

Happy New Year Volunteers!

I hope the holiday season found all of you safe and healthy with much joy and happiness. As we ring in the new year, we are very excited about our new adoption center in **PetSmart, Mohawk Commons**. Formerly operated by Robin's Nest, we have merged with Robin Paniccia and her team of volunteers to increase awareness of the APF within the community and to rehome many more animals. In our first week with Robin we were able to successfully place 12 cats! Unbelievable and extremely encouraging!

Recently I got to meet with most of the existing Robin's Nest volunteers and was very pleased. I welcome them with open arms and hope that they will join us here at the APF, helping with our everyday needs as well as our numerous events. Please visit our satellite location at PetSmart and introduce yourself to our new colleagues.



Adoption hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 1-8 pm, Wednesday and Friday 6-8 pm, Saturday 12-5 pm and Sunday 12-4 pm. The center is staffed fully by volunteers, with Robin also on site roughly 20 hours per week. If you are interested in helping out at the clinic, please contact me at jody@animalprotective.org.

Thank you for your continued dedication and hard work. We couldn't do what we do without the help of our volunteers.



Stay Warm!
Jody Sitors,
Volunteer Coordinator

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Rosalie Ault,
Executive Director
Mary Forden,
Business Manager
Kimberly Jess,
Community Outreach Manager
Scott Kunkler,
Facilities Administrator
Marguerite Pearson,
Director of Communications
Jody Sitors,
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Barbara Spillane, Shelter Manager
Melissa Tata, Animal Welfare Manager
Stephanie Cody, Service Representative
Jeanie Vanier, Service Representative
Bert Wilson, Facilities Assistant

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Katy Decker
Andrew Jess
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Carrie Marotta
Catherine McLaren
Rachel Nauman
Jodi Nobile
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Melissa Bressette, Veterinary Technician
Theresa Featherstone, Veterinary Technician
Patricia Perez, Surgical Assistant
Kim Sweet, Surgical Assistant

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Kitten Season is Fast Approaching!

We are in need of foster homes for orphan litters of kittens, which need round-the-clock care. Although not an easy task, it can be quite rewarding. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a foster family, please contact Melissa Tata at 374-3944, ext. #121 or tata@animalprotective.org.

We are also looking for donations of KMR (kitten formula), small baby blankets, cat carriers, and there is a real need for SnuggleSafe microwave heat pads and SnuggleSafe kitties, both of which can be found at www.amazon.com.

Our Kitten Shower will be held at the APF on April 17 and will be hosted by a local girl scout troop ~ stop by anytime between 12 and 3 pm, drop off your gifts and join us for refreshments.

Welcome New Volunteers!

Barbara King

Kathleen Salamone

Glenn Tucker

Dennis Wenraub

A Message from the President of the Board

Many years ago, I bought two adorable Bichon puppies from a breeder. Thinking at some point I might want to breed the female, I did not spay her. One day while she and her brother were out in our fenced in yard, a sneaky Romeo from down the block came to visit and somehow got in under the fence. Distracted by a phone call, when I returned to the yard, I found that the deed had been done and I would be a grandmother in about 60 days. Oh well, they wouldn't be pure Bichon, but I was sure I could find them good homes.

The day came and Tippy gave birth to three adorable little puppies. She was a great mom. When the time came to think about finding homes for the little ones, we found we just couldn't part with them. And so, our two dog family became our five dog family. Within a year, five became six as my sister moved to Holland for two years and couldn't take her beagle/lab mix. It was supposed to be temporary but when she returned, we decided that Harry was more at home with his new pack.

Over the years I became increasingly aware of the local problem of more puppies and kittens being born than there are loving homes for all of them to go to. While my six were all loved and cared for, I felt badly for having bought from a breeder in the first place instead of giving a home to a dog that really needed one. I vowed that when my current family of six had gone to the great beyond, and when the time came to start again, I would save a life by adopting a shelter dog.

The last of the pack finally passed at the age of fifteen-and-a-half. They all lived good long lives, even though all five of the Bichons became diabetic. Two shots of insulin a day was the norm for years. I was tired too, but I know that the care that I gave them helped them live the long and happy lives that they had.

While I'd planned to hold out for a year, within six months I was on the Petfinder website every day. Within eight months I had rescued two little shih-tzu mix half brothers and I was complete again.

Many people worry that a "used" animal might not bond to their adoptive family. Those of us who have rescued know that these animals act like they've been given a second chance and, if anything, bond more closely to their new family.

I adopted my boys before I became a volunteer at the APF. For years as I drove by the APF I thought to myself that I wanted to help out somehow. Having never been inside of a shelter, I was afraid that seeing all of the animals waiting for homes would break my heart and so didn't go in. That was selfish of me. As anyone who's ever been inside the APF will tell you, for the duration of their stay, the staff and volunteers of the APF make every animal feel loved and wanted and they do their very best to find good homes for all of them.

All of us who volunteer at the APF do so because we love animals. Each of us gives of our time or resources in ways that we feel we can be most useful to the well-being of our APF animals. For some of us, it's spending time with the animals or helping out the staff by answering phones or greeting potential adopters. For others it's fundraising or grant writing or maybe donating materials or food to help defray the costs that the APF incurs to care for the hundreds of animals that pass through these doors.

As a member of the APF's board of directors and newly elected president, I recognize that there is no service too small. We are all linked by a common cause – a desire to make a difference in the lives of these animals and a dream that every unwanted animal will find a loving home. Here's hoping that 2010 is filled with the stuff that dreams are made of.

Becky Pauley



New Year's Resolutions for Your Pet



The new year offers a fresh start to adopt good habits and the four-legged members of the family should be no exception. What can you do to make this year a great one for your furry pals? What about a resolution to brush your cat every week or a promise to extend your pooch's playtime? Whatever you choose, resolutions aimed at making your pets happier and healthier can add years to their lives, fun to their days and much joy to your home. Check out these popular pet resolutions for 2010.

Check-up Time

You go to the doctor regularly ~ and so should your pet. If it's been a year or more since your pet has seen a veterinarian, make that appointment today.

Protect Their Pearly Whites

Does your pet have morning breath ~ all day long? Your cat or dog may need dental care. Pledge to check your pet's teeth and gums at least once a week, and ask your vet to show you how you can prevent dental disease by brushing regularly.

Shake It Up!

We could all use a bit more movement in our lives ~ make a resolution to shake it up with your pets! Healthy adult dogs need at least 30 minutes of aerobic exercise twice a day ~ jogging, a brisk walk, or just playing catch in the yard are all great options. Get kitty in fit with rousing play sessions of chase and fetch with furry toys, small balls or toy mice.

Battle the Bulge

Pets depend on us to regulate their nutrition and activity levels. It is important to follow strict feeding guidelines since overweight pets face increased health risks. This year vow to lay off those table scraps and consider switching to a well-balanced, quality pet food.

Poison-Proof Your Home

With various dangers lurking in corners and cabinets, the home can be a minefield of poisons for our pets. Don't leave it up to your pet to keep themselves safe. Resolve to make your home a safe place for your pets.

Get a New Look

In 2010, give your pet the gift of glam! A regular grooming regimen will make your pet feel proud, pampered, and healthy.

ID's Please

Keep them close to your heart by outfitting all of your animal companions ~ even indoor only pets ~ with an ID tag. Implanted microchips are also a smart option, but keep in mind that microchips are only as good as the information provided to the chip's company, so keep your contact info up-to-date.

**Follow the APF on
Twitter and Facebook**

APF Upcoming Events

***SEE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES NOTED IN RED**

February 9 **“Tails of Trespure” Jewelry Event, 4-8 pm**
at the Waters Edge Lighthouse, Freemans Bridge Rd., Glenville

***VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Clean out your jewelry drawer and bring in your unwanted treasures, whether fine or costume, broken or orphan real gold or sterling silver pieces. We are still looking for several people to help set up before the event (1-4 pm) and to help clean up after (7:30-9 pm). We are also looking for donations of champagne if anyone has a contact with a liquor store. Contact Kim: at 374-3944, ext. 119.

February 17 and March 24 **Volunteer Orientation, 6 pm**

Know someone interested in volunteering? Tell them about this upcoming orientation. To reserve a seat, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Jody Sitors 374-3944, ext. 118 or jody@animalprotective.org.

February 20 **Snow Dogs!**

If you love huskies, don't miss this opportunity to learn more about this fascinating breed. This family-friendly event returns for 2 sessions, 10 am-12 noon or 1-3 pm. It fills up fast, so make your reservations now by calling 374-3944, ext. 119 now. Admission: \$10 (to support Tundra Spirit Husky Rescue) Recommended for children age 6 and older.

February 27 and April 24 **Bottle & Can Drive, 12 noon-4 pm**

***VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Start saving your bottles and cans and drop them off at the APF. We do need volunteers to help with this on the day of the event. Contact: Mary at 374-3944, ext. 114.

March 6 **Pet First Aid, 8 am-12 noon**

March 7 **Pancake Breakfast, 1-5 pm**
at the Ancient Order of Hibernians, State St., Schenectady

***VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** We need several people in a variety of positions, including helping to set up, prepare and cook, serve, and clean up. Contact: Jody at 374-3944, ext. 118.

April 17 **Kitten Shower, 12-3 pm**

June 6 **Golf Tournament**

***VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Will need some help with the event. Contact Jody at 374-3944, ext. 118.

June 12 **Garage Sale**

***VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Start saving items; drop off begins in May. We need lots of volunteers for this event! More info to come.