

## Humane Review

Summer 2024

### Greetings,

It's finally here! For many, summer is the most anticipated season of the year. Hopefully extra daylight, good weather, and vacation days will provide quality time to spend with four-legged family members, too.

But July and August bring some challenges and problems, including the ongoing horse racing issue and animals left outside without shelter or water in extreme conditions. Your support enables NYSHA to help deal with these situations on both the legislative and consulting levels.

For all animals, it's their world, too -- remember to leave small bowls or water fountains for birds, bees, squirrels and other critters to drink from, and regularly clean birdbaths.

Wishing you a great summer!

***Celebrate safely with your companion animals on July 4th. More animals get lost on that day than any other day. Keep them inside and have identification on them in case they get out. Provide a calm, safe space inside where they can go if frightened.***

### NYSHA Awards to Legislators

The animals of New York were fortunate to have several pieces of protective legislation passed and signed by the Governor during the last two legislative sessions in Albany. NYSHA representatives presented awards to 9 legislators in June in appreciation of their sponsorship and efforts. Watch for our Fall newsletter,

where we will have more information about the legislators who were recipients of these awards and what we and the animals have to thank them for!

*Senator Joseph Addabbo was presented an award for his sponsorship of important legislation that included ending slaughter of horses in NY (and transport through NY) for human and animal food consumption, raising fines for selling disabled equidae at auctions, and for the animal shelter standards bill. Presenting the award is NYSHA rep, Linda Rydant.*



## NYSHA President a Guest Speaker

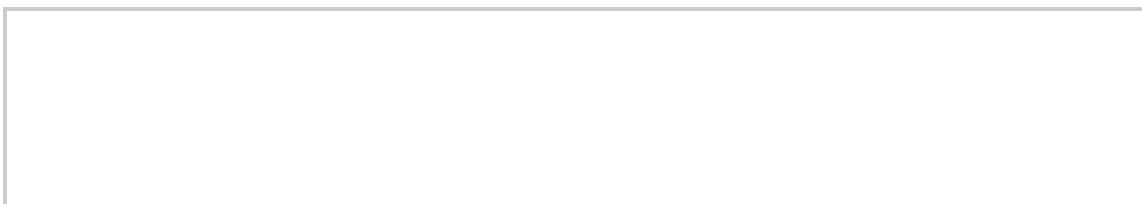
Patricia Valusek was invited to speak at a luncheon celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Warwick Valley Humane Society. Pat spoke about NYSHA and the relationship it has had with Warwick over the years dealing with cruelty cases, especially the Frichionne dog fighting case.

She went on to say that it was as a result of a Warwick hoarder case in the mid-1990s that cost the shelter a great deal of money in holding the animals, that the Security Bond Posting process came into being. The judge on the case was deeply troubled about the financial burden on the shelter, and a local legislator became aware of the situation. He in turn initiated the bill that resulted in the Security Posting Process, which put the cost for the animals on the defendant where it belonged.



Pat explained that to assist humane agencies in applying for the security bond, NYSHA produced an easy-to-understand process with downloadable, court-ready forms that are available on the NYSHA website: [nyshumane.org](http://nyshumane.org). It has been successfully used by many humane agencies to apply for a security bond.

Administrator Sondra Woodvine also attended the celebration at the Landmark Inn, a historical house built in 1770. After the luncheon, they joined Warwick Valley HS's president, Suzyn Barron, on a tour of the organization's beautiful new animal shelter in Warwick.

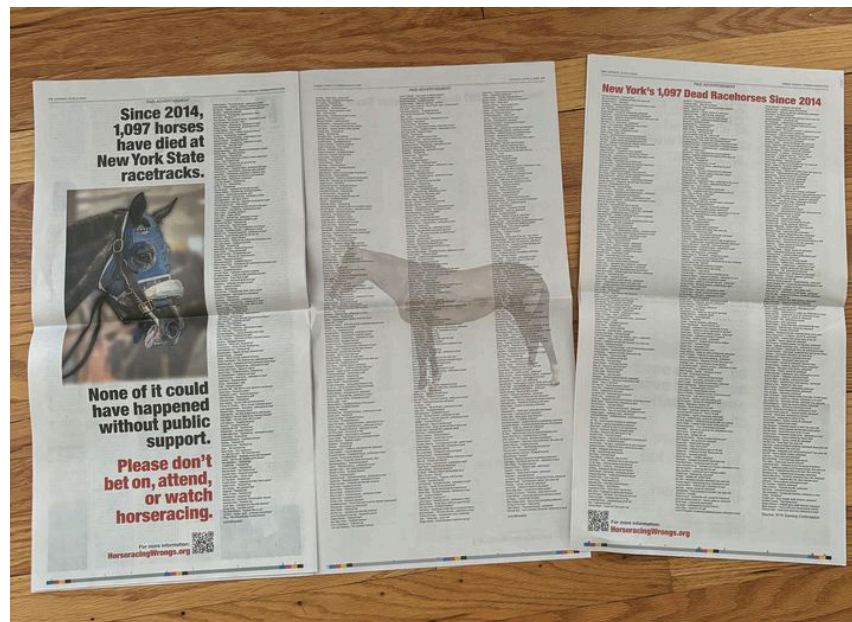




Warwick Valley Humane Society, Warwick, NY

## Protest at Belmont Stakes

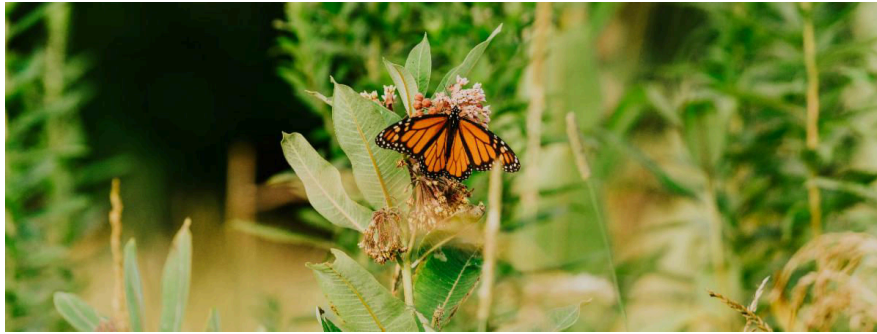
As you probably know, the Belmont Stakes was held at Saratoga Race Course this year while Belmont Park is being renovated with a half billion dollar “loan” from the State government. Several NYSHA representatives joined a protest organized by Horseracing Wrongs outside the Race Course that day. The protest attempted to educate race attendees about the cruelty of horse racing and all the unnecessary deaths of racehorses. Days prior to the race, the Albany Times Union published a 3-page list of horses – 1097 -- that have died in NY since 2014 as a result of racing activities.



## If You See Something, Say Something -- Effectively

If you see an animal who is neglected or treated cruelly, you can help by reporting it to authorities -- your local police or SPCA. NYSHA's article, [Improve Outcome When Reporting Cruelty](#), will provide steps you can follow.

## Help Create a Healthy Ecosystem Around Your Home



It's that time of year when we can sit outside and enjoy the sounds of songbirds, gentle breezes, and neighbors mowing their lawns. All signs of sweet summer days, but we need to stop and think. There is something else going on. Lawn care comes at a cost, not just the nearly \$100 billion Americans spend a year on maintaining their lawns, but another cost. A more significant cost.

In our culture, a lush green lawn is a sign of beauty and status, but actually, a lush green lawn is also an ecological dead space, unable to sustain a viable food web, sequester carbon, provide plants for pollinators, and manage watersheds. Not to mention the significant amounts of pollutants mowers emit into our air, and the chemicals from fertilizers that find their way into our waters.

It is estimated that there are 40 million acres of lawn in the US; an area larger than New England. According to Homegrown National Parks, every 30 seconds a football field of natural area is lost to development. Not surprising when last year scientists in the US declared 21 species of animals officially extinct, due mainly to the destruction of habitat. Over the past 50 years we have lost 3 billion birds, and 70 percent of wildlife worldwide.

Is there anything that we can do? Thankfully there is!

Yards are part of our local ecosystems. With more than 30 million acres of New York State land privately owned, we can do a lot. Perhaps the easiest and most immediate solution is to simply mow less lawn. Leave corners unmowed, create island meadows, over time native plants will begin to grow. Allow the lawn you do mow to grow higher. Cutting lawns just 1 inch higher will allow grasses to grow deeper roots and hold more carbon. Use native plants in meadows and landscapes. Native plants will support biodiversity, sequester carbon, help pollinators and build up watersheds.

Many people are realizing that when it comes to lawns, less is more. There are groups such as Sustainable Saratoga, Healthy Yards, and Homegrown National Parks, that are spreading the word. For more information on how you can be a wildlife hero by turning your lawn into a healthy ecosystem visit their websites:

## Summer Safety for Companion Animals

In the summertime veterinarians see a lot of emergencies that relate to increased human activity. It's important to take extra precautions to protect our animal family members! Of course, if it's too hot for us outside it's probably too hot for them, too!

- Be careful with guests opening and closing doors and windows, allowing a dog or cat escape. And check screens to make sure they're secure.
- And don't leave canned food out in heat for kitties to nibble on during the day. If it's not gone in a short time, take it away! Food poisoning is not fun for anyone.
- Brush pets regularly to prevent mats, which are more prone to develop with heat and humidity and are very painful.
- Make sure that swimming pools are not accessible to your four-legged family members unless you are with them.
- Even in the shade on a hot day, the temperature in a vehicle can escalate extremely quickly. New York has a law enabling police to break into vehicles that have a trapped animal inside who may be in distress from the heat.\* Contacting them immediately to get to the animal out may be best option. Don't attempt to break a window yourself. Send someone into a store, if applicable, with information about the vehicle and ask for an announcement to be made to locate the owner the car. Sometimes people leave a car running with the air conditioner on. With an electric car, you won't hear the motor running, but there may be an electronic sign inside stating this. Remember though that there have been many instances that the air conditioning has failed, leaving the animal in a vehicle that heated up quickly.

May you and your animals have a safe, happy and comfortable summer!

---



Photo by Sonia Gonzalez - Unsplash

\*You might want to have a copy of the law, [Confinement of companion animals in vehicles: extreme temperatures](https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/AGM/353-D), on you or be able to access it on your phone. <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/AGM/353-D>

## Federal Farm Bill

The Farm Bill is still being debated in Washington. A terrible provision included will take away the rights of states to refuse to allow import of products from states which are not adhering to that state's improved humane standards for animals being factory farmed. Please contact your Federal legislators and demand that this provision be removed. Find yours at [OpenStates.Org](https://www.opensstates.org).

## Pantries Still in Need of Pet Food

Prices at the supermarket have not only risen on food for the humans, but also the food and litter for our four-legged family members. If you can, please drop off some pet food at a local food pantry. It will be much appreciated by those who receive it for their pets.



More to Come

Watch for our fall issue of our newsletter!

It will have news about NYSHA's workshop at Dutchess County Sheriff's Department on investigating animal cruelty -- and much more.

## Thank You for Your Support of NYSHA!

For more information on what NYSHA has been up to, please check our website -- [nyshumane.org](http://nyshumane.org) ! There's a wealth of information including a list of wildlife rehabilitators who are often needed at this time of year. Remember we can all make a difference and overcome cruelty and ignorance. Even if it's just one animal at a time, it changes life for that animal - as we've all learned from the companions that we have rescued!

### The Board and Staff at NYSHA

Thank you for caring and taking action!

*NYSHA is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization. **Your donation** is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services are received in return for your kind gift.*

New York State Humane Association  
PO Box 3068 Kingston, NY 12402

[nyshumane.org](http://nyshumane.org)

845-336-4514

[info@nyshumane.org](mailto:info@nyshumane.org)



NY State Humane Association | PO Box 3068 | Kingston, NY 12402 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!