



3 Oakland Avenue, Menands, NY 12204-2718 518.434.8128 | www.mohawkhumane.org



Every stray and unwanted pet that comes to us needs care before going to a new home. For some, it may be spay/ neuter surgeries and vaccinations. Others need more extensive treatment or some level of behavior modification. And some of our animals simply need time and reassurance to help them adjust to what can be a very frightening new situation. Through the coordinated efforts of our veterinary and animal care staff and volunteers, and with donor support, so much is possible. Here are a few examples:

# Poe

Poe's owner brought him to us requesting he be euthanized because he wasn't using the litter box.
Euthanasia is a last resort at MHHS. It is only for pets that are too ill or too dangerous to be adopted out. Poe, a sweet 6-year-old, was neither. His owner agreed to surrender him to us so we could explore a better option. Our medical



team discovered Poe was suffering from a skin infection and entropion — a condition of the eyelid that can cause irritation, corneal scratches and potential vision damage. Poe was treated for the skin infection, and we performed surgery to correct his folded eyelids. Our Behavior and Enrichment team provided Poe with a bathroom environment that was clean and comfortable, and Poe

used the litter like a champ! After several months of TLC, Poe went to his new home where he is much loved and living a happy life.

# **Alaster**

Alaster was a young hound mix who needed to learn manners. He was mouthy and didn't want to share his possessions. Thanks to our generous donors,



Alaster was able to go through behavior modification which included basic obedience training. For many dogs like Alaster, simply reinforcing good behavior in a positive way can mean the difference between remaining a cherished member of the family and being surrendered to a shelter. Rather than passing on behavioral issues, MHHS works to improve them so their next home will be a forever one.

Continued on next page >>



ANIMAL CARE CENTER 3 Oakland Ave. Menands, NY 12204-2718 www.mohawkhumane.org 518.434.8128 P 518.434.0217 F

MHHS SARATOGA Spay/Neuter Clinic 4255 Route 50, Saratoga Springs 518.886.9645

#### **HOURS**

Monday-Friday 10am-6pm Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm

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# From the President and CEO

Dear Friends,

In this issue of *Capital Pet* we focus on the many ways we go beyond providing the basics of shelter and care for the animals that come our way. It takes careful allocation of our financial resources and a highly coordinated effort of our veterinary team, our staff, and our volunteers to give the animals their best chance for a healthy new start in a forever home. Even when others sometimes give up on the animals, we don't.

We are also proud to share data which represents our work over the past year. In 2017, our surgical teams at our Menands and Saratoga locations performed over 5,500 spay and neuter surgeries. As experienced shelter veterinarians are in short supply, we are truly fortunate to have four excellent practitioners who are so dedicated to shelter medicine.

The commitment of our volunteers continues to astound us. Last year, they gave more than 30,000 hours of their time for the animals. We also surpassed the goals we set for our food pantry and clinic services, which are noted on the next page.



If you have not yet visited our new Animal Care Center, we invite you to do that. We want to show you this incredible facility and the lifesaving work that is happening here every day. We thank you for your steadfast support, which allows us the privilege of creating so many positive outcomes for pet owners who need them and animals that deserve them.

Todd Cramer

# Treating, Healing and Then Rehoming, continued from page 1

### **Domino**

Adopted from us as kittens, Domino and his brother, Rusty, were returned to MHHS at about 8 years of age. Unfortunately, their family could no longer keep them. While Rusty quickly found a new home, Domino was frightened of everything and everyone at the shelter. He took up residence in the office of Nancy Haynes, our Director of Behavior and Enrichment. There she was able to get to know him one on one in an environment that felt safer for him. With time, patience and treats, Domino's loving personality emerged. We also discovered how much he enjoyed having his cheeks rubbed. He's now getting lots of love in his new home.





# 2017 by the Numbers

# Where do our pets come from?

The number of owner surrenders and strays was nearly equal. Intakes from other animal welfare organizations, including those affected by last year's hurricanes, made up 22% of incoming animals.

### **Adoption**

We rehomed a total of 3,611 pets.

# Spay/Neuter

In addition to altering every pet before adoption, MHHS is committed to providing access to high-quality, affordable spay/neuter services for the public through our two locations. Last year a total of 5,587 pets were altered through MHHS.

MHHS Saratoga – 3,172 surgeries

Menands Animal Care Center – 2,415 surgeries

### **Volunteers**

We could not do all that we do without our dedicated volunteers. Last year 738 volunteers logged 30,711 hours! This doesn't include time spent by our foster parents, who cared for 949 pets.

# **Community Service Programs**

These programs are aimed at helping to keep pets in their homes. Through our Pet Food Pantry Program, 35,029 pet meals were provided.

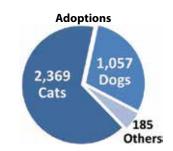
Our low-cost or free clinics delivered the following:

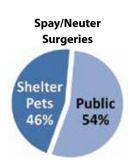
226 Rabies Vaccinations • 240 Distemper Vaccinations • 196 Microchips

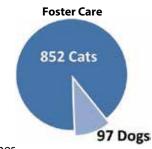
# Meow Luau, June 2

It's a celebration of all things cat ... with a Hawaiian twist. Our Meow Luau on Saturday, June 2 features educational programs, vendors, music, food, and of course, wonderful cats for adoption. Visit our website for all the details and to sign up for free programs.









# Community Education Series

MHHS offers programs at both our Menands and Saratoga locations. Topics include dog, cat and rabbit care, pet first aid, animal advocacy, living with wildlife, and pet nutrition. We're always developing new programs, so visit us online to learn more. Children's tours and educational programs are also available by appointment.

# MHHS Saratoga Helps North Country Pets

MHHS Saratoga is the home of our low-cost spay/neuter clinic. The clinic performs surgery four days a week and staffs two part-time veterinarians. Last year a total of 3,172 spay/neuter surgeries were completed here.



Dr. Julie Whipple performs surgery at our Saratoga clinic.

According to Spay/Neuter Programs Manager Jeanette Sparks, "Warren, Washington and parts of Saratoga County have a great need for the low-cost services that we provide." Saratoga County is home to one of the highest concentrations of mobile home parks in the state. According to the New York State Community Action Association, 49% of children qualify for free or reduced school lunch programs. "This year we are increasing our outreach efforts to address pet overpopulation and help people care for their furry family members in the poorest segments of these communities," Sparks said.

Like our main campus in Menands, MHHS
Saratoga also offers a pet food pantry, which
is available to anyone needing assistance.
This helps ensure that no animal goes hungry.
Additionally, MHHS Saratoga offers many of
the same community education programs
as our Menands location. To learn more
about any of the services offered in Saratoga,
please visit us online or call 518.886.9645.

# Happy Tails













#### Bruno



"Bruno is 18 pounds and full of energy, life and love. He really has a personality! Thank you so much for helping us find him."

- The Canary Family

# Sinatra



"Sinatra is a sweet boy who likes to wrestle with feet. He makes musical trilling noises, clears surfaces of objects, and lurks in waiting to tag passersby."

- The McLaren Family

#### Bella

"It's been 7 years since I adopted Bella. When we brought her home, she scared my mom by meowing incredibly loudly in the middle of the night. It sounded so much like 'hello' that she thought someone was in the house. She still does this. Thank you for giving me my best friend!"

- The Potter Family

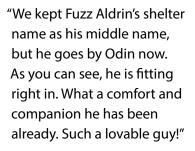
#### Sebastian

"When I met Sebastian, it was LOVE at first sight. Happy tears were flowing! We totally bonded. Everyone was so very kind to us at MHHS. We are so very grateful for this little senior guy!"

- The Harrington Family







- The Gould Family



Our thanks to all of our generous supporters who helped to make the Benson's Pet Centers Gala for Animals, held in April, a great success!







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# Penguin & Iggy

"We adopted Penguin in April and Iggy in October of 2017. They are so good together and so lovable."

- The Thompson Family



Send your Happy Tails to happytails@mohawkhumane.org.