



# Holiday Greetings!

Dear NYSHA Supporters:

Each year, it becomes increasingly difficult to write our holiday appeal – the abundance of cruelty cases and the staggering volume of animals requiring assistance is heartbreaking.

We have been especially active this year with equine issues, one of our main concerns. Our billboard near Saratoga drew widespread attention and praise as we continued our fight, along with local and national groups, to bring an end to the grisly horse slaughter industry in this country, as well as transport to other countries through New York State. We have assisted in horse rescue cases, either on-site or with advice, and have helped financially when feasible. Citi Girl, purchased from a “killer pen,” is a symbol of who is being sacrificed as a by-product of the horse racing industry. One of our new Board members writes a blog about this so-called “sport,” and several of our Board members attended seminars dealing with this pressing issue.

Much of our work is behind the scenes – offering rewards to find the perpetrators of animal cruelty, giving advice to law enforcement or humane officers investigating cases, and providing guidance to district attorneys prosecuting these unspeakable crimes. Our training manual, *HOW TO INVESTIGATE ANIMAL CRUELTY IN NEW YORK STATE*, continues to set the standard for numerous organizations to use as a reference or teaching tool.

We have participated in many animal rescue situations, both in person or by giving financial support when possible. Hoarder situations, often by repeat offenders, are uncovered regularly, although individual acts of callous cruelty are becoming more visible.

Our workshops, training law enforcement and humane officers throughout the state, are in demand, and we now are working with the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services, expanding the circle of those we teach.

As always, our role in the New York State Legislature promoting animal-friendly bills – as well as opposing those that are harmful – is widely recognized. We have participated in several events in Albany to further our causes.

Many of our Board members have participated in humane education programs, have tabled at public events, and have an active interest in wildlife as well as companion animals. And still, there is always so much more to do.

Almost everyone working at NYSHA is a volunteer, yet our programs are costly. In the past, your generous support has enabled us to expand our outreach, and we thank you. Can we depend on you again this year? More importantly, can the animals?

On behalf of the Board and staff at NYSHA, I wish you and your family, two- or four-legged, a joyous holiday season and a new year filled with peace for all.

*Laura Ann Cammisa*  
Laura-Ann Cammisa  
President



**NYSHA**  
nyshumane.org

## Remembering Sam

Samantha Mullen, our beloved Board member, friend, mentor, and renowned and respected leader in the humane movement, died in December, 2012. The world is a better place because of Samantha’s wisdom, insight, and influence, and NYSHA will always honor her memory by doing what mattered most to her – advocating for the prevention of cruelty and suffering for all animals. NYSHA dedicates its mission to fulfilling Samantha’s quest for kindness to all living creatures.



Samantha



NYSHA's billboard between Albany and Saratoga.



Board Chair Pat Valusek helping at a horse cruelty case.



“Investigating Animal Cruelty” workshop.



Pat Valusek and Legislative Chair, Tracey Collins, with Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal on 2013 Lobby Day at NYS Capitol.



Board Member Sue McDonough, at Animal Advocacy Day, with Assemblyman John McDonald, Summer Brennan, and Fritz, a rescued miniature horse.



Board members Jean Daniels and Tracey Collins tabling at Animal Protective Foundation's Fireplug 500 dog walk.



Laura-Ann Cammisa with new friend at the 2013 Equine Summit.