

Alabama Tornado Pets in New Homes or on the Mend

When natural disasters strike, humane organizations must prepare to receive lost and displaced pets from their community. But when their kennels are already full, they need to first move homeless pets to other safe locations. In anticipation of severe tornadoes and storms at the end of March, Alabama's Birmingham Regional Humane Society reached out to Best Friends Animal Society to help coordinate the rapid relocation of 80 pets.

MHHS was one of 11 organizations to step up to help and a team of our volunteers and staff gathered 19 dogs and 12 cats at a transfer point about two hours away. When they arrived at MHHS, the travel-weary pets were greeted with celebrity welcomes by those eager to get them settled comfortably into their new home.

The animals came to us in various stages of readiness for adoption. Some had already been spayed and neutered, others had not. Several would need more extensive care, including one with a broken leg that the Birmingham shelter didn't have time to treat before evacuation. The stress of the 17-hour transport naturally took its toll, and a number of pets came down with respiratory infections requiring treatment.

We're happy to report that most have found new families and the others still with us are well on their way to that happy final destination – a loving and forever home.

We view it as a responsibility and a privilege to be able to help our fellow humane partners. We are grateful to be able to say 'yes' when duty calls and we have the support of caring friends like you to thank for that.

MHHS Fact

Since 2016, we have helped 14 humane organizations and taken in 293 animals as the result of natural disasters.



Volunteer Monica Alvarez, Animal Logistics Manager KC Campbell, volunteers Anne Brockenauer, April Zwack and BJ Aviza and Director of Operations Caitlin Davis (not pictured) transported the pets on the last leg of their journey from Birmingham, Alabama to MHHS.



Thirty-one pets from tornado-torn Alabama traveled 17 hours to safety at MHHS.



Handsome Buddy meets his new mom.



Evan had a small, dead eye, most likely the result of an old injury. Dr. Holly Baker removed the eye to prevent possible infection in the future. Sweet Evan showed his gratitude with cuddles.

A Message from CEO Ashley Jeffrey Bouck



CEO Ashley Jeffrey Bouck and friend

At MHHS, we take great pride in serving our community, whether two or four legged. One of the primary ways we do that is through our veterinary services, which are provided at low cost to people who income qualify, and also to the animals that come into the shelter. In 2020 our vet staff performed over 3,700 surgeries!

We constantly strive to find more effective ways to enrich the lives of animals and the people who love them. And for the past year, we have been strategically looking at our two veterinary clinic locations – the Menands Animal Care Center and the Saratoga Springs Spay/Neuter Clinic.

We have been assessing the services we offer and the populations we serve and evaluating how effectively we are meeting our mission in those locations. After much analysis, we have made the decision to close the Saratoga clinic, primarily because it is not serving the population for which it was originally intended.

The majority of those utilizing our low-cost spay, neuter and wellness services in Saratoga were pet owners from Albany and Rensselaer counties, as well as a few of our partner animal welfare organizations. Clients from Albany and Rensselaer were driving to Saratoga because there was more availability of appointments than at the Menands center.

The change will allow us focus our precious veterinary staff resources in Menands and increase availability of services at our Animal Care Center. This move is bolstered by the recent award of the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation grant of \$70,000 to upgrade our veterinary clinic, technology and transportation!

For the future, we're looking into several options that will allow MHHS to better meet the needs of Saratoga and North Country pet owners.

As you read through this newsletter, we hope you'll feel good about the inspiring successes that your generosity makes possible. Thank you for giving MHHS the opportunity to be a proud member of this community for over 130 years.

With Gratitude,

Your Gift Will be Matched Up to \$50,000!



As part of our upcoming virtual gala and online auction, Honorary Chairs Lisa and Ed Mitzen will be matching all donations up to \$50,000! This also includes all mission-related items in the auction, such as spay/neuter surgeries.

Donate today at mohawkhumane.org/gala-mission. And please join us for these two fun events.

Virtual Gala Saturday, May 15, 2021

Streaming live on Facebook @mohawkhumane at 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by: MHHS CEO Ashley Jeffrey Bouck and News10 ABC's Steve Caporizzo

Online Auction Sunday, May 9-Sunday, May 16, 2021

Featuring gift certificates, handcrafted items, gift baskets and more.

Rewriting Nana's Story

We often get requests from humane partners to help animals with special needs. While these cases can be challenging medically or behaviorally, there's little we won't do if it's a chance to give a pet the happy life it deserves.

If anyone needed us, it was Nana. She was rescued from a life of isolation and neglect by Humane Society International (HSI) through one of their overseas efforts. We knew Nana would need a special foster home.

With an abundance of patience and willingness to adapt to Nana's needs, MHHS Behavior and Enrichment volunteer Amanda St. Louis and her partner Antoine Gendron came to the rescue! They have experience with fearful dogs, a fenced-in yard and a dog that loves other dogs.

"Nana's intense fear was heartbreaking to witness," recalls Amanda. "We wanted so badly to comfort her, but she was untouchable. Every time we walked by her, she ran to the back of the crate, sometimes trembling. We couldn't even fathom putting a collar or leash on her. For the first week, she was too afraid to leave her crate, so we carried her outside, crate and all, when she needed to go out."

Working from home, they have been able to build familiarity with Nana and observe her behavior closely. When Nana started howling at night, Amanda tried



Foster volunteer Amanda St. Louis could never have imagined a moment like this when she first met a terrified Nana.

sleeping beside her crate. Then they began using a white noise app, which effectively masked whatever nighttime sounds were causing her distress. They tried lots of different treats before finding something irresistible enough for Nana to accept from their hands. As they seek ways to comfort Nana and increase her confidence, they are thankful that support from Director of Behavior and Enrichment Nancy Haynes is only a text away.

Amanda calls living with Nana an emotional roller-coaster. Sometimes she tears up, but mostly in joyful moments – like the first time Nana took the brave step to sleep outside of her crate. Now more than two months later, Nana is learning to walk on a leash and feeling safer in other spaces. She loves sunbathing on the deck and playing with her squeaky toys, which she cuddles as she falls asleep. Though still cautiously curious, Nana's amazing progress shows her willingness to trust.

We are so grateful to be able to ease the emotional pain that once dominated her life and help Nana write a happy new chapter. We couldn't do it without our volunteers who show us – time and again – that their capacity to care and determination to heal knows no limits. And we couldn't do it without committed supporters like you.

MHHS Fact

In 2020, 612 animals were cared for by foster volunteers.

Friends Come Together for Little Gala

Gala came to us as a stray kitten with squinty, runny eyes and a severe upper respiratory infection. Her gums were inflamed and she was missing some teeth, which is very unusual for a cat so young. Our vet team placed her on a course of antibiotics, but as her respiratory symptoms improved, they began to notice some other things.

Gala's breathing was sometimes labored. After eating, her tiny belly became very bloated. With help from friends at the Saratoga County Animal Shelter, who allowed us to use their X-ray equipment, we learned that Gala had a diaphragmatic hernia. In other words, there was a hole in her diaphragm that allowed her intestines to escape up into her chest cavity.

We planned for surgery and Dr. Florence Jansen, another friend of MHHS, joined our Director of Veterinary Services Dr. Holly Baker at the shelter to perform this complex procedure. With all hands on deck, little Gala came through it like a champ!

Today Gala's beautiful, green eyes shine and she is a playful, cuddly cat. She is in foster care with one of our veterinary staff members as she awaits dental care.

MHHS Fact

In 2020 our veterinary team performed over 3,700 surgeries. This includes spay and neuter operations for the public and our shelter pets, and special procedures like Gala's.



Happy Tails

Send yours to: happytails@mohawkhumane.org



Sadie

She's been the best dog I could have asked for and from day one has slept snuggled up to me every night.
- Bridget C.



Iuna

She is the happiest and snuggliest cat ever. She is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I am so thankful for her.
- Leah N.



Mama Bear

It's hard to get a great photo because if we look at her for longer than 15 seconds she comes over and headbutts us for pets.
- Kasey M.



Denny

We recently upgraded our bed from a queen to king because Denny has turned into quite the snuggler!
- Serena B.



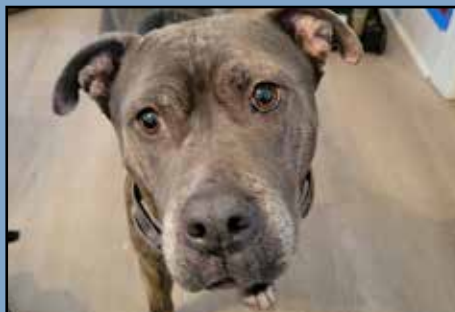
SHADOW

I love her more than words could ever express.
- Karis F.



Holly

Though she was called a "spirit cat" at the shelter, she has decided that being in my lap, being stroked and scritchd is a good thing.
- Lin D.



Mercury

He is amazing and full of love. It's great to come home from work and see his big brown eyes and tail wagging.
- Lia G.

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Join Our Virtual Walk in July

Wherever you are and however you wish to participate, our virtual walk is your chance to help the animals *your* way. Find details, including how to earn great prizes for participation, at mohawkhumane.org.

