

Happy Holidays & Thank You for Your Support!

Dear NYSHA Supporter,

Over the past many months, COVID has stopped numerous activities, but it has not stopped animal cruelty, nor has NYSHA stopped addressing the issue. NYSHA has continued to work to: rescue animals, deliver training to police, provide police and others with guidance on cruelty cases, support training efforts of other organizations, lobby to improve animal protection laws, and work with DA's offices and others to ensure cruelty laws are being respected. Various examples of our activities follow.

Working to Rescue Animals: Equine Rescue Resource reached out to us for help with a case in Ulster County – a badly neglected group of sheep and goats – whose owner was being “run out of town,” were in need of rescue and placement. As all local rescues were full, NYSHA contacted



Garrett Bear

NYSHA looks forward to the day when all cats have a safe and kind indoor home.

The Humane Society of Greater Rochester that put us in touch with a rescue in Schoharie County that agreed to help. Equine Rescue Resource, accompanied by a NYSHA Board member, transported the neglected animals to the site, where they were vetted and then released into the green fields of their new home.

NYSHA received a call about a pathetic cat abandoned in the basement of a NYC apartment building, who was forced to survive as a mouser, never seeing the light of day. A NYSHA Board member, familiar with the area, intervened and the cat was rescued from these sad circumstances, vetted, and a new home was sought.

Working with Police and Humane Law Enforcement: Numerous cases of horse cruelty were reported to NYSHA by police and humane agencies. A member of our cruelty committee, a retired police officer, experienced in animal cruelty investigation, guided them through the steps necessary to investigate the complaints.

In addition to neglect and cruelty complaints, we were contacted about the Unadilla Horse Auction and its apparent laxness in abiding by the law that prohibits selling horses that “could not be worked.” This issue was brought to the attention of local law enforcement and the district attorney’s office, so more attention would be paid to auction activities.



NYSHA has trained police throughout the State on animal cruelty laws.

Providing Training to Police: NYSHA was on a COVID hiatus, unable to conduct in-person animal cruelty investigation workshops until this past June when the NYS Police reached out and requested that one be held. The workshop was a success with over 120 police and others attending, all vaccinated. Workshops are co-sponsored by the Division of Criminal Justice Services with whom we continue to work to expand training to all police officers.

Supporting Training Efforts: Citizens in Franklin County, who are forming an animal cruelty task force, contacted NYSHA for materials to train police and others. We referred them to our website where the “Investigating Animal Cruelty in New York State” manual can be downloaded, along with examples of police-related documents. In addition, a Constable from Sullivan County, who had attended NYSHA training and was experienced in investigating animal cruelty, reached out to NYSHA when she was asked to give a class on the cruelty laws to local law enforcement. We advised her to use the materials from her NYSHA training packet and also referred her to our website. In addition, she was provided with copies of NYSHA’s booklet on the “Connection,” which discusses the correlation between animal abuse and violence against humans. The Constable said the class was a success.



Two rescued donkeys enjoying their forever home.

Working to Improve Animal Protection Laws: NYSHA representatives have steadily lobbied state lawmakers to improve animal protection laws, and there have been major successes this year. The Governor signed a bill into law that mandates that veterinarians report signs of abuse they observe on animals brought to their practices. The other bill that passed the legislature and awaits the Governor’s signature prohibits the slaughter of racehorses and racehorse breeding stock, a horrific practice that NYSHA has been fighting against for years.

We have been working to help animals for years, being guided by the words of Margaret Mead who said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Please join us and support us in continuing to do so.

On behalf of the NYSHA Board, Staff, and Committee Members,
we wish you a Joyous Holiday Season!



Madison O'Friel

NYSHA has assisted in the rescue of many different species of animals.



Denik Roslaniec

A lucky dog sharing the holidays with his family.



Police appreciate NYSHA's expertise on animal cruelty issues.



NYSHA

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