

COMPLIMENTARY

CELEBRATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THEIR PETS

# paw prints plus

AN RCS PUBLICATION

Premier Issue



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CONNEC

## Finding Pets Forever Homes

Curtis Lumber's Pet-a-Palooza  
among biggest adoption events

APF: Same Old Problems,  
Effective New Solutions

# 4th Annual Pet Adoption Day

## Curtis Lumber's 2013 PET-A-PALOOZA!



### SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2013 10am - 3pm

**Rain or Shine!**



**Hundreds of Adoptable Animals from Area Shelters And Rescue Groups. Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, Ferrets, Birds, Horses and More!**

**Meet with local Veterinarians, Groomers, Trainers and other Pet Service Providers offering valuable discounts off their services.**

**Adopt Affordably!**

**All adoption rates are lowered for the day!**

**Dogs/Puppies: \$100 or less**

**Cats/Kittens: \$50 or less**

**Rabbits/Guinea Pigs: \$50 or less**

*Some animals may not be available for same day adoption.*

### AT THESE SELECT CURTIS LUMBER LOCATIONS

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885 Rt. 67  
Northway Exit 12  
518.490.1441

**QUEENSBURY**  
460 Big Bay Rd  
Northway Exit 18  
518.792.8601

**SCHROON LAKE**  
1314 U.S. Route 9  
518.532.7404

**HOOSICK**  
4915 Route 7  
518.686.7391

**PERTH**  
3883 St. Hwy. 30  
518.883-9663

**DELMAR**  
11 Grove St.  
518.439.9968

**EAST GREENBUSH**  
1657 Columbia Tpk.  
518.477.7503

**NORWICH**  
48 Hale St.  
607.337.9322

**HAMILTON**  
15 Eaton St.  
315.824.2233

**WATERVILLE**  
961 St. Rt. 12  
315.841.4111

**DELHI**  
46631 St. Hwy. 10  
607.746.2386

**PLATTSBURGH**  
140 Tom Miller Rd.  
518.561.2691

**RAY BROOK**  
1134 NYS Rt. 86  
518.891.2216

**BURLINGTON, VT**  
315 Pine St  
802.651.6500

For a list of participants visit us online!

**clpetapalooza.com**  
**facebook.com/clpetapalooza**





“ SHE SNORES MORE THAN I DO, BUT I STILL LOVE MY HUMAN. ”

— BANDIT  
adopted 11-26-09

A PERSON IS THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO A SHELTER PET



**adopt**

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



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... and the people who make it all happen.

Premier Issue

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**ON THE COVER:** (l to r) Kendra Curtis of Curtis Lumber with her dog Buddy and News 10 Chief Meteorologist and Pet Connection spokesman Steve Caporizzo. Inset: Some very adoptable furries.

## Premier Issue Features



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Each year thousands attend Curtis Lumber's Pet-A-Palooza adoption extravaganza at area stores — some with their dogs, others looking for new friends. From the Fireplug 500 to Paws in the Park, area shelters and others respond to the needs of homeless pets. Experience the events through text and photos.

### 10 Same Old Problems, Effective New Solutions for APF

Animal Protective Foundation

A look back and forward at The Animal Protective Foundation of Schenectady, Inc. and its work by Marguerite Pearson

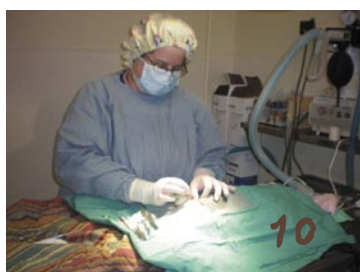
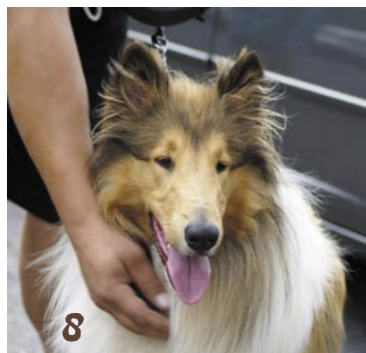
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## For the love of creatures ... great and small

Welcome to the premier issue of *Paw Prints Plus*. Our hope is that you will find in its pages informative and entertaining articles about the human-pet relationship, animal advocacy and adoption. We look forward to hearing from you about this issue and content ideas for future issues.

I grew up without pets, except those who belonged to other family members and friends. I did have some tropical fish, but somehow that is just not the same as having someone who greets you at the door or cuddles up with you at night. When my husband and I first met I learned that he had two orange tabbies. While a potential stumbling block to our union because I had earlier tested allergic to both cats and dogs, we plunged ahead and over a number of years we have had four cats and two dogs.

Unless you have loved and been loved by these marvelous and giving creatures you cannot understand the depth of the bond between people and their pets. In the pages of *Paw Prints Plus* we hope to illustrate these unique relationships as well as provide useful and educational articles to help you and your pets.

*PPP* is available online in an interactive format and can be downloaded to your tablet or smartphone for viewing. Our print edition will be distributed regularly throughout the Capital Region at many retail locations as well as at pet-related businesses.

We welcome editorial ideas and articles from professionals and interested pet people. We also encourage businesses that can benefit from advertising in *Paw Prints Plus* to contact us as well. Email us for details.

We hope you enjoy this first issue of *Paw Prints Plus* and we look forward to your feedback about this and future issues. 🐾

Rita Stevens, Managing Editor

*Dedicated to those we love who have passed over the Rainbow Bridge  
and now wait for us there, forever young ...*



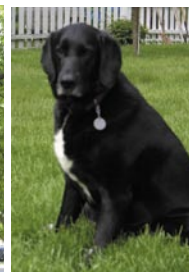
Charlie



Mary



Scooter McGee



Gretchen



Pouki

# Finding Pets Forever Homes



© RCS Publications Ltd.

## The Capital Region responds to the need in big and small ways

Raising and maintaining awareness about the plight of homeless animals is an ongoing process around the country and in the Capital Region. There are many opportunities here for people to share their love and homes with adoptable cats, dogs, rabbits, horses and more. Fortunately many step up to the plate to adopt or raise money for needy pets.

Earlier this year one of the best known pet adoption advocates in the Capital Region, **Steve Caporizzo's Pet Connection**, seen weekdays at 5:30 pm on Channel 10 evening news, sponsored \$50 toward each adoption of pets at eight area shelters with more than 470 pets finding forever homes in about two weeks. Phenomenal!

Over the course of the year there are many events, some big and some small, that offer pets for adoption and/or raise money to aid homeless pets in some way. Each in their own way is important. From the school children who collect food for the shelters or raise money by collecting soda cans to the shelters and area busi-

nesses who host major adoption events, the goal is the same — connecting pets and people. There are too many to mention in this space, but we note a few of the major events here.

One major business-sponsored event is **Curtis Lumber's Pet-A-Palooza**. Along with 600+ employees Jay and Kendra Curtis host the event at many of their store locations in the region. It is said to be the biggest pet adoption event in New York State and Vermont. Area shelters and rescue groups set up in tents and around the stores. Many adoption fees are reduced for that day. Visitors can meet with many pet service providers and check out the wonderful pets looking for new homes.

Well-known for their interest in animal welfare the Curtis's were driving out west to a business conference when they saw a sign for a similar event there. "We thought it would work well here," said Kendra. "We knew Steve [Caporizzo] from Pet Connection, and with the help of other sponsors we were able to hold the first Pet-A-Palooza in 2010." The relaxed atmosphere is a plus. "People come to this

kind of event, whereas going to shelter or rescue site might be uncomfortable," Jay noted.

In three years more than 1,000 animals have found homes — including one in our home! (Photos from the 2011 and 2012 events are shown at left and opposite.)

Area shelters' fundraising and adoption events continue to grow each year. Last September **The Animal Protective Foundation of Schenectady, Inc.** held its 20th annual **Fireplug 500 Walk for Animals**, now considered the largest dog walk in the region. More than \$60,000 was raised.

The event is held in Central Park and hundreds of dogs and more than a thousand people turn out to support the care for homeless pets, adoption education and the shelter's spay/neuter program. CBS 6 News Anchor Liz Bishop, who features an APF adoptable pet in a weekly Tuesday noon segment, has co-hosted with Laura Daniels of B-95.5 FM's Breakfast Club more than once.

There are giveaways, blessing of the animals, a Bow Wow vendor bazaar, an Ask the Vet booth, and the very popular Smooch-a-Pooch booth to name a few of the activities. The Rescue Round-up gives those attending an opportunity to meet adoptable pets from the APF and other rescue organizations. Fundraising walkers and walking teams can win prizes for their efforts and have a lot of fun too. (Photos from the 2012 event are shown on page 8.)

The **Mohawk Hudson Humane Society's Paws in the Park** held its 3rd fundraiser at Siena College in 2012 with hundreds of people taking part. Last year they raised \$37,000 for the shelter's animal care, adoption, education and other programs. Marci Natale from CBS 6 and her two dogs Roxie and Sergio served as Grand Marshalls.

With a variety of fun activities, including Zumba dancing for pets and walkers, and awards presented for best costume, trick and parent/pet look-alike, everyone had a fun day.

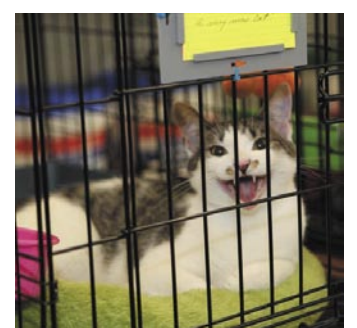
Earlier in the year MHUS held its **5th annual Around the World in 80 Strays** gala, celebrating its 125th anniversary. This record-breaking fundraiser, featuring silent and live auctions (with Steve Caporizzo as celebrity auctioneer) and presentation of MHUS's Humane Heroes awards, raised more than \$100,000. (Photos from these 2012 event are shown on page 9.)

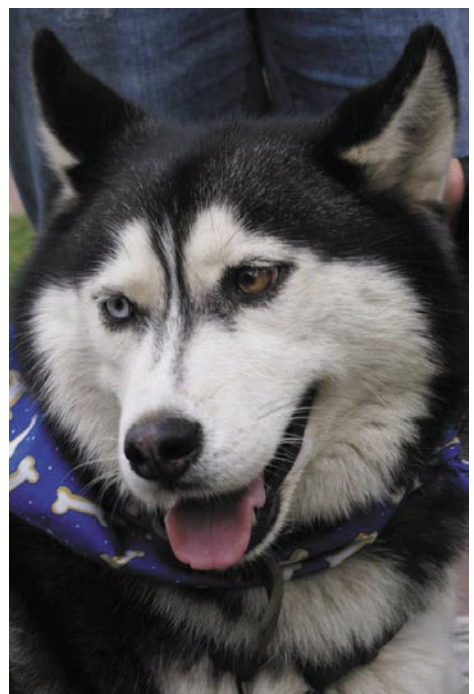




# Curtis Lumber's PET-A-PALAZA!

Unless otherwise noted photos courtesy of Curtis Lumber





Photos courtesy of Animal Protective Foundation of Schenectady, Inc.

# Paws IN THE Park



Photos by Paula Walker



Photos by Joe Schuyler, Schuyler Photography





The current APF facility that opened in 1993

# Same Old Problems, Effective New Solutions for APF

Animal Protective Foundation

By Marguerite Pearson, LVT  
Director of Communications, Animal Protective Foundation

The Animal Protective Foundation of Schenectady, Inc. (APF) was founded in 1931 in the midst of the Great Depression. All across the nation and here in the Capital Region poverty and desperation were widespread. In Schenectady, as people struggled to provide basic necessities for their families, the attention of a caring group of citizens was focused on the animals also struggling to survive.

With no means to care for them, people abandoned their pets as there was no place for them to go. A group led by Mrs. Jesse Carpenter set out to create an agency for “the prevention of the abuse of animals and to promote justice and mercy to every living creature.” On August 12 of 1931, the Animal Protective Foundation of Schenectady was founded.

From humble beginnings and through grave challenges, they persevered. Over time, the demands placed on the Foundation steadily increased. After several relocations, expansions and renovations of the shelter, the facility was finally in such desperate need of repair that the only real solution was to build a new one.

Under the leadership of a dedicated board of directors, funds were raised and in 1993 a state-of-the-art-shelter was constructed. With a brand new facility and the addition of veterinary staff, the APF was able to take on new challenges for the animals.



Top b&w: Due to demand for space at the Bellevue site a new APF shelter was constructed on Fort Hunter Road in Rotterdam in 1933; bottom: Following a fire in January of 1948 a

frantic fundraising effort that July led to the cornerstone laying for a new shelter on Maple Avenue in Scotia, APF’s present site.



Above: Artist rendering of APF's Community Spay/Neuter Clinic.  
 Right: The APF provides an average of 3,000 low-cost surgeries for the community in addition to about 1,000 shelter pets annually.

In 1996, the APF reached a milestone that no other humane organization in the region had reached before. The APF's in-shelter surgical suite made it possible for every pet to be spayed or neutered before going home, ensuring that no adopted pet would ever contribute to the pet overpopulation crisis. From the shelter's peak intake period in the 1980's of 7,000 animals annually, the numbers began to subside.

But even as the situation has improved, the same issues persist. Economic challenges are still one of the main reasons animals are relinquished to the shelter. The APF board of directors realizes that continuing to allocate the bulk of our resources to sheltering and adoption will never eliminate the steady flow of homeless animals into the shelter, now upwards of 3,000 per year. In order to have a real impact on the numbers it is imperative to prevent more companion animals from becoming homeless in the first place. The solution requires a proactive approach and that is high-volume, high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter.

### From Crisis Management to Prevention

*"There is no disease or condition of companion animals that takes more of their lives than euthanasia."*

– Janet M. Scarlett, DVM, MPH, PhD, Professor of Epidemiology, Cornell University

This powerful statement speaks to the magnitude and tragedy of the pet overpopulation crisis. Quite simply, it is a direct result of unwanted, unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering.

Consider these startling statistics:

- Each day in the U.S. 10,000 humans are born and 70,000 kittens and puppies are born.
- Cats can have their first litter at just 5 months; littermates can breed.
- An unaltered female and male producing 2 litters per year with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter will produce 12 kittens in one year, over 11,000 in five years and by the ninth year over 11 million kittens.




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Each day in the U.S.  
 10,000 humans are  
 born and 70,000 kittens  
 and puppies are born.

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Through the APF's current low-cost spay/neuter program, approximately 3,000 cats and kittens are altered each year, but due to facility and other limitations this program is unable to accommodate dogs and puppies. The APF's board and staff studied the need and various options to increase the number of surgeries and determined that a new clinic would allow for 6,000 surgeries annually, to include dogs as well as cats.

Currently, we have a campaign in progress to raise funds for the new Community Spay/Neuter Clinic. To date over \$470,000 toward a goal of \$1,000,000 has been raised. That goal includes construction of the new clinic; medical equipment and supplies; a start-up fund to ensure a smooth transition from our current space, including staffing; and a Spay/Neuter Fund to serve clients whose pets are least likely to ever have received veterinary care. Ground-breaking is scheduled for mid-2013.



Two pups promote the 1949 shelter's second anniversary as a youngster (above) checks out the cat room.



The APF is an independent, not-for-profit humane society that relies on donations and receives no government support. To learn more about the APF's spay/neuter, adoption, humane education, dog training, volunteer and other programs, please visit [www.animalprotective.org](http://www.animalprotective.org) or call (518) 374-3944, ext. 113.



*Marguerite Pearson holds a BS in Communications from Ithaca College and an AAS in Veterinary Science Technology from SUNY Delhi. She first became interested in animal welfare after she and her husband made a New Year's resolution to take on a volunteer project. After several years of volunteering with a local shelter, she returned to school to become a veterinary technician. She has been with the APF since 1998. She shares her home with her feline kids: Ginny, Blue, Freddie, Lancelot and Prince Spotty Paw.*

#### Fix Your Cat or Kitten

Contact one of the APF's partner organizations to schedule an appointment. The fee is \$80 and includes testing for FIV/FelV and rabies vaccination.

- Kitten Angels: (518) 708-5171†
- Cat Care Coalition/Noah's Kingdom Humane Society: (518) 466-8484
- Montgomery County SPCA: (518) 842-8050

#### Animal Protective Foundation Hours

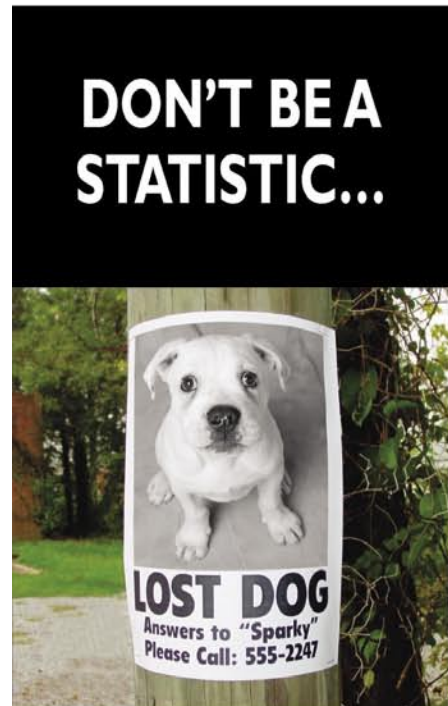
53 Maple Avenue, Scotia, NY 12302

Tuesday	12:00 - 4:30 pm
Wednesday	12:00 - 6:00 pm
Thursday	12:00 - 6:00 pm
Friday	12:00 - 4:30 pm
Saturday	12:00 - 4:30 pm
Closed Sunday and Monday	

#### Cat Adoption Center at PetSmart

Mohawk Commons, Balltown Road, Niskayuna

Monday	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Tuesday	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Thursday	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Friday	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Saturday	12:00 - 4:00 pm
Sunday	12:00 - 4:00 pm



## PROTECT YOUR PET!

Each year thousands of beloved pets are lost with no means of reuniting them with their families because they have no identification. Make sure your pet has a collar tag, tattoo or microchip, and enroll your pet in an experienced national recovery service.

By enrolling in a national recovery service, your name, address, and telephone number are linked to the pet's unique identification number 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. A recovery is made nearly every seven minutes.

For more information on how you can stay connected with your loved one for life, call 800-252-7894 or visit [www.akccar.org](http://www.akccar.org).

A MESSAGE FROM:



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB™

COMPANION ANIMAL RECOVERY



# Adventures in pet sitting

By Debra Colletti

I have the best “job” in the world. Very few business owners can say that all day long they get unconditional love and never ever do they get any complaints or mean words. Instead, I am greeted at the door of each of my client’s homes with a wag of the tail or a warm meow. You see I am the area’s original pet sitter. You know what that is now, but years ago few people did.

My husband Michael and I started our business, Whiskers Watchers, 22 years ago. I now have over 200 clients covering Clifton Park, Halfmoon and parts of Rexford, Cohoes, Latham and Waterford.

As a pet sitter I care for people’s pets in the comfort of their own homes. I give them all the love they need while the client is away. I feed, walk, change litter, water plants, and bring in the mail. I stay in contact with the

client via emails, texts and pictures too! I have mid-day dog walks every day of the week for clients who work long hours or have new puppies. All the animals that I care for (and my clients) have become a part of our family.

I also take pet dogs into my home. Some of my clients love this because their dogs are never alone. They have full run of my home and three acres to run on. It is a lot of fun for all of my family. I have been truly blessed to have a life filled with love and lots of fur!

There have been many memorable moments and some unusual adventures over the years. Here is a sampling ...

I gave a huge furry mouse toy to a client’s Persian cat as a little gift. Shadow immediately pounced on it and attacked it like it was a real live mouse. Suddenly a blue jay squawked loudly on the back deck. The poor little “hunter” flattened himself to the ground terrified that he would become the hunted!

On a walk at the Vischer Ferry Preserve I had my clients’ Rottweiler and a black lab that they were watching for a friend. I had never walked this dog before. We got to the spot where all the dogs can swim. The next thing I knew I was literally being dragged through the mud into the preserve. BUT as a pet sitter, what is ingrained in my head is never let go of the leash and I surely did not!

We always double check keys after our initial client interview. Several years ago a client took his key off the ring and said it was to the front door, I told him I would check it just to make sure. He said don’t worry I use it all the time! On my first visit there the key would not work. It seems he had given me the deadbolt key and not the bottom lock key. Thankfully the locksmith got me in and I was greeted by two very grateful cats!

I had one client that had a cat who needed pills once a day. It was a real struggle to get this particular cat to take its pill. On my first try I got it in and I was so proud of myself. I sighed with relief. That was until I got home and saw the wet pill on the front of my pants! Back out again and this time I made sure it went in and was swallowed!

I sent a text to my client telling her that Mac and I had a great night sleeping together. I told her the only problem was that Dennis was jealous and was outside the door making a lot of noise. The next thing I knew I got a text back from a friend (not the client) asking me where I was that night. Oops! I sent the text to my friend and not my client!

We had a client who told us to leave the water dripping in the upstairs bathroom for the cat. The next day when we got to their home the water was dripping all right — right through the kitchen ceiling. It seems the cat turned the faucets on full force and certainly got his fill of water. Needless to say we never leave any water dripping anymore.

On one of my winter walks at the Vischer Ferry Preserve we let my client’s Rottweiler, my lab and my friend’s 200 pound mastiff off the leashes. (This was before the town of Clifton Park had leash laws.) The next thing we knew the mastiff ran onto the ice, followed closely by my client’s Rottweiler. My friend called her dog back because suddenly the ice was starting to crack. The mastiff came to us, but the Rottweiler thought it was a game, that is until the ice completely cracked and she went in. I didn’t think twice. I ran out onto the ice and pulled the panicked dog out of the frigid water. I never thought of my safety, I only cared that my client’s dog would be safe!

Photos courtesy of Debra Colletti



Debra Colletti and her husband and partner Michael have 2 beautiful boys, Anthony and Nicholas. She also is the proud mama of 3 dogs and 6 precious kitties. Debra is a member of Capital Area Professional Pet Sitters (CAPPS). [www.whiskerswatchers.com](http://www.whiskerswatchers.com)

# Physical Exams for Pets

By Dr. Ronald Scharf DVM

Cats and dogs need check-ups on a regular basis for their health and well-being. Physical exams for cats and dogs serve important functions. A full physical exam looks at many things that are not apparent to the untrained eye. For examples, dental disease and oral tumors or foreign bodies usually go unnoticed without an examination. Also, the lay-person's close observation would still miss small kidneys, enlarged or irregular abdominal organs and bladder stones. Many unnoticed things can have an impact on your pet's quality of life. Veterinarians prefer finding any problems sooner than later; if we wait for things to progress to the point where they are symptomatic, we may have missed getting a head start fixing them before they become serious or even untreatable.

It is also worthwhile to bring your pet for regular physical exams so that your veterinarian can educate you about things you may not have been aware of, things which have a bearing on your pet's comfort and enjoyment of life. An example of this educating function is the recommendation many vets make nowadays concerning the use of heartworm preventive in cats. Did you know that cats can be stricken with this potentially fatal


disease? Most of those readers that are aware of it learned about it from their veterinarian.

So not only do many veterinarians recommend protecting cats from heartworm, but there is an added advantage to having your cat on heartworm preventive: it can protect your cat (and dog, too) from zoonotic diseases. What are zoonotic diseases? These are diseases that we humans can catch from cats and dogs that have them. One of the most common worms in a dog or cat can cause blindness in people. Your pet on heartworm medication can not only protect your pet from disease, but you and your family, as well.

These are examples of client education topics that most vets consider important to discuss with their clients. Such important information would not be possible without regular physical exams.

So what is "regular"? For most younger animals, an annual exam is considered adequate. For those pets with a history of health issues and for older pets, exams at least twice a year are better. Consider this: if there are 7 years for every animal year (really, every breed is different, with a different multiple, but we will use the "7" for now), an older cat or dog that comes to the veterinarian only once a year is like an older person not seeing their physician for 7 years! An awful lot of things can go wrong in that long span of time, and the older someone is, the more likely it is for problems to happen. The recommendation many vets make is to bring your geriatric pet in for an exam every 6 months. If they suffer from a condition such as cardiac disease or diabetes, even more often than that may be appropriate.

But what is "geriatric"? There are many opinions on this definition. For simplicity's sake, this vet uses over 8 years for all cats and small dogs, and over 6 years of age for all large and giant breed dogs. Keep in mind, there are giant breeds for whom 6 to 8 years is considered a normal lifespan.

A very outmoded idea is that vaccines are the only reason to bring a cat or dog to the vet. In fact, vaccines such as Distemper are being used less frequently than previously. Many vets now vaccinate for distemper every 3 years rather than the older yearly recommendation. While vaccinations are still very important, the actual physical exam, performed on a regular basis, is what all vets consider the most important thing to do to ensure your animal's comfort and health. 

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*Dr. Ronald Scharf graduated from Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine in 1985. He practices conventional veterinary medicine, as well as alternative treatments, such as acupuncture and homeopathy. Dr. Scharf is a long time member of AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association), with The Animal Hospital of Niskayuna being accredited since 1946. The Animal Hospital of Niskayuna is a full-service veterinary hospital, yet small enough to offer a personal touch to all clients and their pets.*



Photo courtesy Animal Hospital of Niskayuna/Samantha Pinel

Dr Scharf with his golden retriever Hallie.

# The Perils of Penny



Hi! My name is Penny. For a while I thought it was Badpenny or Pennyno because I have a habit of “putting my paw in it,” to paraphrase a human expression. But now I know it is just Penny or sometimes Penny Lane (after some song my mom sings to me). But I am a happy six-year-old, Chocolate Labrador Retriever and proud of it, though I haven’t always been so happy.

Penny is not my real name. I have long forgotten what my birth mom called me and what my first owners called me and what my puppies called me. Sometimes I miss my puppies. I don’t know where they are, but I hope they are doing well.

You see I am a rescue who was found as a stray. For a while when I was getting shifted around I was called Colleen. That was when I was in a shelter in Delhi. Then my H.O.P.E. foster mom took me to her home to live with other orphans for a while. We had fun and I got to swim.

My new family, the people who named me Penny, lost a Black Labrador mix named Gretchen. I can tell they loved her very much and they weren’t sure they wanted another dog. They first saw me while attending the 2011 Curtis Lumber Petapalooza, but when they came back to give me a closer look I was out on a trial adoption. That didn’t work out. Then they saw my picture in the newspaper. I must have smiled my best smile because they invited me to visit their home. I wanted to check it out for other dogs and cats so I raced through their house and knocked things over. Kara, my foster mom, thought I had really messed up. But the people decided to let me stay anyway. Now it is my home, too, and I do my best to protect it. Woof!

My pa takes me for walks in the park and my mom gives me my meals and treats. She makes sure I get my check-ups too. (That’s my doctor on the opposite page.)

It’s a good place to be. It’s warm in the winter and cool in the summer. My favorite place to sit is a living room chair with an ottoman. (It used to be my Mom’s.) I like the chair because from there I can best watch Pet Connection and Animal Planet and keep an eye on the kitchen too. I have a backyard with an apple tree (I love to eat apples) and places where I can dig; but it does have a fence that the pesky rabbits and squirrels can get through and I can’t. Other dogs and cats have lived here too, but now it is just me.

Again, I am Penny and I will be telling you more about my escapades in future issues.

## LA Pet Salon, LLC

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—MARU  
adopted 01-10-10

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Ad Council

# Pet Activities 2013 Calendar

Add your organization's activity by emailing PPP at rcspub@nycap.rr.com.

## June

- 4 **NYS Animal Advocacy Day**, Legislative Office Building, Albany
- 8 **4th Annual Paws in the Park Walk & Community Day**, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, 9:30 am-1 pm at Siena College, Loudonville
- 15 **Curtis Lumber's 2013 Pet-a-Palooza**, 10 am-3 pm at Ballston Spa store and other Curtis locations
- 22 **Schenectady Pride Day & Pet Parade**, 3-10 pm; Parade at 4 pm on Jay Street
- 23 **Bow Wow Comedy Series** (homeless pet fundraiser), 4 pm at The Comedy Works, Albany

## July

- 8 **Bark in the Park**, Tri-City Valley Cats, Bruno Stadium (gates 6 pm, game 7 pm)

## September

- 7 **Fireplug 500 Walk for Animals**, Animal Protective Foundation, Schenectady Central Park
- 25-27 **Feline Fest** at Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, Menands; **Feline Fest Day** on the 27th, 10 am - 4 pm) with food & beverages and activities

## October

- 3 **9th Annual Art Saves Animals Art Auction & Reception**, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, 5:30-8:30 pm at The Arts Center of the Capital Region, Troy
- 24-27 **Pittie Palooza**, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society with **Family Festival Day** on the 26th, 10:00 am-5 pm at MHHS, 3 Oakland Ave., Menands

SEND US YOUR EVENT INFORMATION AND WE WILL INCLUDE IT IN OUR NEXT EDITION.

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## A Good Read

# Following Atticus

Forty-Eight High Peaks, One Little Dog,  
and an Extraordinary Friendship  
by Tom Ryan

A little over a year ago I attended a reading/book signing at the Schenectady Public Library for what sounded like a very interesting story about a man and a little dog who climbed mountain peaks together in New Hampshire. Little did I know then, as I had not read the book yet, just how touching this story was and what an impact it seems to have on those who read it. Though published in 2011 I bring it to your attention now because it has recently made the *New York Times* Best Sellers List, after gaining regional fame mainly through word of mouth.

The McChesney Room was crowded as we waited for author Tom Ryan and his Miniature Schnauzer Atticus Maxwell Finch. When they entered, the oohs and aahs from the crowd broke the library silence. After some introductory remarks the author provided some background and read excerpts from the book as Atticus sat calmly on a nearby table. At a certain point he gathered the little dog up in his arms and continued to talk as Atticus rested his head on Tom's shoulder. By the the hour's end we had all experienced a host of emotions, but definitely fell in love with this little dog and applauded the incredible relationship they have.

I must admit that I did not read the book. I *listened* to it and I highly recommend the audio edition narrated by Tom Ryan himself, a great storyteller. His love and respect for Atticus, the bond they have



and the adventures they share come to life in his reading of it. But one also hears the sadness as he delves into dark periods in his life, particularly his relationship with his father. Sometimes you find yourself laughing, sometimes crying and occasionally on the edge of your seat as Tom recounts a harrowing experience faced by the duo.

Here is a brief synopsis of the book, which can in no way do it justice. You must read it or listen to it.

Tom Ryan was publisher and sole reporter for a small New England newspaper. He wasn't afraid to expose corruption, but faced threats and malicious acts by those in power as a result.

The story follows Tom's transformation from an overweight, depressed couch potato to a mentally and physically healthier avid hiker with encouragement from this little dog, whom he says was made for the mountains.

Tom and Atticus first hiked in the Green Mountains of Vermont; Tom struggling to do so despite his fear of heights. Upon learning about the 4,000-footer Club for people who have hiked all 48 peaks over 4,000 feet of New Hampshire's White Mountains, he decided to attempt the challenge with Atticus — in the winter. He was not a stranger to those mountains. Tom's family had camped there regularly when he was a child.

Their journey to scale all 48 peaks in 90 days was so transforming for Tom Ryan that he closed the newspaper and with Atticus leading the way hiked the



Cover and author photographs © Tom Ryan

peaks twice again as a fundraiser in honor of a friend and cancer victim.

This heartwarming memoir moves from the amusing misadventures of dealing with Atticus as a pup, to their struggles on the mountain and Atticus's illness, to Tom coping with a fractured relationship with his father. How the mountains tie everything together is revealed as one reads on.

You can follow Tom and Atticus on Facebook and Twitter and on their blog: [www.tomandatticus.blogspot.com](http://www.tomandatticus.blogspot.com). — RCS

**Following Atticus: Forty-Eight High Peaks, One Little Dog, and an Extraordinary Friendship**

Published: August 2011

Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers

ISBN: 978-0-06-199710-5

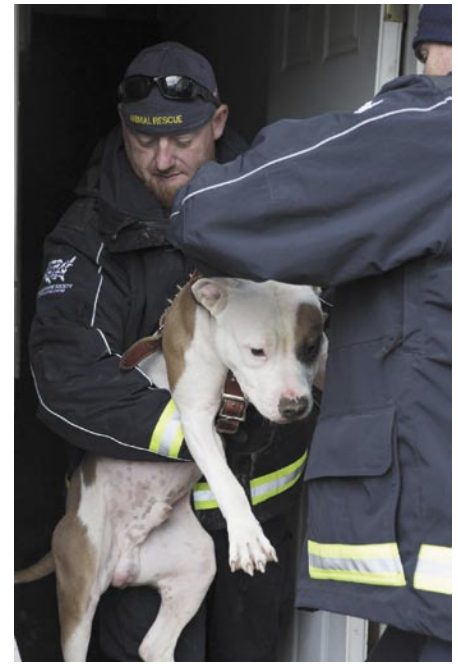
Pages: 306

Available in hardcover, paperback, ebook and audiobook



Tom with Atticus on his shoulder at the Schenectady Library reading.

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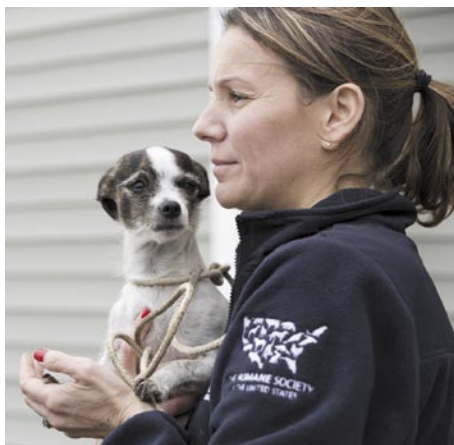
© The Humane Society of the United States/Lisa J. Godfrey Photos

Left: Four cats were left inside a home for several days without food or water after the owners were taken to the hospital. The HSUS Animal Rescue Team captured the animals and HSUS CEO Wayne Pacelle is seen here removing the cats. They were transported to temporary shelter in Ocean Beach, NJ. Right: A

one-year-old pit bull, Otis, was rescued from a second-floor apartment in Staten Island, NY. The stairway in the hall had partially collapsed and HSUS responder Rowdy Shaw had to carry the dog down the stairs. Otis was eventually reunited with his family.

## The Humane Society of the United States: Saving lives & caring for displaced pets from Sandy

Last fall Hurricane/Superstorm Sandy dealt a devastating blow to the Northeast coast, especially New York and New Jersey, wreaking havoc with residents and their pets. Unfortunately many people are still homeless and so are some pets. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), among others, took action after the storm cleared and through its Disaster Relief program helped save and reunite pets with their families.



The HSUS was the lead group in New Jersey and worked in New York City through the NYC Office of Emergency Management's Animal Planning Task Force.

Deploying more than 140 staff and volunteers in the region, the HSUS also set up four distribution centers for supplies. Community members, local animal welfare organizations, Petsmart Charities, PetCo Foundation, TJ Maxx and Purina donated food and supplies.

The responder teams helped rescue more than 350 animals from devastated areas and cared for more than 700 in emergency shelters. More than 400 pets have been claimed by their owners. With all the remaining animals in a foster care program or with placement partners, the emergency shelters are now closed.

### Disaster foster care program

Through a partnership with St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center and the Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey the Humane Society helped start a rare disaster response program — foster matching. With the website [www.FosterASan-](http://www.FosterASan-)

[dyPet.org](http://dyPet.org), pet owners desperate to hold on to their pets were able to connect with people who were willing to care for their pets.

More than 800 people volunteered to foster animals in need. The shelter's staff was deeply moved by the responses for the families. For example, one woman who lost her home needed a place to keep her pet until she found a pet-friendly residence. After signing up for the foster program her pet was quickly placed in a home until she found a suitable apartment. When she brought her pet home, the woman herself volunteered to foster. This is just one example of compassion that the rescue team witnessed in storm-ravaged New Jersey communities.

People who came together as strangers have been forever bonded. Knowing that their pets would be safely cared for was a great relief for these families who had to rebuild or start over. More than 50 animals and many families were helped by this program. The Humane Society continues to support this foster care program at St. Hubert's.

## New Jersey rescues

Working through the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and the Governor's Office HSUS set up a toll-free hotline for people who had to leave pets behind when they evacuated. More than 1,300 calls were received and 216 stranded pets were rescued from devastated areas.

"Thousands of pet owners who were affected by Hurricane Sandy will be struggling to rebuild their homes and replace their belongings, so The Humane Society of the United States and our partners are happy to alleviate some stress by providing pet food and supplies," said Kathleen Schatzmann, New Jersey state director for The HSUS. "Our pets are a part of our families, so it's our top priority to give pet owners resources to keep their animals safe and healthy."

More than 300 birds, fish, iguanas, hamsters, dogs and cats were cared for in the Ocean County shelter. This facility closed in early December after 232 pets were returned to their owners and 50 were placed in long-term care with St. Hubert's. Only 20 animals were placed with partner shelters to find new homes.

## New York rescues

A toll-free hotline set up for New Yorkers accepted more than 1,000 calls. Partnering with other agencies and animal groups they cared for nearly 300 pets in an emergency animal shelter in Nassau County for families who were homeless. The HSUS provided more than 40 trained staff and volunteers, arranged for supplies, and provided professional guidance on shelter, disease and volunteer management in a disaster situation.

## How you can still help

By giving to The Humane Society of the United States Disaster Relief Fund you can help animals affected by Hurricane Sandy and *future* disasters also. Your donation will be used exclusively for disaster relief work. This work varies by disaster and may include animal rescue, emergency sheltering, grants to local organizations, and longer term animal services.

Donate at [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org) or call 1-866-720-2676 or text ANIMALS to 20222 to donate \$10 to the HSUS Disaster Relief Fund (standard text messaging and data rates apply).



**"Our pets are a part of our families, so it's our top priority to give pet owners resources to keep their animals safe and healthy."**

**— Kathleen Schatzmann, NJ HSUS Director**



© The Humane Society of the United States/Lisa J. Godfrey Photo



© The Humane Society of the United States/Frank Loftus Photo

Top: In a neighborhood under mandatory evacuation a woman receives assistance for her cats from HSUS Animal Rescue Team responder Jennifer Kulina-Lanese. Above: The HSUS Animal Rescue Team's Troy Snell and Rowdy Shaw load rescue gear and prepare to deploy in response to Hurricane Sandy.



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## In Memory of ...

The grief and pain of losing a companion animal can be just as devastating for some as losing a human family member or friend. There are few outlets for expressing these feelings for them. So PPP is reserving space in each issue for our readers to send a photo and a short message expressing their feelings about a recent loss. We will run as many as space permits. Send your memorial messages to: [respub@nycap.rr.com](mailto:respub@nycap.rr.com).

*We will begin with one of our own.*



**Pouki Stevens**

1993-2012

My Pou chose me to be her human, coming to us as a stray. She put up with everyone else, including a devoted and often annoying orange tabby named Scooter McGee (who arrived a year later) and a black Lab named Gretchen (who timidly respected her space). We grew close over the years — a mental and emotional bond that grew daily as we played, walked and talked together.

Pou had a grace about her that stood her well over her 19-plus years, especially in the final two years of her earthly life when infirmities began to take their toll.

She taught me far more than I did her and I will always cherish the memories of sharing her life. — RCS



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## Dealing with loss

### A Spot of Inspiration for Faces of Hope: Pets Alive 2010



By Scott Bergmann

**M**y wife and I first volunteered at Pets Alive on March 20, 2010. That day was very significant to us because it marked the one year anniversary of Spot's passing. Spot was a handsome, energetic, all black cat with a white spot on his chest; he was the first pet Candee and I shared our lives with as a married couple. Spot touched our hearts in so many ways and when that date came in early Spring 2010 we needed to find a place to properly honor his memory. We chose Pets Alive.

We spent the day volunteering; walking dogs in the morning and socializing with the cats in the afternoon. It was very therapeutic for both of us. We needed to be around animals, and we needed to feel like we were making a difference in their lives. Little did we know what was in store for us next.

Shortly after that first visit we received an email from Pets Alive looking for volunteers in a number of different areas. One specific need they had was for someone to photograph a large intake of

dogs they just rescued from West Virginia. These dogs needed their pictures taken so they could have a chance at finding a new forever home.

We immediately returned to Pets Alive to volunteer, this time as photographers, and over the course of the next ten months we photographed a total of 215 dogs. Through the hard work and diligence of the Pets Alive staff, amazingly only 35 of these dogs still remained up for adoption at the end of 2010.

Spot, our "one little soul," inspired us to find hope in a place we never expected to find it, photographing adoptable dogs and cats at a no-kill animal shelter located in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains, Pets Alive.



EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information about Pets Alive, call (845) 386-9738 or visit their website at [www.petsalive.com!](http://www.petsalive.com!)

Premier Issue

Faces of Hope | Pets Alive 2010



SCOTT BERGMANN PHOTOGRAPHY

*Scott Bergmann Photography & Design offers a wide range of photographic services and design solutions. For more information: (518) 466-5842 or email [scott@scottbergmannphotography.com](mailto:scott@scottbergmannphotography.com) or visit [www.scottbergmannphotography.com](http://www.scottbergmannphotography.com). Along with his wife, Scott is also a proud pet owner, advocate and volunteer.*

 paw prints plus

## Friendship



© Scott Bergmann Photography | Pets Alive Animal Shelter | [www.petsalive.com](http://www.petsalive.com)

**Moonie and Red are best friends. Aside from enjoying each other's company Moonie helps Red get around. You see Red is blind.**

**“I would rather walk with a friend in the dark than alone in the light.” – Helen Keller**



# Pet Adoption Resources

To find current listings of pets seeking forever homes in New York's greater Capital Region and nearby areas check out the websites of the following local shelters and rescue groups.

(If you do not find your organization listed, email PPP and we will add you to the list.)



## Animal Shelters

- Animal Protective Foundation (Scotia, NY):  
<http://www.animalprotective.org/>
- Berkshire Humane Society (Pittsfield, MA):  
<http://www.berkshirehumane.org/>
- Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA (Hudson, NY): No Kill  
<http://www.cghs.org/>
- Dutchess County SPCA (Hyde Park, NY): No Kill  
<http://www.dcsPCA.org/>
- Estherville, The Animal Shelter (Greenfield Center, NY):  
<http://www.esthervilleanimalshelter.net/>
- Guilderland Animal Shelter (Guilderland, NY):  
[http://www.townofguilderland.org/pages/guilderlandny\\_animal/index](http://www.townofguilderland.org/pages/guilderlandny_animal/index)
- Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society (Menands, NY):  
<http://www.mohawkhumasociety.org/>
- North Country SPCA (Westport, NY): No Kill  
<http://www.ncspca.org/>
- Saratoga County Animal Shelter (Ballston Spa, NY):  
<http://www.sarataogacountyanimalshelter.net>
- SPCA of Upstate New York (Queensbury, NY): No Kill  
<http://www.spcauny.org/>

## Rescue Organizations

- Animalkind Inc (Hudson, NY):  
<http://www.all-creatures/ak/adopt/html>
- AnimaLovers (Hudson, NY):  
<http://www.animalovers.org/>
- Capital District Humane Association (Loudonville, NY):

- <http://www.capital-district-humane.com/>
- Companion Animal Placement Program, Inc (Rensselaer, NY):  
<http://www.capp-petplacement.org/>
- H.O.P.E. — Homes for Orphaned Pets Exist (Wilton, NY):  
<http://www.hopeanimalrescue.org/>
- Noah's Kingdom Humane Society (Albany, NY):  
<http://www.noahskingdom.org/>
- Pets Alive Sanctuary (Middletown, NY): No Kill  
<http://petsalive.com/>

## Cats

- Purrfect Companions Inc (Albany, NY):  
<http://www.thepurrfectcompanions.com/>
- Robin's Nest Rescued Cat Adoptions (Niskayuna, NY):  
<http://www.nest.petfinder.org/>
- Whiskers Animal Benevolent League (Albany, NY): <http://www.ewhiskers.com/>

## Dogs

- Good Shepherd K9 Rescue (Schenectady, NY):  
<http://www.gsk9r.org/>
- Peppertree Rescue (Albany, NY):  
<http://www.peppertree.org/>

## Other Organizations

- Dogs in Need Everywhere (D.I.N.E):  
<http://www.dogsinneedeverywhere.org/>
- News 10's Pet Connection with Steve Caporizzo: <http://www.news10.com/>



# Living in Harmony With Wildlife

No matter where you live, there are things you can do to keep the wildlife around you safe. All it takes is increased awareness and a few extra moments a day to make a huge difference in the lives of the wonderful animals with whom we share the Earth.

Here are a few quick and easy tips for preventing the suffering of wildlife:

- Cut apart all sections of plastic six-pack rings, including the inner diamonds, before discarding them. It prevents birds' beaks from getting caught in the rings.
- Rinse out cans, put the top inside so that it can't cut an animal's tongue, and flatten the open end of the can as much as possible.
- Cut open one side of empty cardboard and plastic containers so that squirrels and other small animals can't get their faces or heads trapped in them.

VISIT [HELPINGWILDLIFE.COM](https://www.helpingwildlife.com) TO LEARN MORE WAYS  
THAT YOU CAN HELP ANIMALS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

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