

Happy Holidays & Thank You for Your Support!

NYSHA's programs help animals! Our mission is to promote improved treatment and better protections for animals. Your ongoing generous support allows us to continue this work.

A key activity has been our work with legislators to advance animal protective legislation. Victories have been achieved in several areas that NYSHA has supported.

Animals abandoned after eviction is one such area. Over the years, NYSHA, along with other humane agencies, has received calls from distraught individuals who have heard the plaintive barking of dogs abandoned in housing units after their owners have been evicted. The police are called for assistance, but prior to removing the animal, they have to go through time consuming legal procedures while both the animal and concerned citizen suffer. After significant lobbying efforts by NYSHA and others this year, the problem has been addressed: the governor signed legislation that requires that during eviction procedures, police must ensure that any animals at the dwelling are removed and properly cared for, either by the tenant or by local authorities. No more animals left behind!

Animals lost in our state also have improved chances for being reunited with their pet parents! All found stray animals must be checked for a microchip by the entity that receives and holds them. If your animal is microchipped, your chances for reunion increase significantly. Now, if your beloved companion scampers away at a rest area on the Thruway, there is hope that a microchip will bring him or her home.



Microchipping and tags can help reunite lost pets with their family.

Another way NYSHA aids animals is by disseminating information about the LINK between animal cruelty and human violence. NYSHA's Board Member, Harry Hovel, Ph.D., recently spoke

at a county magistrates meeting and explained the importance of their work when dealing with animal cruelty cases. He pointed out how the sentences they impose, especially when dealing with young people, have an important impact on the defendants, the family, and the community. To provide the magistrates with a handy reference on the LINK, Dr. Hovel handed out copies of his booklet, entitled *The Connection Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence*. We also supplied copies of the

booklet to the attendees of a large conference on the same topic held at the Humane Society of Rochester. The booklet can be downloaded at no cost from the NYSHA website.

To further promote our humane message, NYSHA Board Member Holly Cheever, DVM, was a presenter at veterinary conferences where she emphasized to veterinarians and veterinary students the importance of assisting in animal cruelty investigations. She pointed out their key role, both in helping the animals and in giving testimony that brings abusers to justice. NYSHA also supported a symposium of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association at which veterinary students were trained and inspired to assist pet owners in the underserved communities on Native American reservations, urban areas of the homeless, and other poorly served populations to bring veterinary treatment to animals who need it.

To support the efforts of law enforcement in bringing animal abusers to justice, NYSHA works with them to offer rewards via media releases for information leading to the arrest and conviction of perpetrators of animal crimes.



NYSHA has made humane education materials easy for teachers to locate.

In addition to supporting such outreach activities, NYSHA also provides hands-on assistance to various humane organizations that need guidance wading through the complexities of requesting a security bond hearing to seek funds needed to care for the animals from the defendant.

Lastly, but equally important, though New York State mandates that humane education be taught in our elementary schools, the Education Department does not enforce the law, nor does it offer resources to enable teachers to meet the requirement. To fill that void, NYSHA has created a collection of humane education materials from various reliable sources that promote compassionate treatment of animals. Links to it can be found on our website – nyshumane.org – along with an approved form that allows children to opt out of dissection experiments and specifies they be offered a non-animal alternative.

We need your support to help us continue this important work. In fact, we can't do it without you! Please help us help the animals with your continued generosity!



In the past, animals such as these were often left behind after an eviction.



Children will learn respect and compassion for animals by the example we set for them.

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

The Board and Staff of NYSHA

NEW YORK STATE HUMANE ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 3068, KINGSTON, NY 12402-3068

nyshumane.org