Cruelty Response Vehicle Will Expedite Investigations and Care

In partnership with the “Making Crime Pay” initiative, Albany County District Attorney David Soares has supplied the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society with a Sprinter van for use during animal cruelty investigations. This mobile veterinary forensics vehicle will allow the Humane Society to assess animals onsite, rather than having to transport them back to Menands for treatment. Once completely outfitted, this van will have examination tables, kennels, a refrigerator for medications and all other necessary equipment to treat abused animals.

"Animal cruelty is a crime that we continue to see many forms of," said DA Soares. "It is also one of those bridge crimes where, if it’s happening to a four-legged friend, rest assured that it’s only a matter of time before it starts to happen to a person."

In 2015, the Humane Society partnered with local law enforcement to investigate over 30 cases of suspected animal cruelty. These investigations resulted in over 110 animals being seized and kept safe by the Humane Society.

“This vehicle will be an invaluable asset to our organization," said Dr. Patricia Rockstroh, MHHS Medical Director. “This van will allow us to assess and care for these animals onsite and expedite providing detailed evidence to law enforcement.”

Thanks to the generous support of the District Attorney’s office; members of the Albany County legislature and Sheriff Craig Apple; individual donations and dedicated fundraisers, there is now enough funding to outfit the vehicle with necessary equipment and supplies.
From the Director

Today I had the opportunity to speak to one of the people who made use of our Safe Haven program. If you are not familiar with the program, we partner with Unity House in Troy and Equinox in Albany to enable survivors of domestic violence to leave their abuser and take their pets with them. I have known the statistics about how many people delay leaving an abuser because they are protecting their pets or don't know they can bring their pets with them, but it is different when you actually meet a survivor.

In this case, the survivor I was speaking to was being interviewed for a video we were creating about our Safe Haven program. She had been able to leave and stay away from a man who abused her. She could leave, in part, because she was able to take her pets with her. The Safe Haven program allowed her and her animals to find safety. The program has housed almost 300 animals since its inception, with each staying for an average of three months. That is a large number of animals, and an even larger number of days for those animals to be cared for. But those numbers don't tell us why Safe Haven is important.

We often talk about the work we do in terms of thousands of animals helped, thousands of spay/neuter surgeries performed, tons of food distributed and tens of thousands of volunteer hours given, but it is always individual animals and the people who love them who make up those big numbers — each with their own unique story and individual needs.

The woman I spoke to today had a story that few survivors want to talk about publicly. I asked her why she would step forward for all to learn what happened to her. She was here because the staff and volunteers at MHHS were so kind to her and the program was so important to her escape and ongoing recovery. She feels strongly that others need to learn about the program and hopes that someone will see this video and realize they can leave because help is available. It was an act of great bravery and devotion to step forward in the way she did.

We need more people with similar passion and determination to protect both people and animals.

At the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, new animals arrive every day and new people come with them looking for help. Sometimes they are fleeing abuse to a person, sometimes the pet has been abused. Often animals come in who have been lost or abandoned. We see the results of cruelty, neglect and carelessness. Every day, while the numbers of people we have helped and animals we have cared for grows, we continue to look at each individual — both person and animal — to do everything we can to meet their needs and keep them safe.

Visit mohawkhumane.org to watch our Safe Haven video.
MHHS Welcomes
New Director of Operations

MHHS is excited to announce the arrival of its new Director of Operations, Todd Cramer. Todd comes to us with humane expertise and presence on a national level. Prior to joining the Society, Todd served as Senior Vice President of Community Engagement and Chief of Staff at St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center in Madison, NJ. Before that, he oversaw the PetSmart Charities in-PetSmart store adoption program for North America, responsible for nearly 450,000 adoptions annually, and spent six years as a Community Initiatives Director for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

Todd is also a popular national speaker, delivering workshops on animal welfare topics at the Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey conference, the Humane Society of the United States Expo, the Best Friends Animal Society conference and the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies conference. A native of the Capital Region, this position brings him back to the area where he began his career in animal sheltering, at the Animal Protective Foundation in Scotia. Todd has earned Certified Animal Welfare Administrators (CAWA) status, the gold standard for credentialing in animal welfare leadership, management and experience. He shares his home with his three dogs – Lila, Lulu and Jack Flash Lightning McBeagle – and his cat, Nora Jones.

Tales From a Foster Mom

A career in foster care all began for Michelle McKay over 10 years ago. She started out volunteering as a dog walker and helping with cats. Then one day she was asked if she would be up for fostering a mother cat and kittens. It was right around Thanksgiving and, feeling that she and her family had much to be grateful for in their lives, they decided to share their home with this furry little family in need.

Today, over 350 foster dogs, cats, puppies and kittens later, Michelle is still loving her job. At first she took on the simpler cases, such as mother cats who do most of the kitten care themselves. But as she gained experience and confidence, she began to care for animals recovering from illness or surgery, along with orphaned kittens, and frightened pets in need of a quiet home environment and extra TLC.

Though the care happens in the foster home, she calls the program a real team effort with involvement of MHHS staff. Her advice to those who would like to help is not to hesitate for lack of experience. She stresses that staff is always there for guidance and support. All supplies are provided as well.

As for the challenge of giving them back when it’s time, Michelle says it’s bittersweet, but tempered with the realization that there is always someone else who needs that special place in her home. Of course there have been a few keepers along the way, including her cats, Jack and Charli.

Will you become a foster parent? Please contact us at fosters@mohawkhumane.org to learn more.
Over 500 people joined the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society at its annual Around the World for 80 Strays Gala on Saturday, April 9. This year’s event broke the record for both attendance and revenue.

The highlight of this annual event is our Humane Hero Awards. These awards provide the opportunity to recognize groups or individuals in our community who have partnered with us to enrich the lives of animals and the people who love them. We are fortunate to have three very worthy recipients this year: iHeartMedia, Benson’s Pet Centers, and Wes Laraway of Northeast Llama Rescue and New York Wildlife Rescue. These three partners have provided an incredible level of support to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.

During the event we also had the opportunity to highlight our Safe Haven program, which is an invaluable resource for survivors of domestic violence. Working with Equinox in Albany or Unity House in Troy, we will care for domestic violence survivors’ animals while they seek a safe new home for themselves and their families, including their pets. Owners are welcome to visit their animals at any time and the Humane Society provides safe housing and medical care, as needed.

The Safe Haven program was established to eliminate this barrier for survivors leaving their abuser. Since its inception nearly 200 animals have been housed through this program. Each animal stays in our care for an average of three months. Every animal in this program represents one survivor of domestic violence.

This event would not be possible without the support of countless individual and corporate partners.
Happy Tails

Autumn

When Autumn first came to us in September of 2014 she was very sick and had lived with 44 other cats. While the Humane Society nursed her back to health, it became very clear what an amazing purrsoneality she had. She would talk to anyone who would listen and if you stopped to pick her up you were instantly hooked! She was adopted in October, but unfortunately that home wasn’t meant to be hers forever and she came back to us. As soon as she returned, the staff were reminded of her beautiful, dilute coat, her chirping voice, and her cloudy eye (from an old injury she received before coming to us). But most importantly, her purrsoneality hadn’t changed a bit; she was still as social and loving as ever. It only took her a few days before she was scooped up by a MHHS foster family and adopted … this time forever.

Loki

“We adopted Loki Memorial Day weekend 2015 and as soon as he got to our house he made himself right at home. It was like he was meant to be there with us! He is still working on his manners, but he does try really hard. He knows a ton of new tricks and will throw them all at you, all at once, when you show him a ball or a treat. He LOVES to play and explore. He is always ready for a game of keep-away, fetch or tug. And of course he also LOVES to snuggle. We are learning more and more about each other every day.”

- Erin

Send your Happy Tails to happytails@mohawkhumane.org

Volunteer Appreciation Week

The Humane Society could have not found new homes for 3,858 animals in 2015 or sorted 1,625,000 redeemable containers or educated 1,650 children through our humane education program if it weren’t for our volunteers! During 2015 alone, our volunteers gave more than 30,000 hours to help the Humane Society.

During the week of April 11 the Humane Society staff celebrated “Volunteer Appreciation Week.” We couldn’t be more grateful for the commitment of our volunteers!

If you’re interested in joining our volunteer team, please reach out to Volunteer Manager Barb Cotton at volunteers@mohawkhumane.org.

Wish List

Enrichment Supplies for Cats and Dogs

- Feliway Spray
- Kong Spray (large and extra large)
- Kong Wobblers (small and large)
- Catnip
- Pipe cleaners
- Ping pong balls
- Essential Oils: coconut, almond, peppermint, vanilla, lavender, cinnamon, fresh linen
- Squeaky Dog Toys
- Tuna
- Low sodium bouillon
- Rawhides
- Cat Toys
- Interactive Toys

Please visit our website for a list of other supplies we can use.
Tributes listed here were processed 1/6/16 – 3/31/16

Luba Mahler-Field
Frances Goldberg
Carole Maiwald
Dorothy Mace
Elizabeth Marcolini
Ellen Daly
Norman & Joanne Flew
Allison Margaret
Rosenni Kervin
Mark Mattacchione
Joanne Aloisio
Batchelder Laird Family
Diane Brooks Rinaldo
John Carey, Jr.
Judith Conway
Mayne DeCotes
Teresa Egan
Richard & Carol Guilt
Dorothy Hallihan
Jonathan, Sarah, Jonah, Henny & Phoebe Hallihan
Gino & Eterina Lio

Peter & Donna Devine
Edward Kozacek
Dr. Robert & Nancy Lynk
Kimberly Moore
Katharine McMahan
Mumane Kids
Debbie Pasquale
Suzanne Perry
Ann Picasso
Jeffrey Randles
Agnes Schiano
Moose, Dori & Little Z
Maria & Stephen Munda
Muffin
Anna Whalen
Muffin
Anthony & Lisa Maio
Lara Rider
Patricia Ryan
Donna Murray
Martha Brassel
Susan Kelleher
Patricia & Nicholas Kolak
Colleen & RussMcAllister
Heather Kavanagh
Jeanne Ribyder, Dan & Jistency Riberdy
Ellen Wilson
Patricia Neffen
Shelley Aresteux
James Gulino
Keeler Motor Car Company
James Paglinovento
Betty Richardson
Christopher & Sharon Smith
Van Walmahderg & Betty Savage
Neo
Bob, Pat, Amy & Daniel Friggie Newton
Lesa Lamoureux
Leon Nielsen, Jr.
Sarah Buell
Division 265 OASAS
Susan Gibbons
Linda Hefferon
JoAnne Sasowsky
Cheryl Walsh
Joan Mary Norman
Barbara Daige
Theresa Norton
JoanMcLean
Harvey Nutter
Barbara McNulty
Rose & Kerman
Sean O'Brien
Anthony Casady
Marlyna Parf
Edith D'O Connor
Edward & Marjorie
DeGuzman
Elizabeth Dobert
Meredith Dyson
Global Facilities Inc.
Pat Giusse
George & Loretta Hackney
Dawn, Barbara & Bob Grant
and Jimmor NYC Office
Matthew & Sarah Jones
Sharon King
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Leff and
Mrs. & Harvey Leff
Anne Maher
Marianne & Kevin Mahoney
Linda & Eric Scheck
Scott Speckel
Martin & Corynn Thalman
Jane & Michael Walsh
Daniel O'Malley
Lynn O'Malley
Ozzie
George & Carolyn Kaufman
Ruby Parker
C. Douglas & Patricia Kendal
Alexandra Pavy
Dawn Abuhl
Peaches & Garfield
Madeline D'Arrigo
George Pearsall
Clayton Carter
David Erdman
Diana Martin
Arnold & Martha Sposin
Robert Power
Carlos & Madge Greenery
Nancy Pratt Van Detta
Amy Picolette
Jeffrey Randles
Agnes Schiano

John Stewart
Mary & John Roberts
Joseph Sechrist
Remseton County Legislature
Summer
Susan & Mike Langevin
Betty Swearer
Pamela & Steven Mendelkohn
Swidi
Thomas Libertucco
Swissy Bliss
Helen Ravalli
Elen Tambasco
Barbara Stobie
Matt & Lynn Wirtman
Taz
Rachel Winters
Joanna Thomas
Mary Katherine Martone
Thor
Carrie Germano
Tia & Paco
Jesse & Cody
Norman & Paul Ego
Zachary Unser
Jesica Eaton
Kathryn Ingalls
Suzy sidewalk
Allison Hair & Nails
Patricia Anderson
Jeanne Berr
Betty & Mark Benedetto
Maureen Cagno
Christian Brothers Academy
8th Grade Class
Laura Dykes
Jackie & Jim Farrell and
Family
Michelle Garn
Michelle Sclau
Giannone Family
Matthew & Ann Gormely
Linda Hale
Paula & Howie Johannese
Adrienne Kerwin
Kronau Family
Tina Lombardi, Michelle
Lombardi, Paul & Linda
Lombardi and Family
Mark McGarvey
Alex Schnell, Gloria Kavanah,
Linda Sloan, Sara Keegan &
Liz Dalley McManus
Diana Mendoza
Barbara Munir
Mary Minir
James & Charlene Murray
Bruce & Denise Newkirk
NYIO Business & Finance
Products
Kathleen O'Neil
Kate Padalino
Kimberly Raimo
Beverly Squared
Toni Stackmann
Mona Stewart
Tacy Becker & Chiaromonte
CPS
Linda Torino
Bermie & Daniel Valentine
Diana & Rick Wahrich
Denise & Dennis Weaver

Judith Stewart
Patricia Angelisco
Douglas Gray
Nancy Rafferty
Diane & Michael Drakul
Michele Wiltsie
Ellen Sticler
Craig Stickler
Shirley Krop
Gary Favour
John Stuart
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Bermie & Daniel Valentine
Diana & Rick Wahrich
Denise & Dennis Weaver

Jane & James Wimmer
Trazel Ziegler
Maxx Varin
Peter Varin
Lillian Wagner
Jean Barber
Connie Durham
Alice & William Green
Kimmerly Krieg
Theresa Piage
Janet Sorensen
Julie Weeden
Koda "Beat Yard
Berger Family
Laura Warner
Rodolakas
Barbara & Don McGivern
Gregory Smith
Emma Linds Wells
Lisa Delany
NYS Department of State's
Division of Corporations
Joseph Welter
William Welter

Agnes Wiley
James & Sandra Kisselback
Gail Ann Ninkirk
Seal
William Welter

Morag Wright
Wayne & Theresa Wright
Herman Wyld
Kathleen Bond
John Zazicky
Donna Zazicky
Zeta
Phil Brown
Zippy
Steve & Jackie Galusha

Zurich
Richard Bedard

In Honor Of...

ALL ANIMALS
Joan Campbell
Alternative Veterinary
Therapies
Chandra Wargo
Amy & George
Rebecca & Adam Edwards
Bayley & Stinky
Linda Lammourie
Benjamin Blue
Janka Bleikey & Ari Lyons
Jane Burgdorf
Patricia Brown
CSC-CSC State & Local
Solutions LLC
Kathy Phoenix
Robert Coagher
Amanda Waddell
Cooper
Jeannette Lis
Jason Delling & John DeCelle
Cap, Alice, Chad & Terry
Dora the Explorer
Goodwin & Emilis Kynakides
Doreen
Robert & Ann Miller
Pat Eaves
Beth Becker
Emme & Lexi
Susan Schwartz
Sandra Garlic
Lawrence Weintraub
Lawrence & Elena Weintraub
Alan Goldstein
Donna & Jacki Cramer
Patti & Bruce Rowlands
Joel Howard
SADST
In the Comfort of Home
Chandra Wargo
Maryann Kelly
Nancy Azzirano
Sharrin Kinnear
Maureen Kruger
Francis Varone
Phil & Rachel Lamoureux
Ashley Hamran
Karen Lamden
Kathleen Dolan
Madison Locci
Rachel Matarazzo
Martin
Robert Kedgeman
Thomas Mcbbe
Oline McCabe
Misty
Linda Lamoureux

Historic Eastfield Foundation
Chandra Wargo
Mary Ann Waddell
Julie Miller
Irene Royburt
Katy Royburt
Vivian Rubin
Linda Simsand
Jan & Guy Rucki
Barbara Kingsley
Mary Savoio
Kathleen Ostatek
Scout
Abigail Sardo
Cathy Sheridan
Special Ops Co-workers
Dolly Lee Simmons
John & Helen Articolo
Diane Smythe
Albany Angels Hockey Team
Ashley Stuart
Darlene Puliforce
Mike Tolman
Krista Timpano
Upstate Veterinary Specialties
Chandra Wargo
Robert & Jo Voele
Kathleen Betjemann, Laura
Leach & Kate Mattison
Carol Wiley
John Youngs
Willie
Dawn & Stephanie Knapp
Paul Wilton
Kara Wilton
Joan Wunning
Janice A Pottey

PLEASE NOTE
Due to space constraints, only tribute gifts of $25 or higher are listed in our print newsletters. Tributes of all amounts are listed on our website, www.mohawkhumane.org.
Grab a friend and join us on June 25!

Paws in the Park Walk & Community Day
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Siena College

We’re adding fun new features this year for you and your canine pals.
Visit us at mohawkhumane.org for all the exciting details!

- Contests & Activities for Dogs
- Kids’ Activities
- Vendors & Exhibitors
- Blessing of the Animals
- Refreshments & Giveaways
- Walker Prizes

Ways to Participate
- Walk as part of a team or as an individual.
- Come with or without a dog.
- Register and raise money online or use the pledge form on this page.

Want to become a sponsor, vendor or not-for-profit exhibitor?

Contact: Marguerite Pearson
Marketing & Communications Manager
mpearson@mohawkhumane.org
(518) 434-8128, ext. 206

Paws in the Park Walker Registration Form

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City/State/Zip ________________________________
Phone ________________________________
Email ________________________________

Sponsor | Pledge Amount
---------|------------------

TOTAL: $ ____________

Bring your pledge forms, a printout of any donations received online, and all cash and checks to Check-In on the day of the walk.