



Yonkers Animal Times

Yonkers Humane Society, Inc.

Spring 2008 Newsletter

Petsmart Cat Room Success!



In August of 2007, the Yonkers Humane Society opened its doors to the cat room, staffed with only three enthusiastic volunteers. Located at Petsmart in Yonkers on Central Park Ave. (behind Best Buy), the space was created to help alleviate the overcrowded conditions for cats at the Yonkers Animal Shelter, which houses approximately one hundred cats.

Nearly one year later, the cat room is thriving, with over twelve regular volunteers devoting their time and attention to the care and upkeep of our ten cat residents. Volunteers are available every morning and evening to socialize the cats and answer the questions of potential adopters.



Our Petsmart cat room has proved to be a lifeline for cats who have been overlooked at the shelter. Black cats and dogs, as well as shy animals, are especially at risk for being overlooked in animal shelter facilities nationwide, and as such are more at risk of being euthanized than other shelter animals.* The cat room has been crucial to making some of these black, shy cats visible to the public.

With added visibility and daily socialization from our morning and evening volunteers, the Yonkers Humane Society has been able to place cats that have been at the shelter for several months, such as Juliette, a painfully shy senior black cat who came to the Yonkers Animal Shelter after her guardians moved away. She was so shy that she wouldn't even raise her head to look up. We are pleased to report that Juliette is now thriving in her new home with her other cat siblings.

With the public's support, we are about to celebrate our 50th cat adoption, and look forward to many more!

* Black Pups Face Doggie Discrimination, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23472518/?GT1=43001>

Upcoming Events

- **Adoption Event:** Sunday, June 8, Petsmart Cat Room in Yonkers, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Ludlow Neighborhood Plant Sale/ Cat Adoption:** Ludlow Neighborhood, Yonkers, June 2008
- **Blue Moon Mexican Restaurant Community Nights:** Bronxville, NY June 9th & 10th, all day, dine-in & take-out
- **Pet Oxygen Mask Presentation to Yonkers Fire Department:** June 2008
- **Adopt-A-Senior Event:** Sunday, July 13, Petsmart Cat Room in Yonkers, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Adoption Event:** Sunday, August 3, Petsmart Cat Room in Yonkers, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Happy Endings: Belle-Amie



After returning to the shelter from an adoption event, Belle-Amie, a beautiful domestic short-haired female, caught my attention with her sad emerald eyes locking into mine. I decided to foster her in an instant, hoping to find a nice family for her. This was the day our foster program started.

Unfortunately Belle-Amie soon became the terror of the family. Every encounter would end up in wild screeching noises with her attacking everyone. It took a lot of patience to rehabilitate her, but eventually we had a breakthrough where she suddenly appeared on my chest and purred!

Belle-Amie is now part of the family, and we are blessed to have added a cat that otherwise might have been put to sleep.

-Leila

A Message from the Board

We sincerely appreciate your donations, since they are the lifeline to our community outreach programs, which have been so well appreciated by the community of Yonkers.

Our rescue operation at the Yonkers Petsmart cat adoption center; our pet rescue masks program; our educational outreach programs; our annual adoption event at the St. John the Divine cathedral in Manhattan; and our adoption events are made possible thanks to your involvement and interest in our organization.

Our volunteer group consists of highly dedicated individuals who love animals and truly believe in our mission statement. Recently a few very young volunteers have joined us and we hope to spread the good word through them as well. Give them a hand! You too can volunteer one hour or more a week. We need you!

Our newsletter intends to let you voice your stories of adoptions and other matters. Please take advantage of it by contacting our editor, Melissa Arjona at: melissa.arjona@gmail.com.

Yonkers Humane Society Board of directors:

Rosemary Lee (Community Outreach): 914-666-9505

Gabriel Pancrudo (Adoptions): 914-439-2415

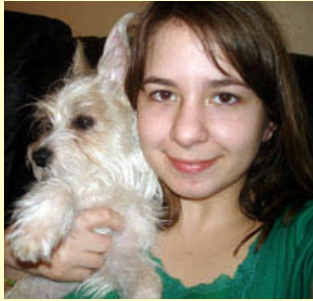
Leila Sesmero (Fundraising & Volunteering): 914-751-7870

Advisory Board Member:

August J. Cambria, City of Yonkers Commissioner of Department of Parks and Recreation

Volunteer Spotlight

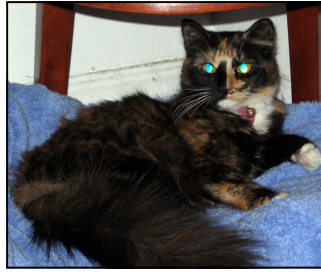
Nicoletta & Samantha V. Dossena, Mother and Daughter



I was originally volunteering at the shelter when Leila Sesmero approached me and informed me about the new cat room starting up at Petsmart. I was extremely eager to start volunteering there, and this excitement has yet to wear off! My mother saw how happy I was volunteering and decided to volunteer as well, which was greatly appreciated because there was a strong need for volunteers at that time. Her favorite part of her experience there is being able to see the good side of people, and how they are willing to make time for the well-being of the animals.

I've been volunteering at the cat room since it was set up. I have witnessed the evolution of this site; so many great people have devoted their time (and love) to taking care of the cats. It is this dedication, and the community we have formed as a result of it, that has allowed so many cats to find such loving homes. I am extremely proud of the effort everyone has made, and I can only hope that the intensity of the kindness I have seen will be passed on to others.

Happy Tails & Community Notes



I adopted Pashmina last year in July. She is very sweet, curious and playful. She is about to turn one year old and is completely healthy. She loves to play with her toys and spend time sitting next to us on the sofa!

—Adriana Gonzalez



Little Peanut



Big Mush

I was not intending to adopt another cat but while volunteering last summer, I spotted an overweight, depressed cat huddled in his cage. He looked so sad and I knew I had to take him home. He has blossomed into a svelte, sweet mush. I had also become smitten with a tiny senior who had been at the shelter for some time. Since he was an older cat, I didn't want him to be overlooked any longer so I brought him home too. They are beautiful cats who just needed a chance, and I adore them. —Lynn M.



Terry Koch, one of our volunteers, and his family adopted Muffin (shown on the right napping next to her new puppy brother).



UPDATE!

There was a lot of concern from our cat room "regulars" about Misty, our sassy Russian Blue whose guardian had passed away. Misty was with us for over half a year, battling loneliness and depression. We're happy to report she's found the purr-fect home, and we wish her the best!

Send Us Your Letters!

We love hearing from the community! Want to share your Yonkers adoption stories in the next issue of **Yonkers Animal Times**? Send your pictures and stories to melissa.arjona@gmail.com

or mail them to:

Yonkers Humane Society, Inc.

Attn: Community Notes

P.O. Box 420

Yonkers, NY 10701

Our newsletter is printed on recycled paper.



Become a Yonkers Humane Society member!



All donations are tax-deductible.

Yes! I wish to join as a: Paw Pal (\$1 - \$49) Best Friend (\$50 - \$99)

Best in Show (\$100 - \$249) Leader of the Pack (\$250 or more)

Enclosed is my gift of: \$ _____. (Make checks payable to Yonkers Humane Society, Inc.)

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Email: _____

Please check here if you would prefer to remain anonymous as a donor in future publications.

Mail to: P.O. Box 420
Yonkers, NY 10701

✂ Please cut and mail form.

Yonkers Fire Department Receives Pet Rescue Masks from Yonkers Humane Society

On January 29, 2008, the Yonkers Humane Society presented three sets of pet rescue masks to Fire Department Headquarters in Yonkers for the use of the fire department and rescue teams. The masks are designed to fit over a cat or dog's face in order to administer life saving oxygen and come in three different sizes. This donation was made to assist the fire department personnel in saving beloved pets, thereby alleviating some of the devastating loss that is experienced by those who lose their home and possessions in a fire or other disaster.

The Journal News and Channel 12 also covered the story, and as a result of the public support, more than \$1000 in additional funds were raised due to some very generous donors. These funds will purchase about 18 new pet rescue masks for the Yonkers Fire Department and will be presented in June. Donations may be sent to the YHS, PO Box 420, Yonkers, NY 10701. Checks should be marked "pet rescue masks".



Photo: Courtesy of J. Leonforte

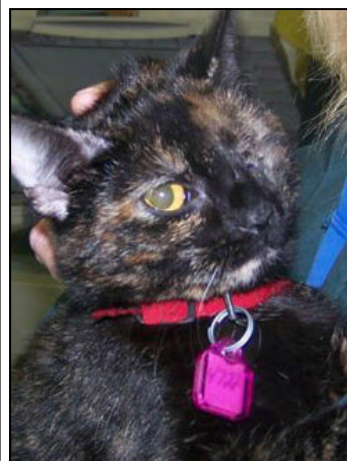
New Shelter for Yonkers Homeless, Stray, and Abused Animals

After many years of waiting, the aged, outmoded Yonkers Animal Shelter on Fullerton Avenue will be replaced with a new, modern facility just off the NY State Thruway, adjacent to the Municipal Recycling Facility. This location will provide easy access to the public, where we anticipate that adoptions will increase dramatically in an environment that allows for clean and attractive space to care for the animals.

The firm Design Learned has been selected to conduct a needs assessment and prepare preliminary designs for the new location. Martha T. Seng, AIA will collaborate as principal architect; Ms. Seng is one of the foremost shelter designers for animal facilities. The City of Yonkers Mayor Phil Amicone and Parks Department Commissioner August J. Cambria have shepherded this project through many difficult times, and we thank them as well as the City Council, County Legislature, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Legislator Gary Pretlow for the cooperation that has led to finally replacing a facility which houses, cares for and adopts out more than one thousand animals annually.

Look for additional updates in this newsletter on the project schedule, fundraising drive and join us for the celebration when the residents of the shelter finally move into a new home in 2009! Please join us by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator and contribute to the fund drive.

Yonkers Humane Society Foster Program

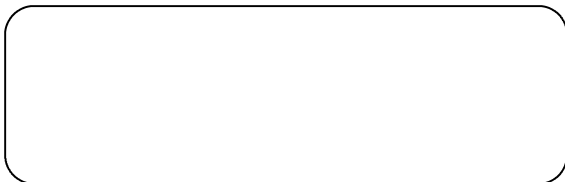


In 2007, Winnie, the one-eyed cat, was transferred from Yonkers Animal Shelter to our Petsmart cat adoption center. We hoped she would get adopted quickly, due the interest of the public in a tortoiseshell cat with one eye. Unfortunately, Winnie was unable to adapt to living in a confined environment and she became restless. We did not want to give up on Winnie, so we decided to give her a second chance through our foster rescue program. She is now thriving and highly adoptable due to the love and attention from her foster family.

Sometimes our cats just need a little vacation from their shelter environments, or sometimes they need behavioral rehabilitation with experienced cat handlers. Our foster program matches cats with suitable foster families in order to give otherwise unadoptable cats a second chance at life. Our organization is always looking for people willing to open their homes to our shelter residents; it makes a world of difference in some of these cats' lives.

For information on our cat foster program, or to meet Winnie, please call Leila at: 914-751-7870.

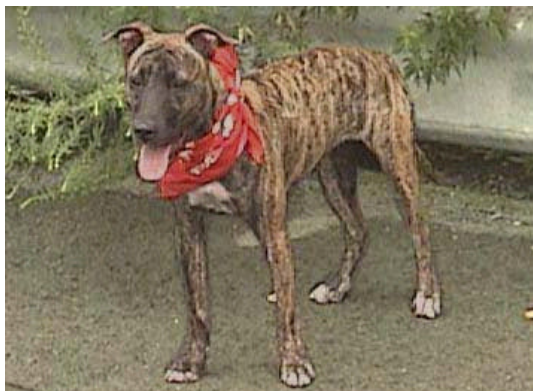
May is Bite Prevention Month! Contact the Yonkers Humane Society to schedule a school or community presentation on bite prevention and humane treatment of animals. Contact Rosemary at 914-666-9505.



\$250 Reward!
Reward offered for information leading to the arrest of individuals responsible for the abuse of two dogs who were abandoned in a dumpster at the BP gas station on Yonkers Avenue on or around January 6-7, 2008. The Yonkers Police Department will accept calls at (914) 377-7900. Funds donated and unused will support the establishment of an education program for community groups and school children on preventing animal cruelty, dogfighting, and bite prevention.

Yonkers Humane Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 420
Yonkers, NY 10701

Featured Dog: Rosie the Riveting



Rosie is approximately 2 ½ years old, and she has spent most of her life in the shelter while maintaining a wonderful, sweet personality. She is so sweet, in fact, that she was our demonstration dog for the pet rescue masks ceremony at the Yonkers Fire Department!

This gorgeous young terrier/shepherd mix loves people and craves affection (or better yet, a long walk). She has one terrific attitude on life, and will make a wonderful companion to the lucky person who brings her home. Make this the year Rosie finds her home, no more waiting!

Call Leslie: 201-981-3215 or email her at crysros1@aol.com for more information on adopting this wonderful girl.

Featured Cat: Handsome Jack



Handsome Jack is about 7 years old and mostly keeps to himself. Once he is acclimated, he loves to come out and explore for a while before settling down to sleep in his favorite corner.

He is a special fellow (he has a slight congenital heart condition), but he is healthy and has not needed any medication since the condition was discovered and treated several months ago.

He has gracefully accepted life and looks forward to the next adventure.

Jack's heart does not deter him from being playful, and he loves to chase feather toys! He loves it when people pet him, and is a total sweetheart who needs a loving, quiet home and a guardian who will spoil him with love!

Interested in meeting Jack? He's at the Petsmart Cat Room! Please call Gabriel at 914-439-2415 for more information.

View all of the YHS animals up for adoption at:
yonkershumaneociety.petfinder.com · www.myspace.com/yonkershumaneociety