

SPCA Responds to Hurricane Katrina A Measure of Our Combined Compassion

“One can measure the greatness and the moral progress of a nation by looking at how it treats its animals.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

By: John M. Iannuzzi

Katrina put us all to the test. Could we rise to the occasion and offer a helping hand to our fellow citizens and to the hundreds of thousands of animals affected by the devastation? Katrina affected all of us—each in different ways. To those of us who are committed to the well being of domestic animals, giving money could not be enough.

The SPCA of Westchester chose to do more. In an outpouring of community spirit and cooperation, a trip to Gulfport, Mississippi was undertaken. In coordination with the courageous employees of the Humane Society of Southern Mississippi in Gulfport, a combined emergency supply delivery and a dog relocation effort was planned and executed.

The SPCA Board, shelter employees and volunteers planned all the details to get us from New York to Mississippi and back again, donated a truck to transport the supplies and return with the dogs, solicited cash and supply contributions, picked up thousands of pounds of food, medicine, toys and blankets, and loaded the truck with all the supplies and equipment necessary. A team of drivers drove the 1,385 miles to Gulfport, Mississippi and met up with the return team (who flew down) at the airport. The entire project team then went on to the shelter.

There we met the most remarkable group of dedicated professionals and volunteers that you could possibly imagine. In the face of devastating loss, to their community, personal lives and to the shelter, a



SPCA staff and volunteers arrive in Mississippi. From left: Deb Moran, Cathy Wells, Mississippi Shelter Director Michelle Prince, author John Iannuzzi, Steve Ruhe and Robin Ruhe.

small group of amazing people (many now living in tents behind the shelter because they had lost their homes) worked tirelessly to help the thousands of animals affected by Katrina. Their commitment and sacrifice was something that all of us who worked with them will never forget.

After unloading the supplies at the shelter's warehouse we then had to decide which of all the animals at the shelter would be the ones we brought back to New York. That was one of the more difficult times during the entire trip. Working closely with the Humane Society personnel a total of 16 dogs were selected and prepared for the trip back.

To limit the stress on the dogs, the return team decided to make a non-stop return trip to the SPCA of Westchester. This began by leaving at 8 o'clock at night to provide a slightly cooler environment for the animals during the first 500-600 miles of the trip. The trip ended 36 ½ hours

later back in New York. The return team stopped every few hours to walk each of the dogs and provide necessary water and food.

When the truck arrived back at the SPCA, it was met by an outpouring of shelter staff and volunteers. They helped each individual dog with its transition to a new temporary home and provided the medical care, grooming and additional support each needed. All the dogs have now been adopted and have found their “forever homes” here in New York.

Hundreds of shelters and organizations made the same effort and probably feel just as thankful as we do that we were able to contribute in some small way. But we would have liked to have done more.

Maybe all of us lending a hand, at both the national and local levels, is how we ensure that we, as a society and as individuals, live up to Mahatma Gandhi's words. 🐾



Katrina Animals pictured with SPCA staff and volunteers.

**To see more pictures from the
SPCA's Katrina Rescue, log on to
www.spcanyc.org.**



THANK YOU

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and the animals currently living at the SPCA of Westchester, we would like to thank the Laura J. Niles Foundation, the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation and the Elroy and Terry Krumholz Foundation for their most generous support of our Golden Outreach Pet Therapy program. With the Foundations' support, Golden Outreach will continue to grow with the goal of bringing more and more patients in healthcare facilities together with SPCA shelter dogs to combat isolation and loneliness. Training additional Golden Outreach volunteer/dog teams will allow us to expand our outreach and ensure that every pet therapy interaction benefits not only isolated people but also the dogs in need who take part in these visits.

Below: Volunteer Karen Rogers and her dog, Casey, visit Westledge Healthcare Facility.




Happy New Year to our friends, both human and animal, from all of us at the SPCA

A NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Steve Diller

The New Year is a special time of thoughtfulness and giving and we feel blessed not only to have a wonderful population of caring animal lovers around us, but blessed to have the opportunity to provide care to the animals. Reflecting back through this past year, I am pleased to announce that we have made tremendous strides. Our facility has successfully undergone several construction projects including an enhanced bathing and grooming station, a kitten adoption ward, better isolation facilities and even maternity quarters. Our Simpson Clinic has a full time veterinarian to keep our animals in the pink of health. The SPCA law enforcement division is growing stronger every day and our shelter is in constant flux working towards being the best shelter anywhere.

Our New Years resolution includes building new relationships within our community to enhance our adoption rate. We work endlessly to enrich the lives of all the homeless animals here, but we know that they would prefer to be on your couch in 2006. As long as we are strong in our resolve to find homes for all of our animals, we know we will succeed.

The SPCA is grateful for the constant outpouring of gifts and donations that we receive from our community and just can't thank you enough for your consideration, time and sensitivity toward our ultimate goal. We ask everyone at this time of the year to open your hearts and more importantly open your homes for a needy pet. There is an old adage that states "every new pet brings good luck", we know that to be true and urge you to visit us so that you can be lucky in the New Year. 

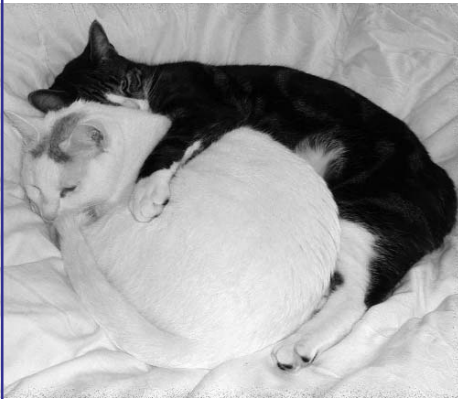
Executive Director

Paw Prints is published quarterly by the SPCA of Westchester, a 501(c)(3) humane organization located at 590 North State Road, Briarcliff Manor NY 10510. For information, please contact Shannon Laukhuf at (914) 941-2894 ext. 19.

SPCA OF WESTCHESTER Hours:
Monday thru Saturday: 10am to 4pm
Sunday: 1pm to 4pm
www.spcanyc.org



HAPPY TAILS



Blue and Felix cuddle (above)

Hello,

When we adopted Felix (the cat) in the fall of 2004 we had in mind that he would become a play buddy for our male cat Blue, who had been living with two female cats since then and sometimes seemed to feel a bit overpowered by all the estrogen around him. As it turned out, Felix and Blue do get along very well. We'd like to share this cute cuddly photo of them with you.

May the New Year bring you healthy & happy times and all your animals too.

CHRISTIN & MIKE OGRYZLO
JENNY, PEANUT, BLUE & FELIX



Dexter

Hi, It's me, Dexter.

I just wanted to let you know how I'm doing. It has been a great seven months in my new home. I live in a nice warm house with a couch that faces the outside so I can sit on it and see everyone going by....the best part of my new home is the ball playing! I get to play ball all the time, it really is my favorite thing to do. I sleep in the "big" bed with mom on the pillow! Mom wants to thank you for taking such good care of me. I'm a really lucky guy. Happy New Year!

DEXTER RISOLI

A Happy Ending



In August of 2004, two dogs named Cash and Uba, were surrendered to the SPCA. They were old (8 years), big (about 75-80 pounds each) and had to be adopted together. That was three strikes against them. Who would want two old, big dogs? One of our volunteers, Martha Kenerson, did!

Martha, a volunteer dog walker, had dutifully walked Cash and Uba twice a week since their arrival and fell in love with Cash, the retriever/shepherd mix. Martha immediately called her husband and "sold her soul" so she could have the two dogs.

It has been heaven ever since – for both dogs and Martha (and her husband who now loves them too!). "They are everything I ever wanted in a dog", says Martha. They are easy to take care of because they sleep most of the day. They don't require a lot of entertainment or play time. They play with each other and keep each other company, and, they are housetrained."

It's hard to tell who is happier – the dogs or Martha. But it was a match made in heaven – heaven on earth!



Top Hat and Tails Raises over \$170,000 for SPCA Animals

Almost 300 SPCA supporters and 75 canines were in attendance at the 3rd annual “Top Hat & Tails” benefit event held on November 19th at the Tarrytown House in Tarrytown, New York. With Joe Rao, *News 12 Westchester’s* Weatherman, graciously carrying the evening forward as emcee, the annual event raised over \$170,000 for the SPCA’s animal rescue programs.


The Trotta Family of Mount Kisco was honored with the first annual John W. Beach Memorial Award, named after SPCA Board member John Beach, a cornerstone of the SPCA Board of Directors for over 30 years, who recently passed away. The SPCA is indebted to the Trotta Family for their continued investment of time and support over the years. Board Chairman, Deborah Mehne, was presented with the SPCA Distinguished Service Award for her exemplary commitment to animal welfare.

“Top Hat & Tails is our biggest fundraising event of the year,” said Benefit Event Chair Lisa Rockefeller. “It provides a valuable source of funds so the SPCA can continue to provide not only shelter for animals in need, but also the life saving medical care and anti-cruelty programs we provide the dogs, cats and horses of Westchester County.”

According to development director Shannon Laukhuf, “Participation in our event grows each year. The word is out that Top Hat & Tails is different than all the other events out there and people look forward to it year after year! Where else can you enjoy an evening of great food, drink and dancing with your favorite pooch at your side?”



Eileen McFadden with golden retriever, Bronwyn, in matching gowns.

Guests also enjoyed a live, natural horsemanship presentation by Tim Hayes and his horse Austin and pet photographer Liza Marguilles was behind the camera again this year capturing beautiful portraits of people and their beloved pets. The SPCA auction featured over 100 items such as exciting trips and excursions, golf outings, jewelry, fine dining gift certificates, and more – all generously donated by local businesses and individuals. Once again, Christine from Cleo’s Barkery whipped up gourmet tasty treats for the 4-legged guests in attendance and all the flowers for the event were generously donated by Michael George of Hybrid. 



SPCA Board Members Denise Santomero, Barbara Kobren, Robyn Campanella, Deborah Mehne and Lisa Rockefeller.



Joel Weiser with Harpo



Emcee Joe Rao with wife Renate and yorkie, Comet, in full tux.



Looking for love...

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

TUFFY



This 3-year-old female was seized from an abandoned apartment. In spite of that beginning, **Tuffy** is extremely affectionate and loves to give kisses.

LEXUS



Lexus is an energetic lab mix who enjoys being with people and other dogs. He loves to play fetch with tennis balls. He will do well in a family with active, athletic teenagers or a single person.

MACY



Macy is a 2 1/2 year old Dalmatian/pit mix who is very loving with people but would prefer a home with no other animals. She loves to run and play with her toys and is a great, cuddly companion.

CHECKERS



At a year old, **Checkers** is sensitive and shy in our shelter environment, but she has all the markings of a terrific lap cat. In the right low-key, loving home she will blossom.

JAKE



This beautiful, shepherd/collie mix was found as a stray. He is almost 2 years old and is a bundle of energy. **Jake** would enjoy an active family and a yard to play in.

CLAM



Clam is a 5 year old male with a wonderful and loving personality. He is fine with other cats and dogs and would like a nice warm bed to sleep on.

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

Looking for the perfect gift for the animal lover in your life?

Visit our online gift gallery at www.SPCA914.org and click on shopping.





SPCA Establishes Humane Education Fund

Late last year, the SPCA received a generous donation from the family of the late Janet Greenspan. The gift, in memory of Janet, was used to establish the Janet Greenspan Memorial Outreach Fund, a perpetual endowment fund to be used to support the SPCA's humane education outreach.

Janet Greenspan cherished life in all its forms and felt strongly that any animal with love to give deserved a home. Janet knew the value of being a pet-owner. She understood how a pet could brighten your day when you were

feeling down, and make you laugh when you felt there was nothing in the world to laugh about.

Devoted to animals of all kinds, Janet continually and eagerly volunteered to care for her children's classroom pets during vacations, whether they were newly hatched chicks, fish, snails, hamsters or turtles. In later years, after her children had moved out of the house and there was a void in her home, she adopted a grown dog from a rescue shelter. And until she died, she always found time to make her pets a priority and give

them the care they required.

"The SPCA is extremely grateful to Janet's family and friends for choosing to establish this fund in her memory," said Steve Diller executive director. "By training additional volunteers to bring humane education to schools and community groups, the SPCA hopes to instill in young people that all living creatures deserve humane, compassionate treatment."

For further information, please call (914) 941-2894 ext. 28.

The Moment We'd All Been Waiting For...

May we hear a drumroll, please? The drawing of the winning ticket for the Bark and Purr Car Raffle of a 2006 Hyundai Tucson was conducted by Claire, with her Husky assistant, Megan, both of Mt. Kisco.

How many times had we longingly looked at the chances on the front

of our refrigerators and imagined this moment?

The winning ticket belonged, after all, to the Kis family of Valhalla. Here they are, Michelle, John and Debra, who stopped by with the 2006 Hyundai Tucson they won. Congratulations!!



Claire, with the help of her Husky, Megan, draws the winner of our Bark and Purr Car Raffle.



Michelle, John and Debra Kis are all smiles as the winners of a brand new Hyundai Tucson.

FOR THE ANIMALS OF TODAY... AND TOMORROW?

How would you like to provide food, shelter, medical care and love to the animals at the SPCA of Westchester for eternity? Can we challenge you to "endow" your annual gift? It's easy. If you've been giving \$100 annually, a simple gift of \$2,000 through your will or estate plan would generate \$100 in interest each year - that \$2,000 will continue your annual gift FOREVER!

You will play a key role in continuing our mission and caring for the animals. Setting up an endowment could be the most farsighted and enduring act of your lifetime!

If your annual gift is:	You would need to make an "endowment" gift of:
\$50	\$1,000
\$100	\$2,000
\$250	\$5,000
\$500	\$10,000
\$1,000	\$20,000

*At the assumed 5% investment return, you simply multiply your annual gift by 20 to determine the amount required to endow your annual gift.