

HUMANE

REVIEW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE HUMANE ASSOCIATION



NYSHA Partners with NYS DCJS to Expand Workshop Reach

Great news! NYSHA is now partnering with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to promote the goal of educating as many law enforcement-related individuals as possible on the animal cruelty laws of the state. In the past, DCJS had posted notices of NYSHA's *Animal Cruelty Investigation* workshops on its training schedules, but now, as a result of the new joint venture, notices for the workshops are sent out across the state via e-pages (comparable to an email blast) to all criminal justice-related entities, from police departments to probation/parole to the staff of the NYS Attorney General's Office. Individuals who want to attend simply sign up on the DCJS website. As a result of the e-page notices going out in the spring for the Yonker's workshop, we had a great attendance. And, also in the spring, though the Essex County workshop took place in a rural upstate area, we received an excellent turnout for that as well.

The Yonkers workshop led off our spring training calendar. We partnered with the Yonkers Police Department and held the workshop at the Grinton I. Will Library in Yonkers which had a spacious auditorium that accommodated the large turnout. In addition to our roster of NYSHA speakers, we were fortunate to have Senior ADA Mary Ann Liebowitz from the Westchester County DA's Office as our expert on the topic of creating a winning case for court.

Essex County Sheriff's Office co-sponsored our next workshop, held in their department training room in Lewis, NY. Numerous law enforcement personnel from as far away as Syracuse attended the workshop and provided us with excellent evaluations. We were fortunate to have ADA Brian Fel-

ton from the Essex County DA's Office do a presentation on how he wanted an animal cruelty case optimally handled in Essex County.

We were most pleased to see attendees from the NYS Attorney General's Office at both the Yonkers and Essex workshops. The Attorney General has launched an animal protective initiative to address animal crimes linked to puppy mills, organized dog fighting, and illegal production of items made from protected animal species, such as elephants. These crimes will be investigated. The attendees from the Attorney General's Office were pleased with the instruction they received and believed it provided them with a good foundation to support the Attorney General's initiative.



NYSHA speakers, Dr. Harry Hovel and Sue McDonough, with Yonkers police officers.

A sampling of evals from the two workshops included such comments as "I've heard of animal abuse, but I can't believe the extent of it," from a probation office, and "I've learned a lot of good techniques and the relevant animal statute," from a police officer. In addition, a comment that truly pleased us was from a town justice who commented, "This course has been very important to me and has enlightened me to many issues."

We are in the process of scheduling the fall workshops, so please check the NYSHA website – nyshumane.org -- periodically for times and locations.

What you can do:

- 1) Encourage your local law enforcement personnel to attend if you see the workshop is being held in a nearby area.
- 2) Please continue to support NYSHA's work to help animals.

President's Message

Celebrating the beginning of summer a few weeks ago, I was in several towns and cities in New England and was so impressed by how dog-friendly they were. There were water dishes outside most stores, and animals were in parks and at cafes just enjoying time with their families. The human-companion animal bond was quite evident and heartwarming.

For well-cared for animals, summer is great – longer days, more outside activities, vacations, and trips with people they love. Many of us consider these months our favorites.

For those of us living in upstate New York, one of the advertised benefits of our area is horse racing at Saratoga, and the campaign is especially strong right now as the track is celebrating its 150th anniversary. A day at the races is a “must-do” summer excursion for both locals and tourists.

But really – what kind of summer is it for the horses? Transport, racing, confinement in the heat just to hopefully have a few minutes of glory, simply to entertain and make money for the owners and spectators, hardly seems like an ideal way for a naturally grazing herd animal to enjoy him/herself.

But that's not all – a large percentage of these magnificent athletes end up on trucks bound for slaughterhouses in Canada or Mexico. In addition, there is the strong possibility that these grisly slaughter plants may again be legal in the U.S. There is an active campaign now both in New York State and across the country to fight these barbaric practices aimed at squeezing just a little more profit from these animals and providing people in foreign countries with their meat. Over 80% of the American public opposes equine slaughter, but politics, hidden agendas, and corporate greed seem to overrule reason and compassion. Like dogs, horses are an American treasure – how can we ignore their misuse and abuse?

Over the last few months, NYSHA has been at many public events, including several at the New York State Capitol, and one of our top priorities is to work with legislators and the public to educate everyone and anyone about this unspeakably cruel and unnecessary practice. So when the subject of Saratoga being the August place to be comes up, please remember and spread the word that it may be beautiful for its culture and amenities, but if you are a thoroughbred, it is the worst way to enjoy the season – and there is no choice.

As always, for the animals, Laura-Ann Cammisa

(To keep up with the ever-changing status of the equine slaughter situation, please check our website, nyshumane.org, or equinewelfarealliance.org)



NYSHA President Laura-Ann Cammisa greets horse at the 2013 American Equine Summit in Chatham, NY.

NYSHA's Calendar

Investigating Animal Cruelty Workshops – A fall workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, to be held in Sullivan County with the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office. Please check our website – nyshumane.org – for further information as it becomes available on this workshop and the rest of our 2013 schedule. We will present four this year, providing extra opportunities to those who will benefit from attending.

Please visit us on our Facebook Page - New York State Humane Association. There is also a link from our website.

We hope you will “like” us.

nyshumane.org

Dear Friends of NYSHA:

In addition to sending you our newsletter, we would like to keep in touch with you by occasional emails on timely topics – legislative alerts, for example. If you would like to be added to our email list or update an email address we already have, please use the email address line on the enclosed card. While we are very grateful for donations, please feel free to return the card with or without a donation. And, we promise you we will not inundate you with emails or give your email address to any other organization.

Thank you.

Matching Grants

Have you checked to see if your workplace matches employee's donations to qualified organizations? If not sure, please ask your employer. You may be able to double your donation to NYSHA.

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Legislation Committee Column

The NYSHA Legislation Committee worked very hard this session, which ran from January to June 2013. We participated in four lobbying events at the NYS Capitol in Albany: Humane Lobby Day in April, SAFE Horse Day in May, Veterinary Lobby Day in May, and Animal Advocacy Day in June. Each of these events offered NYSHA the opportunity to gather with other animal advocacy organizations to lobby on important bills and issues related to animals. Members of the Legislation Committee also engaged in activities including meeting with individual members of the NYS Senate and Assembly, phone calls to member offices, writing letters of support and opposition on specific bills, and securing an advertisement in the Legislative Gazette to promote the Consolidated Animal Crimes Bill (A775 Rosenthal/S1776 FUCHILLO).



"Saving Baby" author, Jo Anne Normile, with NYSHA's Legislative Chair Tracey Collins.

In addition to the Consolidated Animal Crimes Bill, the other top priority for NYSHA this session was a bill that would prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption (A3905 Glick/S4615 MARCHIONE). Unfortunately, these two bills were stalled in the Assembly and Senate Agriculture Committees. The main hurdle to both bills moving out of committee was opposition by the Farm Bureau, a very big obstacle in NYS. Sessions run in two-year cycles in NYS; therefore, these bills will remain 'active' through 2014.

NYSHA also worked on several other bills by drafting memos of support or opposition and supporting the efforts of organizations including The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), and the Coalition to Protect and Rescue Pets (CPRPets). The Legislative Session officially ended on

June 21. Animal-related bills that passed this session include:

- **A740-A Rosenthal/S3753-A GRISANTI:** Allowing local municipalities to regulate pet dealers.
- **A 1657-E Rosenthal/S3537-D GRISANTI:** Requires the establishment and implementation of a training program for dog control officers.
- **A2596-A Zebrowski/S079-A MAZIARZ:** Increases killing or injuring a police animal from class A misdemeanor to class D felony.
- **A1769-B Maisel/S1711-B GRISANTI:** Prohibits the possession, sale, offer for sale, trade or distribution of shark fins.
- **A3767-A Glick/S5733 LITTLE, VALESKY:** Bans the sale, distribution, transport and trade of Eurasian boars.

A few bills that were blocked from passage, due to the dedicated efforts of animal advocacy organizations, include:

- **A2490-A Magee/S2170-B VALESKY:** Provides that snapping turtles may be taken with the hands or by trapping.
- **A4023-A Gabryszak/S548-B GRISANTI:** Relates to the regulation of live restraint cable devices to take wildlife; authorizes regulations by the department of environmental conservation.

The Legislation Committee will continue during the 'off-session' to work on these and other important initiatives, and also work on developing a plan of action for the 2014 Legislative Session.

If you care about these or other measures that would help protect and improve the lives of animals, we encourage you to stay informed and contact your state representatives. To learn more about activities of the NYS Assembly and NYS Senate, or to identify your state representatives, please visit: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/> and <http://www.nysenate.gov/>

Skip that Trip to the Racetrack this Summer

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Thoroughbred racing at Saratoga. And, in true Saratoga fashion, the party has begun, with abounding flare and style! All of the businesses that will benefit from the party goes -- the hotels, the jewelry stores, and boutiques that sell \$300 designer hats -- should send a big thank you to the horses. Unfortunately, as always, this won't be the case.

This "Sport of Kings" continues to race juvenile horses, some of whom are barely



Photo courtesy PETA

two years old. Because of the use of stinging whips, horses will be forced to run at top speeds on fragile, underdeveloped bones and joints. They will suffer leg injuries which will be treated with cortisone injections to kill the pain, but eventually destroy their bones, thus leaving them vulnerable to a catastrophic breakdown. And cortisone is only one "routine drug" injected in racehorses. It has been documented that 118 different drugs have been used on racehorses.

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Samantha Mullen Honored with Legislative Resolution

After the passing of our beloved Board member, Samantha Mullen, Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal was kind enough to introduce a Legislative Resolution paying tribute to the life and accomplishments of Samantha. The resolution “honors those citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York.”

Assembly Member Rosenthal presented a framed copy of the resolution at Humane Lobby Day on April 17 in Albany to NYSHA Board members Patricia Valusek and Tracey Collins, who accepted it on behalf of Samantha’s family, who were unable to attend because of travel distance. Many in attendance were moved to tears by the touching words of Ms. Rosenthal, with whom Samantha had worked on numerous animal protection bills.

We are so pleased that the Legislature recognized and appreciated Samantha’s tireless, lifetime dedication to improving the lives of animals.



Board members, Pat Valusek and Tracey Collins, accept Resolution from Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal.

NYSHA Presents ADA Renee Merges with Award

On May 31, Board members Pat Valusek and Sue McDonough attended a retirement party for Albany County Assistant District Attorney Renee Merges and presented her with an award from NYSHA for her steadfast dedication to handling animal cruelty cases.



Albany Co. ADA Renee Merges with NYSHA Board members, Pat Valusek and Sue McDonough.

An example of Renee’s work was the successful prosecution in 2006 of a well-known animal hoarder by the name of Sue Peters, who had collected over 200 animals of various species, including birds, dogs, Llamas, horses, and mice while operating a 501(c) (3) “rescue” called Cherokee Ridge. Though Peters received thousands of dollars in donations each year, the animals lived in filth and were fed rotten fruit, donuts, stale bread, and cake that she would acquire from local grocery stores.

Renee spent weeks preparing for the trial, even educating herself on the care required for the animals involved in the case. It was due to Renee’s dedication and tireless efforts that Peters was found guilty of several counts of animal cruelty. Not only did she go to jail, she was mandated by the court to give up custody of the animals and was ordered not to acquire others.

Because of her concern about animal cruelty throughout her career, Renee served as a mentor to other prosecutors who handled animal cruelty cases.

Skip that Trip ... Continued from page 3

For many of the young horses who will race this year, their finish line will be a slaughter house in Canada or Mexico. To get there, they will be crammed into a truck and driven for long hours with no breaks for food or water. Upon arrival at the slaughter house, the horses are led into the “stunning area,” where they will hear the vocalization of other horses in front of them, making them nervous and unmanageable. They will be struck, often many times, with a “Captive Bolt,” which often does not render them unconscious, and thus, many are left conscious as they are shackled upside down and butchered. It has been documented that the skulls of many horses had numerous holes in them from this so-called “humane” method.

In a recent interview with Bo Derek, the famous horse trainer, Roger Stein, said, “There’s a very real need for the disposal of horses that no longer have any chance of being an asset... they are liabilities.” Unfortunately, Stein is not the only trainer or owner with this mindset.

A state-by-state survey shows that some 3,600 horses died while racing or training at state-regulated tracks over the last three years. In addition, a study published by the U.S. government and the Jockey Club revealed that the number of horses going to slaughter yearly is equal to 70% of the thoroughbred foals born annually. If the racing industry took the necessary steps to lesson its injury rates by not racing two-year-olds, there would be fewer horses who are “liabilities” when they are three-year-olds. Also, if the injury rates were reduced, fewer foals would need to be bred to replace those “liabilities.”

The abuse that our equine athletes suffer in the racing industry during their lives is unacceptable, and to condemn them to a horrific death of slaughter is unspeakable.