

Pet Gazette



53 Maple Ave., Glenville, NY 12302 • 518-374-3944 ext. 122 • www.animalprotective.org • February 2020

Going the Extra Mile

At APF many hours of behind the scenes time and energy go into a dog's readiness for adoption. While in our care, each pup receives an initial intake and medical examination as well as a behavioral evaluation. Some dogs move quickly through the process, while others take longer. Animals that experience prolonged stays in a shelter can start to deteriorate mentally or even physically. Extra effort is given to those pets through special behavior and enrichment programs.

Every week staff writes an updated, individualized attention plan for dogs in our care. This includes additional snuggle time, having a book read, or going on an outing. Attention plans are in addition to the daily enrichment that all dogs receive like stuffed Kong toys, Frisbees with peanut butter, or puzzle feeder bowls that encourage dogs to work for their food. Enrichment helps keep the dogs healthy and attentive.

At times adoptable dogs come to us with a history of behaviors that can be challenging. To remedy that, the APF dedicates tailored time with the

dog and offers post-adoption behavior support to adopters. New pup parents work with a trainer in their home who helps create unique lesson plans and homework assignments. The goal of this program is to ensure a successful placement for both adopter and pet. Started in 2019 through a generous donation from the Poore Foundation, this program will expand through 2020.

Two-year old, pit-mix Beacon is an example of a dog who experienced an unexpected longer stay at the shelter - four and a half months. While here, staff spent time working with him on his unique behavioral profile.

Beacon's special day came on December 24th when he was adopted by Abigail Stevens and Ryan Congdon. "It was love at first face lick," said Abigail. "He is doing awesome and has been listening to both of us. He's loving his puzzle toys and brain games, and we feel so lucky to have him." As part of the Behavior Support Program, Beacon has already had his first trainer visit and according to his adopters he is off to a great start! Yay, Beacon!



Ryan and Beacon relaxing



Spade meets his new mom, Beth.

A Second Chance

Spunky cat Spade came to APF as a stray who had a broken hind leg. At first he was nervous and vulnerable - it appeared he had been hit by a car. His hip joint was shattered and he was in a lot of pain and discomfort. It looked like his leg would have to be amputated.

After two surgeries and a long recovery time Spade's leg was rehabilitated, thanks to in-house veterinarian Dr. Jackie Kucskar and the APF veterinary staff. Spade transformed from a shy, injured cat into a friendly, playful one during his time at the shelter. A wonderful success story shared by many staff and volunteers. Best of luck in your new home, Spade!

Your
donations
provide hope
to animals.

Pet Adoption

Our adoption program is focused on making great matches that meet the needs and preferences of both our clients and the pets in our care. This is accomplished through meaningful conversation and relationship building with each potential adopter, and getting to know each APF pet individually.

Rehoming Services

Pets in need of a new home can be admitted to our adoption program by appointment. Please call 518-374-3944, ext. 101. A contribution of \$30 per animal is requested to offset the cost of care that we provide, an average of \$250 per animal.

Visit Us

**53 Maple Avenue
Glenville, NY 12302**

Tuesday through Saturday
12:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Closed Sunday and Monday



PetGazette is a publication of the APF, a not-for-profit corporation in Schenectady County, New York. It is published three times a year for supporters and we welcome your comments.

Please Contact

Info@animalprotective.org
518-374-3944 ext. 122

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Executive Director's Note

Dear Friends,

Looking back, 2019 was a year to be proud of. Our pet placement rate remained above 90% - a satisfying yet challenging accomplishment. I attribute this success to the dedication of APF staff and volunteers, generous funders, and the collaboration with rescue organizations. Gratitude goes to the adopters who opened their hearts and homes to our wonderful companion pets.

Last year our clinic team performed their 21,000th spay and neuter surgery - a remarkable achievement that has resulted in a quantifiable reduction in shelter intake over the last 4 years. Looking to support an initiative with clear, measurable results? I encourage you to make a donation to the APF to help cover the cost of spay & neuter procedures. Funds are always needed for this important community service, and enable us to keep our rates low.

Ever have experience with a hybrid wolf-dog? Well, neither did APF until Gaia arrived last August. Her story is fascinating, and having her here for three months made a tremendous, positive impact on staff. Read more about her and what she taught us on the next page.

The commencement of our new five-year strategic plan began on January 1st. A significant part of the plan is dedicated to providing more services in the community with key partners. One aspect is to address the issue of feral and free roaming cats in our communities. We'll work closely with Spaying Capital Region Unowned Feral Felines (SCRUFF) and Feline Guardian Angels in a Trap Neuter vaccinate and Return program (TNvR).

If you would like to know more about our community cat project, to support our key initiatives, or to discuss any of our work in more detail, I would love to hear from you at 518-374-3944 ext. 110 or Balliet@animalprotective.org.

Sincerely,

Deb Balliet
Executive Director



**Your
kindness
changes
lives.**



Special thanks to Roger Blankfein, DVM for his pet memorial contributions, bereavement support group sponsorship, and for helping pets and their families say goodbye in the comfort of their own home.

(518) 203-3498
www.inthecomfortofhome.com

We Named Her Gaia.

Last August, a distinctly unique young female was brought to the Animal Protective Foundation's shelter as a stray. "It was clear from the start," says APF Dog Program Coordinator Jessica Bukovinsky, "that the approximately six-month-old 'puppy' who came to us as a stray was so much more than a dog."

Her obvious intelligence and elevated sense of awareness, coupled with her striking physical features, quickly led our team to believe that our new friend might be a hybrid. To ensure that we were giving her the proper care, and finding her an appropriate placement option, we sent a DNA sample to the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at the University of California, Davis. The results confirmed our suspicions. Gaia was part dog - part wolf.

New York State classifies all wolf/dog hybrids as "dangerous wildlife" that cannot be lawfully owned without a permit. Since she is not an adoptable pet, our only viable option was to seek a sanctuary where Gaia could live in a suitable natural environment.

In addition to daily care, our team watched, learned from, and interacted with Gaia for more than three months. Staff provided enrichment activities and behavior training for the animal for whom we had a strong feeling of awe and respect.

"We're fortunate that donations from our supporters enable APF to provide a wide array of diverse training opportunities for pets, as well as continuing education opportunities for our staff. It keeps us on the leading edge" says Deb Balliet. "In working with Gaia, staff acquired important skills that they could use in canine behavior training."

In early November, Jessica and Gaia paid an initial visit to a New England wolf sanctuary for an introduction to a male wolf in need of companionship (both animals have been spayed and neutered, respectively). Happily, the two seemed to hit it off right away. A few short weeks later, Gaia and Jessica made their final trip to the sanctuary and parted ways.

"Gaia will have a similar level of interaction with people," Jessica says. "She'll have more space to run, and have an animal of her own kind to play with. It was hard to say good-bye, but we wanted her to thrive for the rest of her life."



Jessica and Gaia

Clinic Spay/Neuter Special Discount

Thanks to a grant from ASPCA the APF Clinic is running a special discounted rate of \$35 for the spay/neuter service for cats owned by those receiving food stamps, Medicaid, Disability, Social Security Income, or HEAP assistance. This promotion will run until June 2020 or until funds are depleted. Please call 518-374-3944 ext.121 or 125 today!



Save the date

March 7, 2020

Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast

Join APF for a flipping good time at Applebee's in Glenville.
Tickets are \$10



May 8, 2020

Tails by Twilight Roaring 20's Gala

A Gatsby-style evening full of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dancing to support the thousands of animals APF cares for every year.

Enjoy silent and live auctions, live music, and celebrate the winner of the 2020 APF Animal Advocacy Award.

Tickets: \$125 General
\$75 Young Professionals
(35 years and younger)

Call 518-374-3944 ext. 115 for info

New Board Member

Welcome to new board member, Ruth Leslie, who joined us in the Fall of 2019. Ruth is a lifetime animal lover who has been eager to get more involved in the community; APF is a perfect fit.

Ruth brings 30 years of healthcare experience and is looking forward to utilizing her skills and qualifications to help companion pets in need. When asked why she joined the board, Ruth replied, "Being in the healthcare arena, I'm very interested in the intersection between personal health and the ability to take care of one's pets. I feel there is a strong relationship between the two."

Ruth is married, has two children and a dog named Cookie. She will be an asset to the APF board leadership and we are pleased to have her.



Pictured L-R, husband, Rob, Ruth, and children Sean and Taylor. Family pet Cookie is right in the center.

Loose Change Adds Up

Not sure what to do with your spare change? You may have seen our little purple APF doghouses by the registers at local businesses. Every penny counts, and to prove it last year we raised \$10,682 for dogs, cats and small animals in our care.

Out of 54 locations, two in particular topped them all. The generous customers at Blue Ribbon Diner on State Street donated a total of \$1,174.36, and Sal's Quality Market on Guilderland Avenue raised \$1,007.00. Both businesses are located in Schenectady.

Continued appreciation to all of our Doghouse Merchants and Coordinators. APF shelter pets thank you!

We Found Our Forever Home!



Ellie Mae



Pete



Scout



Rascal



Sasha



Ally



*Blue Ribbon employees
L-R: Tammy, Alexandra (owner), Tracy & Linda*



*Sal's Quality Market employees
L-R: Jim (manager), Dona, Heather & Morgan*

**We
couldn't do
it without
you!**