

# Shelter Tails



of the  
*Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark, Inc.*

*Winter 2016*



## Humane Society Rises to the Challenge: Unexpected Intake of 36 Animals Seized in Westtown Cruelty Investigation

This past fall, the Humane Society received a call from a State Police investigator asking if we could help them to house animals seized in an animal cruelty investigation. That call began what has been a long journey with three goats, a potbellied pig and 32 rabbits from a barn in Westtown.

As we started the new year, most of these animals were still calling *Sid's Barn* on the shelter grounds home. Other animals seized from the same location, including horses, cows, additional rabbits and a dog are being cared for at other animal sheltering facilities.



A small but very dedicated group of volunteers have been nothing short of amazing in transporting the animals to the shelter (Bonny Lass) and helping shelter staff with the daily tasks of cleaning, feeding, watering and providing enrichment for the new arrivals (most notable are Amy and Richard Koprowski and Dorothy and Tom Eidukot). Dr. Richard Dubensky and his team at Milford Animal Hospital stepped up to treat the rabbits most in need of veterinary care. Numerous local businesses and individuals have donated time, food and supplies. While all of us at the Humane Society were saddened at the conditions from which these animals came, we've been encouraged by the outpouring of community support for our efforts to improve their lives.



The shelter has not received any reimbursement for the expenses incurred in the care of these animals. The legal process has seemed painstakingly slow, but we've just been informed that ownership of the animals was relinquished pending their cases being adjourned with dismissal. We've already found homes for several of the rabbits, goats and pig and are communicating with various resources for assistance with some of the remaining rabbits, all of which are unneutered.

We appreciate the continued dedication of volunteer caretakers and welcome continued donations of rabbit feed and timothy hay. And we remain hopeful for a good outcome for all of these gentle creatures.



## A Message from Board President Dee Broton Moving the Right Direction!



### Board of Directors

Dee Broton, President  
Joanne Vicaretti, Vice President  
Susan Weber, Secretary  
Carey Connelly  
Diane Donahue  
Bonny Lass  
Sara Martin  
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Many Stegman, Office Manager  
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Kennel Attendants  
Angela Conklin  
Matt Davis  
Ashley Hewitt  
Debbie O'Brien  
Colleen Oriani  
Holli Storms  
Joseph Wildrick

### Contact or Visit Us

Shelter Address:  
202 Route 209  
Port Jervis, NY 12771  
Phone: 845 856 3677  
Visit us on the Web:  
[www.pjhumane.org](http://www.pjhumane.org)  
Facebook: Pjhumanesociety

### Hours of Operation

Monday: CLOSED  
Tues- Sun.: 11am-4pm  
Shelter CLOSED Sun. 9/13/15

2015 was a year of transition. The Humane Society has undergone an internal "facelift". It may look like the same old shelter, however I assure you the inner workings of the facility have experienced a dramatic overhaul thanks to our employees led by Susan Beecher. While we have made a good amount of progress, we still have a lot of work to do and many challenges to face, but I am confident in our team of dedicated Board Members, employees, volunteers, and supporters that we can and will conquer all. Our Board of Directors not only loves animals, but is also comprised of professional individuals from both New York and New Jersey who have a shared vision of what could be one day if we all work together and put the past behind us. We are a team of determined and hardworking individuals from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds who are in it for the long haul.

Some of our greatest accomplishments to date include our adoption and return to owner numbers for both dogs and cats are up while our euthanasia and length of stay numbers are way down. Our shelter employees are the best in the business. They are hardworking individuals who love their jobs as much as they love the animals they care for. We have replaced the windows in the kennel buildings which will not only keep the dogs more comfortable in extreme temperatures, but will dramatically cut down on our utility bills. And, I am very pleased to announce we are once again contracted with the Town of Deerpark for dog control impound services along with eight other municipalities.

One of our greatest challenges is not knowing what our revenue will be at the end of each month. With expenses upwards of \$30,000 per month, we have been forced to take money out of our savings just to keep our doors open. So, if you are looking for a way to help us financially, please consider signing up to be a recurring monthly donor through PayPal. Donations of gift cards to Amazon, Tractor Supply and Walmart help to cut down on our expenses and donations or discounts on services are always appreciated as well.

As we embark on the exciting journey of rebuilding our broken facility, we will be receiving guidance from our friends at Ameriprise, who have graciously offered to help us create a long term financial plan at no cost to the Humane Society, and our guardian angels at the ASPCA have offered to take us "under their wing" to essentially mentor us every step of the way. Our team is ever growing!

Lost & homeless animals put their trust in us every single day. They rely on complete strangers to help them find their way home, heal their wounds, provide them with food and shelter, and show them kindness during their greatest time of need. One of the many wonderful qualities that animals possess is the ability to forgive even after being abandoned, neglected and abused. Humans on the other hand, have a much more difficult time overcoming the feeling of betrayal. So it is my hope that our actions speak for themselves, proving we have the best of intentions and members of the community will take a chance on us, so we can continue our essential mission of saving animals.



Heals Glass replacing windows in a kennel building.





## Needs Assessment Conclusion: Build a New Shelter!

Design Learned, Inc., a Norwich, CT engineering firm hired by the Humane Society to conduct a facilities needs assessment, has concluded that renovating the shelter's aging existing buildings would not be cost effective and recommended new construction for a properly designed and efficient shelter. The shelter's Building Committee is currently reviewing the recommendations and an updated property survey was recently completed in support of this effort. The Building Committee is also tackling a long list of current building maintenance items needing immediate attention, including roof repairs, replacement windows, floor sealant options and safety updates.



### Whiskers, Wags & Wine at Bashkill Vineyards

On a beautiful fall day in September, the Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark and Middletown Humane Society partnered with Bashkill Vineyards in Wurtsboro for a fundraising event to benefit both animal shelters.



Supporters enjoyed wine tasting (with all wine donated by Bashkill), great food, music and the company of other animal lovers as well as a number of four footed friends. A silent auction with a variety of animal-themed items rounded out the afternoon. We'd like to thank the great folks at Bashkill Vineyards for their generosity and warm hospitality, and send a special shout-out to former HSPJD Board member Jamie Oteri and his wife Amelia for coordinating the event and putting together the fabulous silent auction!

### Community Event at Shelter "All About Cats & Kittens"

Held in conjunction with National Feral Cat Day, "It's All About Those Cats & Kittens in Your Back Yard" was a free local event held in conjunction with *Jill's Ferals*, a community cat Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) project. Participants on this blustery fall day learned how to build a simple feral cat shelter, heard about the innovative Trap-Neuter-Return Program for managing feral cat populations, discovered tips on socializing wild-born kittens to help them become more adoptable and visited the shelter's new outdoor "Catio-Patio" which was full of cats and kittens getting fresh air and exercise away from the confinement of their indoor cages.



Visitors also enjoyed cider and donuts, children's story corner, organic face-painting and trick-or-treat grab bags. Built cat shelters donated by Matamoras Home Depot, Port Jervis Middle School's Wood Shop and local contractors were auctioned and distributed at the day's end. A great time was had by all, including a few of the shelter's resident cats who found forever homes during this busy day.



## Volunteers Essential to Shelter Operations Please Consider Sharing Your Time & Talents

Volunteers are the heart and soul of any non-profit organization and it is no different at the Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark. There are many opportunities to volunteer at the shelter. If you've been thinking about the possibility, why not attend one of our monthly volunteer orientations (currently scheduled for the third Saturday of the month at 10 AM) to find out more and to take a tour of the shelter facilities? You can download a volunteer application online at <http://www.pjhumane.org/#!/volunteer/co3f>.

A few of the shelter's very dedicated volunteers are featured below. These folks can be found at the shelter on a regular basis and we can count on them for lending a helping hand in any number of ways. All have developed special relationships with our shelter animals and staff and we are so grateful for their continuing support.



*Volunteer of the Year Dan Radtke and Spooky practicing basic obedience skills*



*Janice Hollenly sharing adoption tips at Port Jervis Library's Dog & Cat Cafe*



*Shawn Galligan having a quiet moment with some of his favorite shelter friends.*



*Volunteer of the Year Jill Wojtaszek multi-tasking in the office*



*Bobbie Farrington (left) clipping bunny nails*



*Pat Von Engel with cat toy goody bags she creates for adopters.*

### What Can Volunteers Do for the Humane Society?

- Enrichment for dogs – walking, grooming, basic training, play time
- Enrichment for cats – socialization for shy cats & kittens, grooming, play time
- Help people visiting the shelter connect with the right pet – introduce animals, share photography skills
  - Answer phones/provide customer service in the office/provide IT assistance
  - Prepare newsletter mailings/write thank-you notes/make follow-up phone calls to adopters
    - Help with education, adoption or fundraising events
- Hands-on kennel work such as cleaning animal cages, dishwashing, restocking supplies, doing laundry
  - Landscaping & grounds maintenance
- Facilities maintenance, building repairs and improvements of all types
  - If you have other ideas or talents, please share them with us!

## Shelter Animal Medical Needs Present Challenges, Rewards & Happy Endings

The Humane Society is committed to helping shelter pets get necessary veterinary care to improve their chances of being adopted and living healthy lives. 2015 saw many cases with challenging medical needs. Although the costs of treating these animals were steep, we think the results speak for themselves. We're grateful that, with the help of generous donations, we were able to go the extra mile for these deserving animals; happily, all those featured here were adopted!



Jasmine is a 7 year old Great Dane surrendered when her family moved. While evaluating her pre-spay, a vet recommended gastropexy surgery to prevent deadly gastric torsion and improve her chances for a longer, healthier life. Jasmine had the life-saving surgery and is now living the good life in her forever home.



Lucy is an 8 year old Cairn terrier mix who came to the shelter with conditions that had been neglected for some time; a mouthful of infected teeth, skin dermatitis and a golf ball sized mammary tumor. The vet pulled teeth, removed the tumor and treated the skin condition. Lucy was at the shelter and in foster care for a while until the perfect person showed up and welcomed her into her home with two other senior dogs.



Buck was a very scared 2 year old lab mix who arrived wearing a muzzle and tied in the back of a pick-up truck. He had cherry eye, a painful condition that we thought might put off potential adopters, so we asked our vet to surgically repair it. This handsome boy found a home with a wonderful new mom and a canine sister to keep him company.



It was a hot day in August when a homeless man arrived asking for help for his dog. She had lost most of the hair on her face, legs and feet, all of which were swollen, weeping blood and sloughing off skin. She was clearly suffering terribly and we weren't sure if she could be helped. Foxy, a young shepherd mix with horrible demodectic mange and secondary bacterial infections, was treated by a vet for months, but heal she did and home she went!

Fergus was an elderly Pomeranian who inspired us. Found alone near a dumpster in a parking lot, Fergus was very thin with cataracts, severe hair loss, significant arthritis, a heart murmur and infected teeth. We agonized over whether it would be kindest to euthanize him, but he captured our hearts with his spirit. A kind family stepped up to adopt him to be sure that he knew love in whatever time he had left in this world, so we sent him home.



## 2015 Shelter Statistics



Species	Intakes	Adopted	Return to Owner	Euthanized (incl. owner requested)	Transferred	Deceased	Other
Cat	390	301	14	40	19	15	5
Dog	234	151	57	36	8	1	2
Rabbit	36	3			1	1	
Goat	3						
Pig	1						
Bird	4	1			2	1	

## Humane Society Serves Municipalities in Orange & Sullivan Counties

The Humane Society's service area continued to expand with 2016 animal sheltering service agreements executed with municipal governments in nine municipalities pursuant to the provisions of Article 7 of the NY Agriculture and Markets Law. Under the agreements, the Humane Society accepts from Town Dog Control Officers stray and abandoned dogs which are picked up by the Officers in the Towns. Only the City of Port Jervis has contract provisions for cats.

The shelter provides care for the dogs for the required holding period; makes them available for redemption by their owners; finds homes for adoptable dogs; houses dogs seized in cruelty cases and provides holding for dogs involved in bite incidents.

2016 Municipal Partners	
City of Port Jervis	Town of Highland
City of Middletown	Town of Lumberland
Town of Bethel	Town of Thompson
Town of Deerpark	Town of Wawayanda
Town of Greenville	

## Feral Cat TNR Program Numbers Exceed Expectations

The Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark has continued partnering with *Jill's Ferals* and feral cat caretakers to improve the lives of community cats in our region. The end of 2015 count of cats trapped-neutered-returned since late March is a whopping 230 adults! 170 kittens and at least a dozen friendly adult cats from these colonies have been taken in by the shelter, where they are vaccinated, feline leukemia and feline aids tested, wormed, de-fleaed and spay/neutered before being put up for adoption. Do the math on how many kittens won't be born to keep breeding in area communities – this program is making a difference!



*Jill Wojtaszek prepping for the largest TNR to date – over 50 cats at one location.*

## NEW! Low Cost DOG Spay/Neuter Shuttle Makes Debut Mobile Cat Clinics Continue In 2016

Area dog owners have a new way to take advantage of low-cost spay/neuter services. A free shuttle service provide transport from The Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark to and from The Animal Rights Alliance's (TARA) spay/neuter clinic in Middletown. The state-of-the-art shuttle picks up dogs on Wednesdays at 7 AM sharp at the Humane Society's 202 Route 209 Port Jervis location. After surgery, the shuttle returns dogs to the shelter for pick-up later the same day.

Discounts are available for New York State residents who provide proof of residency. Prices, which start at \$95, are based on dog weight and sex and include spay or neuter surgery, rabies vaccination and ear cleaning. Other services such as distemper and bordatella vaccinations, deworming, flea treatment and heartworm testing are available at additional discounted costs for dogs using the spay/neuter shuttle.

Registration, payment and proof of residency for New York residents are required at least 2 days in advance of each shuttle date. All dogs must be brought on a leash with collar or in a carrier. Space on the shuttle is limited. For more information or to register, call the Humane Society at 845-856-3677 or stop by the shelter any day except Monday between the hours of 11AM and 4PM.

2016 Cat Spay/Neuter Clinic Schedule
February 4, 2016
April 7, 2016
May 5, 2016
July 7, 2016
August 4, 2016
Nov. 3, 2016



## Our Wish List

Cash donations and gift cards allow the shelter to buy supplies in response to changing animal intake and needs. For example, we currently have plenty of dog food due to a large scale donation and many holiday donations, but are finding we're short on food and bedding for other animals at the shelter. We also use cleaning supplies in great quantities. Things wear out and get used up fast here! We are grateful for all contributions from our community that help us use our limited resources to provide the best animal care possible.

- GIFT CARDS: Wal-Mart, Amazon & Tractor Supply
- Cat Carriers
- Disposable cat scratching posts (<http://www.stretchandscratch.com>)
- Timothy hay
- Rabbit food
- Cardboard bottoms from cases of canned dog food (perfect sized disposable litter box!)
- Newspapers (PLEASE REMOVE ALL GLOSSY INSERTS!)
- Small blankets and throws
- Towels

### Cleaning Supplies:

- Paper towels
- Bleach
- **High Efficiency** Laundry Detergent
- Liquid dish soap
- 13 gal tall kitchen trash bags
- Heavy duty 55 gal. garbage bags

### Office supplies:

- Postage stamps
- Printer cartridges for an HP Officejet Pro 8630 – black & white and color cartridges

### Maintenance Equipment:

- A working shop vacuum
- A reliable riding lawn mower
- A reliable weed wacker

Visit [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), Humane Society of Port Jervis Wish List, for more ideas!



## Calling All Members! Annual Meeting April 18<sup>th</sup>

The Annual Meeting of the Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark, Inc. is scheduled for April 18, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Deerpark Town Hall, 420 Route 209, Huguenot, NY.

Any individual 18 years or older, family, or organization interested in the purpose of the Society, and who are willing to support and promote its programs, may become a member of the Society (see form on insert). The Annual Meeting is held for the election of Board Directors and the transaction of other organization business.

## Did you know?

In addition to non-routine medical care provided by our veterinarians, animals at the shelter receive a variety of routine medical treatments before they leave for their forever homes. Although these treatments add to the costs we incur for each animal, we think it's important to give our animals a healthy start while they're in our care:

- Spay/neuter surgery
- Age and species appropriate vaccinations
- De-worming
- Flea treatment
- Feline leukemia & feline aids testing
- Microchip



### *In Memory of... Friends and families of the following people have donated to the shelter in their memory: (donations are acknowledged to family members)*

Eleanor Alekna  
Nicki Clark  
Joan Conklin  
Phyllis Garms  
Tara Houck  
Harry Oppelt  
Jill Naumovitz  
Kyle Parrish  
Marion Rohner  
Doris Shevlin

Craig Benedict  
Evelyn Conklin  
Julia Dorritie  
Gladys Hirten  
Cheryl Johnson  
Frank Inella  
Sue Morgan  
Lucille Redeker  
Thomas Sarro  
Jerry Space

### **Pet Memorials**

*Beloved pets remembered by donations to the shelter:*

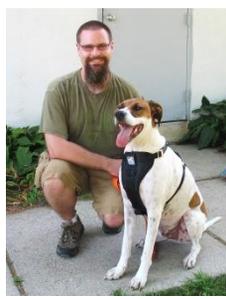
"Cleo" Bavoso  
"Nipsy" Burigo - *Your pawprints are forever in my heart*  
"Chucky" Connolly - *Never forgotten, forever loved*  
"Poofster" Hanham  
"Jadie Girl" Hockenberry  
"Holly", "Fritz" & "Panda" Kallas  
"Bailey" Kimberline  
"Leo" Margolese  
"Camille" Nothnagle  
"Brady Daniel" Scudder  
"Millie" Thiesmeier  
"Clyde" Towle  
"Sheba" Wood  
"Sophie"

### **Celebrations**

*The following have been honored by donations to our animals' care:*

Kent Decker  
Belinda Kowal and Family  
Dan Radtke  
Brandee Rowe  
"Sammie" Scudder  
Jennifer and Keith Talmadge

*Please note: printing deadlines necessitate cutoff dates for newsletter items. Donations received after the deadline will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.*



Happy Tails!



**Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark, Inc.**  
202 Route 209  
Port Jervis, NY 12771

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Port Jervis, NY  
12771

*A special thank you to the group of donors who surprised the shelter with a brand new washer & dryer to help us with the mountains of laundry we face each day:  
Alice Scudder, Ann Scudder, Linda Franklin, Mabel Trotta, Francisco Santana,  
Doris Hammond, Phillip Fried & Jill Wojtaszek*

The Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark exists thanks to your generous donations.

We could not house an care for our animals without your faithful support!

To make a donation, please fill out the form(s) below and submit with a check for the donation amount to:

Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark, 202 Route 209, Port Jervis, NY 12771

You can also donate online at [www.pjhumane.org](http://www.pjhumane.org).

The Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

### General Donation Form

Where would you like this donation to go?

- General Donation
- Building Fund
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



Donation amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Memorial Donation Form

Please specify purpose of donation

Donation amount: \_\_\_\_\_

- In memory of a person
- In honor of a person/persons
- In memory of a pet



Please provide their name: \_\_\_\_\_ If pet, what kind? \_\_\_\_\_

Family's Address: (if you would like an acknowledgement sent) \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Form

Yes! I/we want to help the animals and to support the animal welfare programs of the Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark, Inc. by becoming a member.



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual .....\$25     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor .....\$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Household ..\$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor ..\$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron/Business ...\$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other .... \$_____ |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_