

## Meet Clif Van Auken

By Teresa Melnick

Clif Van Auken is a certified Veterinary Assistant, a gifted dog trainer, and most importantly, a generous human being. Since April of this year, Clif has donated his time and talent to working on obedience training with our shelter dogs here at The Humane Association. Clif is dedicated to making shelter dogs easier to handle and, thus, more adoptable. And because a dog's training must be consistent, Clif also works with shelter staff, teaching them how they can reinforce basic obedience with the dogs on a daily basis. When a dog is adopted, Clif loves to help the new owners with any training or behavior issues, and he makes himself available to dog owners on a private basis.

Clif's full time career is working as a certified Veterinary Assistant in surgery and emergency at the Veterinary Medical Center of CNY and at the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Center. He has been training dogs on his own for eight



*Clif and his dog, Molly.*

years. "I worked with trainer Mitch Stahl and apprenticed with him for more than 100 hours of hands-on training," says Clif.

Clif's passion for what he does is evident to anyone who meets him. And while he loves all dogs, he does have a special affection for those large breed dogs that, because of poor handling, may have developed intimidating behavior problems, making them more difficult to adopt. "I've worked with hundreds of dogs with behavior problems," says Clif. "Some of them were on their last chance with their families."

He admits to a soft spot for the Pit Bull, a breed he believes has an undeserved bad reputation. "Pits are loving and affectionate dogs," he says. "Many people don't know that the 'All American Dog' was once the Pit. Pits were a mascot in WWII, and there's 'Petey' from the 'Our Gang' movies who was a

*...Continued on page 2*

## Paws for a Cause

By Kate Sinsabaugh

Hardeko's *Paws for a Cause* took place on May 7th at Driver's Village in Cicero. Animal Planet's Shorty "The Pit Boss" Rossi was the star of the event with his rescued pit bull, Hercules, eager to sit for pictures. Many animal-related businesses and rescues were present to spread the good word about adopting and to meet each other. Everyone thought *Paws for a Cause* was a great addition to the Syracuse area and everyone was grateful to Ruth and Dave of Dog Daze Bakery on South Main St. in North Syracuse for organizing the event. We were happy to bring Pumpkin (a rat terrier mix), Cody (a pit/dalmatian mix), and China (a pit mix) to the event. Our dogs performed amazingly surrounded by unfamiliar dogs and cats, and many new people were eager to pet their smiling faces. We chose these three because they had been at the shelter for longer than the staff and volunteers expected, and we couldn't understand why they were unable to find their forever homes yet. Perhaps the best news of all is that all three of our dogs found new homes in the months following and we are sure it is due to their exposure at *Paws for a Cause*!



*From left to right, there's Laura Wolfe with China, Kate Sinsabaugh with Cody and Shorty Rossi with Hercules.*

**To All of  
Our Friends,  
We Wish You a  
Joyous Holiday  
Season**

*The Director, Staff, and  
Board of Directors of The  
Humane Association  
of CNY.*

## THIS ISSUE:

Meet Clif VanAuken

Paws for a Cause

Director's Message

Cocktails for Canines...  
a Howling Success

Raising the Bar on Fundraising

Includes:

Biggest Flea Market Ever

Nice N Easy – Classic Car Nights

4th Annual Drop-A-Thon,  
Open House & Silent Auction

Syracuse Triathlon Group

Avon Beauty Center  
Donates Proceeds

Save Around the City  
Coupon Books Available

I Got Dumped

Ladies' Golf League Scores a  
"Hole in One" for Our Animals

Appreciating Staff & Volunteers

KIDS Love The Humane  
Cats and Dogs!!!

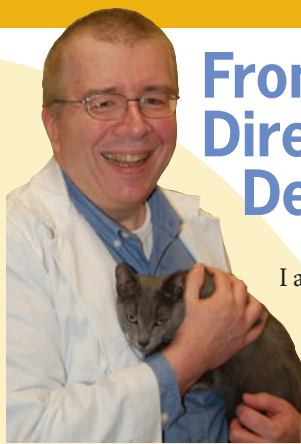
Volunteer Spotlight

Adoption Corner

Upcoming Events

Become a Member!

On Donations: The Good,  
The Bad, The Ugly



## From the Director's Desk

I am often told by well-meaning visitors to our facility how they give faithfully each month to

one of the national humane organizations, and how they have done so for many years. However, when I explain to them that none of those funds goes towards supporting their local Humane Association (us), they always seem surprised, if not downright shocked! While it is the case that we voluntarily subscribe (at very least) to the standards set by the national organizations, we are not a "local chapter" nor are we otherwise affiliated with them. Just how then, you may ask, are we funded? In truth, we depend almost completely on the Central New York community, of which we are a vital part, to support our continuing mission by means of private donations, individual/family memberships, memorial gifts, and animal adoption/admission fees. In addition, there are a handful of local businesses and community organizations who donate matching funds and/or outright gifts. Last but certainly not least, there are those kind individuals with a lifelong devotion to animals and their well-being who remember us in their wills.

Hopefully, all of the above provides at least food for thought: we receive no funding from the national organizations; we rely entirely on the good will and support of our local community to help us help those who most need us; and there are many, many ways in which you can be an integral part of making it happen.

Yours, for the animals,

*Bill Young*

*William H. Young, Director*

## Meet Clif Van Auken ...Continued from page 1

Pit Bull." But now days, largely because of dog fighting, even the name Pit Bull can evoke strong negative reactions in people who aren't familiar with the breed. The Pit Bull's bad reputation is something Clif is on a mission to help dispel by working with as many dogs and their owners as possible. "It's people who create behavior problems in dogs, and only people can fix the problems."



*Clif's pitbull, Rocco.*

Pit Bulls take very well to obedience training, Clif explains. "They need an alpha to lead the way, just as all breeds do. Without a pack leader, this is where behavioral issues can emerge." Many dog owners are not aware of the importance of their everyday interactions

with their pets. Take something as basic as walking a dog. "Your dog should always walk beside or behind you. When you walk in front of the dog, it allows the dog to view you as the pack leader. If your dog is in front, then you become the omega." These are simple concepts, but ones that many people don't know how to teach their dogs. And that's where Clif Van Auken comes in.

There's nothing he loves more than helping to create a happy, rewarding relationship between owners and dogs. We at The Humane Association of CNY are very grateful to have Clif's help, and we know our dogs are too!

## Cocktails for Canines -- A Howling Success!

*By Beth Goldberg*

It's not every day that you see a dog with wings, another dressed as a chef and still another dressed as a Roman soldier. These are just a few of the sights people and pooches enjoyed when they em-"barked" on an adventure to the *Cocktails for Canines* event on August 11th at the Glen Loch Restaurant in Jamesville.

Hundreds of dogs brought their owners for a night of furry fun, complete with a buffet barbeque and cocktail hour. In addition to animal and people-friendly food and drink, best costumes and best dog/owner look-alike contests highlighted the evening with the first- and second-place winners receiving dog or owner spa certificates. Two baskets containing doggy supplies and toys were raffled as well.

Dogs and their owners were entertained by music and lively commentary by Irwin Goldberg. Music selections included *How Much is That Doggie in the Window* and *Who Let the Dogs Out*. Owners sang along, and dogs were observed barking and howling along during the species-specific musical selections.



*A large crowd gathers at the Glenloch Restaurant for food, drinks, and fun at Cocktails for Canines.*

The Humane Association of CNY would like to thank Glen Loch proprietor, Callie Barr, for hosting this event for the second year. Ms. Barr is a dog lover, and dogs are always welcome at the restaurant on the back patio. Ms. Barr hosted *Cocktails for Canines* because of the success of last year's event.

This multi-species get-together and fundraiser helps raise funds for various Humane Association projects such as the purchase of a new commercial-grade washer and dryer so that the facility can be a sanitary and healthy place for animals and staff.



*Vicky Holly and her dog Pepper won first place in the Best Costume category at Cocktails for Canines.*

The Humane Association wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the *Michele and Agnese Cestone Foundation* whose generous \$5,000 grant funded much of the cost to repair a supporting wall in the dog kennel area. This repair makes more kennel space available and will help keep our pups warm and safe while they're waiting for their forever homes. Thank you!

# Raising the Bar on Fundraising

By Bethann Kistner

Fundraising is a never ending privilege for our committee, and each year our events get better and bigger. The entire fundraising group divides and conquers dozens of events, simultaneously, month after month and year after year. Here is what we have been doing:

## Biggest Flea Market Ever

In the spring we held many events, some at the shelter and many around town. In June we had a HUGE Flea Market. There wasn't one square foot unoccupied in the entire Shelter. The Flea Market included a large book sale (\$3 for a bag of books). Many people come just for that and leave with multiple bags. The house was filled with dishes, furniture, gold jewelry, designer purses, holiday items, exercise equipment, garden items, and the list just goes on and on. And how about that weather? It was perfect and began to rain only after the event ended. Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who donated items for the event and volunteered for set-up and also worked the two-day event. A special thanks to Tina and Robert Wolfe who spent days helping set up the thousands, *yes I said thousands*, of items donated. I could not have done it without our wonderful Volunteers.

## Nice N Easy – Classic Car Nights



John Robinson (L) and Roman Diamond (R) with Cookie

Nice N Easy on the corner of Rt. 31 and Henry Clay Blvd in Clay, NY holds a Classic Car Night every Tuesday from June to September. Hundreds of classic cars begin arriving at 4 p.m. and by 5 p.m. it is a sea of colors and styles of the most fabulous cars known. How does The Humane Association fit in? No, they do not transport pets in classic cars... Nice N Easy selects three charities to support for the whole season. Each charity had five Tuesday evenings to set up a table, sell items and communicate their message. The Humane's message was

easy to communicate since we brought a dog ready for adoption to each of the five nights and nearly all the dogs were adopted the following week after they were shown at the event. Each week we reported back the good news, "Another one adopted!!!" That is the ultimate goal! Nice N Easy sold hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages and also held multiple 50/50 raffles, and all the proceeds will be split between the three fine charities selected. In addition to The Humane Association of CNY, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central New York and the Komen Breast Cancer Foundation were the other two charities selected. The Humane is honored to be in such good company.

## 4th Annual Drop-A-Thon, Open House & Silent Auction

What a day for an inside and outside event. Yes, in the morning it was a little chilly and rainy, but the event just got better and better. There was approximately \$15,000 worth of auction items, for a total of 217 items. Both surpass last year's numbers. There was nothing we didn't have for auction: original artwork, jewelry, every kitchen appliance imaginable, and tickets to every sports and entertainment venue in town. We also had restaurant gift certificates ranging from fast service to fine dining. The shelter also hosted an Open House and

hundreds of visitors toured the shelter to meet our cats, dogs, rabbits, birds and ferrets – yes we have three fun loving ferrets that need a home- so pass that along to everyone you know who might be interested in adopting them. B104 from Clear Channels did an awesome job entertaining our guests and gave away a ton of items. Finally, the bake



sale was cleared out in just a few hours. No, we didn't have 12,000 baked goods like the Biggest Bake Sale ever, but we had a tasty display for many to enjoy. A special thank you to the Cicero North Syracuse Cheerleaders and Football Team and all our wonderful volunteers for all your help. All in all, it was a wonderful day and we thank the CNY community for all their donations... they dropped off tons of cat and dog food, blankets, towels and laundry detergent, so thank you. The winter is long and the shelter uses these items on a daily basis. Please continue to remember us each week.

## Syracuse Triathlon Group

The Syracuse Triathlon Club put together a day-long event indoors because the CNY weather just wasn't permitting any outdoor events. They donated \$1,000 to the Humane. Many riders participated and helped raise funds. The club's home is in the Shoppingtown Mall near where we hold our "Biggest Bake Sale," and they graciously posted our sign last spring.

## Avon Beauty Center Donates Proceeds

Many small businesses do BIG things in this town. One of our volunteers asked a local Liverpool business if they would like to help a local not-for-profit and they said "Yes." The Avon Beauty Center, located at 209 Oswego Road, gave 10% of their sales for a specified timeframe and donated \$700 to The Humane Association. What a wonderful way to donate. If you know someone who owns a small business, ask them if they would like to donate in the same way.



Linda Schneider (R) co-owner of Avon Beauty Center presents donation check to Donna Ransier-VanWaldick (L).

## Save Around the City Coupon Books Available

Every year, volunteers on behalf of The Humane Association are selling Syracuse Coupon Books. The cost per book is \$20 and the Humane gets \$10 for each book sold. They have great discount coupons for restaurants, entertainment and many other services. If you would like to buy a book or sell the books at work or to your friends,

...Continued on page 5

# I Got Dumped

By Kate Sinsabaugh

The word “**dumped**” doesn’t carry much of a positive vibe with it. Who wants to be “**dumped**”? It’s not something anyone really hopes to experience, though at some point it usually happens, and lately it’s been happening to a lot of animals. This story is meant to bring to light just how frequently the shelter cares for “dumped” animals.

The Humane Association of Central New York takes great pride in our no-kill policy. In the unfortunate circumstance that someone must surrender their animal, it is a comfort to know that their pet will either find the perfect home or live out its years in the cozy environment that The Humane Association provides. Our no-kill policy could also be what leads people to abandon animals on the doorstep at night, knowing that their animal will not be put down once the staff arrives in the morning.

In this unfortunate economic time, some people have to choose between feeding their pets or feeding their families, or maybe they have to move to an apartment/house/condo that doesn’t allow animals. For well over two years, The Humane Association of CNY has had a waiting list of people who need to give up their animals. 2011 has been a stellar year for adoptions. By far, the most cats and dogs have found new homes, and we can’t say “THANK YOU” enough to everyone who supports The Humane Association. Yet somehow that waiting list has not grown any shorter. It is unfortunate, but at least every other week there is an animal or a box of animals left on the doorstep late at night. We can’t turn those dropped animals away. They have no person to turn around and take them home. Some are left without blankets or food when they are dropped and many are just babies, an unfortunate litter that can’t be cared for. The shelter staff always wonders what they might drive up to when they report to work in the morning.

Most recently we have had 3 ferrets, 1 cat, 4 kittens, 2 rabbits, 1 kitten, a mother rabbit and her 4 young, and 2 cats and 5 kittens left on our doorstep – not all at once, thank goodness. Dumping animals is not only illegal, but potentially harmful to the animal if it gets out of the box it was left in or if a predator gets into the box. And with the cold weather, it doesn’t take long for a vulnerable baby to meet its demise. The staff, volunteers and board members at the shelter care immensely for the animals and definitely provide a loving and safe environment for these cast-aways, but every time a box is left and those animals have to be housed, that’s another animal on the waiting list who cannot be admitted. That’s another mouth to feed, another animal whose immunization history is unknown, and another animal that we have to wonder what their life was like before they were dropped off.

In a perfect world, there would be no animal shelters. Every animal would always have a loving, warm home of their own. But until that day comes, The Humane Association of CNY will continue to care for the animals that have yet to find a forever home. Please consider adoption. For every animal that leaves the shelter on their way to their forever home, there are 3 others hoping to take its spot in the shelter.

# Ladies’ Golf League Scores a “Hole in One” for Our Animals

By Ann Marie Borowski



Lauren Felice (R) gives a golf bag and money to Ann Marie Borowski (L).

On August 16th the ladies of the Tuesday Twilight League at Westvale Golf Course held a fundraiser to benefit The Humane Association of CNY. Each year the ladies hold a fundraiser to benefit a non-profit organization. This year Lauren Felice asked the ladies to consider having the fundraiser benefit The Humane Association of CNY.

When the ladies agreed, Lauren went to work as the chairperson of the event.

The fundraiser was held at the dinner after their Captain and Crew tournament was played. Each of the 40 members of the league donated \$20.00 to The Humane Association. The money from their 50/50 raffle that night was also donated. Including other private monetary donations, the total amount given to The Humane Association of CNY was \$1,200. The women also brought food, blankets and other pet supplies to donate that night, enough to fill an SUV! As if that wasn’t enough, the members of the league unanimously agreed to donate the top raffle prize, a golf bag, to The Humane Association. The golf bag, valued at over \$200, was used as a prize in The Humane Association’s silent auction on October 1st. Thank you ladies for helping all the animals at The Humane Association of CNY. *Your generosity is greatly appreciated!*



The tables at The Humane Association were crowded with our staff and volunteers as we celebrated their many contributions of time and talent at the Staff and Volunteer Appreciation BBQ.



Robert and Tina Wolfe were awarded “Volunteer Couple of the Year.”

# APPRECIATING STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

By Ann Marie Borowski



Marti Heald holding her Fundraising Volunteer of the Year award.

The Humane Association’s staff and volunteers are appreciated every day, and they were given special thanks for their hard work and dedicated service on August 18, 2011 at the first annual Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. More than fifty people relaxed and enjoyed traditional BBQ food as well as delicious cupcakes, made by board member, Donna Ransier-VanWaldick. Special thanks go to our neighborhood stores Price Chopper, Tops and Wegmans for donating gift cards which helped buy some of the needed food and supplies for the event.

We recognized many volunteers for their exceptional service throughout the past year. Linda Lyons was the recipient of the “All-Around Volunteer of the Year Award.” The “Volunteer Couple of the Year” was awarded to Robert and Tina Wolfe. Jeanette Bradshaw received the “Off-site Volunteer Award”, while Stephanie Matthews and Joanne Popielarczyk each received the “On-site Volunteer Awards.” The “Student Volunteer Award” was given to Andrea Carvalho, and Marti Heald received the “Fundraising Volunteer Award” for grant writing. Thank you to our staff members and to all of our volunteers for everything you do for the animals. We couldn’t do it without you!

# Raising the Bar on Fundraising

...Continued from page 3  
 contact Sarah Rouse at  
 humaneassocny@gmail.  
 com.

Thanks to the many organizations who volunteer their services during the spring and summer.

Thanks to the Liverpool High School Key Club Students for helping in the spring to open the garden by trimming all the trees and bushes. And, as always, thanks to the Jr. Girl Scouts for their help in the garden and for the beautiful tulip garden that they funded and planted with the help of student landscape architects from the SUNY ESF. Also, thanks to Hancock Estabrook staff for cleaning a seriously overgrown garden this past summer. Because it rained that day, some of the staff postponed their service and came back on a sunny Saturday morning and gave the house porch and stairs a much needed coat of paint. The help from the community is always welcomed and appreciated, so thank you!



## KIDS Love The Humane Cats and Dogs!!!



*Jr. Girl Scouts from Troop 314 of Phoenix, NY delivered donations for both the cats and dogs. They even made cat and dog treats.*

*Liverpool Girl Scout Troop bring in home-made dog and cat treats and toys.*



*Thanks to Salt City Royalty and the seventy nine pageant contestants for their generous donations. The girls and their parents arrived at the shelter the day after their pageant. They collected over 600 items for The Humane Association. Their donations included litter, food, cleaning supplies, and cat and dog toys, everything the shelter needs and uses on a daily basis.*



## Volunteer Spotlight: ANDREA CARVALHO



*By Martha Heald*



*Andrea Carvalho with our shelter dog "Cody", who has since been adopted.*

One of The Humane Association's most ardent supporters has been Andrea Carvalho. Beginning with AXA's Pets on the Plaza in 2009, she has worked diligently to raise funds and give animals a second chance for a nice home and caring family. In August of 2009, she addressed the congregation at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Baldwinsville and raised nearly \$2,000 for the shelter. This year, Father Finnegan invited us to bring some cats and dogs to the church for an adoption event which was held on June 4th and 5th. Andrea and her friends,

Shannon Santmyer and Bridget Cleeton, helped prepare tables for cages, set up boxes, collect donated items, and sell raffle tickets. Each donation and visitor to the animals' area made their eyes light up, and when Rose was adopted their spirits just soared. They're already planning for the next event.

Despite having asthma, Andrea was finally given the green light by her doctor to get her own dog. She is now in the process of training him to be more accepting of other people and dogs, as he was very protective of his new family. Astro was a rescue (naturally), so she didn't know his history, but is working diligently to give him a joyous future with her family. This challenge serves to reinforce her desire to become an animal behaviorist, a career that requires not only a bachelor's degree, but post-graduate study as well. In furtherance of that goal, Andrea is also participating in a new elective class being offered for the first time by the Baldwinsville School District entitled Biomedics, an intensive four year program designed to prepare high school students for careers in the medical field.

In addition to her animal-related activities, Andrea is also a musician, playing the upright bass in her school orchestra as well as All County and All State orchestras. She also played with the Syracuse Symphony Youth Orchestra, and was saddened when the main orchestra closed because of financial difficulties. But thanks to the hard work of teachers and parents, the Youth Orchestra is expected to continue under a new name and Andrea will be back with it. We don't know how she does it all, being a high honor student, volunteer, and all around great person, and we feel very fortunate to have her on our team.



**Leave a Legacy of Love in Your Will or Living Trust...**  
*by making a planned gift to The Humane Association of CNY.*





# The Twelve Strays of Christmas

**BERTHOLOMEW:** "Bert" is a sweet and mellow Domestic Shorthair tiger. He was found under a porch last December. A gentleman of a "certain age" (10+ years old), Bert would love to find a home of his own. Stop by the shelter and meet Bert, we think older cats make wonderful companions!



**ELIZABETH:** Elizabeth came to the shelter as a feral stray, so she needs a little time to warm up, and we think she would prefer to be your only cat. Once she knows you, she is very sweet and quiet and is very content to sit in a windowsill looking outdoors. She's approximately 8 years old, a Domestic Shorthair.

**FIG:** Fig is a very small 3 year-old female with a beautiful black, sleek coat. If you need a friend to play with, Fig is your girl. She's a real ball of fire who would love to play with you!



**HEAVEN:** Heaven is just 1 and 1/2 years old. This beautiful Torti Domestic Shorthair was brought to the shelter by a local veterinarian. Shy at first, she warms up and loves to play.

**ISIAH:** This cat is quite a character. He can walk sideways! He's 7 years old, a black Domestic Shorthair, and he loves to play. Isiah would love to meet you, entertain you, and maybe convince you to take him home!



**LILY:** This sweet little 3 year-old Torti loves nothing more than to camp out on a window sill. She is a very quiet cat who would love to have a window sill of her own in a forever home. Come and meet Lily at the shelter. Maybe your window sill is the one she's waiting for!



**ROBBIE:** Robbie is just 2 years old, a beautiful black and white short haired cat. This friendly little guy was brought in with frostbite on his ears. He's done very well and is ready for a family of his own. Did we mention he loves to cuddle?

**PHILIP:** Philip is a beautiful 4 year-old male with big, gorgeous eyes. He's looking for someone to love him despite the fact that he's lost nearly all of his teeth due to allergies. This doesn't cause him any problems though, and we think if you meet Philip, you'll quickly forget any minor defect.



**JOLETTA:** This lovely 5 year-old female Domestic Shorthair is white with gray spots. Joletta loves to cuddle, and when there are no human laps to sleep on, she can often be found snuggled up in a basket, bed or box.

**TATIANA:** If you're looking for someone to talk to, this 2 year-old female is the cat for you. She is a wonderfully sweet girl who just loves to be talked to. Tatiana was found in the rafters of the YMCA with a litter of 6 kittens. She's ready to go to her permanent home now. Come and have a chat with Tatiana!



**TEMPEST:** This little girl is just 1 year-old. A lovely brown tiger, she is a very friendly, loving, cat. Her only stipulation before she goes home with you is that she wants to be the only cat. So if you're a one-cat person, Tempest would be perfect for you.

**MILANIA:** This beautiful calico came to the shelter pregnant. She had 6 beautiful kittens that have all been adopted. Now Milania wants to find a home of her own, too!



**Editor's Note:** *The Humane Association typically shelters 15-20 dogs and 150-200 cats. If a dog or cat pictured here has already been adopted when you visit, please consider all of the other loving hearts available. Remember-- You can't change the world by adopting a shelter animal, but you can change the world for that animal!*

Have you been given gift cards that you won't use? Consider donating them to The Humane Association of CNY. The Humane could especially use cards to groceries, pet stores, and home stores.



Like us on Facebook



Do you have a soft spot for ferrets? How about three? Sandy, Frenchie and Rizzo---our Pink (nosed) Ladies---are ready to go home with you. These 3 year-old seniors are quite bonded. We would love to have them go together, but we would consider adopting one out to someone with another ferret companion. All three are friendly, litter trained, and spayed.

## BECOME A MEMBER!

We hope you enjoy receiving this newsletter. Unfortunately, we cannot afford to continue to send it to inactive members. Please remain on the Humane's mailing list by renewing your membership today!



Give the Gift of  
**MEMBERSHIP!**

**GIVE THE GIFT of a Humane Association Membership to a friend or family member this holiday season!**

Recipient's First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient's Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership Dues (Make check payable to: The Humane Association of Central New York, Inc.)

Student - \$20     Individual - \$30     Family - \$50     Patron - \$100

Gifter's First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Gifter's Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Memberships Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership Dues (Make check payable to: The Humane Association of Central New York, Inc.)

Student - \$20     Individual - \$30     Family - \$50     Patron - \$100

Benefactor - \$500     Sponsor - \$1,000     Other

Late Membership     Laundry Donation     Phon-a-Thon     Routine Donation

I have named The Humane Association of CNY in my will.



Send to:  
The Humane  
Association  
of Central New  
York, Inc.,  
4915½ W. Taft Rd.,  
P.O. Box 38,  
Liverpool, NY  
13088

## On Donations: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

By Bruce B. Shafiroff, M.D. President (with apologies to Clint Eastwood)



Opening donation envelopes at the Humane is one of the most rewarding things I do at the shelter. No, it's not the money; it's reading the notes many of you include. I see pictures of our adoptees, read of how they changed your lives, and sadly learn of their passing. As most of you know, we truly receive no funding from national organizations with similar names or state, county and local governments. We are funded by you and a small number of private grants. It is expensive to run a large no-kill shelter, and we and the animals appreciate your kindness.

Unfortunately, I often read apologies about the small amount of the donation or your inability to continue making one. The economy, unemployment, loss of retirement funds, are frequently mentioned. Any size monetary donation is appreciated. Every good will wish encourages us that our work is appreciated, even if you can no longer help financially. If The Humane Association remains important to you, we will gladly continue sending the newsletter at your request. If you wish to be taken off the mailing list, please let us know.

There is one "donation" that is ugly. We often find sealed boxes in the morning, frequently without ventilation holes, containing terrified animals. As a no-kill shelter often filled to capacity, we have an admission waiting list. Queue jumping is not fair to the animals, nor is it fair to individuals on the waiting list. Please help us to discourage this practice.

*Have a Happy and Healthy New Year*

## Humane Association of Central New York

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Donna Ransier-VanWaldick	Bill Young

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The Humane Association of Central New York



### Denny's Dog Days of Summer event

HA volunteer Michele Dack and Coco enjoyed visiting with customers during Denny's Dog Days of Summer event which raised several hundred dollars for the shelter and found Coco his new forever home!



AXA's Hearts Committee organized a very special Pets on the Plaza fundraiser for The Humane Association on June 15. Shelter representatives, Linda Lyons and Sarah Rouse, were there to help AXA's employees learn all about adopting from and volunteering for the shelter. Several hundred dollars were raised for the shelter. Thank You AXA Employees!



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*We apologize for the addendum "Or Current Resident", but Postal Regulations mandate its use on all bulk mailings. Please overlook this unintended offense, and know that the monies thus saved are better utilized for animal care.*

## PET SAFETY – WINTER & SPRING

By Kate Sinsabaugh

### HOLIDAY TIME

The holidays should be fun for all, but please be aware of hidden dangers to pets. Tinsel, ribbons, holiday ornaments, and decorative icicles may look like fun toys to pets, but if these are ingested they can block the animal's intestines which could require surgery.

### ANIMALS AS GIFTS

Animals should not be given as gifts at holiday times. The holidays are stressful enough without introducing the new task of "pet ownership". Only give an animal as a gift if the recipient has expressed the desire to own a pet and has also researched the extent of care the pet needs.\*

*\*Note: The Humane Association does not allow cats or dogs to be adopted and given as gifts at any time of the year.*

### A WARM ENGINE = A DANGEROUS PLACE FOR CATS

To a cat, a warm car engine is an enticing place to nap, but once the vehicle is started it can be a dangerous place. Be aware! Cats and small animals may crawl onto a warm engine in the wintertime. Before starting your vehicle, bang the hood a couple of times to be sure all animals have been given the chance to escape injury.

### PAW SAFETY AND ICE-MELTING CHEMICALS TO PROTECT FIDO

Exposure to salt and salt-based ice melt products can mean an unhealthy winter and unplanned trips to the vet's office. The problem occurs when dogs are let out to frolic. Dogs eat snow and the ice-melt products which sit on the surface. They either ingest the ice-melt pellets directly or lick the chemical later as the ice turns to water on their paws. Also, the salt can heat up as high as 175° which can burn a dog's skin, mouth and digestive system. Pet-safe ice-melting products include Safe Paw and Petastic Pet Safe Ice Melt.

## Laundry UPDATE

By Donna Ransier-VanWaldick

In our last newsletter Board President Bruce Shafiroff announced that an anonymous couple has offered to match one dollar for every two dollars we raise, up to a total of \$10,000. This matching gift donation is to replace our overwhelmed residential machines with a large capacity commercial washer, dryer and hot water heater, as well as assist with required structural changes.

We are excited to report that as of November 1st, the generous response to this fund drive has raised a total of \$15,825 towards our \$20,000 goal.

Please help us maximize this wonderful gift. You may send a check payable to The Humane Association of CNY and put "Laundry Donation" in the memo or go to our website at [thehumaneassociationofcny.org](http://thehumaneassociationofcny.org) and click on the "Donation" button, then enter "Laundry Donation" in the message section.

As always, every donation is important and every donation is deeply appreciated.



## Cat Adoption Promotion Extended!

Our September Cat Adoption Month was so successful that we will continue to:

- offer a kitty gift bag to everyone who adopts a kitten or cat
- lower the adoption rate from \$75 down to \$35 for seniors adopting cats 4 years old and older in our the Seniors for Seniors program
- give a \$10 PetSmart or PETCO gift card to any non-seniors adopting cats 4 years old and older (while supplies last)
- provide a list of area veterinarians who are providing a complimentary physical examination to cats adopted from our shelter

So if you've been thinking about finding a special companion, now is the time to come and visit our many wonderful feline residents!