Dog Lovers Give High Marks

Participants from last year’s APF Canine Academy were surveyed to rate their satisfaction of the classes. Results found they were pleased with our programs from Puppy Class through to Therapy Dog International and Canine Good Citizen certifications. Classes are designed to develop healthy, balanced dogs and teach them to focus excess energy in a positive, manageable way. Minimizing behavioral issues will keep pets in their homes rather than be surrendered to the shelter.

If you and your dog would benefit from participating in our Canine Academy, please take a look at our website – www.animalprotective.org – or call Collette at 518-374-3944 ext. 111.

Senior Dog Finds Home

Legacy, a beautiful senior dog, arrived in late 2018 and was examined by APF’s veterinary team. She was found to have ‘dry eye’ in both eyes, in need of dental work and was suffering from cardiomyopathy. Given her symptoms and condition, the APF team made the decision to place her into a hospice home to live out the remainder of her days.

Thanks to the Grey Muzzle Foundation, an organization that helps provide funding for the care of senior dogs, Legacy got the medical attention she needed while here. John and Beth Courtney adopted her, and, interestingly, both the new Mom and Dad were retired hospice caregivers for humans. We’re so pleased because they really understand Legacy’s need for compassionate care. Thank you!
Dear Friends,

The year 2018 was highly successful for the homeless pets in our care. We are thrilled to report a 90% placement rate. Thank you for making it so.

Our animal care and veterinary team did a great job addressing each pet as an individual. They used all available resources to prepare the dogs, cats and small animals for placement. Together we achieved this by:

- Adopting out senior pets of any age who still have a good quality of life.
- Routinely placing FIV and FELV positive cats. Thanks to the individuals that made a place in their home and family for these special felines.
- Placing pregnant cats in foster homes to have their kittens. Last year, fifty kittens were born in the homes of our foster families.

Thanks to the many wonderful families who fostered or adopted our special needs pets. You are what makes a difference!

APF also participates in the Jackson Galaxy Cat PawsitivePro feline behavior-training program for our staff and volunteers. Cat PawsitivePro emphasized the use of positive reinforcement and clicker training to develop confidence in shy cats. Easily overstimulated felines learn to positively channel their misdirected energy. The program helped us adopt out felines who would normally be difficult to place.

We provided more intensive medical care and additional medical testing for pets in our care. Treatments included things such as heart surgery, amputations, mass removals, eye enucleations, dental extractions, heartworm treatment, and more.

It would be impossible for us to succeed without your generous support. We need your help. Please act now by making an online donation or calling me at 518-374-3944 x110 to discuss ways you can help us save more lives.

Sincerely,

Deb Balliet
Executive Director
**Couple Cares With Planned Gift**

“Working behind the scenes as long-time volunteers at the Animal Protective Foundation (APF), has enabled us to see the quality of care, dedication and love given to each pet who enters through the shelter doors,” said Evelyn Gutchell.

As a result of their firsthand experience, Marc and Evelyn Gutchell have included the APF in their estate plans. “Ensuring that shelter pets continue to have the chance to find their forever homes is important to us,” said Marc. “We enjoy helping in the process today, and want to be part of that into the future. It's the very best legacy that we can imagine for ourselves.”

“Our cats are our family,” Evelyn said. “We want to make sure the community continues to enjoy the same fulfillment and joy that we’ve been blessed with by having pets in our lives.”

For the past eighteen years, Evelyn has helped at the front desk, assisted with cat adoptions, trained volunteers and made catnip toys. Marc served on the board for 3 years and helped with cat adoptions for fifteen years. They share their home with 3 senior-aged cats - Clancy, Albert, and Lulu and are always on the lookout for additional feline family members.

For information on how you can make your legacy come alive at APF, please contact Nancy Benz, benz@animalprotective.org or 518-374-3944 ext. 122. Including APF in your estate plans will ensure your legacy of providing care and comfort to animals in need.

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**Benz Joins as Director of Development**

Please join us in welcoming Schenectady resident, Nancy Benz to the APF in the newly created position of Senior Director of Development. Nancy has been assisting the APF for two months as a consultant and began her full-time role in January 2019.

“Nancy is a great addition to our team. She is passionate about pets and a highly experienced development professional; a combination which will bring resources that will allow us to do more for each and every companion animal that comes to us for care,” said APF Board President Howard Halstead.

In this role, Nancy will develop a comprehensive development program. The goal of this program is to increase donated revenue so that the APF may continue to improve and expand its services for homeless pets and pet parents in the Greater Capital Region.

Nancy’s family includes three adult sons and two rescued pets, Mitzy, a spirited tuxedo cat, and Daisy, a black lab mix. Have a question about ways to donate to APF? Contact Nancy at 518-374-3944 ext. 122.

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**Delack Center Progress**

The Delack Feline Care Center construction is progressing nicely. The new and renovated space will improve the health and happiness of the cats in our care through better living spaces, improved air quality, a new evaluation area and an all-cabana adoption space. Construction is expected to be complete in the Spring. Stay tuned!
Spare Change Adds Up!

Have you noticed the little APF doghouses by the registers of Capital Region businesses? The spare change you put in them goes to good use. Last year you raised $11,488 for dogs, cats and small animals in our care. Out of 58 locations, generous customers topped all by putting $1,186 into the dog houses at Blue Ribbon Diner on State Street, and $1,140 at Sal’s Quality Market on Guilderland Avenue both of Schenectady. Big thanks to these two businesses!

Continued thanks go to all of our Doghouse Merchants. Please patronize them and remember to drop your spare change in the little purple doghouse. APF shelter pets thank you!

Garden Tribute Bricks

Honor a family member, friend or beloved pet by placing an engraved paver in our beautiful tribute garden. Pavers are available for purchase in three sizes: 4” X 8” brick ($50), 8” diamond shaped brick ($100), or a 10.75” granite square brick ($250).

For information, go to www.animalprotective.org or contact Katrina at 518-374-3944 ext. 115, baker@animalprotective.org.

Spring is the season for brick placement, so let us know soon!

In the Comfort of Home

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