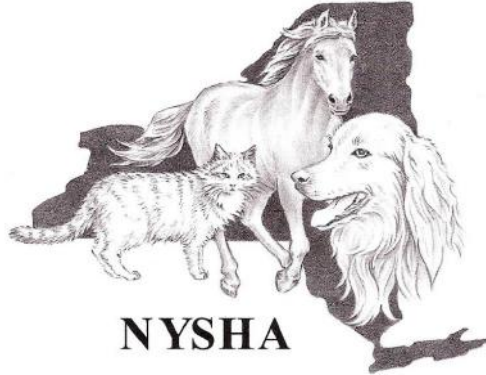


Humane Review

NYSHA's Summer Newsletter

July 2020



In these difficult times we have all had to change and adjust to new routines. Priorities change and certainly our appreciation of "normal" increases.

As an organization, NYSHA is continuing its advocacy work on behalf of animals and legislation benefiting them. Many of our volunteers and Board members have increased their efforts helping rescue organizations and families with companion animals struggling during this unimaginable pandemic.

So, changing with the times and to keep in touch with our valued members, we thought a brief email version of our newsletter would be welcome for now. We wish everyone well and hope extra hours spent with four-legged family members are enjoyed!

LEGISLATION WORK - SHELTER STANDARDS

AT LAST! A SHELTER STANDARDS BILL IS IN THE WORKS.



For years animal activists and concerned citizens have lamented that there are no statutes governing the care of animals in shelters. Sadly, though some shelters and rescues are subpar, the conditions do not rise to the level where cruelty charges can

be brought, and thus they remain in what is called the "grey area."

NY Senator Monica Martinez has set out to correct that situation by creating a comprehensive bill that covers all aspects shelter operations -- from cleaning procedures to cage sizes. Because of NYSHA's interest in the topic, we offered to review the proposed bill and provide the Senator with our analysis, as well as that of a few other shelter directors. The Senator's aide said she would welcome our input.

Although there was an abbreviated legislative session this year, we believe that S8029 will be an important bill in the next session. Please contact your legislators to express your support for this important shelter standards bill.

(Photo from Saratoga County Animal Shelter)

FOOD PANTRIES IN NEED OF PET FOOD



As we mentioned in an earlier mailing, we have started an effort in the NYSHA office area to help families feed their companion animals during this time. Several of our volunteers, as well as our local Board and staff members, personally purchase pet food each week and take it to our coordinating volunteer, who delivers the food weekly to one of the area food pantries. The pantry managers are very grateful to receive it. One said that food recipients are often more interested in food for their pets than for themselves. We encourage you to get a few friends or co-workers together and try this. Let us know if you do and if there are similar efforts in your area. (info@nyshumane.org)

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19



The Task Force presented its findings and recommendations to Governor Cuomo on addressing the significant increase (at least 33%) in domestic violence that has taken place in NY State and undoubtedly elsewhere since the start of the pandemic with its strong stay-at-home restrictions. The increased number of domestic violence cases and their severity have been attributed to greater stress, boredom, financial pressures, and unemployment that people are experiencing.

Missing in the Task Force Report was the strong tie between animal cruelty and domestic violence. Animals in the home are often the first and most severely abused victims as the batterer takes out his or her anger on the easiest victim before moving on to the human family members. During this COVID time, animal cruelty has undoubtedly increased as much or more than human domestic violence, and many past studies have established the very strong connection between animal abuse in the home and both child and spousal abuse, proving that fighting animal cruelty is a valuable means

of fighting domestic violence. NYSHA has reached out to Governor Cuomo to encourage looking into animal cruelty in the home as a way of preventing both animal crime and a means of recognizing cases, or potential cases, of increased human domestic violence. (See booklet, [The Connection Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence](#) on NYSHA's [website](#).)

ASK THE VET - Heartworm, Ticks, and Blue-Green Algae

With the coming of summer, we can enjoy the benefits of warmer weather, seasonal flowers, and more outdoor time to play and travel with a canine companion. Summer is also (unfortunately) the time when more pathogens and insects can cause harm to our dogs. By now, most of you will be familiar with summer heartworm exposure, and hopefully follow the recommended protocol from the American Heartworm Society (test for exposure once annually and keep on monthly preventive medications year-round.) You may also be familiar with the primary tick species affecting dogs and indoor-outdoor cats and the two diseases they can carry (Lyme and Anaplasmosis.) There are several different treatments to kill the carrier ticks, and you should check with your doctor which medication is preferred for your pet and lifestyle. Go to www.veterinarypartner.com for more information.



There is another seasonal health threat which most owners do not know about that can be very threatening to your dog's survival, particularly if your dog loves water play. Poisoning by [Blue-Green algae](#) occurs primarily in the mid-to late summer, and affects dogs who love to play in a lake or pond. The algae create "blooms" with a bluish cast on the water surface, and may be blown to the shore where dogs can access it easily. The illness caused can be either devastating liver failure or neurotoxic, creating tremors progressing to paralysis. In either case, immediate emergency care is essential. If the lake you are visiting has this characteristic coloration, DON'T TOUCH THE WATER!

HOT DRY SUMMER DAYS

This summer, please keep some fresh water in your yard for the critters. This squirrel shouldn't have to work so hard!



HORSE RACING IN NEW YORK

Although the Governor allowed NYS horse racing tracks to open in June, depending on the readiness of compliance for COVID-19 guidelines and their typical season running dates, it is very unlikely that spectators will be allowed at the tracks this year.

It must be noted that while the tracks were shut down with no racing, Belmont Park was still training (abusing and killing) horses. Over 600 employees were present at the track and 18 horses killed before one race was held. Since racing at Belmont resumed the first week of June, more horses have been killed -- a total of 26 this year. Belmont Park killed 44 horses in 2019.



No in-person protests are planned at this time by [Horseracing Wrongs](#), but they encourage you to reach out to lawmakers and to post on social media educational information to raise awareness of the cruelty inherent in the horse racing industry. The goal: end horse racing in the U. S.

THINK YOU'VE FOUND AN ABANDONED BABY ANIMAL?

One of the joys of staying home for many of us is watching baby birds emerge from the nest and young deer, rabbits, and other wildlife experiencing the joys of new life, oblivious to what is going on in the world. Unfortunately, we often find an injured animal or one who we think may have been abandoned. At this critical juncture of development, it is important that if we intervene to do so properly. Before handling anyone, contact a wildlife rehabilitation center for help. A list of licensed rehab facilities is on our website. [NYS Wildlife Rehabilitators](#) (**note**: Use Chrome or IE; the listing does not work with Mozilla Firefox.) Your local veterinarian or humane society may also have recommendations.



LINDA DESTEFANO, FOUNDER OF PEOPLE FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS IN SYRACUSE

We were very sad to hear about the tragic death of Linda, who spent her life advocating for animals and the environment. In our Fall issue of Humane Review, we plan to pay tribute to her in our Spotlight article.

DONATING TO NYSHA

Want to do more to help animals? Donate to NYSHA, or better yet, become a member! Even though life seems like it's at a standstill right now, it isn't for animals. NYSHA is still at work combating cruelty, promoting humane education, and working on legislative issues. Be part of the team! Click here to securely Donate or become a Member.

Finally -- "[Go ahead and watch. Cute or funny animal videos can be good for you.](#)" article from The Washington Post

Some videos to check out which recognize the joy our furry friends bring to our lives, especially appreciated right now.

[Donkeys Know How to Get Through Fence](#)

**[Stray Dog Crashes a Wedding and Finds His Forever Home](#)
[Awesome Bridges for Animals](#)**

[Sixty Awesome Bridges for Animals](#)

Thanks for everything you do every day for animals, and for all you will continue to do.

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