



**Beth Begany**

## **Catnip Mittens and More!!**



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**“I’d do anything to earn \$5.00 for the Humane Society”**----heard from Beth Begany at a fall meeting, as she volunteered to be a gender bender Santa Claus for a PETsMART ‘Pet Photos with Santa’ gig. We didn’t take her literally, but it does say volumes about the commitment Beth has toward the Humane Society. While a long time member, Beth has only been volunteering for a little over a year. In that short time, she has made a big difference to our organization. A Journalist by trade, Beth writes for the Hi-Lites, the Watkins Review and Express, and for an on-line magazine for people over 50 called Lifespan Magazine ([www.lifespanmagazine.com](http://www.lifespanmagazine.com)).

She has used her public relations and marketing expertise to create awareness about the Humane Society and our initiatives—helping us with advertising and getting the word out to the community about some of the great things we have been doing.

Beth and her husband Tim live on a small farm in Schuyler County, and while they don’t farm, they follow the principle-----a good barn deserves to be used-----so have rescued many animals over the years. They currently share their home with some beautiful chickens, several goats (one with grass allergies), dogs, and 20 plus cats—including three-legged Leo and several that she took over caring for when her elderly neighbor died.

She brings her love of animals to our organization by being an active foster home, socializing cats and kittens for adoption through the PETsMART store in Ithaca. She is also a regular volunteer at our biweekly spay/neuter clinics---handling paperwork, clients, cleanup and animal recovery. She takes an active hand in volunteering and planning for many of our events and activities and has most recently been persuaded to become a member of the Board of Directors.

When soliciting members for info on Beth to include in this spotlight, I expected a litany of all the good work she does for us, since she jumped in with both feet. Instead I got things like **“I have always claimed Beth is the Perfect Woman. She is awesome, great at everything she does and also an amazing cook.”** **“She knits beautiful baby sweaters** (I already knew she knitted primo catnip mittens)”, but the contributor also included a story of how an attendee at our October Arts auction was disappointed that she had missed the silent auction table high bid on one of Beth’s baby sweaters. Beth went out of her way to quickly knit another sweater to be delivered to this same person a couple weeks later. Others said **“She tells the best jokes of anyone I know.”** and **“...an excellent sense of humor—a necessity when doing this type of work”** Perhaps that says the most about what an asset Beth has been to our organization. Volunteer work is hard, but is also fun. Beth brings ‘fun’ to anything she is involved with, such as planning our recent Spay Day USA celebration with cake, awards, and appearing in an ancient high school majorette hat to orchestrate festivities.

Getting back to that **“I’ll do anything to earn \$5.00 for the Humane Society”**-----she came pretty close at her PETsMART Santa debut-----having had to pose with a Boa Constrictor!!!!



## Spay Day Celebration—February 9th

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Spay Day USA had special significance this year, as we celebrated 1600 spay and neuter surgeries of Schuyler companion animals since starting our low cost clinics through Shelter Outreach Services. These clinics have been held at the Fingerlakes Animals Hospital in Odessa and sponsored by the Humane Society since July 2003. Add that 1600 to the Schuyler County animals that we had already done since originally beginning our spay/neuter clinics in January 2001, and you have a whopping 3000 spays and neuters for companion animals of Schuyler County residents.

We celebrated in style at the Rural Urban center by throwing a party. We had lots of cake and goodies and invited some of our community heroes. Awards were given to many of our members and community supporters. These are people that foster animals or that have worked to get feral cat populations under control by trapping, spaying and neutering, and then releasing back to the caregiver in the community.

Dr. Leslie Appel of Shelter Outreach Services was our keynote speaker and talked about her non-profit's efforts in Schuyler



and neighboring counties. Another special guest was Debbie Houck, manager of PETsMART, for having given us the opportunity to be a PETsMART adoption partner. Since we don't have a shelter, it has been a great opportunity to get some of Schuyler's homeless cats and kittens adopted. We had lots to celebrate, patted ourselves on the back and had great cake to boot.

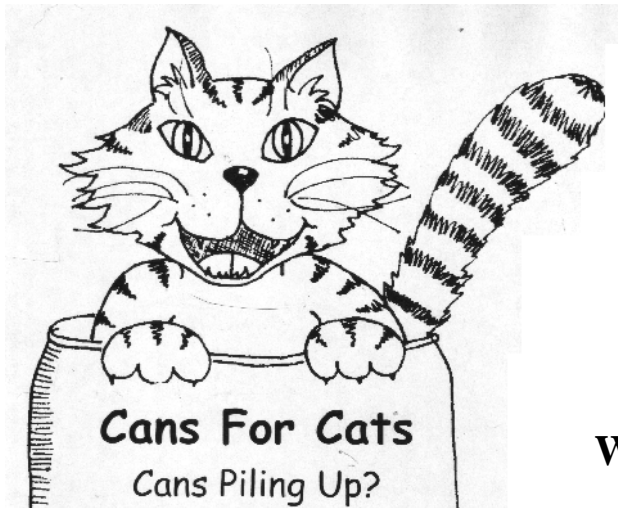
### Humane Society Annual Meeting

March 11<sup>th</sup> was the scene of the Humane Society Annual meeting. President Georgie Taylor made a presentation of our year's progress to a crowd of about 25 members. We were pleased to see some new faces in the crowd and hope we will continue to see them at more of our events. The year 2005 was a big year for us as we continued our spay/neuter clinics, started a TNR (trap/neuter/return) program for feral cats, orchestrated a Spring Benefit Dinner, an October Art Auction, Cans for Cats, and still had time for the fun of a cardboard boat race and Firemen's Parade in between. We have big plans for the rest of 2006, so join the fun by volunteering.

### PETsMART Annual Adoption Weekend

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> was the PETsMART Annual Adoption weekend, where area shelters bring cats for an adoption marathon. Volunteers from all area organizations were there with their adoptable beauties. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity. We schedule people on Saturday or Sunday on a regular basis to help facilitate adoptions of our beautiful Schuyler County cats and kittens. This program has helped us adopt out 51 cats since September 2005.

# What's Coming Up?????



**Bring your stash to  
Wrights Beverage  
and donate to the  
Humane Society**

**May 20th  
9:00 AM to Noon**

**Spring cleaning for you, and it feels  
good to donate to a good cause.  
Cans for Cats events raised \$1200 for  
spay/neuter services in Schuyler  
County last year.**

**Are You Ready to  
Rummage ???**

**Don't Miss Our Sale**

**Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**We will be accepting donations on May 13<sup>th</sup>  
and May 20<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 and Noon.  
(No Exercise Equipment, clothing, building supplies or  
Electronics, please)**

The site has changed this year and will be held at the Humane Society Clinic (formally Fingerlakes Animal Hospital), CR 10, Alpine. As you come from Montour through Odessa on SR 224, take a left turn onto CR 10 and look for the clinic on the right.

**Find some great bargains and help support  
Humane Society programs in the process.**

## **Printer Cartridge Recycling**

Save your printer cartridges for the Humane Society to redeem for \$\$\$\$. Every little bit helps! More info coming!

## **Membership Meeting Programs Scheduled**

In an effort to make our meetings of more interest to members, we have been scheduling special programs. Meetings are held in the Watkins Glen Library Conference room on the second Thursday of each month, beginning at 7:00. Meeting programs are scheduled before business, so feel free to stop in for just the presentation. Public Invited, so please join us.

**Susan Greene of Petfinder.com and Wildrun in Spencer will have joined us on May 11th**

**John and Sue Gregiore will also be back on June 8th to tell us more about what they are  
doing at Kestrel Haven in Burdett**

**Kelsey Jones visits on July 13th to speak about Australian Shepherds**

# Our meetings are getting better and better!! Presentations you missed!!!



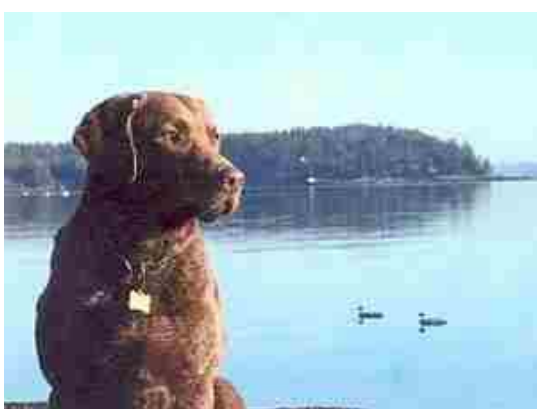
## **Pediatric Neuter**

February 9<sup>th</sup>, our Spay Day Celebration, offered Dr Leslie Appel talking about Shelter outreach Services and the importance of altering your companion animals. Her organization currently travels to 9 counties to do spay/neuter clinics. These clinics also pull from surrounding areas to impact a total of 14 Central New York Counties. More specifically, her talk tried to dispel some of the myths about pediatric or juvenile neuter. Shelter Outreach Services practices pediatric spay/neuters where possible. Pediatric neuters are currently performed on animals who are 6-8 weeks of age and who weigh at least 2 pounds. Conventional Veterinary medicine generally recommends 6 months. Shelters and conscientious breeders have been quicker to embrace pediatric neuter than the general public and many vets, because they have found that spay/neuter contracts with adopters do not work well. It is generally safer to spay and neuter their animals before adoption than to count on the adopter to be responsible enough to have their pet altered before having a litter. Especially considering the fact that a female can come in heat as early as 4 months.

Pediatric neuter is not new concept and has been written about since at least the 1950's. It started being done on a fairly regular basis by Veterinarians for some shelters in the early 1980's. New anesthesia protocol in the early 1990's has also helped ensure it is a safe practice. So far, concerns about obesity or stunted growth have not proven true. In dogs, it has actually been noted that those having pediatric neuter are a little larger because the long bones in the legs grow a little longer. Current research also shows that spaying, pre-puberty, prevents the development of mammary gland tumors. While there are few long term studies, most vets that use pediatric neuter insist that it is faster and less stressful to the animal. Incisions can be smaller, there is less body fat to contend with, and recovery from anesthesia is quicker. Kittens and puppies are usually bouncing around same day as if nothing happened. The hard part is probably trying to keep them quiet!

## **New York Chesapeake Bay Retriever Rescue**

April 13<sup>th</sup> featured Sandie Pappa of Rock Stream and her Chesapeake Bay Retriever Rescue. Sandie has managed to place approximately 300 dogs since starting rescue operations 8 years ago. She loves doing rescue work and feels strongly about the breed. Chesapeake Bay Retrievers are not for the faint of heart. They are intensely loyal dogs, protective of their owners, and also extremely active (sometimes too much so for the average dog owner). Chessies are wonderful dogs, but many owners are not prepared for the special needs of a Chesapeake. They assume Chessies have personalities similar to Golden Retrievers and Labradors and are not prepared to spend time training them. And they do need to be trained! They have dominant personalities and do best with obedience training or the necessary time spent up front to give basics and lay down house rules. They were originally bred as hunting dogs and are still working dogs. They need to be active and they want to spend time with their owners as part of the household. Many Chessies end up in shelters because of owners irresponsibility and not because there is anything wrong with the dog. That's why rescue groups are so



important. They can evaluate these dogs, start them on the way to proper training, and give their new owners help and support along the way. If interested in owning a Chessie, visit their website at [nycbrrescue.org](http://nycbrrescue.org), or join them this August 25<sup>th</sup>—27<sup>th</sup> for the 2006 Chessie Fun Weekend. You don't have to own a Chessie to come. Many potential owners use this time to get to know the breed.

Sandie also gave us some good tips and tricks about rescue in general and about how to get to know people in rescue for the time when we are able to have a shelter of our own.

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

**Carlton Gillette**

**Amelia Cornish**

**Lillian Teeter**

**Steve Woods**

**More Spay/Neuter clinics**

To meet the demand of an exploding kitten season, the Humane Society of Schuyler County has scheduled two extra spay/neuter clinics in recent months and are trying to squeeze more into June and July. We would like to be able to add an additional Spay/Neuter day on a regular basis to our existing schedule, but need volunteers. **It takes no special skills to volunteer for these clinics-----if you can take care of your own pets and home, you have what we need!!!! Clinics are currently on Wednesdays.**

**Can You Watch a sick child or animal?**



**Do you enjoy doing paperwork?**



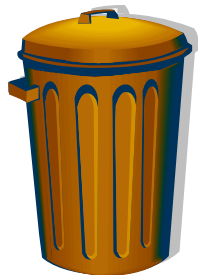
**Do you enjoy talking to people?  
And also listening?**



**Do you do dishes?**



**How about taking out the trash,  
scrubbing the floor  
and doing the laundry?**



**Not hard at all!!! We have a place for you!!!!  
And your volunteer time will make such a difference in your community.**

## Pancake Breakfast Brings Crowds

A big thank you to everyone who turned out to wait tables, do dishes or just plain eat to support the Humane Society on February 5th at the Montour Falls Moose. Thanks to the members of the Moose who support this fundraising effort for local organizations. We sold \$1300 dollars in tickets, served 255 people and were actually to the point of running out of food—the response was so great. Moose breakfasts usually draw



a regular crowd, but this was bigger than they expected, so thanks to all the HSSC supporters that turned out. We hope that maybe a few new people picked up membership brochures, newsletters and heard a little about what we do. Thanks again to everyone that worked to make this a successful fundraiser for us.

## Fingerlakes Animal Hospital is now the Humane Society Clinic

**Our big breaking news is that through the generosity of a Humane Society supporter, we have been able to purchase Dr. Fielder's Fingerlakes Animal Hospital. We can now have a permanent place to conduct our spay/neuter clinics, store our supplies and have our meetings. We will no longer have to depend on the good will of members to store traps, carriers, laundry and all the other things necessary to make spay/neuter an affordable possibility in this community. Thanks to Dr. Fielder for allowing us to use his facility for the last 4 years until we could make this big step. If you would like to volunteer to help us refurbish this space, please contact us at 546-7710.**

## Earth Day—May 22, 2005

A portion of the Earth Day theme this year was 'of the earth' — so the Humane Society offered area kids an opportunity to play in dirt. Kids painted clay pots and then planted edible rye grass to grow on for a nibble garden for their family cat or cats. Kids also got glow bracelets and coloring books. Doggies didn't go away empty handed, but left with dog biscuits of their own too. Members Joyce Amisano, granddaughter Chandra, Dawn Spencer and Georgie Taylor manned the booth and helped the young creative geniuses with their new works of art.

## Humane Society Awarded PETsMART Grant

The Humane Society was recently awarded a grant from PETsMART to continue our trap/neuter/return efforts. This grant was for Free Roaming Cats and should allow us to spay and neuter 200-250 more feral cats to help make a dent in stabilizing and preventing unwanted additional litters in some of the feral cat colonies currently identified in our community.

## Montour Falls Trustees Invite Humane Society to Geese Peace Training

The Villages of Montour Falls and Watkins Glen embarked on an effort this year to learn about ways to handle the resident Canada Goose population in answer to community complaints. Canada Geese raise heated opinions and arguments in many communities, with residents often coming down on opposite sides of the fence. Normally Canada Geese migrate back to Canada because that is their foraging ground and birth place. Our Canada Geese are resident Geese, migrating very small distances. These resident geese arose from hunting practices years ago. Fields were baited with corn to attract populations, or wings of captured birds



were clipped to likewise act as bait to flocks flying over. These wing clipped geese formed the basis of our resident geese populations now. At one point, populations became so low in numbers that geese were moved to other areas of the country to try and save them from disappearing. Populations rebounded, but now as resident geese rather than migrating back to Canada. Goslings were born here and recognize this as their home, so have no attachment to Canadian foraging grounds.

Efforts to control geese populations run the range of no intervention to shooting existing populations. In small areas of people/goose interaction, chemical deterrents similar to deer repellents may work. Another strategy is to landscape shore areas and parks with natural, longer grasses rather than the clipped lawn that Canadian Geese prefer to nest on. Any deterrent plan also means that geese should not be fed by people, but allowed to forage naturally.

Geese Peace is program that developed as a non profit in Virginia after having struggled with their own community's resident goose population. Village trustees invited a Geese Peace representative to train people within Montour Falls and Watkins Glen as to their process. The Humane Society was invited to attend.

Geese Peace is an organization that works to reduce the goose population through a variety of means---including grass plantings and deterrents, but also egg oiling and border collies. Their object is to deal with resident populations, while still approaching it in a humane way. While their

program does involve oiling of eggs, they do so only at the earliest stage. They do not advocate adding eggs in any of the other DEC approved methods such as puncturing or shaking. Nests are identified in the Spring and eggs are floated in water to determine what stage the egg is at. If the egg floats, an air sac has already developed. These eggs are returned to the nest and the goslings are left alone to develop normally. If the egg is young enough to where the pair have not started incubating, the eggs are oiled and the pair is allowed to complete the nesting process on a nest of eggs that are no longer viable. After the nesting period is over, Geese Peace uses boats and border collies to move the goose pairs away from public spots into less frequented areas.

The principle behind Geese Peace is to ultimately make enough failed nestings so that 1) populations are reduced from fewer new goslings, 2) the geese have no reason to stay in an area to raise their goslings or to molt here, so can be encouraged to move to less public places. This means careful timing and a year after year consistent effort. Recent studies have shown that given a number of failed nestings, resident geese are eventually more likely to join their Canadian counterparts on the trip back to Canada and their natural foraging ground.

However you happen to feel about our Canada Goose population, it is important to realize that exterminating the population is not the only way to manage and live with our resident geese. There are humane alternatives. For more information, visit some of these websites:

**Geese Peace** [www.geesepeace.com](http://www.geesepeace.com)

**Humane Society of the United State** [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

**Canada Goose Coalition** [www.canadagoose.org](http://www.canadagoose.org)

## United Way Grant Awarded to Humane Society

Many thanks to the United Way for including us in their funding for the coming year.

We appreciate their support and feel it adds validation that our services are of value in our community.

## Recognizing and Treating Pet Obesity

It's Spring! Time to get out, walk, do yard work, bike, run and start to shed some of winters added pounds. We have all heard how 60% of Americans are overweight. No surprise that a recent Purina study says the same thing about our pets. If you are concerned about your pet's weight, the first thing to do is to visit your local vet to have a checkup. If your pet is overweight, the vet will help make a weight reduction plan—what to eat and what kind of exercise your pet needs to do. Generally, pet obesity is managed through gradually reducing food intake and increasing exercise. Sounds like the same plan for us. So do you and your pet a favor—play with that cat and walk that dog. You'll both be healthier for it.



**HUMANE SOCIETY OF  
SCHUYLER COUNTY, INC.**

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

Phone: 607-546-7710

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**WE'RE ON THE  
WEB!**

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[www.geocities.com/  
humanesocietyschuylercounty.](http://www.geocities.com/humanesocietyschuylercounty)  
Or visit  
[www.cafespress.com/HSSCNV](http://www.cafespress.com/HSSCNV)



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**If you haven't yet renewed for 2006, we would appreciate your support. If you have already renewed, pass this along to a friend. 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 2006. (I've checked the membership level below)

\$20 Single (\$5 for each additional Family Member)    \$50 Friend    \$100 Sponsor  
Additional donation to support:    Where needed most    Kit Cat Connection    Adoption Program  
Spay/Neuter Fund    Building fund    Feed and care for animals    Feral Cat Trap/Neuter/Return 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, Inc., PO Box 427, Montour Falls, NY 14865-0427