

Happy Holidays and Thank You!

Your support for NYSHA's training work has yielded great results for the animals of New York!

NYSHA's animal cruelty investigation workshops, conducted across the state for the past 18 years, have resulted in countless cases of animals being removed from tragic situations and their abusers being brought to justice. Following are just a few examples of what your support of our law enforcement training has achieved.

Constable Joanne Gerow from Sullivan County attended several NYSHA workshops and has practiced the investigative skills she learned. She has investigated numerous cases of animal cruelty and now is called upon by agencies throughout the county for assistance. The Constable also fully understands the correlation between animal and human neglect/abuse. In a recent hoarding case, she also found children living in terribly unsanitary conditions and called child protective services. The children and animals were removed, and the Constable filed a criminal complaint.

Constable Gerow said, "NYSHA's training was the best I have had for dealing with these cases. Without it, I wouldn't be able to handle with cruelty complaints as effectively."



A rescued cat snuggles with medical technician at Finger Lakes SPCA.



A cat seized in hoarder case, photo-IDed at Finger Lakes SPCA.

In the western part of the state, the Finger Lakes SPCA was transitioning to having the police investigate animal cruelty. The SPCA would support the police by removing the animals and caring for them. The SPCA and Sheriff asked NYSHA to train the police in effective investigative techniques. Our training facilitated a successful transition. Recently, the department investigated a cat hoarding case and made an arrest, while the SPCA provided support with the rescue and care of the animals.

Finger Lakes SPCA Executive Director Vicki Mosgrove said, "NYSHA's workshop was comprehensive and provided critical information to law enforcement participants. Moreover, NYSHA shared valuable resources, networks, and publications to help provide ongoing support for these specialized investigations. The training laid the groundwork for multiple law enforcement officers to be better equipped to address animal cruelty and helped us make an effective transition."

Another example comes from Little Brook Farm in Columbia County, a non-profit organization that rescues horses and conducts an educational, vocational, and therapeutic riding program. Executive Director Lynn Cross initiated a yearly program that trains police in horse cruelty investigations since rescue from abuse is what brings many horses to her facility. NYSHA provides the instruction on investigating equine cruelty complaints, and a veterinarian employs hands-on cruelty assessment techniques using horses at the facility.

Ms. Cross, excited with its success, said, "I have police who were at the training calling me and emailing pictures that they feel might indicate an animal cruelty case. If so, they begin an investigation and call the NYSHA training instructor if they need further guidance. I know this training is making a difference in the lives of horses."



A hairless dog with severe skin infection seized in Sullivan County. Owner was convicted of animal cruelty, and the dog was surrendered.



No longer hairless, now a handsome dog after months of medical care.



Police investigation brings Thoroughbred mare, Bensonhurst's Best, to Little Brook Farm in 2015.



After 15 months of care, Bensonhurst's Best is healthy and beautiful.

We are gratified that our training workshops are making such a difference in the lives of animals, as well as raising the consciousness of the public and law enforcement on the importance of investigating animal crimes. We could not have done it without you and we look to your continued support!

We wish you all a peaceful holiday season and a joyous New Year!

The Board and Staff of the New York State Humane Association



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