



Art for Animals Auction is a Gala Event

Imagine scores of Humane Society volunteers, all decked out in suits, dresses and assorted finery to help make the October 8th Art for Animals Auction a success. We didn't recognize each other!!! These are the same people that are usually cleaning cages or prepping animals at the spay/neuter clinics, hanging onto dogs and cats at rabies clinics, trapping feral cats or making the rounds to pick up and deliver donated cat and dog food. It's good to know that that we clean up nicely and didn't detract from all the beautiful art work and Finger Lakes bounty that was donated for the event.



Christian Therion of Glassart generously donated to the auction and also showcased his work.

The auction was held at the Watkins Glen Community Center to raise money for our Building fund. An hors d'oeuvre buffet was provided by Carol Bowers Catering and desserts by The Grist Mill Café of Burdett. Our musicians were Frank Brown and Sean Stafford. Lamoreaux Landing Winery provided the wine tasting.

Guests first browsed the silent auction pieces, making their bids while enjoying the fine food, wine and entertainment. Phil Winer served as our auctioneer for the live auction. Georgie Taylor, Humane Society President, was on hand to let our guests know a little about what we have been doing as an organization.

John Hayes bravely set the tone as our Master of Ceremony, reminding people that we were there to raise money. They listened and succeeded in helping us raise \$10000 before expenses in one exciting night.

We owe special thanks to all the artists and supporters that donated art work, jewelry, wine, pottery, glassware and crafts for our live and silent auction. Thanks to all the Humane Society volunteers and Auction Committee members who helped make this a special night with flowers, decorations, and a lot of hard work in securing donations, mailing invitations and all the extra touches that made this the most successful fund raiser in our history.

After years of hoping to be able to open a shelter, this sparkling event makes it finally seem within reach.



John Merrill and Joan Brubaker, owners of Lamoreaux Landing Winery, served and donated all the wine for the event.





PETsMART Company Approves HSSC for Participation in Local Store Adoption Program



Claude and Kate become best buddies

If interested in fostering cats prior to going into the adoption program or in helping on adoption days, please leave a message at 546-7710.

PETsMART has long had a reputation for their commitment to helping shelters and homeless animals. We were first exposed to their generosity when we were awarded an \$8000 grant at the end of 2000. This money enabled us to buy surgical tools and supplies for our spay/neuter clinics for companion animals of low income families and those with large stray and barn cat populations.

They have once again come to our rescue this past August by offering us space at the Ithaca Store to showcase some of our adoptable cats. As many of you know, we have no shelter for cats and have run our adoption programs largely through foster families and word of mouth. A permanent space to showcase adoptions is just what we needed! Schuyler, Cortland and Tompkins all have an opportunity to parade their feline beauties, with the wonderful people at PETsMART handling the day to day care. We coordinate volunteers for special adoption days and review and handle the adoption requests. HSSC volunteers can often be found there on a weekend adoption day or just to visit and

play. Most recently an HSSC Santa and Elves spent two Sundays at PETsMART 'Photo with Santa' days, gamely posing with a variety of dogs and cats—and even a snake!!

Since late August, we have adopted 25 cats and kittens through PETsMART.

Owning a Pet is a Lifetime Commitment

While most responsible pet owners know this and don't anticipate leaving their pets uncared for, the truth of the matter is that few of us actually plan for the care of our pets should something happen to us. Estimates are that up to two thirds of Americans die without a valid will in place. Only 12-15% of American pet owners remember to include plans for their pets in their wills (Doris Day Animal League 2003). The Humane Society often get calls to find homes for a pet whose owner has died or gone into long term care and the remaining family members are not willing or able to take it. Please make plans now so that your companion animal will be cared for.

"Many have forgotten this truth, but you must not forget it. You become responsible forever for what you have tamed."

Antoine de Saint-Exupery, from *The Little Prince*

Memorial Donations have been made in honor of the following people and pets

Betty Jane Franseen Betty Jean Strath William Pastore

Elizabeth Amisano Violet Paige

Midgie, canine companion of Robin and Charles Beaudoin

Cans for Cats



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How many cans does it take to spay a cat ???? 896

24194 cans can buy ►►►►►►►►

**49 male cat neuters, or
27 female cat spays, or
22 male dog neuters, or
16 female dog spays**

On May, 21st and again on September 17th, Humane Society Volunteers found out just how big a pile thousands of cans and bottles make as donations were dropped off at Wright's Beverage in Watkins Glen by members, volunteers and the community .

Jack and Jo Pat Wright very generously contributed space and manpower, managing to deal with the avalanche of cans as fast as volunteers could sort them.

Thanks to Sharon Trout for organizing these can drives, drafting husband Jim Trout and Brother Rodney Axtell and a score of other volunteers like Marisha Monroe, Ashley Cole, Jill Kautz, CR Marks, the Schleuter/Eisman Family, Georgie Taylor, Ginny Yeager, Diane Thurm and 'last but not least' the Mighty Munchkins—a 4-H group lead by Diane Cannon and Ginny Carr. These young ladies (Hannah, Courtney, Sarah, Meg, Stephanie and Maggie) made the Humane Society's 'Cans for Cats' their community service project for the year and collected thousands of cans all on their own.



HSSC President Georgie Taylor gets down and dirty to raise money for cats

Start saving your cans for next year now, or better yet——save your redeemable deposit receipts such as Wegmans and Walmart and mail directly to us at Humane Society of Schuyler County, PO Box 427, Montour Falls NY 14865. You could also save your deposit money for us and make a tax deductible donation to us at year end. Just a few cans add to the mountain, and the mountain made a difference——raising over \$1200 for spay/neuter services this year.

Additional donations were made in honor of:

Michele and Tim Benjamin to celebrate their 10th Anniversary

Margie Ditmars and Jeff Shampanois for their dedicated work to the Humane Society

Special bird Companion of Arnie and Mary Lou Bagchi

Special Program News

Swamp Cat Trap/Neuter/Return Program

In January of 2005, several Humane Society members met to talk about the number of unmanaged feral cat colonies that exist in Schuyler County. At that time, we identified 20 colonies that we knew of, with about 250 total cats. While realizing that these were only a fraction of the colonies in the county, we used these as our target population to start a Trap/Neuter/Return program for our county. Trap/Neuter/Return is not a new idea, but has proven to be the most effective means to spay, neuter and stabilize a feral population so that it will stop reproducing uncontrollably. Dubbed The 'Swamp Cat' Program, after the wild tabbies living in the Swamp area in Montour Falls, we started work.

We are pleased to say that with the help of concerned community members, we have managed to spay and neuter approximately half of the 250 that we identified in the Spring. Of the trapped cats, approximately 40% were found to be pregnant, which would if left unaltered, have added another 100 or so cats to existing populations. These newly spayed and neutered cats have been given rabies and distemper shots, returned to the existing colonies or adopted into new homes.

Spay/Neuter Clinic Update

Since partnering with Shelter Outreach Services in July of 2003, we have spayed or neutered 1533 cats and dogs for low income residents of Schuyler County. Our first low-income clinic was conducted in January of 2001 as the result of a PETsMART grant. In the past 5 years, we are proud to say that we have spayed or neutered a combined total of well over 3000 animals in Schuyler Cty.

Special Presentations at Regular Membership Meetings

In an effort to bring more people to our regular meetings, we resolved to present topics of interest rather than just business as usual.

On July 14th, Heather Murley, DVM and Board member, gave us up to date information about Feline Leukemia, FIV and FIP—viral diseases in cats. The greatest misconception about these diseases is that it is an immediate death sentence for your cat. Their health is greatly influenced by food, limiting stress and controlling secondary infections. Copies of her presentation are available. Call 546-7710 to request a copy and to leave your name and address.

The August meeting invited George Roets, Director Of Community Services and Public Health for Schuyler County. He sees in his daily work that there is a connection between the way people treat animals and the way they treat other people. ***"I would ask and pledge that we work together, share information, educate each other and support each other on common issues"***, he told the group.

November's meeting again featured Dr. Murley as she demonstrated acupuncture methods for chronic pain relief on Humane Society member Virginia Yeager's pooch, Mocha.

Watch for notices of future programs!!

Rabies Clinic held on October 1, 2005

The Humane Society sponsored rabies clinic held in October of 2000 was a shock to the participating vets. As 113 cats, 158 dogs and 3 goats passed through the lines, they realized that 67% of these animals were not spayed or neutered.

Our spay/neuter clinics were soon to follow.

The good news from this years clinic is that instead of 67% unaltered, the current percentage of unaltered was only 41%.

We are making progress!

Coming Events for 2006

Rabies Clinic Feb 4th

Pancake Breakfast at the Moose Lodge Feb 5th



2005 seemed to be the year for disasters—mudslides, quakes, fires, hurricanes and floods. Most of us thankfully were not in the midst of these disasters, but we watched helplessly as people lost their loved ones, homes and businesses. Adding to their loss was losing a pet companion or being told that their pet had to stay behind during rescue efforts.

Hurricane Katrina was a disaster of such magnitude that Humane organizations also had trouble marshalling resources and volunteers quickly to help animals—but they did rally—with organizations all over the country sending qualified veterinarians, shelter workers, food, supplies and aid to help in rescue efforts. As animals by the thousands were rescued and sheltered from Katrina and then later Rita, shelters from other states also opened their doors to accept animals .

The best way to be prepared for a disaster, is to have a disaster plan and not be caught off guard.

If you have pets, they need to be part of that plan. Our pets enrich our lives and they are dependant on us for their safety. A little preparedness can help save their lives.

In the event of a disaster, If you must evacuate, please make every effort to take your pet with you. If left behind, there is a good chance they will be injured, lost or not survive. There is no guarantee you will be able to find them.

Have a safe place to take your pets.

Investigate kennels, local hotels, relatives, friends, veterinarians and shelters outside of your area to see if they can board or accept pets. Ask if a 'No Pets' policy can be waived for an emergency. Keep these numbers handy, and call ahead if a pending disaster looms to make arrangements. Do not assume that an organization that will shelter you, will also shelter your pet. Many cannot accept pets because of states' health and safety regulations.

Assemble a Portable Pet Disaster Supply Kit.

Even if you are only away a day, your pet, just like you, will need essential items. Suggested items would include:

- Leashes, harnesses, carriers, a blanket and flashlight
- Medical records and medications
- Water and food, dishes and litter pans
- Current photos of your pets in case they are lost
- First aid kit

Prepare your pet and home for a disaster.

Display a Rescue Alert Sticker on your door to alert firefighters or emergency responders that there are pets in your home. A free sticker can be gotten by visiting the ASPCA website at www.aspca.org/emergency.

Keep your pet's collar in good condition and tags up to date. Additional information can be added to the back of tags with adhesive tape and an indelible ink pen.

Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or disaster so you don't waste time looking for them if you need to leave suddenly. If you are separated from your pet, check local shelters as soon as possible.

Arrange with a trusted neighbor or friend to check on your house in case you are unable to return home to your pet. Make arrangements for their temporary care.

If storm or disaster warnings are issued, simple preparations can also be made in your home, such as filling up bathtubs and sinks with water ahead of time, having foods needing little or no preparation handy, and flashlights ready.

A little preparedness will make life easier for you and your pet. We may not have a disaster the size of Katrina, but several days of no electricity during a Northeast snow storm is disaster enough.



Humane Society June Activities were “Just for Fun”

Not a drop of rain in sight, but build the Ark we did!!!

On June 18th, amidst a crowd of 5000 people, we launched NOAH’s ARK, the Humane Society’s first entry in the annual cardboard boat race on Seneca Lake. Noah, a horse, a giraffe, a dog and cat successfully navigated the race course and didn’t even get wet! While the Ark didn’t set any records, we sure got a lot of attention. Molly McCarthy, Staff reporter for the Elmira Star Gazette, ran a great article and photo. Our photo was also run in the Odessa Files. What great publicity!



Special thanks go to Al Foote, who was our very own Noah, and to animals Misha Foote, Alex Kreutzer, Amanda Jaynes and Jill Kautz.

Al Foote also acted as boat building foreman, leading boat builders Diana Kreutzer, Misha Foote, Alex Kreutzer, Diane Thurm, Margie Ditmars and Jeff Shampanois. Chief Engineer Wayne Perregaux and Antoinette DiCiaccio contributed the design and the wonderful graphics. Members also donated supplies. Without all their efforts our successful voyage would not have been possible.



Humane Society Marches in Montour Falls Fireman’s Parade

Humane Society Volunteers braved the early June heat to take part in this years annual Montour Falls Fireman’s Parade.

New volunteers were Cassius (Willie Nelson) Ditmars, Puff Murley, Lizbeth Axtell Trout and Princess Barks-a-lot Taylor, aka Zoë.

Misha Foote and Alex Kreutzer proudly displayed the Humane Society banner while Margie Ditmars, Jeff



Cassius (Willie Nelson) Ditmars struts his stuff



Shampanois, Diane Thurm, Sharon Axtel Trout, Georgie Taylor and Jill Kautz handed out dog biscuits for the canines in the crowd and chocolate treats for the two legged creatures. Ashley Cole's young pooch wasn't too fond of the fire engines and drums, so they quickly decided to cheer us on from the sidelines instead.



Princess Barks-a-lot (in pink) worked the crowd as we marched in the MTF parade.

Lizbeth in blue fairy finery and Puff in more casual attire showed what fashionable dogs really wear.

Santa Visits Humane Society During Montour Falls Village Christmas

In sharp contrast to the heat of our Summertime activities, we braved the chill on December 3rd and invited Santa to pose with the pampered companions of some of our area pet lovers.

The parlor of the Montour House was decked out with a tree and Christmas trim as Santa and HSSC elves helped corral a host of dogs, a few cats, two goats, a lamb and a rabbit as they came to have their pictures taken with Santa Claus.

HSSC elves sold handmade ornaments, Gift of Service donation cards and other handmade crafts perfect for last minute Christmas giving. Visitors generously contributed to our 'Claus for Paws' pet food and toy donation box for the needy.



Thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work and donations. Special thanks to Joyce Amisano for coordinating this event.



HUMANE SOCIETY OF SCHUYLER COUNTY

Humane Society of Schuyler County
PO Box 427
Montour Falls, NY 14865-0427

Phone: 607-546-7710

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[www.geocities.com/
humanesocietyschuylercounty.](http://www.geocities.com/humanesocietyschuylercounty)
Or visit
www.cafespress.com/HSSCNY



Humane Society Participates in Shelter Medicine Conference

In preparation for the day when we open the doors to our own shelter in Schuyler County, several members attended an all day conference on Sunday July 10th. The conference was sponsored by Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, Intervet, the ASPCA, UC Davis Shelter Medicine Program and Shelter Outreach Services, our partners in spay/neuter clinics.

The conference, organized by Dr. Leslie Appel, Executive Director of Shelter Outreach Services, addressed topics of major importance for any organization managing a shelter. Nationally recognized expert, Dr. Kate Hurley, DVM and Director of the Shelter Medicine Program at UC Davis spoke about managing upper respiratory infections, feline distemper, sanitation, stress control, parasite control, vaccination protocols and infectious diseases.

Dr. Lila Miller, DVM and Vice President of Veterinary Outreach for the ASPCA discussed animal cruelty and provided ways to help identify cruelty situations in the field.

We left with a lot of information which will help us to operate a great shelter right from the start.