

HUMANE REVIEW

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The Newsletter of the New York State Humane Association



NYSHA Continues Training Police

In early spring, Training Officer Montanya of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reached out to NYSHA to request a training workshop, as the Sheriff had decided to have the department become the lead agency to investigate animal cruelty cases in the county, with the DCSPCA acting as a support organization. The Officer contacted NYSHA because of our partnership with the Division of Criminal Justice Services and our years of providing such training to police throughout the state.



Attendees learn to investigate animal cruelty at NYSHA's workshop.

Law enforcement officers from various towns and cities throughout the County attended. Instructors included NYSHA Board Member, Marc Kissel, Esq. -- the lead peace officer for the Hudson Valley Humane Society in Pomona and the instructor in the animal cruelty laws at the Rockland Municipal Police Academy. He explained how to understand and use the animal cruelty laws effectively. Veterinarian Dr. Isaac Angell of Bentley Veterinary discussed evaluating the appearance of animals with regard to cruelty complaints, and Dutchess Co. Senior Assistant District Attorney Scott Johnson, Esq., an experienced prosecutor on animal cruelty cases, advised attendees on how police should execute a search warrant in animal cases and collect evidence so the DA's Office can make the best case possible.



Dr. Naile conveying what to look for in a cruelty complaint.

Attendees provided positive feedback in their evaluations, with one adding under suggestions, "To make this course, with these presentations, the basic Police Academy course."

In early summer,

Little Brook Farm in Old Chatham, a well-respected equine rescue run by Lynn Cross, held its yearly horse cruelty investigation workshop for State Police and other police agencies. NYSHA supports these workshops, since there is such a need for this training. Sue McDonough, retired State Police BCI Investigator, cruelty laws expert, and member of NYSHA's Animal Cruelty Committee, taught attendees how to effectively investigate

equine cruelty, a category of animal cruelty that sadly seems to be increasing yearly. Dr. Steve Naile, a retired equine veterinarian, who has consulted on numerous horse cruelty cases, explained what officers should look for when they are called out on a complaint. After the official instruction was completed, Ms. Cross and staff provided the attendees with hands-on interaction with horses at Little Brook who had been rescued from cruelty situations. Police were instructed on how to place lead ropes on horses and walk them around the paddock,

as well as how to read horse body language.

This full day of training will be invaluable to police when they are called out on a horse case. Several attendees made complimentary remarks to Ms. Cross, "I want to thank you for the class. Your commitment to animals is fantastic. ...I will certainly be better equipped in the field with my investigations. Please express my gratitude to Sue and Dr. Naile for their expertise as well. You are all VERY SPECIAL individuals."

What you can do: Please continue to support NYSHA and the work it does to aid animals. And if you see an animal in a cruelty situation, be that animal's voice, call the police or area SPCA and



Learning to safely lead a horse.

later follow up to ensure that the situation was addressed. If they seem to need guidance, advise them to contact NYSHA, as we will refer them to our experts.

President's Message

We love our companion animals and often appeal to our state representatives to improve animal protection laws, but we must not forget farm animals. Those of us who have visited farm sanctuaries and looked into the eyes of horses, cows, sheep, and other animals there, know these are intelligent, sensitive, sentient beings as needing of kindness as any cat or dog. So we must care about improving *their* lives as well.

Public advocacy in many states has resulted in laws to improve the living conditions of animals in factory farms – fetid places that, among other horrors, imprison hens, pregnant sows, and veal calves in cages and crates that prevent the inmates from lying down or simply moving their limbs freely. To date, 15 states have made life better for these animals by enacting legislation that bans the use of many of these tortuous confinements.

Yet, as expected, the factory farm interests have pushed back hard. In an effort to thwart the efforts of those states – under the guise of supporting unrestricted interstate commerce – they have influenced federal legislators to insert the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act in the federal Farm Bill. EATS would undermine the individual states' regulations on all the farm animals specified in the Act. Not only that, the reach of EATS act is wide and could threaten other state animal protective laws, for example, New York's recent Puppy Mill Pipeline Act, as well as the new anti-horse slaughter legislation.

A version of the Farm Bill passed out of the House Agriculture

Committee in May. However, because of disagreements arising from the differences between the House and Senate versions and the lateness of the bill in the session, it seems the Farm Bill will not be voted on this year. That means we have time to stop the EATS act. The ALDF stated that the future of the Farm Bill hinges on the outcome of the election, so it is not clear if the EATS act in some form will be included in the final Farm Bill. The ALDF urges everyone to contact their federal Representatives and Senators and urge them to oppose the EATS Act.

Though NYSHA abhors factory farming and the goal of all animal activists is to eliminate it, that will be a long struggle well into the future. In the meantime, we must try to help the animals suffering NOW, as well as not lose the advances we have made to protect other animals in our state. So, please let your federal representatives know you care how the animals in factory farms are treated. Let them know you want states to retain their rights to improve conditions for them, as well as retain the laws that states have already passed to protect companion animals and horses. Let them know you do NOT want the EATS act in any Farm Bill – ever.

Please enter this link into the search bar of your browser to find your representative: pluralpolicy.com/open

Please be kind to animals,

Patricia Valusek

Firefighters – Animal Heroes

We associate firefighters with men and women hastily donning gear and racing out on noisy firetrucks to do battle with devastating fires. In these dangerous circumstances, they often risk their own safety to rescue a family's animals, as well as the humans trapped in the fires. Recently the Town of Esopus Fire Dept., near our office, was able to save a pet cat for a family who lost everything else in the fire. The beloved cat will be a comfort to them as they struggle to recover.

Not only do they fight fires, but firefighters are often called to rescue animals who are stuck in various places, such as cats who have climbed high up a tree and aren't able to get down. Recently we heard about the New Rochelle Fire Department's rescue of a fawn who had fallen off a high bank and became stuck in deep, quicksand-like mud at a large area pond. As the fawn's mother stood watch nearby, the firefighters had to devise a way to reach the young one, since it was some distance from shore. Stretching a ladder across the mud, they used a rope to pull the fawn out, wrapped it in a tarp, and carried it up a ladder to the top of the bank. The rescued fawn and its mother were reunited and ran off into the nearby woods. NYSHA Board



NYSHA Board Members Harold Hovel and Marc Kissel present award to New Rochelle Fire Dept.

Members Harry Hovel and Marc Kissel presented an award to the Fire Dept. for their compassionate act.

Next time you see a firefighter, thank him or her for being such an asset to the community – both to humans and to our dear animals. Kudos to all firefighters who do such important and lifesaving work.

NYSHA Honors Legislators Working to Improve Animal Laws

The animals of New York were fortunate to have several important pieces of protective bills passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor during the last two legislative sessions in Albany. In May, NYSHA representatives met in Albany and were delighted to present awards to the sponsoring legislators in appreciation of their efforts to get these bills passed. These new laws will protect untold numbers of animals in the future – from companion animals to wildlife.



Assembly Member Lupardo and Senator Addabbo's awards were presented by NYSHA's Linda Rydant and Sue McDonough (not shown).



Wildlife Killing Contests Ban: Assemblymember Deborah Glick. (The Senate sponsor, Timothy Kennedy, is no longer in the Senate.)

Increased fines for selling disabled equines at auctions and including all equines:

Senator Joseph Addabbo, Assemblymember Gary Pretlow

Cruelty Free Cosmetics Act – banning the sale of cosmetics in NY tested on animals: Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal. (The Senate sponsor, Alessandra Biaggi, is no longer in the Senate.)

And honors to **Senator Michelle Hinchey** and **Assemblymember Donna Lupardo**, chairs of the Senate and Assembly Agriculture Committees, for their commitment to animals of New York State by supporting animal protective legislation and helping ensure its positive consideration by the two Committees.

Ending horse slaughter in NY/transporting through NY for slaughter in Canada: Senator Joseph Addabbo, Senator Anthony Polumbo, Assemblymember Deborah Glick.

Animal Shelter Standards: Senator Joseph Addabbo, Assemblymember Amy Paulin

Puppy Mill Bill – banning sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops: Senator Michael Gianaris, Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal



NYSHA's Diane Fingar and John Scheib presented the awards to Senator Palumbo, Senator Gianaris, and Assembly Member Glick.



NYSHA's Pat Valusek and Sondra Woodvine presented awards to Senator Hinchey, Assemblymembers Rosenthal, Paulin, and Pretlow.

NYSHA Teams Up with Partners in Animal Welfare (PAW)

For the past few years, NYSHA's Chairperson Harry Hovel, Ph.D. has partnered with the Hyer Ground Rescue (HGR), a grass roots animal organization located in Greene County, in several animal welfare events.

Recently, HGR joined with One Dog One World, another advocacy group, to form Partners in Animal Welfare (PAW). The new organization based in Columbia and Greene Counties wishes to continue its collaboration with NYSHA. PAW plans to be active in several animal welfare arenas, such as humane education for adults and in schools,

animal rescue actions, presentations to local police on cruelty/violence to animals, and other humane activities.

PAW invited Harry to join a Zoom meeting where he provided information and suggestions about several of the areas of interest. Previously, Harry had provided copies of NYSHA's booklet, *The Connection Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence*, that PAW had distributed to attendees at an area magistrates meeting. PAW intends to continue working with NYSHA to provide humane educational materials to various audiences.

Spotlight: Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center

In the early 2000s, after husband and wife Dave LoBerde and Missy Runyan moved to the Catskills, Missy's desire to help animals eventually lead her into wildlife rehabilitation. Soon they established the Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center on their large piece of land and were dedicating their lives to helping sick and injured animals heal, releasing them back into the wild.

Over the years, not only was space created for smaller animals and birds, but Dave, a former mason, along with dedicated volunteers, built a large bear rehab building, as well as a 100-foot long flight cage, required by federal law to rehabilitate eagles, one of the few such facilities around. It is an awesome sight to see the eagles as they fly back and forth in this space.

At FFFWC, the guiding philosophy is to always remember the animals are wild and treat them as such, not something to be cuddled or habituated to humans, and to return them to where they belong -- never to keep any caged indefinitely. "Let wild be wild" is their motto.



Magnificent eagles will soon be returned to the skies.



FFFWC's Dave LoBerde releasing rehabilitated juvenile eagle.

Sadly, in late 2021, Missy, who had gained wide respect and love as a rehabilitator and educator, passed away suddenly. Dave and the Center's faithful volunteers knew they must carry on her work and to continue caring for the animals and educating the public about protecting wildlife.

Dave told us he receives about 20 calls a day and responds to as many as possible. The calls about injured or orphaned animals range from birds of all sorts and small animals to fawns and bears. Although FFFWC does not accept rabies vector species (RVS), such as raccoons and skunks, he can recommend rehabilitators who are equipped

and licensed to deal with them.

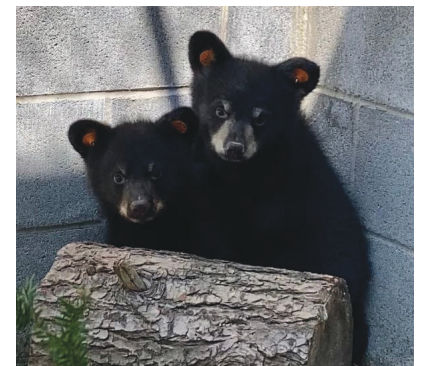
He is grateful for the loyal team of volunteers who help care for animals at the facility, transport, and help capture animals if needed, and the veterinarians who often donate their skills. They also work closely with the DEC and Cornell. This work continues 24/7 all year.

He usually has several orphaned cubs at one time in the huge bear building -- once had 11. They can only take in bear cubs that are 60 lbs. or less. The cubs are born the same time of the year, so all are around the same age during rehab. He says, as youngsters who haven't reached sexual maturity, they get along and have a grand time together. When ready to release, the DEC transports them to state land in the area where they were found. They also work only with fawns, as adult deer react very badly to captivity, dangerous to themselves and to the people trying to help.

Dave said that big challenges now to wildlife are lead poisoning, bird flu, or West Nile virus. Many eagles have ingested lead pellets and are disoriented or having seizures. If they reach the rehab center early enough, treatment is often successful and they can be released. FFFWC has worked with hunting groups educating them about the dangers to wildlife from lead shot, and sometimes successfully persuading some to use a less harmful ammunition.

The wild birds and mammals, who are subject to so many calamities -- hit by cars, human encroachment into their areas, fires, being orphaned, lack of adequate food, etc. -- are very fortunate to have the dedicated volunteers and facilities at Friends of Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center who give so many a second chance at life.

FFFWC, a 501-c-3 organization, receives no government funding and relies on donations. Buying medications and supplies, not to mention the expense of feeding hungry bear cubs, is quite costly. If you would like to help, donations can be sent to FFF Wildlife Center, 10846 Rt. 23A, Hunter, NY 12442, or you can donate online at their website, fffwildlifecenter.org.



Orphaned cubs safe here until they are able to be returned to the forest.

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