

The SPCA Serving Allegany County

Paw Prints

Winter 2018

WHAT IS
YOUR BIGGEST
WISH FOR THE NEW
YEAR?

A NEW
SHELTER!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

What's Happening at the SPCA! • Shelter News
PetTails • Memorials • How to Donate and Help



GIVE ME SHELTER NEWS

Inquiring minds want to know....when will the new shelter be finished and how soon will the animals be able to go to their new home? I am happy to report we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel and if all goes well we will be moving in the Spring of 2018!! Construction on the interior of the building has started this fall and is moving at a very fast pace, we now have the interior electrical, plumbing, walls and air exchange installed. Instead of chalk marks on the floors and signs hanging all over the shelter identifying the spaces.... we actually have walls now! The past few months have been busy and stressful full of many hours of weekly construction meetings and numerous decisions have had to be made for the interior finishes. Although this project has been very exciting...all of us here at the SPCA can attest to building a new shelter is no easy task and we have learned a lot from this very rewarding experience.

If you remember, from our last newsletter, we had a very special challenge back in 2016. And let me say many thanks to our Angel Donor who came up with idea of a challenge last year to help raise funds to build our new shelter. Our special donor was willing to MATCH 100% of any donations made to the BUILDING FUND by December 31st 2016 and was willing to match up to \$200,000!!! I am happy to report our 2016 end of year challenge brought in \$197,000 and we received our 100% match of \$200,000. THANK YOU to everyone who donated, as you have helped to make the new shelter happen!!! The challenge along with the match and the ASPCA grant of \$305,000 for the spay and neuter clinic has helped the SPCA move forward with construction. BUT, we still need your help to get across the finish line by donating to the Give Me Shelter Building Fund. Donations can be sent to P.O. 381 – Wellsville, NY 14895 – or done via Paypal which is listed on our website and on our FB page. The SPCA is a 501c3 Charitable organization, a Better Business Bureau Charity and Guidestar Silver rated and best of all your donation is tax deductible! We are run SOLELY on donations. Please specify if you would like your donation to go to operating fund or to the new building fund. Donations can be made in memory or honor of both people and pets. We are looking forward to opening our new shelter and continuing our partnership with Alfred State Vet Tech students and veterinarians.

Paw Prints ... Winter 2018 The SPCA Serving Allegany County

Serving Animals and People in Allegany County of New York

The SPCA's mission is to attend to the needs of the abandoned, neglected, and abused animals of Allegany County. Change is constant at the SPCA shelter. Animals in great need of care and compassion continually arrive as others are adopted out into their forever homes.

"The furry faces may change, but the need never goes away."

ONE-CLICK DONATIONS You can also make convenient donations to the shelter or memorials online on our website – just click on Donation and PAYPAL!

FIND US ON THE WEB! www.SPCAallegany.org

EMAIL US SPCAallegany@gmail.com

HOURS Seven days a week noon to 4 p.m.

LOCATION 1374 State Route 19 South, Wellsville, NY 14895

MAIL SPCA Serving Allegany County, P.O Box 381, Wellsville NY 14895

PHONE 585-593-2200

Other important numbers

NEW SENSE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Mike Hayden, 716-676-9161

CRUELTY HOTLINE - 585-268-9600

NYS AG & MARKETS - www.agriculture.ny.gov

DOG CONTROL OFFICERS (DCO) - updated list on www.SPCAallegany.org

WILDLIFE ABBIE-FREELAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Cheri Button-Dobmeier, (585) 466-7811



Find us on Facebook

Stay linked in and follow all the happenings at the shelter, pets up for adoption and upcoming fundraisers and events! We are at:

www.Facebook.com/SPCA.Serving.Allegany.County

A Letter From Lynda!

By Lynda Pruski, *SPCA President*

In thinking about this past year, we again had faced many of the same challenges as we did the previous year with trying to run our existing shelter and build our new shelter and somehow it is all working out. Luckily and thankfully, we have a strong supportive community that donates both time and money to help the SPCA, along with our dedicated volunteers, fundraising committee, board of directors and staff which we owe a big thank you and a PAWS UP to for their continued support year after year.

This past year we gave tours of the new shelter on Sundays for several weeks so that people could get a sneak peek and to learn more about our vision and goals for the new shelter. It was quite interesting as our tours consisted of many familiar faces and quite a few new faces. Visitors were not just from our county, others attended from neighboring counties and from PA.

For those visitors who took the tour and who have adopted from our current shelter, volunteered or worked there in the past were not only excited, but they totally understood the need and could envision the future state of the SPCA. Our vision is to help to create a healthy environment for the animals and to rehabilitate and enrich the lives of the animals in our care. We plan to reduce their length of stay at our shelter and to get them adopted in loving homes much sooner.

When adopting shelter animals, many times it is life changing for the new owner and it is always life changing for the animal. I could never imagine obtaining a pet any other way and in this year's newsletter a majority of our articles are stories written by people who have adopted from us. I have been a repeat adopter from our shelter and have also rescued senior dogs from kill shelters....each adoption has been a positive experience and very fulfilling. I can remember my first SPCA shelter dog adoption 8 years ago of a black lab named Charity...she is still with me today and although she is now 12 yrs old, very gray, arthritic, and she has been recently diagnosed with lymphoma – she still acts like a puppy and plays daily with all her dog friends. We take one day at a time and cherish the time we do have together. She is the matriarch of the



house and welcomes any dogs or cats I bring home....she also serves as a referee and keeps everyone in line especially when some of my dogs get riled up and are rough housing. She has been a constant companion who has been by my side every day through thick and thin – she is my special shelter girl!

My smallest dog I ever adopted was also from our shelter....she was an 8lb senior dynamo, full of spunk and love....and I named her Gidget. Our first meeting was in the basement of the shelter....staff asked me to stop downstairs as they had something to show me. I was wondering to myself why am I going

to the cat room – I am a dog person? And when I looked in the room there was this very little dirty white dog in one of our cat cages squealing and jumping around...she had one little eye and one big eye, she had one ear flopped down and the other ear went straight out to the side....she would not be considered attractive in most peoples'



eyes. But, when I saw her....I thought what a beautiful dog....and I blurted out immediately she is PERFECT....I want to adopt her!!! Gidget was glue on my shoe, loved to be held....would be bursting with excitement when I would walk in the door and run in circles...jump on the couch....roll on her back and kick her little legs up in the air and make the strangest squealing and gremlin noises.....she was the happiest dog and loved everyone. When it was time for

bed she would race into the bedroom and run all over my bed and then nestle in to her spot with her head on my shoulder. She was only with me a short 3 years before she passed away this fall at age 13 with bladder cancer and kidney failure and my house has not been the same without her. I feel fortunate to have made a difference in her life....and she definitely has made a difference in mine.

A TRIBUTE TO

Bernie Jackson



In June of 2017, the SPCA Serving Allegany County lost one of its most dedicated volunteers when our father Bernard "Bernie" Jackson, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 81. To say our dad did a lot for the shelter is a huge understatement. He loved to collect, clean and turn in donated bottles and cans for return. He

rolled change from the collection jars. He picked up food for our barbecues, wood pellets for the cat boxes, and let's not forget he always provided the use of his truck and trailer for hauling baskets, books, tables and loads of food from Purina. His trailer provided the foundation of our parade float. He even brought his mower up a time or two and helped take care of the shelter lawn. Anything that was asked of him, he was always eager and willing to help out. So eager to help out, in fact, that he was known for his habit of being REALLY early. If he was scheduled to pick up a load of pet food in Buffalo at 10 a.m., he was dressed and pacing the floor by 6 a.m. He always wanted to get there and get the job done. He was such a hard worker and gave of himself so easily to those who needed him the most.

His involvement with the shelter all started years ago with an innocent question, "Dad, can we use your truck to haul baskets for the auction?" From that moment on, he was a volunteer. Even when we would volunteer him without asking him first, he always showed up and was eager to help. We have so many good memories of him helping at shelter fundraising events, especially during basket auction time. He was always there to help load and transport the baskets and tables. It didn't matter that he was nearing 80 and had broken his neck in an accident years prior; he loved to be busy, loved to help out and loved being needed.

One of our best memories from this last year was when Dad decided he was going to bowl on our family team in the Bowl-A-Paw-Looza. He had not bowled in about 30 years, and needless to say, he had a blast. We have pictures of him bowling backwards between his legs to prove it. He took it all very seriously and was absolutely thrilled when he received a prize for "lowest male score" for his age group. He was so

proud when he walked to claim his prize, and as I (Judy) knew he would, he went straight for the giant sock monkey. I thought, "Oh, brother, what does he want that for?" and I went and stopped him and talked him into taking a gift card instead. Memories are bittersweet as I wish I would have let him keep the sock monkey.

The months since his passing have been a difficult time for our family, as I'm sure it is for any family who loses a loved one, but nothing brought his absence home as much as this last theme basket auction. So many times we thought, "Oh, that's something Dad would have helped with," or, "I wish Dad were here." It seems so strange and surreal without him here helping us, doing something he loved so much. He leaves a big pair of shoes to fill. How can you possibly replace someone who did so much? The answer is, you can't. You simply plod along, delegating his tasks to others, and you hope that another volunteer comes along that loves helping as much as he did.

When the new shelter opens, please stop by and say a thank you to all the volunteers whose pictures are on our wall, Bernie Jackson included. We wouldn't be able to help the animals we do without their help. And if you or someone you know wants to fill some hours or just find more purpose in life, please contact the shelter and see how you can help. We are always looking for volunteers. Age doesn't matter – all you need is room in your heart and a desire to help. Everyone is appreciated.

Thank you, Dad, for being a wonderful father, husband, and friend to the SPCA. You are missed more than you can ever imagine.

We love you, your daughters....Judy and Hope



In memory of Lucy Jackson

ARTHUR

By Mary Jesinowski

For many years, animal rescue was a topic that I didn't know anything about and therefore, had never given too much consideration. Like everyone else, I had watched those ASPCA commercials on TV for years. While I was saddened by them and I applauded the work of their brave rescuers... once the commercial had ended, my thoughts turned to other things. That changed in 2015, which started out as a promising year for our family...as the start of all New Year's do.

However that changed suddenly in March of that year, when my husband underwent emergency lifesaving surgery. While my husband was in the hospital, our 13 year old Scottish terrier Malcom had taken an unexpected turn for the worse, I realized the time had come for me to help him cross that rainbow bridge. I cried most of the way there, and all of the way home.

In the days following, we just felt such a terrible sense of sadness and loss without our little guy Malcolm around. Even Charlie, our grand-dog who lives with us was not himself. He lost interest in eating and he spent a lot of time sleeping... and he was forever looking for his buddy, Malcolm. As the months passed, the thought of another dog would briefly cross my mind from time to time. I had just turned on the local news, and they were talking about a dog rescue that had taken place in Allegany County with 30 dogs. When they showed footage of the dirty and matted dogs...my heart broke. I remember thinking...?how will they ever find homes for that many dogs?' The thought of that many dogs with the possibility that there wouldn't be enough homes for all of them, really weighed on my heart. I decided I needed to do something, but didn't really know where to start.

So I started by calling the SPCA a couple of days later, I inquired about fostering one of the dogs and I submitted a foster application, I received a phone call a few days later and there had been such an overwhelming response that all of the dogs were in the process of being placed.

A few more days passed...and I received an unexpected call from the SPCA. It turned out that they still had a few dogs left...all male...and was I still interested? 'Yes!' yes I was ...I was just so happy to get that call. My husband and I went to the SPCA and were standing in front of a dog kennel looking at 6 similar-looking little white dogs. Some of the dogs were jumping up and down and barking excitedly...but one dog caught my eye... #98-15...He wasn't like the others. He was the only one who seemed intent on hiding and trying to get away from everyone.

When they brought him out...he was terrified and trembling and was trembling on the 3 hour ride home. During our ride home we had decided on a name for this tiny terrified dog... Arthur. Over the next week, we began the process of potty



training. Not much fun when it's nearly winter and you are making 7 trips a day outside in the freezing cold. Arthur was smart, within a month he had learned how to walk on a leash and was potty-trained. As the weeks passed, I learned a lot about Arthur, he did not know how to go to sleep, every night, he would sit up in his crate, wide awake and alert... until he would just suddenly fall over in exhaustion. I learned that he loved eating, hoarding food in his crate and

he was terrified of men and would run away whenever he saw my husband. He did not like being picked up & would flinch whenever he was being petted.

When Arthur had been with us for 8 months, I took Arthur in to be neutered. As I left him there, I was very concerned that the progress we had made up to that point would suffer a serious setback. But then something truly wonderful happened. Arthur's walls suddenly came down all at once, he wanted to sit on my lap and be cuddled all of the time. From that point on, he became much more relaxed and playful. And he and Charlie became the best of friends.

Arthur has been with us for 2 years now...and we have been through a lot together. In that time, I have watched him grow from a timid frightened dog into a confident joyful dog. He wakes up happy every morning...every day is a new adventure for him. And Arthur absolutely loves life.

Last year, we unexpectedly lost our 24 year old son to a severe asthma attack. It has been a painful and difficult time since then, but Arthur has always been right there. His and Charlie's unconditional love and loyalty has been and continues to be an unwavering source of comfort for both my husband and I.



I have learned something important from this part of my journey...I have learned that when it comes to dogs, their appearance doesn't really matter. Age doesn't matter, nor gender...breed doesn't matter. The only thing that matters is the heart of the dog. All dogs regardless of age, size or previous owners have an infinite capacity for love, acceptance, and forgiveness. They will love you just as you are...where you are...right now...no questions asked. If you decide to rescue a dog... I ask that you look with your heart and not your eyes. Because that dog you think you are rescuing, might be the one who ends up rescuing you instead. Just like our Arthur has done for us.

Bonnie By Beth Pederson

When I first met Bonnie in December of 2016 at the SPCA she was so afraid she crawled across the floor and put her head in my lap. For the next hour, she never completely stood up or moved away, never looked me in the eyes. I fell in love with her gentle spirit and wounded heart instantly.



Because Bonnie was so overweight (35 pounds heavier than she is now!) She initially came into my home as a foster, needing to lose at least 15 pounds before she could be spayed and then be officially adopted. Unlike many animals that come into the shelter system, I was lucky enough to have some details of her history which helped to explain behavior patterns when she came

to her new home. Bonnie was used as a breeding dog. Kept in an abandoned house without heat or electricity, she had little socialization with people or the outside world. She had never ridden in a car much, or been on a leash, played with toys, or been a normal dog.

After a tough first car ride home, when Bonnie first saw her new "sister dog" across the room of her new home,

all was right in the world. She ran across the living room, jumped on the couch, and explored the house for the next hour. She finally settled down underneath the kitchen table with her first real smile on her face.

Housebreaking for Bonnie took about two weeks with an occasional slip-up. It still amazes me how quickly she learned! Walking on a leash was an almost instant learn for her, and a total joy. The harder adjustment was all of the sights and sounds of the big strange and scary world outside of the once small space she had lived in. Learning to trust people has taken time.

Every morning Bonnie dances with joy- so happy just to be loved. I feel honored to have witnessed her transformation from a timid dog who was afraid to even stand up and hid underneath my kitchen table, to one who loves kids and other dogs. She loves to play, swim, take long walks and is a big-time couch potato after a busy day! She has bonded with her 10 ½ year old "sister dog" like they were always together. They are the best of friends!

Animals from rescue situations truly give love differently- with a full capacity to the depth and breadth of their being. If they are in a good home, remembering and knowing that life isn't always that way. The journey is worth the work and the patience. Bonnie is proof of that.

Thank you to the SPCA for the joy that Bonnie has brought to Lola and myself. We are all so grateful!

George & Archer By Meg Palmatier

My family has adopted 2 cats from the Allegany County SPCA. The first cat was appropriately named 'Archer' as when he was found, he had an arrow through his stomach. The second was named 'George' a slightly over-weight fellow with lots of love to give. Both Archer & George immediately fit right in to our house. We have a lot of land and they had free reign to come and go as they pleased. They would spend most of the day out hunting for anything they could catch, and come in at night to snuggle in bed with our children. Both cats were best friends from day one! They let the kids dress them up and always tolerated being carried here and there. They are the perfect cats, we are very blessed! One of Archers favorite things was sitting by the bath tub while the kids bathed. George's favorite thing is laying on pizza boxes. Everyone always comments on how mild mannered and loving these two cats are, and there hasn't been a mouse in the house since they came into our lives!



Bucky

By The Scott Family

We adopted Bucky on September 29. When we first saw him, we instantly thought of our last dog, Sadie as he resembles her a lot. They share many of the same dispositions and mannerisms. My husband began his search for a new dog on the SPCA website and found that Bucky had been there for almost two years. We wanted to be able to give Bucky a second chance for a happy life. The first day we brought him home, he climbed right up in the chair with my husband and has not left his side since. He loves going for rides and gets very excited when my husband just starts up the truck.

He is a very good watchdog for our family and he still loves his toys that he brought with him from the SPCA. He is adjusting well to a new home and he just loves our children.



Gummi & The Rats

By Abby Wahl



About a year ago now, I adopted my adorable kitty, Gummi, and my life hasn't been the same since! She is always right by me, whether I'm working in my office with her snuggling at my feet, making dinner in the kitchen – where she begs for food and my basset hound, Louis, lays asleep – or sleeping on my

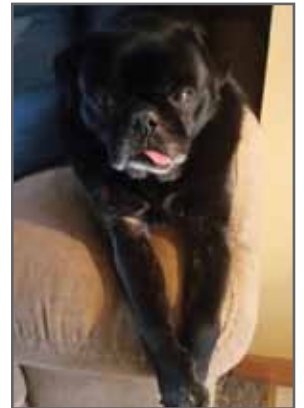
pillows at bedtime! Gummi is not only the sweetest cat in the world, but she is the boss of our household (including having lordship over a dog 10 times her size!)? She is so grateful to have her own home after such a hard start in life, it's incredible! I wouldn't change having her in my life for anything – she is the ultimate companion to me & captures the heart of all who come to our home!

I also adopted two lovely little naked ratties from the SPCA this past spring! This is my first time as a rodent owner, and I have been pleasantly surprised at how much they, too, have become my companions! My smaller rat, Bebe, is shy, but sweet and just LOVES yogies and cuddling in her various beds. Her big sister Piglet is a treat hound who will wake up from a dead sleep to the sound of a chip bag crinkling across the house! They are both incredibly intelligent and sentient animals and I love them very much!

Moose

By Barbie Arnett

This is the adoption story of my pug Moose. I was first told about him and his siblings being up for adoption on a Saturday. I saw the pics of the babies online and knew I wanted to add a black pug to my 2 fawn pugs I have. On a whim, I decided to put in an application that night thinking there was no way I'd get a chance at one of them. Surprisingly, the next morning,



I got a call that there was one pug left and if I wanted him, he was mine, as my application had been approved. I was nervous, but happy to be adding another dog. I didn't know what one I was getting so it was a blind meeting for sure. When I saw the pug I was getting, his tongue was hanging out and his mouth was a little crooked. It made me laugh at first but I knew he was the one for us. He adjusted to his new surroundings pretty well and easily. He gets along well with his fur siblings. He definitely has taken to me the most. He is always the first to greet me when I come home, he's always snuggling with me and wants ALOT of attention. He was a bit malnourished when we got him but we've fixed that. :) All in all, he is one of the sweetest dogs EVER and I'm so lucky he's ours! He's happy, healthy, energetic even at 8 years old, he is an awesome cuddler and knows he's got it made in our home. I'm so very thankful for him everyday!

BOBA

By Sharleigh Lytle



We went to the SPCA in hopes for finding the perfect cat to add to our little family. We went to the one in Wellsville many times looking for certain characteristics to add to our family. Our daughter volunteered her time and showed many of their animals care and affection. We would go as a family and play with the cats/kittens. We asked a lot of questions about all of their personalities. Boba was a large cat who sat in the corner of the room and kind of hid from everything underneath tables and chairs when people walked in. Our daughter wanted to pet Boba so

she went right over and began petting him. He was unsure at first but then seemed to enjoy her petting him. He began purring and rubbing against her leg. He was on our top list of potential cats to bring home. Every time we came she always wanted to look for him, as well as a few others. We went home and talked about our favorites. Well we decided to give Boba a chance despite the fact he wasn't a fan of dogs and we have 2 at home. We took the chance anyways and decided to try it out.

When we took him home the first thing he did was run into our closet in the laundry room. There he stayed for days and wouldn't come out. The dogs scared him and he was on edge. We waited a few more weeks with the same results. We tried many different things to help him feel comfortable. Nothing seemed to work, we almost brought him back because he didn't seem to be happy. One day he came into the kitchen and sat in the corner of the room watching everything. We were petting him and loving him. Then came the dogs and he bolted. Gradually he came out more and more, months after we brought him home. Little by little Boba began to see he had nothing to be afraid of, the dogs wanted to sniff him and lick his ears. He eventually came to enjoy that from them. Over a year later Boba "Bo" is so happy and so full of life. He sits on the couch with us purring as loud as he can. Digging his sharp nails (in enjoyment) into us as we pet him. He circles around our legs in the morning as we get ready for work, rubbing his face against our legs and loudly "talking" to us. He plays a lot and is our little mouse hunter. Proudly bringing us the mice he's killed, a present of his gratitude. He's a pleasure to have in our home, he's part of the family and we love every bit of him. He does do some strange things but to us it's his personality and we love it. He may think we are his blessing but little does he know, he has completed our family. Thank you to the SPCA for helping us find our cat! We couldn't be happier to have saved him and we love him.

Flippa

By Linda & Stephen Woolsey

Flippa has settled into our family well and we are enjoying her company. At first, everything was pretty overwhelming for her, so it was good that she had some sheltered places where she could hide out and feel safe. We provided some of the spaces and she found some of her own. For the first three weeks she was a high elevation cat, finding ingenious places on high shelves in the basement and a space in the joists she could leap into, so she could survey our goings on from a safe distance. Now her favorite safe places are under the coffee table and the dining room table.



At first, Flippa was cautiously friendly, letting us pet her a little and sometimes rubbing against our legs, but she was also pretty skittish. Now

she is very affectionate and likes to rub against my legs and then simply lean in against me. She has definitely become addicted to lap sitting. When both Stephen and I are home Flippa often divides her time between us, making sure that everyone has quality cat time.

From the beginning, Flippa enjoyed exploring our house. She's discovered that the low windowsills on the first floor are perfect for watching people walking through the village, cars on the road, and the dogs, cats, squirrels, rabbits, and chipmunks that wander through our yard. The first day we put up our bird feeder, Flippa was fascinated-- but she took care to lie low—Bluejays are loud and scary!

Flippa has discovered that she loves canned cat food, her catnip mouse, and the striped shoestrings of my tennis shoes. Sometimes she races up and down the stairs and zooms around the house for the sheer joy of it.

Lilly

By Brenda & Wayne Varga

We adopted our cat Lilly back in April. Our cat had passed away six months prior. Both my husband and I have always loved cats. We help any stray or feral cat that shows up at our house so being without a cat in our lives wasn't an option. We went to the SPCA hoping to mend our broken hearts. I told the SPCA we were looking for a friendly tiger cat with some attitude so they introduced us to Lilly. She had been abandoned and lived at the SPCA for two years. I was surprised how friendly and well socialized she was. It was obvious that she was given a lot of love and attention by the staff. She is loyal and strong willed and can be quite the handful at times. Lilly requires a lot of attention and has issues with separation anxiety. If we leave her for a few hours she takes all the cushions off the couch and scatters our clothes all over the house. She is "the boss" and has us well trained. Lilly loves to ride in the car and her pink stroller. We treat her like the princess she is. She has to have her Greek yogurt with fruit or she throws a fit. Every night she has to play with her laser toy for hours or play ball. We are so happy with this SPCA and how well they treat the animals. I would gladly adopt another cat but Lilly would never allow it. We feel blessed with this spoiled sweet girl. Thank you for giving us back the missing piece of our heart.



Community service comes in many ways and is a necessity to make our neighborhood a great place to be raised. Fostering for the SPCA is by far the best way for us to help our community.

Thank you Allegany County SPCA for having faith in our abilities to keep your kittens safe and healthy. It was our pleasure to foster the Criminal Minds gang.

Anna

By The Miller Family



We adopted Anna July 2015. We saw her on the Facebook page and our kids begged to get her. We live in Tennessee, but were coming to Bolivar/Wellsville to visit family. The timing was perfect to get her! We were a bit concerned about her traveling 850 miles, but there was nothing to worry about.

Anna has been a great addition to our family! She loves to play outside with her kids! Tearing apart stuffed toys is one of her favorite things to do inside. Anna is always excited when the kids get home from school, and often whines when they leave her. She is happiest when she is with people.

The kids have taught her several commands: sit, stay, lay down, roll over, shake, stand up, and play dead. She loves treats, so they have been very helpful in training her. We are thankful that we were able to find her on the SPCA facebook page and make her a part of our family!



Levi

By Staci Mikowicz

Back about 8 years ago my daughter asked for her own fur baby, so it began. Adoption was the only option for us as there are so many that need homes. We went to several shelters and found our love bug Levi. (We kept his original name) it was important that our new dog was gentle. There were several we looked at and just weren't a good fit. My little girl at the time said mommy let's walk this one. At that point I was thinking you know what... we walked just about every dog there with no real feeling of this is it, this is the dog for us until they put Levi on the leash. We took him out for a walk and he never tugged or pulled. I gave my daughter who was about 7 at the time the leash. He was so gentle and would stop as soon as he felt the leash get tight and wait for her. This was it... we found him! Hands down one of the best dogs we have ever had. I will always adopt and I'm so thankful to the SPCA for the beautiful dog you gave us. You all are amazing... Keep it up. And...P.S. He's not spoiled, well...ok yes he is!!!!

Smoky & Mojo

By Monica Harriger



Hi my name is Monica and I adopted two pets! Their names were Julianne and Grace and they are rats. It took a little convincing for my Dad to get them. I wrote him a note and told him that I am not a little girl anymore, I am responsible, and since I am turning nine I should have a pet for my birthday. My dad said he

would think about it, but I needed to clean my room and show him I am responsible.

That weekend, my dad told me we were going to go see the rats. He wanted to be sure I could handle them and was not afraid of them. When we got to the SPCA I fell in love with the rats! They were soft, fuzzy, and they seemed pretty cool. My dad surprised me and told me since I was responsible I could get two rats!

I picked out a light grey rat, Grace and my brother picked out a darker grey one named Julianne. Later we got a tank, water bottle, and food for them and we took them home. We renamed them, Smoky and Mojo and they are now part of our family.

I love my rats and I am very happy we rescued them and didn't buy them from a pet store.

My Shelter Dogs Misty & Lori

By Theresa Salas

"We fostered and then adopted Misty the Bolognese after they were seized by the SPCA in 2015. She was very shy when we went to the SPCA but she picked us. I'm so very happy she did. She's learned how to play and has been nothing but a joy since day one! We later fostered and then adopted Lori the Chihuahua from the SPCA. We've had her since Father's Day of this year. She was very shy as well, but has opened up in the last



few months. She has learned how to play and found a ball the other day and would not let it go. She even fell asleep with it in her mouth. I'm so

happy the SPCA of Allegany County gave us the opportunity to foster and then adopt these dogs. They are a wonderful addition to our family!"

Ace

By Randy Harris

I am happy to let everyone know Ace is doing wonderful in his new home. The first time I saw the story on Ace and Mooch I knew I wanted him. When I saw that he was ready for a foster home I immediately went to the shelter to meet him. The first time I saw him in the kennel he didn't seem too fond of me...He was barking and growling and raising kane with the rest of the dogs in there. If you go to the kennels please do not let their first reaction scare you. Once I got him out of the kennel he was fine...he went out in the grass and immediately rolled on his back to have his belly rubbed!!! The next day when I went back to see him they said I could take him home and be his new foster parent!! A couple months later the court case was resolved and I finally got to adopt him into his forever home. The wonderful people at the shelter made arrangements for him to be neutered and I was finally able to adopt him. He is now the big baby of the family...He hogs the bed, goes for rides and his favorite is to go to McDonalds for his ice cream dish. I hope someone out there will afford Mooch the same chance. Pitbulls get a bad rap but they are very loyal and friendly dogs and I know he could be the same for someone. Thank you to all the wonderful people at the shelter that made this happen for me, Ace and for my puppy, Pita.



Hope & Angel... Now Willow & Minerva

By Sheryl Hoopes

January of 2017 was not a very good month at our house. Our 19 year old rescue cat, Winter, was quickly slowing down, and four days after I had returned home after surgery, she stopped. Nine days later one of our eight-year-old Scottish Terriers, Aggie, was diagnosed with a spleen tumor and had to be euthanized. This left my husband and I with two dogs and no cat; Aggie's brother, Wallace, and our two-and-a-half year old rescue Labrador Retriever, Randy, seemed lost without their housemates and our house was somewhat empty.

After a few months had gone by I looked at the SPCA of Allegany County's website to see if any of the cats there spoke to me, and kept returning to the photo of Hope, a small gray young cat who had been taken in as a result of a cruelty case. I wondered if her funny gait, the result of a previous injury, would be a hindrance to her in a house with two dogs, but decided to go visit her. Her bio stated that she chirped, and that intrigued us! My husband and I, completed application in hand, set off for the shelter on a sunny Sunday in May, hoping to be approved to adopt this darling little girl. Upon telling the staff that we were interested in Hope, we heard the words that I feared would be a deal breaker for my husband: "You do know she is part of a bonded pair, don't you?" Thankfully my husband had absolutely no objections to adding the sisters to our family, and we fell in love with both Hope and her



Hope (Now Willow) & Angel (Now Minerva)

sister, Angel. The wonderful staff and volunteers helped us immensely that day.

Hope, now named Willow, and Angel, now named Minerva (after the professor in Harry Potter, whom she closely resembles) arrived at our home the following Tuesday and settled right in. The cats and the dogs quickly acclimated themselves to each other by sniffing under the door that separated them for a day, and then all four became fast friends. Given the run of the house, Minerva quickly claimed the basket of antique quilts as her favorite sleeping place, and Willow decided that she would rather sleep in the paper basket. Rarely do they sleep in their specially ordered enclosed cat bed, or play with the selection of toys purchased for them. In fact, Willow will steal the Swiffer duster and proudly carry it around the house as if it is a dead mouse! Minerva loves to stand in the front window, watching birds and people go by. Both of them follow the dogs around, chase each other through the house, and love to cuddle on my husband's chest to sleep (he thinks they like his beard). We now hear much chirping and purring in our formerly too quiet home!

We knew when we chose to add to our family that we didn't want kittens, and are so glad we decided on the cats we got. Both girls came to us litter trained and are so happy to be a part of our household. They are loving and friendly and we couldn't ask for better cats. By the way, Willow's leg does not slow her down at all. As I think back over the last six months with them, I am reminded of a line in one of Rita Mae Brown's books. The character Harry has just given two young shelter cats to a friend for Christmas, and tells him, "This is the only love that money can buy." And I couldn't agree more.

SHELTER NEEDS

- Dish soap
- Wood pellets
- Dog & cat treats
- Dog & cat toys
- Catnip
- Paper towels
- Garbage bags
- Dry Kitten food
- Canned dog, cat and kitten food
- Collars & Leashes
- Towels & washcloths
- Blankets
- Hand Sanitizer
- Laundry Detergent
- Wood chips or straw for outdoor kennels

ALSO - Dollar General, Tractor Supply, or gas station gift cards

Monetary donations are welcome also!

THANKS

Memorials to the SPCA Serving Allegany County

Dec 1, 2016 through November 30, 2017

In Honor of Pets

Bean I, Bean II,	Joann Palmer
Blackie, Sabrina & Nikki	
Bobby	Cynthia & John Santora
Brandy	Martin Aldrich
Brody	Warren & Connie Emerson
Casey	Eunice Berry
Dexter	Warren & Connie Emerson
Eddie	Barbara & Robert Savins
Erland	Debra & Joseph Borer
Frank	Irving Schoenecker
Fudge	Tawana Couch
Fudge	Lois & Vince Golbeck
Gordie	Keturah Cappadonia
Lois	Warren & Connie Emerson
Lucy & Hattie	Ann Hallett
Miss Kitty & Bro	Doris MacFarquhar
Morgan	Warren & Connie Emerson
Phoebe	Tad & Ruth Manske
Rosie	Kevin and Nancy Monroe, Shallee Lauzze
Susie	Fred & Peggy Pearce

In Honor of Persons

Anna's birthday	Carolyn McDowell
Lorraine Bliss	The Pomeroy's
Grover Burr	Robert & Glenda Fisk
Ken Canfield's birthday	Karen , David Paul, David Keith & Jack
Larry Clark	Beth & Richard Howitt
Sue Decker	Ann Hallett
Warren and Connie Emerson	Janet Potter, Carolyn Miller
Larry and Marjorie Erdmann	Elton & Kris Harris
Diane Fagergren	Christina Glanzman
Misty Fahrenfeld	Paula Vance
Frank Fritz	Jackie Whitzer
Joyce Gildner	Kevin Gildner
Ann Hallett	Sue Decker
Denny and Shannon Harris	Bernice Harris
Anna Joyce	Michael & Cheryl Jackson
Andrew Kristofferson's Birthday	Family & Friends
Nicole Lieter	Christiane Lewis
Marty Matijas & M.J. Fanton	Douglas & Janet Rhodes
Marian McClure	Richard & Susan Godown

In Honor of Persons

Jeff McDowell	Kristin Bengivenga
Debra Meyers	Otis Bowling Girls
Ron Mix's 85th birthday	Ed & Kay Eicher
Jane Nicholson	Sue Dempsey
Pat O'Brien and Vicki Eaklor	Lynda Pruski
Lynda Pruski	Rich & Gwyn Shear
Lynn Ruell's birthday	Her daughter
Katrina Schneider	Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Bancroft
Brett & Megan Shear	Kristina Stoll
Shear, Harris, Gardner and Potter families	Al Abbott
Rev. and Mrs. Burt Smith, Jr.	Fred & Peggy Pearce
Sherry Walton	Michael & Cheryl Jackson

Memorials for Pets

Abby and Casey Middaugh	Lynda Pruski
Abby Kitty	Beverly Dawson
All the pets we have had and loved	Diane Mercier
Babe	Edward Cassady
Bear and Chance	Robert & Amy Hyland
Billy, Jenny and Smokey	Al Abbott
Brady	Bonnie Hallett
Buddy	Martin Aldrich
Buddy Pierce	Ronald Mix
Butchy	Thomas Zilliox
Candy, Trixie, Sugar, Slip, Barbary, Ginger, Smokey and Star	Dominic & Donna DiGirolamo
Carlos	Warren & Connie Emerson
Champ Manions	Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Krupnik
Coco Green	Lynda Pruski
Cooter Craven	William Paquette
Duke	Warren & Connie Emerson
Emma Robinson Sprague	Nancy Robinson
Fenway	David & Janet Williams
Fritzzy	Martin Aldrich
Gidget and Johnny Pruski	Lynda Pruski, Jo Anne Hutter
Gracie	Jeffrey & Cynthia Schneider
Granny	Natalie Skwarek
Guido and Baby Jackson	Jo Anne Hutter
Hansel, Mouser, Snowball	Barbara Hodges

More memorials on page 13

Continued from page 12

Memorials for Pets

Hector	Jack Carter	Puggo	Carol Mead
Heidi	Terrance & Sharon McGill	Rascal & Pixie	Suzanne McCrea
Izzy Linza	Larry & Deb Clark	Rufus, Margaret,	Dominic & Donna DiGirolamo
Jack Austin	Lynda Pruski	Sophia, Cy, Angela,	
Jamison, Morgan & Quincy	Lee Gridley	Rhonda, Abbey,	
Jinx	John & Mary Beth Thompsett	Bertha & Anastasia	
Jose	Brett & Gail Lewis	Russell Root	Lynda Pruski
Junior Chapman	Mitchell & Peggy Chapman	Sadie	Jim & Lois Wilmarth
Kenzie Fanton	John & Cindy Santora	Sadie Finn	Kevin & Nancy Monroe
Kittu, Bert, Ernie, Bogart,	Barbara & Robert Savins	Sadie Robinson	Nancy Robinson
Shadow, Tracy, Gracie &		Sam	Ernest Jackson, Jr.
Charlie		Sam	Martin Aldrich
Leila Shear	Gary & Kris Stoll	Samantha, Beau,	Harvey & Lynn Spillane
Lexi	Dale & Nancy Smith	Patrick, Nickie & Penny	
Lily	Deborah Andrasko	Sammy	Barbara Claire
Little Bit & Bug	Carol Mead	Schatzi, Fonzie &	Derith Stover
Louie	Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Dawson	Megan	
Lucy Austin	Greg, Kris, Sadie & Jake Stoll	Scruffy	Nancy Cimbak
Maggie Molly	Edmund Budzynski	Skeeter Drake	Bruce Kaplan, DVM
Magic and Buddy	Kevin Gildner	Smokey Shear	Gregg & Stanny Shear, Gary & Kris Stoll
Mandy	Richard Culbert	Snoopy	Ward Phillips
Margaret, India, Tobias,	Dominic & Donna DiGirolamo	Sousie	Sandra & Robert Burdick
Anastasia, Nancy, Sophia, Cy,		Spirit	Pat & Vicki Eaklor
Amos, Moses, John, Bertha,		Star, Tobias & Chris	Dominic & Donna DiGirolamo
Mia, Whitford, Boone, Bartlett,		Sugar, Barbary,	Dominic & Donna DiGirolamo
Orange Cat, Durante, Sadie,		Joshua, Follie, Daniel,	
Angela, Abbey, Rhonda, Bob		Peanuts, Amos, Jon,	
and Pearl		Moses & Pearl	
Marinera Pets	Vincent Marinera	Sweet Gracie	Edwina Fendzlau
Marley, Bella & Charlene True	Daniel & Julie Dutton	Taz	Donna Bower
Feather		Tazzy	Lawrence Scholes
Max, Duchess, Chris, Penny,	Dominic & Donna DiGirolamo	TC and Pip	Carol Mead
Tawny, Pepper, Daniel, Louis,		Tess Thompsett	John & Mary Beth Thompsett
Joshua, Peanuts, Follie, Molly		Theo Clark	Judy Linza, John & Cynthia Santor, Lynda Pruski
Dusty, Midas, Sasha and Billie		Toby	Martin Aldrich
Middy Padden MacKenzie	Mary Fagan	Tyke & Fahrenfeld	Jo Anne Hutter
Midnight	Maureen Cooper	Kitties	
Molly	Lynn Harvey	Willie	Gary & Deborah Willis
Molly Riehle	John & Cindy Santora	Willie and Charlie	Marlee & Brian Cannon
Muffet	Stephanie Cretekos	Willow	Linda Conniff
Muffin	Barbara Seeley	Zulu Reichman	Dan Dempsey family
Muzzy	Ralph & Deeann Wolstenholme		
Nancy, Durante, Bartlett,	Dominic & Donna DiGirolamo		
Mary, James, Andrew, Taylor,			
Sadie & Smokey			
Princess	Richard Recio		

More memorials on page 14

Memorials for Persons

Delores Ackerman Diana Ackerman, Tom & Kandy Hirsch, Lynda Pruski

Becky Armison Warren & Connie Emerson

Gary Arnold Marsha Sick, Ken & Penny Canfield

Roberta Ashcraft Warren & Connie Emerson

Wesley Austin Warren & Connie Emerson

Raymond Baker Royce & Crystal VanPatten, Warren & Connie Emerson

Edward and Marion Bartlett Dominic & Donna DiGirolamo

Dale Bentley Warren & Connie Emerson

Theresa Biancuzzo Felecia Biancuzzo, Dominic & Donna DiGirolamo

Debbie Blakeslee Warren & Connie Emerson

Gene and Lois Bledsoe and 13 Guiding Eye dogs Marge Erdmann

Lois & Eugene Bledsoe Elton & Kris Harris

Bobby and Mary Clara Cornell

James and Mary Bognar Christine Bognar

Genevieve Dorothy Bogucki Karen Bogucki

William "Billy" Broughton Rita Sick, Nancy & Larry Reiman and family, Horseheads Post Office employees, Middaugh Real Estate

Crystal Brownell/Howard Thomas & Sue Wlasniewski

Patricia Burr Warren & Connie Emerson

Toni Burrel Tom & Kandy Hirsch

David "Lefty" Caldwell Meredith & Dave Chilson, James & Donna Leonard

Jane Campbell Richard Recio

Edward Carlin Harry & Rebecca Campbell

JoAnn Cassidy Martin & Kathy Madden, Robert & Marlene

McDowell, Laura & Terry Loucks, Tom & Ann Smith, Robin Blake

Thomas Chalker L. Chandler Whitford, Jackie Whitzer, Monica Arnold

Laurence & Margaret Chase George & Linda Klein

Heather Ciccone Ellen Matteson

Bruce Clark David & Constance Mills

Edith "Tookie" Cole Maureen Cooper

Virginia Comstock Phyllis Moore

Betty Conklin Gayle Brooks

Bernice Coombes Jeanne Veno & William Coombes

Raymond Cornelius Dorothy Cornish

Andrew Cornell Don & Norilyn Patrick

Joanne Butler Dates Kimberly Dates-Lynch

James and Gladys Dawson Dominic & Donna DiGirolamo

Pam Rouse Demezas Tom & Kandy Hirsch

Dan Denner George Harris III

Sara Denning Drusilla Denning-Corley

Ruth & Marvin Derhammer Robyn Lynch

Douglas Dickerson Barbara Roeske

Louella Dickerson Jack & Gayle Brooks

Patsy Merry Doenges Sylvia Merry

Joyce Eaton Warren & Connie Emerson

Joyce Empson Brad & Deb Thomson

Loretta Evans Warren & Connie Emerson

Nan Fiegl Warren & Connie Emerson

Norma Fish Warren & Connie Emerson

Margaret Foster Dominic & Donna DiGirolamo

Scott Fuller Allegany County DSS

M. Gary Barbara Claire

Wayne "Satch" Gary Theresa Gary, Maureen Cooper, Joan Rosell

Cis Gasdik Gregg & Stanny Shear

Charlotte Gavin Hattie Gavin, Paul & Charity McCormick, Christine Joyce, Alfred State College, Eldon Mosher, Betty Lown, James & Deborah Joyce, CSEA Local 620, Debra Rossrucker family

Adam Gayhart Kim & Adelbert Gaylord, Jr.

Conrad "Gabe" Gebelein Joanie Rosell & Brandi, Gary & Kristina Stoll

Amy Gerrish Timothy & Kimberly Dobmeier

Emogene "Jeanne" Glover Abbie Pritchard

Art Gordon Ken & Arline Canfield

Richard Graves Beth & Richard Howitt

Boyd Green, Sr. Warren & Connie Emerson, Hunter Buffalo

Peterbilt, Edward Cassidy, Lynda Pruski

Marvin Grimes North Park Wesleyan Church, Grimes, Studley and Young reunion

Bob Gross Gregg & Stanny Shear

"Speed" Guinnip Marcella Graves

Jessica Hanchett Maureen Cooper

Barbara Hardy Michael Hardy, Charlotte Baker, Regina Burke, Paula & JL Stull

Mike Harp Marilyn Lester

Harriet, Phyllis, Liz and Jeanne Charles Yazak

Ken Harris Dominic & Donna DiGirolamo

Andee Elaine Havens Teresa Uganski

Harold "Jim" Hickey Marlee Cannon, Stuart Schreiner and family, Lois & Craig Perkins

Rachel Hile Gary Hile

John Houseman Bill Tucker, Brook & Kim Tolman, Tom & Kandy

Hirsch, Patricia & Michael Cheesman, Deborah Owen, Bob & Glenda

Fisk, Allison Barnes, Larry & Deb Clark, Cheryl Macafee, James Dello, Joyce & Stan Krupnik

Krystal Howard James & Robin Blake

Herbert "Herb" Howe III Monica Arnold

Charles Hunt Lawrence Scholes

Bryce Insley Marcia & Lonnie Habberfield

Bernie Jackson AJ's Bar, LLC, Sue Dempsey, Jane Nicholson,

Patricia Paquette, Lynda Pruski, Jo Anne Hutter

Phyllis Jens Warren & Connie Emerson

Bernice Johnson Arthur & Joyce Klein

David "Chuck" Johnson Ken & Phyllis Maxson

Paul "Butch" Johnson Warren & Connie Emerson

Lura Jordan James & Catherine Lee

Jeannette Jorgeson Marie Smith

Scott Kehrer Ann Hallett, Scio Friends at The Store

William Scott Kehrer Barbara Schiralli, John Krueger and friends at HEP Sales

John Ketchner Eila Shea

Grace Knibloe Warren & Connie Emerson

Marie Koehler-Austin Her estate by Elsie Swartz, Administrator

William Lafferty National Fuel Human Resources

Mari Lou Lall Jennifer Pawlak, Louann Pawlak, Susan & Wally

Tuttle, Michelle & Mike Raptis

Larry Lang Beth & Richard Howitt

Larry Lanphere John Brooks

James Layton Robert & Cindy Baker

More memorials on page 15

Memorials for Persons

Continued from page 14

Matthew Lemoyne Joan Rosell, Gary & Kristina Stoll
Henry Lindquist John & Alice Dunbar, Ray Payne family, Barbara & Donald Haines
Doris Longway RoseAnna & Leonard Ladage, Warren & Connie Emerson
Betty Luckey Warren & Connie Emerson
Phil MacMichael John & Gail Wolcott
Sandra Majot Warren & Connie Emerson
Wesley "Bill" Mattison Kevin & Nancy Monroe
Thomas Maxon Marsha Sick
Charles Maybee Preferred Seed, Richard Culbert, Ungermann Excavating, Inc., Patricia Reed, Perry & Sue Mesler and family, Robert & Marlene McDowell
Mary Lou McConnell Maureen Cooper
Roger McDowell Wilbur & Carol McDowell, Debra Maxwell, Edward Cassady, Joanne Cassady, Laurence Browning, Glenn & Diane Aldrich and family, Donna & James Blake
Roger "Ram Jet" McDowell Boyd & Shirley Green, International Association of Machinists, Lisa Marie Kent & ACS Recycled Paws Club
Richard McGee Warren & Connie Emerson
Ellen McGinnis Ann, Mike, Kelly & Kathy Wyrrough, Al & Susan Dacaney, Kate McGinnis, Dan Williston
Thomas McGinnis Penelope McGinnis
Ann McKinley Dave Drew family
Margaret "Maggie" McNinch Carol Mead
Clair Meyer Gregg & Stanny Shear
Clair Meyer & Rusty Linda Kenderdine
William "Willie" Monroe Becky & Craig Prophet, James & Deborah Joyce
Florence Morey Jerry Morey
Aunjon Morgan Stephen & Terrie Morrison, Wellsville Ambulance Corps, Richard Day
Thelma Moyer Warren & Connie Emerson
Ricky and Angel Mucci Jane Tylenda
Marian Murphy Dresser-Rand, Stephen & Terrie Morrison
Robert "Tubby" Murphy Mary Smith
Don Newland Mel & June Brandes
Barbara Nichols Warren & Connie Emerson
Mary Niedermaier John & Deena Neff, Frank Joyce, Deborah & James Joyce, Robert & Cindy Baker
Mary Alice Niedermaier John & Jean Hyland,
Virgil O... Faye Terwilliger
Barbara Olds Edward Sylvestre, Cynthia Dempsey, Warren & Connie Emerson, the Dressig family, NYS Department of Transportation (Hornell), Sue Dempsey, Kathleen Sas
Pat Palmiter Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Harris
John Parker III Belfast community
Fred and Lillian Pearce Fred & Peggy Pearce
Marty Pisano Tom & Kandy Hirsch
Brittany Pratt Holly Burger
Curt and Mary Lou Ranger Mel & June Brandes
Barbara Dillie Raybon Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hirsch
Evelyn Reed Patricia Mc Peak, Janet Thomas, Sharon Hedrick, John & Diana Embser
Phil Rice Bob & Glenda Fisk
Constantine "Gus" Rigas Warren & Connie Emerson
Hattie Robbins David & Roberta Clark, Marilyn Ruggles, Frances

McAllister and families, American Legion Auxiliary Post 702
Francis "Ed" Roeske Barbara Roeske
Bill and Joanne Rohan Colleen & Rick Suftin
Sandy Romzek Judy Peck
Jack Rosell Joanie Rosell & Brandi
Pam Rouse Ona Reynolds, Georgi & Don Higgins, John & Mary Beth Thompsett, Carolyn Miller, Rod & Diane Nye, Marlene Happ, Lynda Pruski, Dale & Nancy Smith
Eleanor Ryan Felecia Biancuzzo, Warren & Connie Emerson, Fred & Lisa Halsley II
Diana Sandle John & Gayle Childs, Warren & Connie Emerson, Tracy & Robert Insley, Michael Sandle, Melissa O'Brien, Charlotte Preparatory School Parents Association Board
Marilyn Scott Randy & Theresa Ellison, Howard & Delores Miller, Ronald Mix, James & Mary Mountain, Pine Ravine Camp members, Janice Smith, Warren & Connie Emerson
Mary Seely Warren & Connie Emerson
Dick Sekoll Richard Culbert
Kay Silvio Warren & Connie Emerson
Ken and Pat Skinner Kenneth & Gloria Skinner
Doris Smith Leah & Brian Burgess
Frances Smith Warren & Connie Emerson
Kay Smith Monica Cole
Thomas R. Smith Wilbur & Carol McDowell
Betty Billings Stebbins Joan Carpenter, Marlee Cannon
Mitzi Gasdik Stout Helen Stout Munro, Loyd & Tilda Thompson
Mitzi Stout Rick, Mary, Colleen, Megan & Caitlin May, Zoltan Szabo
Bob and Gloria Suftin Colleen & Rick Suftin
Wilma Swarhout James Swarhout, Wendy Barrett
Jim Sweet Gregg & Stanny Shear
Gary Swetland Barbara Claire
Catherine Taylor Klein Cutlery, Colleen Plank, Marcia Manley, Alfred ACE, Michael Murray, Jeanna Lowe
Ron Thering Arthur & Bette Hayes
Stephen Towner Friends at The Store
Ronald Veno Jeanne Veno & William Coombes
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Vincent John & Diana Embser
Evelyn Voorhees Richard Culbert, Maureen Cooper, Bob & Lyn Voorhees
Glenn Walton Thomas & Kandy Hirsch, Lynda Pruski
Robert Peter and Celia Elaine Wasserloos Carol Wasserloos, Kathy Bellows, Rebecca Joyce and Eric Bellows
Ron Webb Peggy Gelser-Webb
Robert Weber, Jr. Margaret & Mike Gomola
Mildred and Walter Weirich Lois Halbert
Theresa Wheeler Wheeler family, Warren & Connie Emerson
Dede Novisher Whitwood Lyn Muxworthy
Gene Wilson and Tiger Mary Wilson
Jeanne Winchell Linda Bernard, Joyce Harvey
Vivian Wood and Betsy Wood Angie Gentyzel
Aimee Wooten Sandra Colf & Michael, William McCracken, William & Annette Pukalo, Teamsters Local No. 264, Antonio & Lisa Vaccaro, Melissa Dahlman, Kathaleen McCracken, Denise McMillin, Deanna Benson Reed, Lunda Rundberg, Bob Erdle and family, Nancy Kelly, Erik Thorne, Judith Webster, Jacquelyn Love
Mark Zimmerman Joan Rosell

DID YOU KNOW...

- We have been highly successful in adopting out senior animals and special needs animals, which are normally more difficult to find homes for.
- The SPCA has been a member of the NY State Animal Protection Federation for 4 years.
- Our GIVE ME SHELTER donors consists of over 300+ donors and many of them have donated more than once to the Building Fund Campaign over the past 3yrs.
- Both in 2016 and in 2017, all of our cruelty cases were won in court, and we were successful in winning our felony animal cruelty cases.
- 82% of pet owners surveyed at the Allegany County Health Departments free rabies clinic did NOT have their animals spayed/neutered, which was due to cost. 95% of these pet owners would spay/neuter their pets if it was more affordable for them and would be willing to utilize the SPCA's spay/neuter clinic once it is open.
- SPCA Staff and Board members attended the 2017 ASPCA – Maddies Fund Shelter Medicine Conference for training at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.
- We have come up with a new fundraising idea for the new shelter. We are now selling memorial or in honor of ceramic tiles with your pet's picture on them to be displayed on the walls inside the new shelter.
- Over the past 2 years the SPCA not only brought in cats and dogs....we have had hamsters, rabbits, peacocks, guinea pigs, chickens, geese, ferrets, lizards, birds, a turtle, goats, rabbits, a pot belly pig, horses, sheep and a Ram!
- The SPCA has spare change donation jars at the Texas Hot, Hamilton's Shoes, Modern Diner, Pizza King, Castaways, Park Plaza, Short's, Music Alley, Marion's Auto, The Store in Scio, Fillmore Pharmacy and Charlies Place in Cuba and collectively the spare change collected amounts to thousands of dollars that goes directly to the care of the animals.
- We continue to collect Giant Food Mart receipts and for every \$500 in receipts Giant will donate \$\$\$ to the SPCA. Receipts must not be older than 1 year and they can be dropped off at the shelter or mailed to us.



- New fundraiser in April 2017 which raised \$5000 to help fight animal cruelty. Look for these again in April at stores throughout Allegany County.
- The SPCA goes to Manor Hills nursing home and Houghton College on a regular basis with shelter animals to help reduce stress and provide joy.
- SPCA won the 2017 Wellsville Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award



PAWS UP

We owe special thanks to many businesses, groups, organizations and individuals including but not limited to the following:

LaForge's

Dr. Bruce Kaplan

Vet Care of Cuba - Dr Mount

Lakewood Veterinary

Alfred Vet Tech School -

Dr Pierson & Dr Chambliss

Alfred Vet Tech students

Wellsville Vet Hospital

Cornell Veterinary Hospital

Allegany County Sheriff Dept
& 911 Dispatchers

Allegany County Area Foundation

OTIS Eastern

Pampered Pets Salon

First Citizens Community Bank

ALCO Credit Union

Steuben Trust Company

Andover Lions club

Classic Hits Oldies 103.5 WJQZ

Warren Emerson

Peter Mangels Photography

Wellsville Daily Reporter, Cuba

Patriot & Olean Times Herald

Barn Cat Outreach

BOCES - Media Communications

BOCES - Animal Science

ARC

ProAm Charities

Alfred Community Chest

Middaugh Realestate

Junior Green - B & R Trucking

Dresser Local 1580

McCough signs

Angelica Lions Club

Wellsville Lioness Club

How Does The SPCA Stay Afloat For Over 100 Years?

Simple....by your DONATIONS!

With 2017 almost in the books, it's time for some end-of-year tax planning. Did you know that the SPCA Serving Allegany County is a non-profit 501(c)3 tax-exempt charity and we do NOT receive any governmental funding or tax payer dollars? Our SPCA which has been in existence since 1911, solely exists due to your donations, fundraisers, grants and bequests. So why not let the SPCA help you save big money this tax season? Donations made to the SPCA are tax deductible and a great way to help the residents and animals of our county. Indeed, there are several advantages to giving to charity including, creating good will, the feeling you get knowing you have made a difference in your community by helping the animals and the personal tax benefits knowing that Uncle Sam is getting just a little bit less from your pocket. Although our "friends" at the IRS keep a watchful eye on charitable deductions, if you donate to an IRS approved tax-exempt entity, like ours, and keep track of your paperwork, it makes the tax season much easier for you and your tax preparation professional. Also, our charity is useful in estate planning as well. We accept donations of stocks, securities annuities, life insurance, collectables and pledges. The SPCA is also Guidestar Silver rated and is a Better Business Bureau approved charity and our financials are audited each year...you can donate with confidence to the SPCA. Donations can be mailed to SPCA, P.O. Box 381, Wellsville, NY 14895 or you can donate via PAYPAL by clicking on the donation link on our website or via our Facebook page.

Will my donation stay in Allegany County? ABSOLUTELY, all of the donations to the SPCA Serving Allegany County remain here. Although we are the only SPCA in Allegany County, we are not affiliated with the county government at all. We receive NO governmental stipends, no tax payer dollars or financial support in any manner and your donations

are greatly appreciated as we are totally privately funded by people just like you.

How much can I donate? Typically, as much as you want! However, please consult your tax professional as certain types of donations can have other implications on your taxes. That being said, there are typically no limits on monetary charitable donations for most tax payers.

What documentation must I keep if I donate to the SPCA Serving Allegany County? For monetary donations above \$250.00, you must keep a written confirmation from the SPCA Serving Allegany County that has our name, the date and the amount you gave on it. We are only required to provide these for donations over \$250.00 and we do just that. If you are giving less than \$250.00, generally a cancelled check, credit card receipt/statement or bank record is sufficient to satisfy the IRS.

We, at the SPCA Serving Allegany County want to THANK YOU for all of your support and ask that you please consider volunteering or donating to the SPCA Serving Allegany County, instead of Uncle Sam, and please be sure to consult your own tax adviser about your specific tax situation. Without you, we would not be in existence today

Let the SPCA be your Tax Shelter!!!

Gordie By Keturah Cappadonia

"I went to the SPCA on the Sunday before Thanksgiving in 2013 to pick out a cat. I had decided I would get an older cat who needed a home. However, before I could even look at all the cats, a tiny orange kitten came up to the door of his cage and started nuzzling my hand and wanting me to pet him. He was very cute, but I had planned to adopt an older cat, so I walked away but he followed me and rubbed against my leg.

It turned out that I just couldn't walk away from that little orange kitten, who had been named "Gordie" at the shelter. He and his brother had been abandoned in a field and Gordie was suffering from some scratches around his eye and also a cold. I took him home that day!

He was very shy at first, but quickly warmed up to me. He is still shy around strangers and growls to warn me when he hears a strange car pull in the driveway. He continues to follow me around all through the house and sleeps on my bed every night. He always is at the door to welcome me home from work. Some of his favorite activities include watching birds out the window, chasing pom poms, and napping on my stomach. I can't imagine not having my cat Gordie in my house or in my life and I am so glad I adopted him from the Allegany County SPCA!"



Poppy & Creek By Paige & Chris Lounsberry

My husband Chris and I have two rescue dogs that are getting up in age. We came to the SPCA in May to search for a younger dog that could learn from our faithful companions. We had just bought a small farm so had plenty of room for more furry friends. On that trip, we didn't find the younger dog that we were looking for, but we were able to take home two sweet black cats that our kids re-named Poppy and Creek (from the hit movie "Trolls"). We really wanted to adopt black cats because we know they aren't adopted as quickly as other colors. They had both spent years at the SPCA and we were so glad to give them space to roam.

Since we adopted Poppy and Creek, we continued our search for a young dog. A couple of weeks ago, our prayers were answered when we found out the SPCA had boxer, lab puppies in need of foster homes. We brought Ruger home and he has brought such light to our life. He has made our old dogs more playful and brought our kids a sense of responsibility. Thank you to all of the staff at the Allegany County SPCA!



Mister By Lynda Pruski

This past year has been a year of strange adoptions for me. Anyone that knows me knows I rescue senior dogs 10+, normally they have some type of health issues and they are also the least likely to get adopted from a shelter....but over the past year that has changed a bit.

So let me start with 5 year old Mister, a small Bolognese dog who was part of a very large cruelty case, who was our most under socialized, fearful and very emotionally challenged dog out of 30 dogs in that case. At first Mister was untouchable at our shelter and you certainly could not pick him up, even by our most experienced employees he would still try to bite them. This cute little 9lb dog sat and cowered in the corner of his kennel in the basement with very little spark or emotion, he did not want to take treats from you, we could not put a leash or collar on him without him trying to bite and he had to be sedated in order to be groomed. Chances for adoption of such an emotionally broken dog were pretty slim – so I decided to work with him in order to make him more adoptable. It took time to get him to take treats from my hand and it took months before I could pet him and to get him comfortable enough to come sit next to me....slowly over many months we became very good friends and made a lot of progress. He would run to the front of his kennel to greet me and would squeal and run circles in his kennel while wagging his tail.... and eventually I was able to pick him up. The next hurdle was to find him the right person or family that could deal with a dog with his emotional problems...and when we weren't finding the right match for him I decided I would adopt him even though he is NOT a senior....he did NOT have any medical problems....BUT he did have emotional problems and he needed me.



It was a scary start for him when he left the shelter...to just ride in a car, to meet a new group of dogs that would be his new dog friends, stepping on grass for the first time, wearing a collar and a harness and to get a bath without being sedated. He has now flourished in to this wonderfully faithful companion, who is a social butterfly and is always happy and wagging his tail. Mister is a bit mischievous too...The first week home many of my shoes went missing....and I would find them in various places around the house and one day when I came home from work there was Mister sleeping like an angel in his dog bed while laying on a bed of my shoes!!! He also likes paper products – as in ripping up magazines and my mail and he really loves to walk around the house with my socks. Mister follows me around the house, sleeps in my bed, loves to cuddle, allows me to clip his nails, groom and bath him and I make it point to pick him up and carry him around the house every day. When I look at him running around the house, exuding confidence and playing with the rest of his dog friends I could swear he is smiling!!

Eileen

The kitten with 9 lives

By Lynda Pruski

A few months after adopting Mister....Somehow the dog mom ended up fostering a very sick kitten....who has now become part of the family. Let me share the story of Eileen our SPCA miracle kitten. Eileen came in with her brother after being found dumped on a dirt road....both she and her brother were very sickly and Eileen had an eye that was so badly infected it was close to the size of a golf ball. Soon after arriving her brother died of pneumonia and she was not doing well either and needed surgery on her eye, but we needed to get her well first before she could have surgery. After finally being able to get well enough for surgery, she had her eye removed and was on the road to recovery....we thought....but in reality it turned out she had virtually no immune system, the worst bloodwork results ever, she had rotten baby teeth, she could not gain weight she hovered around 2lbs for months and she was given a 5% chance of living. Every week she was on a roller coaster ride of almost dying and then coming back somehow, mystifying both our staff and the veterinarians.

Even though I have never owned a cat – and always grew up with dogs, I was somehow drawn to this sad little orange tabby kitten and I would spend time with her every time I was at the shelter. After many ups and downs, she was sliding downhill again and she had not eaten in days– but while visiting her,



thinking it was going to be our last goodbye, she picked herself up and started to eat her food! I then decided to foster her with high hopes that by taking her out of that cold steel cage in the shelter basement maybe she would improve and beat the odds & increase her chances of making it. And if she didn't make it, at least she got to spend her time not living and dying in a cage in the SPCA basement...but instead having freedom to roam around and explore like all cats do....and to of course be spoiled. She did much better in a home environment – even though she still had health

issues, she was so happy to be free from her cage....and would let me know that with her chatter and purring. For the first few months Eileen's weight stayed between 2 – 2 ½ lbs – and we went on many trips to the vet, her bloodwork was still horribly bad, she had numerous infections and gaining weight was a problem....but we were not giving up yet. But then Eileen developed a large tumor in her mouth and could not eat at all, so she needed surgery to remove the tumor, and luckily it came back as a non-cancerous and we continued our journey to good health. Today Eileen weighs about 6lbs and she keeps improving.... she is a fragile flower and I know how lucky I am to have this very special miracle kitty as part of my family....I even found her a new kitty friend whom I named Fast Eddy for her to play with.



Millie

By Amy & Ken Wetherby

We were interested in adopting another pug for a friend for our other pug Ebony. I received a phone call that the SPCA actually had 4 black older pugs that had to be surrendered. My husband and I drove to the SPCA to check them out....the minute we saw Millie we instantly fell in love and we knew we had to adopt her and bring her home. Millie and our other pug Ebony became fast friends and are inseparable. My grandchildren also fell in love with her immediately and she with them. Her favorite thing to do other than sleep is going with Ebony to get mani-pede's. We are so glad we drove over to the SPCA that day....our family is now complete and I can't imagine life without Millie. It is as if she was ours all along and that it was certainly meant to be! Thanks so much to the wonderful staff who worked with us!

Curious Kittens May Find Danger in Your Indoor Plants

By: Patty Sherman

Though I have been aware of many plants that are poisonous, toxic, or fatal for cats, I assumed I was being a good kitty mother. Well, I found out I am not. As the weather has gotten colder I decided to check to see which plants I have, both indoors and ready to bring inside for the winter, which are safe for my cats. I have had two cats for about 5 years and they love to nibble on an asparagus fern in the house. As I researched my list I discovered that the asparagus fern berries are poisonous and the plant itself causes a dermatitis condition. Somehow my kitties have survived all these years, but the fern plant is in the lily family and lilies are toxic and I have decided not to take the chance this year.

My cats are not in the habit of eating any of my other indoor plants and I have many. A quick check, however and I found out I should not have a golden pathos, a philodendron, aloe, dracaena, jade, kalanchoe, English ivy, or weeping fig accessible to my felines. There are probably more I could list, but let me get through these first and figure out where I can put them that the kitties do not find them attractive or cannot access them. Hmm...how many can I hang from the ceiling?

I want to winter over a few beautiful tropical plants; mandevilla, dipladenia, geraniums, and hibiscus. Are they poisonous to cats? Yes, yes, yes, and yes. Oh no! In addition I am trying to bring some herbs in so they are fresh in the winter and have discovered I must avoid chives, parsley and oregano. But I have a special herb box that actually has a screen over the top. I wondered why it had the screen and now I know. So the toxic herbs will be enclosed, but I can have basil, rosemary and a few others too which are not toxic.

I have already brought in my caladiums and begonias and was going to let them die back and then remove the bulbs and store them. Be sure that if you do this you put them in a spot that is not accessible to your kitties. These bulbs as well as the plants are poisonous, but especially the bulbs. I would be careful with most any garden bulb that you store such as gladiolus, dahlias and cannas. Always use caution and refer to the toxic lists to give you more guidelines.

Christmas is a wonderful time for plants such as amaryllis, holly, and poinsettias. These are all dangerous and should be placed out of reach of your feline friends. This holds true for shamrock plants, Easter lilies, azaleas, and daffodils in the later winter and spring months. If you give gifts of any of these plants be sure that the recipients are aware of the toxicity of the plants so that they put them in a safe place.

The following are symptoms you may want to watch for if you suspect your cat has ingested some plant material: difficulty breathing, drooling or difficulty swallowing, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive drinking or urinating, and a fast, slow or irregular heartbeat. Immediate care should include removing any plant material from the hair or skin, wash the cat with warm water and some non-irritating dish soap if necessary, identify the plant or put a sample in a plastic bag to take with you to the vet. And, if the cat has been vomiting, collect a sample if possible. The more information you can give your doctor the better.



For more information, please use the following sites. The lists of poisonous plants are long and you really should check them out so that you don't suddenly lose a dear one due to their inquisitive nature and bottomless pit. The ASPCA has pictures with the names so that you are sure you have identified your plants correctly.

ASPCA - <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/cats-plant-list>

The Cat Fanciers Association - <http://cfa.org/Owners/CatCare/HouseholdHazards/ToxicPlants.aspx>

Pet Helpful - <https://pethelpful.com/cats/Houseplants-Poisonous-to-your-Cats>

Pet MD - http://www.petmd.com/cat/emergency/poisoning-toxicity/e_ct_poisonous_plants

Web MD - <http://pets.webmd.com/cats/guide/top-10>

Alfred State College Students Fundraising for the SPCA

By: Kendall Austin

This past semester my classmates and I were lucky enough to collaborate with the Allegany County SPCA in a fundraising event. As students of the Human Services and Management major at Alfred State we were thrilled to be accepted and welcomed by the staff at the SPCA. Under the supervision and guidance of President Lynda Pruski we were able to raise over \$500 to help support the Allegany County SPCA. Through ticket sales for a community movie we put on and donations we were able to raise this money to help all of our furry friends being taken care of at the SPCA.

Being able to work with an agency that we share so many beliefs with was a true honor. As students, we learned a lot about fundraising and nonprofits. We thank the Allegany County SPCA and all who work with them for this opportunity to learn and help.

4TH ANNUAL WCS LIP SYNC CONTEST

The Whitesville Central School Music Dept is PROUD to announce its 4th Annual WCS Lip Sync Contest on March 23, 2018 at 6pm in the Small Gym. All proceeds will again benefit the Allegany County SPCA. Students from WCS of all ages will compete within 4 age categories for prizes and the Over All Judges Choice will win \$50 in cash. Each act is scored and earns points in four areas: Lip Sync Ability, Appearance, Originality and Crowd Response.

We are excited to see how past winners battle to defend their titles. This year we are hoping to see some parents join in the fun and add their artistic and enthusiastic performances into the mix. A \$2 donation per person will be taken at the door and we are also asking the audience to generously donate items that are needed at the shelter.



All performers are encouraged to bring all of the family and friends to cheer them on! Each year we have increased our proceeds from this event, which equal over \$1,000 thus far, and we are once again hoping to top last year and set a new benchmark. We hope you will join us for this annual family event that helps our furry friends as they transition to their forever homes.

2017 WCS Lip Sync Contest Grand Prize Winners

“It’s a Hard Knock Life”

Left to Right: Erin Billings, Michael Hixson, Emma Lee, Onalee Emery, Allyson Water

New York State's Dog Shelter Law

You are required to provide shelter for your dog under state law, section 353-b of the New York Agriculture & Markets Law. The SPCA, as well as local police agencies, can enforce this law. If your dog spends any time outdoors, you must provide shelter to protect the dog from direct sunlight, rain, snow, wind, cold weather, hot weather, and other inclement conditions. The dog shelter must be waterproof, insulated, allow the dog to move around freely. The dog must be able to stand up, turn around, and lie down.

Violators will receive a court citation and be required to pay a fine ranging from \$50 to \$250, as well as to show proof of shelter for the dog.

Minimum Requirements:

1. A dog restrained outdoors must have shade to protect the dog from direct sunlight.
2. A dog left outdoors in inclement weather must also have a housing facility that:
 - Has a waterproof roof;

- Is structurally sound with insulation appropriate to local climatic conditions and sufficient to protect the dog from inclement weather;
- Is constructed so as to allow each dog adequate freedom of movement to make normal postural adjustments, including the ability to stand up, turn around, and lie down with limbs outstretched; and,
- Allows for effective removal of excretions, other waste material, dirt, and trash.

3. In addition, the area surrounding the housing facility and the facility itself must be regularly cleaned.

Penalties:

1. First offense: Fine ranging from \$50.00-\$100.00.
2. Second and subsequent offense: Fine ranging from \$100.00-\$250.00.
3. Once seventy-two (72) hours has passed since a violation, each new day the violation is not remedied constitutes a new violation.
4. A dog may be seized by officers based on violation of this section.

This fact sheet summarizes the dog shelter law. It is not intended to answer all questions or cover all aspects of the law.

LIVE ANIMAL EVENT AT HOUGHTON COLLEGE

By Eliza Kelly



What began last year with a few puppies and kittens, has grown to a joyful gathering of critters of all kinds: cats, dogs, guinea pigs, rats, goats, birds, college students, and more!!

Several times each semester, the Houghton College Counseling Center and the Allegany County SPCA come together to offer a Live Animal Event for Houghton College students. The SPCA and members of the Houghton community bring their furry friends to campus for a time of cuddles, snuggles and tail wags.

Students gather around the animals, laugh at their antics, 'aww' at their cuteness, and take pictures to share with others.



Many students are far from home, missing their own furry friends, stressed with exams and schoolwork, and a few minutes to cuddle a kitten or hold a baby goat is exactly what they need. Being with these friendly animals brings students together and provides comfort and relief from stress and anxiety.

We are grateful to Lynda, Hannah and the SPCA for their generosity, faithfulness, and service to Houghton College students.

Nigel

By Cheryl Babst

A few months ago we went to the SPCA to drop off some blankets and cat food. Whenever we go, we like to walk around and visit and say hello to all the resident animals. As we were leaving I noticed a very timid, but very sweet looking dog sitting in the office next to Misty. After getting down on the floor I managed to coax him over to me. He was just the sweetest boy. Misty said his name was "Nigel" and asked us if we wanted to go for a walk with him. Once outside I loved him up some more and he was very responsive to the attention, which I thought was a good sign. I knew if we were to adopt Nigel he would be somewhat of a challenge because he was so timid. Before we left that day I also knew he would probably become a new member of our family. After going home and discussing it with everyone, we all agreed that Nigel would be a great new addition to our family.



We now have 2 dogs, including Nigel and 3 cats. They are all rescues and everyone is happy, healthy and getting along great. It's as though Nigel was always here, from the moment we came thru the door I knew we made the right decision. I think he will always be timid, but he is getting braver all the time. He loves his daily walks and exploring the outdoors, laying on the couch is his second favorite place to be. Nigel is a great addition to our animal loving family

Our dogs and cats are family members and we believe that rescued pets are the best!!

Mystique

By Laura Matott

I adopted Mystique in September after seeing her picture on the SPCA FaceBook page. She is literally the sweetest thing ever. I call her Misty for short. When I told my friends I was thinking about adopting one of the Rats at the SPCA all I heard was EWWWW! Then of course after I got her all I heard was EWWWWW! But what you don't know is that Rats are very much like having a super smart kitten or puppy. The Rat has a bad rap. Misty gives me kisses. She actually is super lovey dovey. She hangs out either on my shoulders or on my desk when I'm making my jewelry. She's a bit spoiled on snacks. Her favorite is sweet cereal. So if you are looking for a small pet but you don't want a hamster or guinea pig. I am telling you a Rat is the way to go. They are so loving. I am very happy to add her to our happy family of two Border Collies and a cat. All males by the way....so Misty is actually my only little girl.



The Importance of Fostering Special Needs Animals

By Al Matott

I have been fostering animals for the SPCA for as long as I can remember, but my focus has always been fostering animals classified as having special needs. Whether it's animals who need round the clock care for any number of reasons; they are old and need specialized care; or they have medical or personality traits that leave them unlikely to be adopted, I have loved them all. Fostering animals with special needs or who need specialized care is important to every animal shelter but, especially for shelters as small as the SPCA Serving Allegany County because of their limited resources. In order to continue helping the large volume of animals that pass through the doors each year, help is needed to meet the needs of the animals taken in and to give a little extra love to the difficult-to-adopt animals to help them grow into their individual personalities, so they are more attractive to potential adopters.



Looking back on the many sleepless nights I have spent caring for animals who slept peacefully, possibly for the first time, because they knew I was not leaving their side; and remembering the blissful nights I slept comfortably in my bed curled up with an animal who may have never known the comfort of a bed or the love of a human, I feel nothing short of lucky to have been trusted by these special fur babies. I have had each one for various lengths of time, but I always choose to treat each day as if it may be our last together so they never go a day without knowing they are loved. Three recent fosters will, like all my others, hold a special place in my heart each for their own special reasons.

Last year, I took in my first FIV+ foster named Rumi. Due to never living in a home, Rumi was fearful of every normal household noise from an opening window to hearing me turn on the sink. It took a lot of time and love, but Rumi learned these sounds were not scary and homes were full of love. She

learned how to play and would bat her toys from one side of the house to another. Rumi became a cat that I knew anyone would be lucky to love. Just a few short weeks after she returned to the shelter, and after no one showing any interest in her before she came to my home, Rumi was adopted into a loving home by a woman who loved her for who she was and did not let her being FIV+ change her mind about bringing her home.

Soon after, I opened my doors to a very old, abandoned cat named Valley who we soon found out had cancer. We knew she did not have long, but I was determined to fill each day she had with her favorite canned food and treats, as well as countless hours of sitting together where she was so content she purred nonstop while she slept. Valley was happy and she had everything she could ever ask for until she peacefully crossed the Rainbow Bridge after her exhausting battle with cancer. Our time together was limited to just a few short months, but fosters are meant to love while they're needed and my hope is that she knew what it meant to be loved when she passed away in my arms.

Now, I have recently opened my heart and my home to a repeat foster baby, six month old Howard. After fostering him as a very young kitten who needed a little TLC and needed to learn how great a human's love can be, I have welcomed him back into my home after he has been unable to find a home due to being diagnosed with a grade 4 heart murmur which will significantly decrease his lifespan. Although he may not have a long life, I believe he is deserving of a normal life outside of a cage and not knowing how long we will have together makes me hold him a little tighter, love him a little harder, and makes each day a little more special than the last, but all of these things make fostering him mean so much more.

Spike

By Ivy Johnson

I adopted Spike in March and he is one of the best cats I have met. I went to the SPCA to pick out a cat and got there before they opened so I was waiting outside and that's when I met Spike. He had been there for 6 years and I couldn't believe nobody had tried to adopt him. After about 5 minutes of sitting with him outside I knew that I wanted to take home with me. He even climbed into my car on his own so I figured the feeling was mutual. After taking Spike home he was a little confused at first and hid from me but after the first night I woke up to him sleeping next to my head on my pillow and from then on he and I have been best friends. He's very smart and vocal when he wants something. His favorite spots to be are in the windows and on top of the fridge. He makes friends with everyone who comes into my house and loves people. Being in a home I think really allowed his true personality to come out. And I couldn't have asked for a better cat.



SPCA Serving Allegany County
1374 State Route 19 South, P.O. Box 381
Wellsville, NY 14895

US Postage PAID
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Or current resident



www.SPCAallegany.org

The SPCA Serving Allegany County

Paw Prints

WINTER 2018

