsor

Additional donation to support: Building fund Spay/Neuter Fund

Feed and care for animals Where needed most Kit Cat Connection Racehorse Retirement Program

I am willing to volunteer time. Please call me to find out how I can help.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address _____

All donations are tax deductible

Please make the check payable to Humane Society of Schuyler County and mail to: Humane Society of Schuyler County, PO Box 427, Montour Falls, NY 14865-0427