

Holiday Greetings

In many ways, this has been a very productive year for NYSHA!

Through our partnership with the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, we increased our workshop attendance and have been able to train even more law enforcement agencies on New York's anti-cruelty laws, had several successful outcomes with legislation at the Capitol, and expanded many of our outreach programs, especially on equine issues.

We thought this would be a good time to share with you a little about who we are through those who inspire, encourage, and in the end drive us to persevere -- our four-legged family members, or the ones we find -- or who find us! -- and rescue.

Please, in honor of your special animals, be as generous as you can this holiday season, to enable NYSHA to continue being a voice for those who do not have one.

Happy holidays from all of us to you and yours, and best wishes for a new year filled with more victories for the animals who so need our help. Together, we can -- and we will -- make a difference.

Laura-Ann Cammisa
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 President



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"Although known as a 'cat' person, I don't remember a time when I didn't love and care about all animals. In 2002, my husband and I took in an amazing mini-donkey from a hoarding situation, and Emily completely won us over to donkeys. After nine years, Emily died, due in part to her previous care, and we rescued three more. Unfortunately, Rosalinda was only with us for four years, again because of the neglect and mistreatment she had suffered as a breeding jenny. To honor her, and knowing how many equines go to slaughter every day, we adopted two more, tiny Lucia and Ricardo, who bonded with each other through several auction houses where they were continually transported to increase their price. Fortunately, an equine rescuer pulled them from the kill pens and called us. I can't imagine how these very small donkeys survived among the crush of horses, but they are now living happily with Annabella and Margarita. Lucy and Ricky are totally enchanting, and wonderful ambassadors for the equine protection movement."

Laura-Ann Cammisa, President



"Roxie was abandoned in Port Ewen when the elderly couple who owned her went into an old age facility. The couple had given their house and two cats to their grandchildren who sadly had no interest in the cats and put them outside to fend for themselves, and they were starving. I caught them and had them tested. One could not be saved, but the Calico was in better shape. Sondra agreed to foster her for a bit, but Roxie never left once she settled in. She's gained all the weight she had lost, plus a little extra, and is a fearless little character."

Patricia Valusek, Chairperson

Dr. Holly Cheever, Vice President, is shown having fun with Miss Blossom, a Jersey cow rescued from an Ulster Co. dairy farmer, who gave up his milking herd, abandoning them to starve in his barn and field. Blossom was a young calf who was close to death from starvation and freezing. She lived in Holly's sanctuary from 4 months to 18 years. She served as hands-on experience for the hundreds of children who came to Holly's farm for field trips to learn to be kind to animals.



Dr. Harry Hovel, Treasurer, has provided a wonderful home for Dahlia, on the right, relaxing with her son, Joey, who were both rescued from the streets by Lia. Joey is the only one of the litter of five who survived the dangers they faced. The two are inseparable, sleep together, play together, chase each other through the house. Dahlia was apparently feral most of her life and doesn't appreciate attention very much. Joey likes to have his back and ears rubbed, and loves to chase a laser light. He is an amazing jumper, and can jump over 5 feet high trying to get the laser light spot.

"This is Trooper. I adopted him as a one-year-old in 2005. He was found in the streets somewhere in the Carolinas -- badly injured, hernia, right eye mangled beyond repair. After operating, they sent him north to find a home. At some point, someone named him Trooper, the most apropos of names; he truly has an indomitable spirit, a love for life. He is my constant companion."

Patrick Battuello, Board Member



"Beautiful Luigi was removed from a very abusive situation in 2012, severely emaciated, and he had been beaten. Initially, it was uncertain if he would even survive. Through his remarkable strength and perseverance, and the amazing compassion of his veterinarians and their staff, Luigi pulled through. Longtime clients of the clinic, my husband and I were asked if we could try fostering Luigi so he could continue to heal and recover in a home setting. I am thrilled to say that we were almost instant foster failures, realizing Luigi was meant to be part of our family. His early injuries resulted in some long term health challenges; however, nothing dampens the joyful spirit of this sweet, kind soul. We feel so fortunate to be able to share our lives with him!"

Tracey Collins, Board Member

Sue McDonough, Board Member, an experienced wildlife rehabilitator, rescued this turtle from almost certain death on a very busy road a few months ago. She released him in a pond in Rensselaer County, where he is undoubtedly living a safer life. While Sue has had many horses and dogs in her life, she now shares her home with Julie, a rescued cat.



Lia Albo, Administrator, with Christi, who was malnourished and in need of veterinary care when Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart rescued him and called Lia, who took him. Shy of being kissed at first, he now wants all the kisses he can get. Christi's greatest pastime is to be cradled and to fall asleep in loving arms. Spending much of her own time rescuing cats and dogs living on the streets in impoverished or otherwise unsafe environments, Lia's greatest hope is that someday individuals and shelters will take on the responsibility of preventing the tragic situations she finds them in.



Dennis and Sissy were found abandoned in a trash pile as newborn kittens and taken to a local veterinarian's office, who called Sondra Woodvine, Accountant/Asst. Treasurer. She took them home, bottle fed them, and raised them until they were old enough to be spayed or neutered. She was able to find a great home for two of the litter together, and the other two remained with her. Both are adored and are enjoying life -- when they aren't being photographed.



A longtime member of NYSHA's Board, Jean Daniels can always be found tabling at our workshops or events. When she isn't taking care of her own pampered cats, one of her favorite activities is volunteering at an equine rescue, where this pony lives. She loves all animals, and advocates especially for those on farms or in entertainment.

And to all a good night!