




NAME OUR NEWSLETTER

We're having a contest to give our newsletter a new name! Submit your suggestion via email to: newsletter@chenangospca.org by June 30. The top 3 choices will be considered by a panel of judges. Winning name will be announced in September Newsletter. Good Luck!

Newsletter of the Chenango SPCA

Summer 2011

Visit the SPCA today

A friend is waiting for you! 
6160 County Road 32
Norwich, NY 13815

Contact us at:

www.chenangospca.org
Tel: 607.334.9724
Fax: 607.336.9724

Find us on Facebook/ChenangoSPCA

Open Hours

Tuesday – Friday: 12 - 4:30 pm
Saturday: 11 am - 3 pm
Sunday: Closed
Monday: By Appointment

Who We Are

Founded in 1907, the Chenango SPCA is a nationally recognized, open-admission animal shelter that provides care for abused and homeless pets, adoption, and education about the needs of companion animals. CSPCA and its Mary Elizabeth Macksey Humane Education Center offer a destination place for animal lovers everywhere.

Federal Tax ID Number: 16-1071918

Who's Who

Executive Director
Carol J. Hedlund...Ext 8

Director of Operations
Lisa Teller...Ext 5

Director of Development
Sue Reymers...Ext 6

Finance Manager
Alice Newman...Ext 7

Board Members

Courtney Sullivan, **President**
Heather Ferrarese, **Vice President**
Peggy Finnegan, **Secretary**
Jackie Brunschmid, **Treasurer**
Kim Begeal
Leslie Bernardi
Ann Coe
Pete DeRensis
Lauren Howell
Al Kochersperger
Kim McCarthy
Tracy McCumber

Our Mission Statement:

The mission of the Chenango SPCA is to provide and promote care, compassion and respect for our animals and our community.

It's all in the Heart

When you work in the world of animal advocacy you put your "all" into helping the pet parents you see every day. It may be advice on training a dog, how to handle a persnickety cat, or what to feed a bunny. But the most challenging and emotional topic is when it is time to send your beloved pet to the "rainbow bridge". The end of a pet's life is such a painful time for their humans. When is it right? How will I know? I'll wait for a sign...what if the sign doesn't come? I have supported and held the hand of so many individuals and families throughout this process. It's such a personal decision that my advice has always been to follow your heart, focus on their quality of life. You'll know when it's right.

This past December my professional role became my personal challenge. Our 12 year old golden retriever, Killian, had been battling cancer for a year. Killian came into our lives at 3 months old. He was a part of my heart and it seemed as though all of a sudden it was breaking it in pieces.



Killian was the best of the best, and I miss him every day. But I can now find my socks...they're exactly where I left them. The stick of butter is safe on the counter. And the sticks in the yard are actually normal sizes, not "sawdust". I can laugh at these things now.

So for those of you, who are facing "the decision", know that you are not alone. There are so many of us who have walked that path. Hang in there, when they have their wings they are no longer suffering and your heart will heal with the priceless memories. And as always, we are here to help.

Carol J. Hedlund

Who is your FURever Friend?

Photo Contest and 2012 Calendar

Watch for our 2nd Annual on-line 'FURever Friend' pet photo contest starting on June 1st! Show off your furry companion to loved ones wherever they live - all while helping the homeless and abused animals at the Chenango SPCA. It's easy:

- Upload a great photo of your pet(s) (no entry fee required)
- Ask friends, family, and co-workers to vote for your pet. Each vote is \$1, with a minimum of 5 votes.
- Have fun sharing your entry on facebook or email

The top 13 winners will be featured in our 2012 PET Photo Calendar. The Pet with the highest number of votes gets the COVER! All approved entries are guaranteed to appear in the calendar in a collage.

All proceeds from the contest will help the Chenango SPCA provide care, compassion and respect for the hundreds of animals we rescue and shelter each year. Watch Facebook and our website for details at www.chenangospca.org. Contest starts June 1st.

Sponsorship opportunities available-call (607) 334-9724 ext. 6.

Jessy's Second Chance – from Surgery to A New Home

Jessy the kitten arrived as many do at the shelter, with a bunch of adorable littermates. The only difference for Jessy was that she had a hernia on her belly. Typically this would be taken care of when she was spayed before being adopted. Shortly after her arrival, during Jessy's debut as an artist at our PETCASO art session, we became concerned about the hernia's progression. We didn't want to wait for her spay to help her. Fortunately, the CSPCA has a special fund for cases such as hers, called the Second Chance Fund.

The Second Chance Fund enables the CSPCA to provide veterinary or supportive care for our sick, injured, abused or neglected animals. The fund covers the cost for medications, surgery, emergency care, and various treatments outside the scope of what we can typically provide within the shelter for our adoptable animals. Typically, the fund is not well endowed... until on a quiet winter Saturday a few days after the art session was done.

Employee representatives from New York Central Insurance Company (NYCM) stopped into the shelter to bring a collective donation from various staff including a matching gift by their employer for our Second Chance Fund. Their generous donations totaled over \$1,400 and allowed us to quickly get Jessy into surgery. "It's a good thing her hernia was taken care of, once we had her in surgery (including spaying her) we were able to notice how bad it really was. It could have been deadly if left untreated," stated Heather Highbrown, DVM at



Hamilton Animal Hospital where Jessy had her surgery.

When Jessy was fully healed, she was back in our cat adoption room waiting patiently for the perfect person to come take her home.

At the same time... Allie Meier decided she was interested in adopting a kitten. She went to the CSPCA's website to see if any were available and Jessy's pictures instantly jumped out at her. Meier headed to the shelter to meet the adorable kitten in person. "When I first met her, it was love at first sight!" said Meier.

Meier did not know about Jessy's story until she arrived at the shelter. The staff told her all about the hernia and how she had surgery, thanks to the caring people at NYCM.

Hearing this, Meier immediately knew that Jessy was the right kitten for her. As it turns out, when Meier was a baby, she too had to have surgery on a hernia! "It was a small coincidence that I thought was cute. With that and her cute little face and immediate friendliness, I made my decision right there," said Meier.



Meier took Jessy home that day and gave her a new name – Lulu!

"Her first few days were all about exploring," said Meier. "She adjusted very quickly and very well."

At her new home, Lulu loves to play fetch! Meier throws raffia puffballs and Lulu chases after them and brings them back. "Lulu is the first cat I've ever known to play fetch. It's really funny and kind of cool," said Meier.

"I believe the Second Chance program is an absolute success and one that would help other animals who really deserve it, just like Lulu. She's a sweetheart and so much fun. She has the exact kind of personality I was looking for in a cat and I'm so glad I adopted her!"

Not only did Jessy, now Lulu, get life saving surgery and a wonderful home, she made some pretty awesome art that was auctioned off at the Silent Auction at the Fur Ball. The winner of Jessy's art? The veterinarian who saved her life!

Shelter Animals Create ART – A True PETCASO!



Our shelter animals showed their artistic sides this winter by creating works of art using nothing but their bare paws.

The shelter's puppies were not afraid to get their paws dirty. Staff and volunteers helped them get started by dipping the puppies' paws in colorful non-toxic paints. The puppies were then free to express themselves by running around on large



sheets of paper. They created amazing works of abstract art that are truly one of a kind.

The cats were a little less open to the idea of painting. They were initially hesitant about getting their paws dirty, but with a little help from volunteers and staff, the cats were able to create some true masterpieces in the minimalist style.

The works of art were then framed and auctioned off at the CSPCA's 7th Annual Valentine Fur Ball to help raise money for the shelter.



Round of Appaws



Please join us in giving Harlee and Jaryn Price a loud 'round of appaws' for their generosity. Harlee and Jaryn decided to donate the money they had been saving up to the Chenango SPCA to help homeless animals. They both love animals and feel bad because they don't have a home. Thanks to them, our homeless animals are getting a second chance for new loving homes.



Maya and Kaitlyn Blaisure are doing what many kids are doing these days – thinking of others on their birthdays. Not only do they share their birthday, they share a love for animals and asked their party guests to bring donations for the shelter in lieu of gifts. A huge 'round of appaws' to Maya and Kaitlyn for their thoughtfulness!

Round of Appaws to Garf's Deli for donating 50% of their CaPOOCHino coffee sales to the shelter during the month of September.

Hayes Office Products Hosts 'FUR'niture Sale

During the month of December, Hayes Office and the CSPCA partnered up for a 'FUR'niture Office sale to help raise funds for the shelter. Hayes generously donated \$425! Thank you to Chris Hayes and his dedicated team for choosing to help the homeless animals in their community.



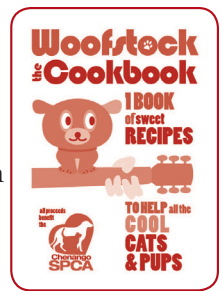
Reese Laundry and Mike Hayes present a check to Carol Hedlund, Courtney Sullivan and Alumni Hannah Reymers.

Cats and Dogs are Video Stars!

All of our adoptable pets have their pictures AND video taken so we can show them off on Petango.com, the amazing website we use to showcase all of our amazing animals! Statistics show that an animal's chances of getting adopted increase substantially when they have video and pictures available to potential new pet parents!

Woofstock III

The third annual Woofstock was held on Sunday, November 21 at the Blarney Stone Pub. Live music was heard through the afternoon from Suspicious Hats, Nick and the Boys, Williams Road, LJ Gates and Split Rail entertained the happy crowd. T-shirts and Woofstock Cookbooks were sold at the event. The event brought in over \$2,000 for the shelter animals! Lots of thanks go to Mike and Sarah Woods of Blarney Stone for their hospitality and generosity, Fine Line Graphics, Pennysaver and a huge 'round of appaws' to the bands for donating their time and talents for the afternoon.



If you haven't got a copy of the increasingly popular CSPCA Woofstock Cookbook yet, then stop into the shelter to pick up your copy – "it's one book of sweet recipes to help all the cool cats and pups." Lots of great recipes for your next party and treat for your furry friend too!

Save the date for our next Woofstock on Sunday, November 20, 2011.

Bentley the Dog Helps Homeless Animals

Arthur and Candi Ramer once again hosted an amazing event which honors the memory of their beloved dog, Bentley. The 4th Annual "Bentley the Dog" Memorial Dinner and Auction was held on Monday, December 13 at Sushi Blues in Hamilton in which all of the proceeds helped the shelter. The standing room crowd had opportunities to bid on a wide range of items, all donated by local businesses and artists. The auction raised almost \$4,000!

Special thanks to Keith Rifenburg of Marquis Auctions, the local businesses and artists who donated items, to Arthur and Candi Ramer, Nanette Wilcox and crew for putting on such a fun evening. Thank you to everyone who joined us that evening.

Head to Hamilton and check out their restaurant! Sushi Blues is now called The Blues Concept. Check out their new menu items – still lots of great sushi along with international comfort food and steak! You can find them on facebook or online at: www.thebluesconcept.com.



“Did Somebody Say Walk?”



Nettie Dennis, Jim Dennis with Alumni Ren & Stimpy



Marley Pohli Team (And the youngest walker!)



Miss Molly Mae leads the way!



Volunteer Ann with Morris, one of our dogs available for adoption that day. He was adopted 4 days later by a couple who met him at the event. Congratulations Morris!

On Saturday October 2, 2010 the shelter held its first ever “Did Somebody Say Walk?” Dog Walk and Alumni Parade. Attendees came in all shapes and sizes, all with four legs and plenty of fur. More than 60 of our woofing friends arrived with their human companions to join in the fun at Weiler Park in Norwich including many CSPCA Alumni (and a dozen of our Pomeranians that were rescued in 2008 – see photo.) Alumni received a special ribbon to wear on their collars during the walk.



Pomeranian Alumni Photo Op! So great to see how well they are all doing – thanks to your support, we were there to rescue 76 Pomeranians in 2008. For more of that story, go to our website www.chenangospca.org and see our older Mew Barker newsletters.

We are proud to announce that over \$10,000 was raised from some very dedicated animal lovers. Many prizes and giveaways were handed out during the event. Congratulations to our top fundraisers: Jim Dennis for raising over \$1,000 and the Marley Pohli Team for raising almost \$300! Winners were treated to a pizza party and private tour of the shelter along with their names engraved on a Trophy and their picture on our Hall of Fame.



Thanks to all of our dedicated two and four legged friends! Each and every lucky dog and their human companion made a difference in the lives of the thousands of animals entering our doors every year.

Thank You to our Sponsors and Friends:

Traii Dog:



Strutting Mutt:

NBT Bank
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Oxford Grooming

Leaping Pup:

AgroFarma, Inc.
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Chenango Greenway Conservancy
Chenango Union Printing
Nina's Pizzeria and Restaurant
Pennysaver

Save the Date

Dog Walk

Saturday, September 17

Woofstock IV

Sunday, November 20

Fur Ball

Saturday, February 11, 2012



Hey Kids, How Can YOU Help Homeless Animals this Summer?

It's easy! There are lots of ways you can help homeless animals and have fun. Here are some ideas: Set up a lemonade stand, Hold a bake sale, Plan a car wash, Have a garage sale

You can donate a portion or all of the proceeds to the CSPCA to help us take care of the shelter animals. For more ideas, go to www.chenangospca.org.



Highest Level of Compassion and Care

Lisa Teller, Director of Operations

As the Director of Operations, my basic job responsibility is to ensure that our animals and our community are treated to the highest level of compassion and care. I see so many animals come through our doors each year, and each is given the best quality of care we can provide. I look to the national organizations and sheltering professionals to provide the most up to date information.

This past year we were challenged by a new health concern facing our community's cats. We do blood tests on all of our cats to ensure that they are free of disease such as Feline Leukemia. We

discovered the presence of a frightening disease that seems to have entered our community. Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. Otherwise known as "FIV". Many people equate this disease to human HIV. Though it's easy to compare because of its name, these conditions are not the same. Unfortunately, both Feline leukemia and FIV are devastating diseases for cats.

We discovered that FIV has entered our community by a cat that tested positive at her Veterinarian visit after she was adopted. This news devastated her adoptive mom. We were so sad for both of them. With a broken heart, the decision

was made to put the cat to sleep. The possible health risk to her new siblings was too high.

In situations like this, both the animal care and the human care are our priority. For our cats, we now test for both feline leukemia and FIV. We have more than doubled the cost of testing but we are dedicated to doing everything we can to protect our communities pets.

Lisa Teller has been with the CSPCA for over 6 years starting as a volunteer. Lisa has an extensive background with dog obedience and breeds beautiful boxers.

Pet Point

We are fortunate to be able to provide our animals and our customers with amazing organization and information through our animal shelter software, Pet Point. Pet Point allows us to enter all of an animal's information into the database and provide our new pet parents with detailed information regarding their stay with us. We are able to keep comprehensive data to provide the best care and follow up possible. It also allows us to have the pictures and videos you see on our website!

SNOOP and KERBY FUNDS Available

Did you know that we have two community funds that can help families in need?

SNOOP (Spay Neuter Outreach Opportunity for Pets) provides financial assistance to Chenango County families to help cover the costs of spaying/neutering their family pets.

KERBY FUND provides financial assistance to families who are experiencing a pet emergency and for proper flea/tick prevention.

Call (607) 334-9724 ext. 2 to find out more information about each program.

Awesome Pets come with Awesome Stuff

When you adopt from the Chenango SPCA you are bringing home an awesome new family member with "perks"! We send you home with a bag of Hill's Science Diet food, a CSPCA tag (in case of wandering-they'll come back to you!), Shelter Care Pet Insurance and more. You also get our contact information for access to our knowledgeable and trained staff in case you ever need help or advice. And unconditional love from your new best friend... priceless.

To Adopt or Not to Adopt, That Was Our Question

by Sue Reymers

Six years ago, my husband and I took a leap and adopted a puppy. Neither of us truly had any experience caring for a dog. In fact, we were 'cat people' with four cats we adored and spoiled. So taking in a puppy was a big decision—and the best decision we have ever made. Hannah has become the center of our home life. She goes everywhere with us. She is such a great dog and a wonderful constant companion, though possibly needing a sister.

So the question was: should we adopt again? A second dog? More poop? More fur? But, more love for us to share and a companion for our first dog?

Making the decision to adopt is for the entire family to do together. It's important to look at many factors: the costs involved, space in your home (not just your heart), time to spend with everyone, and support from family and friends (which can really help). Sometimes timing plays a strong role. Once in a while, love just takes over.

We made a decision and are now welcoming into our home a sweet five-month-old female puppy from the CSPCA. Let the poop scooping begin! And the falling in love... again...

Sue Reymers has worked at the Chenango SPCA for nine years in fundraising. She is now learning the value of 'helping to scoop double the poop' from her husband.



Fur Ball - Were you there?



Dancing, Eating, Drinking and Bidding. All FUR a good cause! We hope you were there because we were there with our dancing shoes, having a wonderful time. The 7th Annual Valentine Fur Ball held on Saturday, February 12 at the Canasawacta Country Club sold out again this year with 330 guests. Delicious food and amazing desserts along with live music by

SPLASH kept the crowd dancing all night long. A special cake was donated by Ideal Sweets with a sweet sculpture of Jessy the cat (see Jessy's story in this issue) and Miss Molly Mae, who joined us for the evening with her adoptive parents. Commemorative photographs were available by Gerry Raymonda Photography, allowing guests to have something to remember the night by.

Our Fur Ball Silent Auction was a smashing hit! Over seventy items were donated by local businesses and individuals, raising just over \$4,000. Also featured in the auction were PETCASO paintings created by our shelter animals. In total, the Valentine Fur Ball raised over \$10,000 for the shelter which helped support the daily care of our animals. Special Thanks to our Sponsors and friends who donated to our Silent Auction.

Thank You!

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The PerfectFit
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Silent Auction

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Colonia Movie Theatre
Country Traditions
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Doctors Foster & Smith
Doggie Dude Ranch
First Edition Book Store
Fred's Inn
Get Jacked with Janet
Gypsy Renaissance Inc.
Highland Chocolate
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Manpower
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Pizzazz Specialties, Inc
Premier Design Jewelry
Rebecca Sands
Scott's Scuba Shop
Season's Gift Shop
Shade Tree Charters
Skillins Jewelers
Tastefully Simple
Teaser's Hair and Nail Salon
The Bast and Stitch
The Blue Lamp
The Evening Sun
The Fish Bowl
The New Body Works Tanning Salon
The Parson's Daughter
Thymely Treasures
Toggenburg
Tracy Carman
Unique Boutique
Visions Federal Credit Union
Wilber National Bank

Making Plans

I love making plans. Planning sessions, looking toward our future, and setting goals to continue to meet our mission for our animals and our community are such fun to me. Though I have been referred to as a "geek" because of this, I like to take it as a compliment. I spent a Saturday in February with my Board of Directors along with Maria Fibiger from Three Dog Consulting discussing our future. Shortly after this session, I spent a day with my management staff setting goals and making plans. We've been around since 1907, we need to be around for our animals and our community for another 100 years.

The Chenango SPCA has been challenged in recent years due to hard financial times. I know that all of us who live and work in this area are all too familiar with this. When America's financial health began its decline in 2008, we were ok, as not for profits go. But in 2008, we were faced with horrid and large

animal cruelty cases. Well over 100 dogs specifically related to animal cruelty cases came into our care. This was in addition to the over 1,500 animals entering the shelter under "normal" circumstances that year. Two separate "Puppy mill" cases required exceptionally long term care, treatment and housing. Our community stepped forward and supported us in incredible ways.

But, as a not for profit, our financial funding comes from donations, fees for services, grants and other similar sources. We are privately run so we receive no type of government funding. We were hit hard, spending well over \$100,000 on just one of these cases. But it is what we do. We'll never ignore such pain.

Our planning sessions helped everyone to focus on our future and our need to spend all of our time creating awareness of our financial challenges and improving



by Carol Hedlund

our bottom line. We have cut our budget to the bare minimum. Any further changes would result in an inability to provide the quality of care and exceptional animal sheltering services we are known for.

We have defined our needs and what we need to do to increase our income. We have always been fortunate to have such tremendous support from our donors, the dedicated individuals who help us to feed and care for the unwanted, neglected and abused animals our mission calls for us to do.

You will see us becoming very creative with our fundraising. We'll continue to provide the amazing events that you have loved in the past, and more!

As we forge ahead with our plans, I ask that you join us in our mission to provide and promote care, compassion and respect for our animals and our community.