Helping Hurricane Pets

Within an eight-day span in September, the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society (MHHS) accepted 70 animals displaced by Hurricanes Harvey in Texas and Irma in Florida. Many residents were forced to evacuate their homes, leaving them little choice but to bring their pets to shelters. The areas closest to the disasters were quickly faced with overcrowding, but efforts coordinated by HSUS and ASPCA resulted in the mass transport of pets to shelters with available kennel space near and far.

Twenty-four dogs came from Texas to find forever homes in the Capital Region. Some of those pets were adopted quickly, including an adorable pug-terrier mix named Manny. He arrived with a lengthy note from his caretakers in Houston attached to his carrier.

“Clearly they cared deeply for this sweet little guy, and we know how hard it must have been to put him and so many others on the plane to an unknown place, hoping they would find loving homes in the Northeast,” said MHHS President and CEO Todd Cramer.

Six of the dogs from the hurricane regions are still in our care, receiving treatment for heartworm. While heartworm is curable, the treatment regimen takes about three months and can be hard on both animals and their caretakers. Soon these pets will be ready for their new, forever homes.

When talking about the hurricane pets, Cramer added, “Our donors, staff and volunteers really came through to ensure we could provide the best for these special refugees.”
From the President and CEO

Dear Friends,

As autumn turns to winter, we reflect on the Humane Society’s work this past year and look to the future. This year marked our 130th year as the Capital Region’s animal welfare organization. Over the course of our history, we have worked to keep pets safe through sheltering, adoption, community outreach efforts, cruelty investigation and humane education. All of this work, since we were founded, has been possible because of committed donors such as you.

This year, the support of our donors allowed us to provide safe harbor and care for the pets in our community while also assisting animals outside of our service area. Pets displaced by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma found refuge here. The animals in the Capital Region are always our first priority, but when we can assist others we will.

This year also marked the opening of our new Animal Care Center, which was made possible by our generous supporters. The physical space itself is impressive, but the work we plan to do inside is even more exciting. In 2018, our new facility will allow us to find more loving homes, provide expanded low-cost services to pet owners in need and reach more children with humane education.

Your financial support is an endorsement of our work. On behalf of the pets and people of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, I cannot thank you enough for empowering us to enrich the lives of animals and the people who love them.

Todd Cramer

A Dream Come True, Yet Only the Beginning

Just one year after we broke ground on our 32,000-square-foot Animal Care Center, we officially celebrated its opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in late September. “This is not the beginning of the end, it is just the end of the beginning,” MHHS Board Chair Cynthia LaFave said at the ceremony. “We have so much good work to do. This center is a tool, a hub, a place of peace that gives us the opportunity for so much in the future, and we thank our generous supporters who made it possible. We invite members of our entire community to visit and become involved in all the different aspects of the mission of MHHS.”

Left to Right: Mark Egan, CEO and President, Capital Region Chamber; Assemblymember John T. McDonald; Todd Cramer, MHHS President and CEO; Cynthia LaFave, MHHS Board Chair; Assemblymember Michael Benedetto; Assemblymember Patricia Fahy; Assemblymember Phil Steck; Staci O’Neill, Communications & Web Strategies Manager, Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce

Get all the latest MHHS news and share your pet updates. We’re on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @mohawkhumane.
Guardian Angel Fund Provides Cinderfella’s Fairytale Ending

Kyrra Goldring and her boyfriend fell in love with Cinderfella in October of 2016. But several months down the road, he started having concerning symptoms. They took him to the vet, but the diagnostics were quite expensive and more than they could afford. Heartbroken, they decided to return him to MHHS, hoping that we could provide the care that they could not.

Our vet staff monitored him and tried treating him for his ongoing diarrhea and bleeding. Upon a sedated rectal exam, we discovered nodules that were causing him pain and inflammation. Surgery was beyond the scope of care we could provide, but in the meantime, everyone had fallen in love with this 90 lb., adorable beast who was so eager to give love back.

His diagnosis and surgery would cost close to $3,000. When volunteers and staff learned this, they were quick to donate to our Guardian Angel Fund, which helps in special cases like Cinderfella’s.

Following his surgery, we reached back out to Kyrra, not knowing if she would be willing or able to take him back. When she heard the news, she burst into tears. She had been closely watching the website to see if he came up for adoption again. She had also moved since giving him up, but couldn’t bring herself to part with his toys. She couldn’t believe that we were giving her the opportunity to have him back.

There were tears all around when this happy reunion took place — exactly one year to the day that she originally adopted him. Thanks to the generosity of contributors to our Guardian Angel Fund, Cinderfella is healthy and right back where he belongs. Visit our website to learn how to make a donation to help shelter pets in need of specialized care.

Give a Gift with Real Heart

The holidays present a perfect opportunity to give heartfelt gifts to the animal lovers in your life and contribute to a cause that’s important to you. Here are some ideas . . .

♥ Honor or remember a person or pet with an “In Honor of” or “In Memory of” gift. Both provide the meaningful gift of care for the animals. With your gift, MHHS will send a handwritten card to the person you designate, informing them of your tribute. You can even do it right from your computer. Visit www.mohawkhumane.org for more information.

♥ Visit our new Animal Care Center to make a donation as a holiday gift, and we will provide a special holiday card to present to your loved one. (Note: Cards are only available through gifts made in person.)

♥ Looking for something special for under the tree? Visit Nipper’s Nook at MHHS for pet toys, collars, leashes, T-shirts and other unique gifts. A portion of all purchases helps care for the animals.

Thanks to our Guardian Angel Fund, Cinderfella received advanced veterinary care.
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Manny was the first of our Hurricane Harvey dogs to find a forever home in the Capital Region.

SAVE THE DATE!

11th ANNUAL
MOHAWK HUDSON HUMANE SOCIETY
GALA — for Animals —
Saturday, April 28, 2018
at the Albany Marriott

For information contact Marguerite Pearson
(518) 434-8128, ext. 206 mpearson@mohawkhumane.org

Rory

“Rory took no time at all settling into our home! He enjoys playing, napping and trying to get into ‘human food.’ He’s a clingy, talkative ball of love and we’re very happy to have him in our lives!"

– The Karn Family

Anabella

“Anabella is such a little love bug. She’s just a perfect dog. Her favorite things are going on walks, being carried around and cuddling. Thank you so much.”

– The Ciccarelli Family

Rex

“Rex loves our other cat and spends his days looking out the window, sleeping and watching TV on our laps. His tongue is always out, and we think that means he wants more treats! We feel grateful to have adopted him."

– Jorge and Allison Sawyer

Brady

“Following the death of my very loved cat, I had been looking to fill the void with a new feline friend. Brady was perfect . . . He gets along well with my other cat and enjoys playing with his toys, laying on the couch and sitting in the picture window watching the squirrels. Thank you for such a great cat. He is much loved.”

– The Moreau Family

York

“York is such a sweet dog. He’s exactly the kind of friend we were looking for. Thank you so much!”

– The Hughes Family

York was one of the hurricane dogs from Texas.

Send your Happy Tails to happytails@mohawkhumane.org