

Summer 2023

Greetings,

Summertime and the living is easy -- or so the song says. In many ways that's true, and when you look at the legislative victories we achieved this year, it will be a lot easier for many animals! Of course, there's a long way to go, as Governor Hochul has yet to sign the bills that passed the Legislature. Change can evolve very slowly, yet it does come.

In the good weather, days are longer, providing increased opportunities for volunteer work or extra time with our furry friends. We have included some safety tips throughout this newsletter for all family members -- two and four legged.

So relax with a good book – we've recommended several here and in previous newsletters have reviewed some other great ones – or spend time with loved ones, and recharge for the work we have ahead of us to continue to make the world a better place for animals!

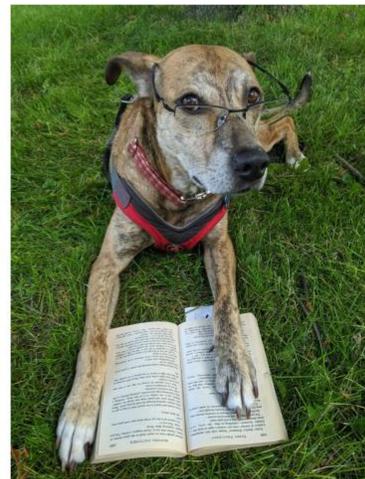


Photo by Summerjosh-Rakower - Unsplash

Legislative Victories

Good news! Two bills that NYSHA strongly supports – one prohibiting slaughter of horses and the other ending wildlife killing contests -- passed both houses of the NY Legislature, though one, the Wildlife Contest Killing bill, produced vigorous arguments on both sides when it came up for a floor vote in a special session of the Assembly, thus portending a continued effort by its opponents to persuade the Governor to veto the bill.

To oppose this effort, NYSHA will send out alerts to all those on our distribution list at the appropriate time, so your voices can be heard by the Governor, in support of both bills.

NYSHA Networks with Police Agencies and Humane and Other Organizations to Deal with Animal Cruelty -- a Sampling of Activities

NYSHA, working with the State Police, posted a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who shot and killed a dog in Rensselaer County and left him alongside a country road. A citizen came forth with information that resulted in the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator. The defendant pled guilty to a misdemeanor and was placed on probation, and the person who provided relevant information received the reward.

One of NYSHA's efforts to prevent animal cruelty is to convey humane education concepts to teachers, who in turn can bring them to children. Recently, NYSHA's Chairperson Dr. Harold Hovel was invited to give a presentation entitled, *Humane Education: A Critical Need*, via Zoom, to some 60 teachers and administrators from across the state attending a BOCES/Questar conference. Excellent feedback was received from the attendees and NYSHA hopes this will be a recurring feature of this conference.

A woman from Virginia contacted NYSHA about a real estate ad for farm property in NYS that she saw on the Internet. The photo depicted a deserted farm where several cows appeared to be abandoned in a dismal, dilapidated barn with inches of feces covering the floor. NYSHA reached out to the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Department. Deputies investigated and found no cows on the premises. The woman (and NYSHA) was relieved; she wrote thank you letters to the Sheriff's Department and NYSHA.



A complaint was received from Broome County regarding a pet store that appeared to be selling diseased animals who subsequently needed veterinary care. The case was referred to the humane agency in that area that has worked on cruelty cases with us

before. NYSHA also provided the complainant with the section of law dealing with selling diseased animals and a link to the pet dealer complaint form to send to the state.

Let's End Horse Racing



With the great strides we have made this year in legislative victories, public pressure has shown itself to be very effective. Although so many areas of animal protection deserve our attention, an ongoing issue has always been and continues to be horse racing. It's important to keep the focus on the cruelty and immorality of this so-called sport. Horseracing Wrongs regularly schedules organized protests at various tracks and welcomes old and new participants this summer in Saratoga.

Opening Weekend: Saturday, July 15 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Whitney Day: Saturday, August 5 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Travers Day: Saturday, August 26 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

You can find a link to all events at: [Protests and Events - Horseracing Wrongs](#)

Summer Reading

Alex & Me: How a Scientist and a Parrot Discovered a Hidden World of Animal Intelligence and Formed a Deep Bond in the Process – Irene Pepperberg, Author

Considered one of the most important books about how we underestimate animal intelligence and emotional development, *Alex and Me* details the struggles of a research scientist with her relationship, love, and unexpected admiration for an extraordinary African gray parrot. Never again will the words bird brain mean anything detrimental to anyone who knew Alex or reads this incredible description of 30 years of mutual devotion and surprising discoveries about his abilities to communicate, develop complex concepts, and process abstract ideas. New York Times Best Seller.

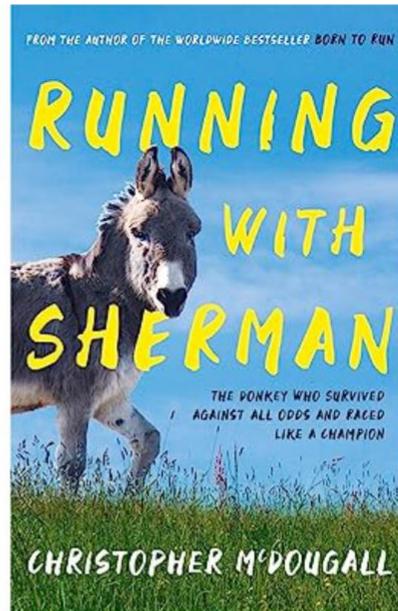
Cali & Wildfire: A Story of Love – William Neal, Author; Olena Kharkovenko, Illustrator

It's always good to get children started on realistic animal stories at a young age. This lovely book introduces them to the issues faced by many equines but in a way that encourages activism to save them. And what child is not fascinated by horses and wouldn't want to help them?

Running with Sherman: The Donkey with the Heart of a Hero --

Christopher McDougall, Author

The title says it all! But not really. The story of a rescued donkey from a hoarding situation, in desperate need of mental, physical, and emotional rehabilitation, Sherman brings a whole community of disparate people together to truly save him, and each other along the way. The human/animal bond and its benefits for everyone shines through in this remarkable journey for one of the equine world's most abused animals.



Summer Safety for Companion Animals

Our companion animals need special consideration during the hot summer. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Reduce exercising your dog or cat in the heat of the day, walk on shady side of street, bring some water, and be mindful of hot asphalt which can heat up their bodies and burn their paws.
- Although a summer haircut may seem like a cooling idea, don't trim the coat too short or down to the skin, as the coat provides protection against the heat, sun, and insects.
- If your companion animal spends any time outside, make sure he/she is in shade and has plenty of fresh water, and if that time is not brief, your dog needs an appropriate shelter. See Section 353-d of Article 26, of the NY Agriculture and Markets Law.
- Leave your buddy home if you will be leaving your car to shop. It only takes a few minutes for a car to heat up to a dangerous temperature.
- If you see an animal overheating in a hot car as you walk through a parking lot, know it is against the law in New York to leave an animal in a car in extreme temperatures, but also not legal for an unauthorized person to break into the car. Notify store or mall security to locate owner of vehicle. If not found quickly, contact a person authorized to break into the car, such as the police, a firefighter, or emergency medical personnel. If all else fails, and the animal is in distress, you may make the choice to break the window, but be aware that you may face charges and have to pay for repairs -- but if you save the animal, it may be worth it.



Photo by Overture Creations - Unsplash

You might want to have a copy of the law, **Confinement of companion animals in vehicles: extreme temperatures**, on you or be able to access it on your phone. <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/AGM/353-D>

Be Bear Wise

No matter where you go lately it seems likely to hear someone talking about a bear sighting. Of course we want to respect and live with wildlife, but we certainly don't want them peeking in our windows, eating from the refrigerator, or watching us as we enjoy our homes this summer.



Bears are omnivores and as their available resources and habitats diminish, they come in closer to human settlements and choose the quickest and easiest meal. Take a few steps to keep them away for your sake and theirs. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is a good resource for recommendations on what is best in your area.

Some tips to discourage bear visits:

- Don't put out birdfeeders until approximately mid-December, when hopefully bears have hibernated, and bring back in after about March 1.
- Remember not to leave garbage cans out, and to eliminate all sources of human or pet food outside since bears have a very finely tuned sense of smell.
- With any outdoor animals or livestock, it's important to have a good electric fence and perhaps a flashing light system. Even though donkeys are frequently thought of as animals to keep predators away, bears have been known to attack and kill them. Many people feel safer keeping their equines and chickens enclosed at night in bear-roof housing.
- Never leave dogs or cats outside unattended either.

At one time, it was a novelty to see a bear in your backyard, but in the interest of safety for everyone, including the bear, the humane course of action is to discourage them from any kind of interaction with humans or domestic animals.

Familiarize yourself with information provided in the links below about personal safety if you encounter a black bear, the type we have in the northeast. We can ALL enjoy the great outdoors if we follow these basic suggestions.

Bearwise: [Bear Encounter-Never run from a bear/how to behave \(bearwise.org\)](http://bearwise.org)

DEC - [Learn to Live Responsibly with Black Bears by Becoming BearWise](#)

DEC - [Camping With Bears - YouTube](#)

Ticks

It would be hard to have animals in the family and not be aware of the many dangerous illnesses that ticks can cause for them. Sometimes, though, we forget how serious these same diseases can be for humans as well, with long term complications.

So -- just a gentle reminder to check your animals for ticks every time they go outside, confer with your vet about the proper medications for prevention, and check yourself, too, so you can stay healthy and can take care of your four-legged friends! (NY [DEC](#) - Ticks)

Help Keep Dishes Filled



There is still a need for dog and cat food at food pantries. So, we again encourage you to check out food pantries in your area and donate if you can. Your local animal shelter would also appreciate donations.

A dog or cat in your community will certainly appreciate having a full tummy.

Thank You for Your Support!

For more information on what NYSHA has been up to, please check our website -- nyshumane.org ! There's a wealth of information including a list of wildlife rehabilitators who are often needed at this time of year. Remember we can all make a difference and overcome cruelty and ignorance. Even if it's just one animal at a time, it changes life for that animal - as we've all learned from the companions that we have rescued!

Thank you for your continued support of NYSHA. Wishing you and yours -- Including your four-legged family members – a safe and happy summer.

The Board and Staff at NYSHA

Thank you for caring and taking action!



We hope you enjoyed receiving our Summer Newsletter! Please drop us a line if you would like to comment on it. Info@nyshumane.org

*NYSHA is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization. **Your donation** is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services are received in return for your kind gift.*

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