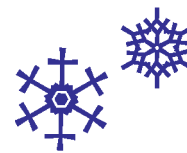


# PAW PRINTS

590 North State Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510



Winter 2007

## *“Animal Cops”: Westchester Style*

Maybe you have seen our Humane Law Enforcement vehicle stopped at a traffic light in your town or village or racing along the parkway with red lights flashing, or even said hello to us at the SPCA of Westchester’s shelter in Briarcliff Manor. Perhaps you even saw our chief, Ken Ross, on one of the local TV channels speaking with the host about the importance of recognizing and reporting animal cruelty. Or, maybe your child came home from school and told you about the “cop” who came to their class and spoke with them as part of their educational outreach program. Well, this is just a small part of what the SPCA of Westchester’s Humane Law Enforcement division does to fight animal cruelty.

Our HLE officers travel throughout the county answering calls to aid animals in need. Whether it is rescuing a kitten stuck in a storm drain in Mount Kisco, or climbing a fire escape to rescue a beaten cat in Yonkers, we respond to every call for help. We have even provided compassionate assistance to an elderly Pelham veteran who needed help in caring for the beloved birds that bring so much joy to his life. Investigations encompass complaints involving dogs, cats, horses, farm animals, birds, and exotics.

HLE strives to make a difference in the lives of animals and people every day, and our dedicated agents care deeply about the welfare of animals. Through our certified police instructor, the SPCA of Westchester provides training for peace officers under New York State’s Division of Criminal Justice Services. Every offi-



cer must undergo rigorous and ongoing training in recognizing the signs of animal abuse, as well as a thorough education in New York State’s penal code, criminal procedures and officer safety protocols, as well as an in-depth knowledge of the procedures and enforcement of New York State’s animal cruelty laws.

The SPCA of Westchester was responsible for nearly a third of the animal cruelty arrests made in Westchester this year. HLE officers are able to resolve most complaints by explaining to the owner/guardian the proper way to care for companion animals under New York State Law, and by issuing a “Notice to Comply.” We then follow up on these cases to ensure that the complaint has been remedied and, in most cases, the results are positive.

As the only humane organization in Westchester County mandated to enforce New York State’s animal cruelty laws, in cases where more serious action is necessary our officers can make arrests and remove animals from imminent danger. Because of the close correlation between animal and child abuse, the SPCA of Westchester is careful to report any suspected cases of child abuse observed during cruelty investigations. HLE officers

*Continued on page 4...*

## *SPCA’s Humane Law Enforcement Division Seizes over 100 Animals in Pound Ridge Cruelty Case*

Our Humane Law Enforcement Division, headed by Chief Ken Ross, brought 2006 to a close with a major cruelty bust in Pound Ridge, where SPCA officers seized over 100 animals—domestic, exotic, and native wildlife. When responding to a suspected case of animal abuse, HLE uncovered what appeared to be a situation of good intentions gone horribly wrong. The animals taken in by an overwhelmed 17-year-old wildlife rehabilitator included rabbits, guinea pigs, turtles, ferrets, chameleons, bearded dragons, cats, South American squirrels, hamsters, diamond doves, cockatiels, love birds, a prairie dog, chickens/roosters, domestic pigeons, peacocks, and many geese and other waterfowl.

The call went out, and SPCA staff and volunteers moved in quickly to assess the animals, some of which required emergency veterinary care and additional treatment at the SPCA’s Simpson Clinic. Others were removed from the scene and placed in foster homes.

Our gratitude to our staff, volunteers and board members who stepped up to provide temporary emergency care and locate foster and permanent homes. The task was far from easy, with most of the animals crammed into a one room building, where challenges such as ringworm and upper respiratory infections plagued the animals.

This major step for both the SPCA and its Humane Law Enforcement Division confirms our commitment to animal welfare throughout Westchester County. We truly are a “Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals”.



## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Gail E. Foreman, Ph.D.*

As I reflect on 2006, I look out my office window into the golden sunshine of this mild January day. Only the bare tree limbs speak of winter and another year gone by—a year of joy and sorrow, frustrations and triumphs. We bask in the joy, endure the sorrow, endeavor to overcome the frustrations, and celebrate the triumphs.

Over 850 deserving dogs and cats found their forever homes, an 18% increase over 2005. A triumph, indeed. It's gratifying to see them leaving with their new families. Somehow they know their wait is over, that a better future beckons. Wagging tails, doggy grins, velvety sides rippling with the rumbling of purring. Though our happiness is tinged with sadness for those we knew so well, from our caring for them for weeks, sometimes months or even years—we also feel joy in the knowledge that the remainder of their lives will be better and more loving than the past. But the numbers of animals needing homes will always exceed the numbers of people willing to adopt, and our house is forever full of furry bodies to be petted and walked and empty bellies to be filled. Such is reality.

Among those leaving our care for a loving home were several notables: Pumpkin, a female pit bull came to us as a puppy in 2003. Pit bulls are difficult to place, and though Pumpkin was a sweet dog, she remained behind when the visitors left. But this year she found her forever match with a woman from Pennsylvania. She fell in love with Pumpkin, and Pumpkin fell in love with the woman and her other two pit bulls. Today Pumpkin is doing great in her new home and gets along famously with her new family.



*Roly and Poly*

together into a wonderful home, where they reside in splendor, kings of their domain.

Roly and Poly, male sibling kittens, arrived at the SPCA at only two weeks of age and were still bottle-feeding. Though sweet and cute, they tested positive for feline leukemia. After six months, Roly and Poly still failed to find homes and had become so devoted to each other that we despaired of ever separating them. But at last, on December 27th, they were adopted

We welcomed aboard fresh new faces: Jeanie, Luci, Leah, Kemi, John, Chris, Ken, and Maria...and we lost one



*Anthony Napolitano 1965-2006*

of our own. Kennel worker

Anthony Napolitano died tragically in an automobile accident in September. We remember Anthony as a hard worker who had compassion for the animals, a passion for our mission, and always strived to better himself.

We miss his dedication to duty and work ethic. But most of all, we miss the loving care he gave the animals entrusted to him.

The generosity of our supporters never ceases to amaze me. Our two major fundraising events brought in over \$220,000. Bequests are a wonderful way to ensure that your love of animals outlives you, and many remembered the SPCA animals in their wills. We received bequests from the estates of Thomas Rodd, Jean P. Tilt, Doris Epstein, Carol A. Lang, the Oelke Family Trust, and Frances K. Trees. Grants funded a host of special projects, and we tender our thanks to the Regina Bauer Frankenberg Foundation for Animal Welfare, Laura J. Niles Foundation, Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Marilyn Simpson Charitable Trust, Kinnoull Foundation, Griffin Fund, Petsmart Charities, Pfizer Animal Health, and a few family foundations. But by far, individual donations, cash and in-kind, accounted for the majority of our income, almost 70%.

These are but a small sampling of our activities during the past year. Other projects included the Memorial Garden, Golden Outreach, Humane Education, Train to Adopt, Greeter program, Cat Care Program, the new catery...I could go on for pages.

So, with our many successes in 2006, where do we go in 2007? Our ultimate goal, yesterday, today, and tomorrow, is to find a loving, permanent home for every homeless animal that lands on our doorstep; to know in our minds and hearts that no animal is ever abused or deprived of food, water, or shelter; to see that every dog and cat is neutered or spayed so they become part of the solution to overpopulation instead of adding to the problem; to educate the public on responsible pet ownership; and to make a better world for our animal friends.

*Gail E. Foreman*



## INSURING THE FUTURE

Many of us have life insurance policies that were purchased years ago for a specific reason. Maybe you had young children and needed to provide for them in case anything happened to you. Or perhaps it was a spouse who stayed home to care for the children.

As with all important documents, you should review your life insurance policies regularly to make sure that they are still serving their purpose, appropriate for your current situation, and with the right beneficiary named.

Perhaps you have a policy that is no longer needed. Your children are grown, you have settled in to retirement and no longer need that safety net. Did you know you can give that policy to the SPCA of Westchester?

If you name the SPCA of Westchester as the owner and beneficiary of the policy, you can receive an income tax deduction and reduce the size of your taxable estate (for many, life insurance policies are "hidden" assets that are often forgotten until it is too late).

This is a great way to help the animals without affecting your current income or emergency savings. And it's easy to do. Your insurance professional or the insurance company directly can get the appropriate forms for you.

## Save the Date!



What: Treasures in the Attic  
When: Saturday, March 31st  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Where: St. John's Episcopal  
Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave.,  
Pleasantville

What lurks hidden in your attic...or cellar? Maybe Great Aunt Maud stashed away a Picasso! Find out from our panel of certified appraisers at Treasures in the Attic, a fundraising event to benefit the SPCA. Drag out those old paintings, dust off that gaudy bric-a-brac, unearth those tasteless wedding presents you stored out-of-sight decades ago. You might be surprised at what you uncover. Somewhere in the clutter could be a hidden gem.

Join us on March 31st with up to three of your most treasured (or questionable) items for evaluation. Support the SPCA, and perhaps, you'll strike it rich!

Bring us your high-end junk! The SPCA is accepting treasures you no longer need to sell at the Treasures in the Attic tag sale. Call (914) 941-2896 ext. 22 for further info about what we can accept

## SPECIAL THANKS



*Guiding Eyes for the Blind employees, Pam Cunningham, Leeann and Dennis Holmes, Cristina Farenga and Mark Liflander took up a collection at work and showed up at the SPCA with a van full of supplies from pet food to paper towels, cat toys and veterinary supplies.*



*Instead of asking for birthday gifts, Josh Andrews of Armonk asked his friends and family to make a donation to the SPCA in honor of his 8th birthday. Josh's birthday contributions totaled \$400 for SPCA animals!*



*Samantha Sretz, a 4th grader at George Washington school in Cortland Manor, took up a collection at school and donated blankets, towels, treats and pet food to the SPCA. Wow!*



## *Humane Law Enforcement*

continued from page 1...

have also brought other serious crimes to the attention of the police

The SPCA of Westchester reaches out to other humane organizations and works with state and local police departments and animal control officers. We are a member of the Animal Cruelty Task Force sponsored by the Westchester County District Attorney's office, and have recently been asked to join the Humane Society of the United States' Animal Fighting Task Force

In an effort to raise awareness of the SPCA of Westchester's HLE directives, our agents attend various events throughout the county. We "deputize" children with our "Junior Animal Cop" badges and ask them to tell an adult if they see an animal mis-

treated. Did you know that under New York State Law schools must include teaching modules in humane education or risk losing their charter? Children are our future, and play a very important part in our long term goal to raise awareness of animal cruelty and work toward its prevention in the next generation. The SPCA of Westchester's HLE officers are always available to speak at schools and humane and social organizations interested in learning about animal cruelty and how it can be prevented.

With your support, we will continue to build upon the successes of HLE, and toward the well-being of all animals. This has been a year of growth for the SPCA of Westchester's HLE Division. We discovered that the

public often did not know where to report suspected abuse. Earlier this year, we established the first Animal Cruelty Hotline for Westchester County and abuse can now be reported 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As a result of increased public awareness, cruelty calls have now increased from 1,500 calls per year to 400 calls per month. Our HLE officers have made an important, and often immediate, difference in preventing abuse and improving the quality of life for the animals, and the people, of Westchester County.

Remember to report animal cruelty.  
24 Hours a day, 7 Days a week.

**914-941-7797**

## *Volunteer Corner*

### Humane Education Follow-up

By Alice Shanahan

Since the last issue of Paw Prints, we have had many inquiries about the SPCA's Humane Education Program. This year we will be starting our spring semester at Trinity Elementary School in February. Again, we will present four different modules to fifth graders, teaching them about animal cruelty and how they can make a difference. We definitely need more volunteer help in order to expand this program and go forward with new materials and into more schools. We hope that anyone who is interested will contact us about becoming involved. No teaching experience is required, just a love for animals and a desire to work with children.

Want to help but don't have the time to volunteer? The SPCA has a special fund set up to sustain our Humane Education program. A contribution to the **Janet Greenspan Memorial Outreach Fund** is an investment in helping to raise a kinder generation of children who will learn to speak out for animals and for others who cannot speak for themselves. Humane Education teaches responsibility, helps children make the right moral choices and helps promote good citizenship, values Janet Greenspan espoused both during her lifetime and through the Fund. Please call (914) 941-2896 ext. 19 to learn more about contributions to the Janet Greenspan Memorial Outreach Fund.

### WE'RE GOING MOBILE!

What is 35-feet long, blue and white, and has 100 furry legs? The SPCA's Trails & Tails Adoption RV. Look to the roads, and you may see our new adoption vehicle. This 35-foot RV, painted with dogs, cats, and wildlife will soon be prowling the byways of Westchester and parking at selected locations with adoptable animals. We hope to increase our adoption rate even more by taking our animals out to the public instead of simply waiting for them to come to us. Join us as a driver, dog or cat handler, or adoption specialist as we ramble through the Hudson Valley in search of perfect parents for homeless pets.





# Looking for love...

Photos by Animal Portraits, Somers 2007

The SPCA of Westchester has a large selection of homeless dogs and cats, each waiting for a second chance. Come by the shelter or visit some of our adoptable animals on-line at: [www.SPCA914.org](http://www.SPCA914.org).

HUBERT



**Hubert** is the George Clooney of cats: handsome as the dickens, charming when he chooses, always a little unattainable. He prefers to be the only animal in the household. We think his don't-fence-me-in nature makes him a good candidate for an indoor/outdoor home.

HECTOR



**Hector** is a sandy-colored stunner. Although he's an older cat, you'd never guess it from his attitude. Hector wants to be a lap cat and we think that when you meet him, you'll recognize him as the companion of your dreams. Hector gets along with other cats but is scared of dogs.

PATTI



**Patti** is a very sweet young cat who doesn't complain about anything and seems to enjoy the companionship of other felines. She'd appreciate a good home with people who will admire her mild disposition.

BLANCO



**Blanco** is a beautiful 3-year-old Husky mix who has a lot of energy and loves to play. He may be a little shy at first, but his personality really shines when he gets to spend time with other dogs. He requires a dog experienced owner.

DAISY DUKE



**Daisy Duke**, a 3-year-old dane mix, is somewhat reserved when she first meets people, but once she gets to know you, she's nothing but sweet and affectionate. She loves going on walks and is very well behaved on her leash. She has a moderate amount of energy and would prefer a more low-key household with no children under the age of 12.

BOB



**Bob** is a handsome 5-year-old shepherd mix with a moderate amount of energy. He loves going for walks in the woods with our volunteers and is content just being in the company of people. Overall, Bob is a very happy and responsive dog who needs a dog experienced owner and a loving new home.

The SPCA would love to see photos of your animals, especially dogs and cats adopted from the shelter. You can put your pet's picture on our website by visiting [www.sPCA914.org](http://www.sPCA914.org) and clicking on photo gallery.



## Bilbo's Buzzzzzzzz



*Dear Bilbo,  
Can I feed sushi to my cat?  
Earnest in Eastchester*

Dear Earnest,

Only if you live next to the Clintons in Chappaqua. A proper diet for those of the feline persuasion consists of more than over-priced raw fish, seaweed, and sticky rice. Our resident nutritionist in the *Paw Prints* press room recommends a diet of quality (high protein, low ash) dry food for continuous noshing and the occasional can of quality wet food (not Kentucky Tom's Hog Noses and Tongues Plus Assorted By-parts.) But don't mix wet and dry—feed separately—wet food spoils quickly, and you'll have to throw out the whole mess.

Wet or dry...my oh my...choose one over the other...and opinions fly.

Both diets have their minuses: wet food causes excessive tooth tartar and creates finicky eaters ("Dry food today? No way!"); dry food can add to kidney or urinary tract problems in older cats.

Me? What do I eat? My primary diet is a quality dry food, which I make do with when I can't beg or steal something tastier. For example, my sister is special, so she gets a can of Fancy Feast each morning as reward for taking her pills—I scoff down what she leaves behind. And occasionally I beg a bite of cheese or a piece of chicken, but those are the exceptions rather than the rule. I live with a stingy human.

In sum, don't be fooled by fad diets or fancy labels, and don't be bluffed by a feline bully who demands more than you offer. Remember, before we came inside to live with you, we were eating mouse guts.

*Bilbo out.*

Email questions to Bilbo at:  
executivedirector@spca914.org

## Save the Date!

Wags & Whiskers Walk-a-thon and Pet Fair returns on Saturday, April 28, 2007 at FDR Park in Yorktown.

Last year hundreds of dogs and their people turned out for this day-long festival to raise funds for the SPCA's animal rescue programs. Put on your walking shoes and help us make this year's walk an even bigger success!

Sponsorship and vendor opportunities available.

Visit [www.spca914.org](http://www.spca914.org) to register and download a pledge form or call (914) 941-2896 ext. 19.



*Paw Prints* is published quarterly by the SPCA of Westchester, a 501(c)(3) humane organization located at 590 North State Road, Briarcliff Manor NY 10510. For information, please contact Shannon Laukhuf at (914) 941-2896 ext. 19.

**SPCA OF WESTCHESTER Hours:**  
Monday thru Saturday: 10am to 4pm  
Sunday: 1pm to 4pm  
[www.spca914.org](http://www.spca914.org)