



Humane Review

Summer 2025

Summer Greetings,

It's finally here! Summer, a most anticipated season with long days to enjoy quality time outside with four-legged family members.

Summer brings some challenges and problems, too, including the ongoing horse racing issue and animals left outside without shelter or water in extreme conditions. Your support enables NYSHA to help deal with these situations on both the legislative and consulting levels.

You can help wild animals, birds, and bees get through the hot days by leaving small bowls of water or water fountains to drink from. Be sure to regularly clean birdbaths and other water containers.

Wishing you a wonderful and safe summer!

Animal Advocacy Day in Albany

Animal Advocacy Day at the Capitol in Albany afforded NYSHA and other groups that provide services for animals to meet and network with each other. This event was sponsored by several legislators who spoke eloquently to attendees about the need to protect animals in NY with strong legislation. We were pleased that NYSHA Board member Diane Fingar was able to bring her dog Watson along as he attracted many people to our table, including Senator Martinez, who gave him a long belly rub.



NYSHA Board members and Administrator gave information out at table. Diane Finger, Board member, with her popular dog Watson.



Assembly member Linda Rosenthal addressed attendees about animal friendly legislation, while Senator Hinchey and pooch listened.



Senator Monica Martinez, Senator Michele Hinchey, and Assembly member Donna Lupardo each spoke, encouraging and thanking animal advocates.

July 4th

Celebrate safely with your



companion animals on July 4th. More animals get lost on that day than any other day. Keep them inside and have identification on them in case they get out.

Provide a calm, safe space inside where they can go if frightened.

Photo by Razvan Sassu

Horse Neglect Continues to be Persistent and Widespread

The New York State Humane Association's (NYSHA) representatives continue to assist police, peace officers, animal and dog control officers, and private citizens in addressing concerns and cases related to animal cruelty. On average, we receive about 25 calls for help each month.



While we've been active across a wide range of cruelty cases this year, equine cruelty has been especially prominent. This spring, NYSHA assisted the New York State Police and the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department in two significant horse cruelty cases in upstate New York. As both cases remain active within the judicial system, we are unable to disclose specific details. However, we want to reassure you that every report we receive is taken seriously and thoroughly pursued.

In January, amid freezing temperatures, NYSHA collaborated with the New York State Police, the Susquehanna SPCA, and Equine Rescue Resource (ERR) in a case involving 30 horses and numerous other farm animals. Following an initial warrant, many animals were removed, with ERR transporting most to their facility. A second visit by law enforcement led to the removal of the remaining animals, who also went to ERR. Some of these animals have since been adopted into new homes, while others continue their recovery at ERR.

In another case, the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department investigated and

removed horses from a property where they were found living in deplorable conditions. NYSHA and ERR again played key roles in the rescue, with the Sheriff's Office requesting ERR to remove six horses. Two horses were immediately taken to an equine hospital — one required surgery, and sadly, the other had to be euthanized. The remaining horses received veterinary care and rehabilitation; a bonded pair was placed in a sanctuary in upstate New York, while others continue to recover at ERR.

We will keep you updated on the outcomes of these cases as they proceed through the courts.

Photo by Rafael Vianna Croffi at Unsplash

Best Wishes to Kathy Stevens on her Retirement from Catskill Animal Sanctuary

Kathy Stevens, founder of the Catskill Animal Sanctuary (CAS) in Saugerties, NY, announced her retirement after almost 25 years of rescuing and rehabilitating farm animals. Thousands of debilitated, neglected, abused, and dispirited critters have made their way through the gates of CAS into the arms of Kathy and caring staff. And as if knowing they were safe and loved, the forlorn animals blossomed into friendly beings who formed close friendships with not only the staff, but also with their fellow creatures at the Sanctuary. At CAS, they found a forever home until they crossed over the "Rainbow Bridge."



Kathy Stevens, sharing a good time with fellow beings at the Sanctuary.

NYSHA is proud to say that we worked with Kathy on her first case which involved a known hoarder in Ulster County who possessed various neglected farm animals, ranging from a huge steer to a rambunctious, ornery ram who was appropriately named Rambo by CAS. There was also an assortment of sheep and other beings,

all of them neglected and in need of veterinary care. They “lived” on a rented property in a dilapidated barn, with the steer relegated to an outside paddock with broken down fencing from which he was too debilitated to escape. Fortunately, a visitor to the property saw the situation and reported it to NYSHA.

NYSHA coordinated the subsequent rescue with CAS. It included the State Police, NYSHA folks, and a group of volunteers. The animals were transported to the first location of CAS in Accord, where the late Dr. Holly Cheever performed exams on all of them and determined treatments.

As the animals were being cared for, NYSHA worked with Kathy to request a hearing in town court to obtain a Security Bond from the defendant to cover the cost of the animals’ care. After examining the evidence put forth, the judge approved the amount requested, and when the defendant did not pay it, he ordered that the animals be forfeited to the Sanctuary. There was rejoicing – the animals now belonged to the Sanctuary and were forever safe.

Initially the rowdy Rambo appeared to be a hopeless case – crashing into the stall doors with his huge horns, frightening everyone with his dangerous behavior. However, after being neutered and receiving months of care by Kathy and CAS staff, Rambo assumed the role of a Walmart greeter at the Sanctuary, warmly welcoming visitors. He was a changed Ram.

These animals were the founding members of Catskill Animal Sanctuary, along with Dino, the pony who had been the sole survivor of a barn fire. They paved the way and were followed by thousands of others who have called the Sanctuary home – thousands who never had to live another day filled with fear and mistreatment.

Kathy, you have done an excellent job and deserve a well-earned rest. NYSHA wishes you a peaceful and restful retirement. You deserve it!

Photo Courtesy of Catskill Animal Sanctuary

Importance of Being Proactive in Your Pet's Health



When your pet is diagnosed with an ailment, it is crucial to be proactive by researching and closely monitoring even the smallest changes in their physical and emotional state. This vigilance allows you to provide your veterinarian with the most accurate information, enabling them to create a fully informed treatment plan.

One significant aspect of pet healthcare is working with your veterinarian to determine the best prescription diet for your pet. Veterinary diets are formulated to address various medical conditions, and with so many options available, it is essential to find the one best suited to your pet's specific needs.

I have a fourteen-year-old cat who was recently diagnosed with stage 3 kidney disease. The diagnosis came unexpectedly when I took her to the veterinarian due to limping and intermittent vomiting. An x-ray confirmed she had arthritis, but I also requested a full body function test, despite her having had bloodwork done less than six months prior. This decision led to the discovery of her kidney disease.

To address her condition, my veterinarian immediately recommended a renal support diet along with glucosamine supplements for her joints. However, her vomiting persisted. Concerned, I returned to the vet and explained the ongoing issue. This prompted the veterinarian to check her blood pressure, which was found to be high. As it turns out, hypertension frequently accompanies kidney disease.

My cat was then prescribed medication to control her hypertension. Within a week, the vomiting stopped. After three months of treatment, her kidney values improved from stage 3 to stage 2, demonstrating the impact of early detection and appropriate intervention.

This experience underscored the importance of being informed and vigilant about my pet's health. Researching her condition allowed me to ask the right questions and advocate for additional tests that ultimately improved her prognosis.

If your pet has been diagnosed with an illness, staying informed, working closely with your veterinarian, and noting even subtle changes in behavior or symptoms can

make a significant difference in their quality of life and help ensure that your pet receives the best possible care and support for their condition.

Rebecca Diamond, NYSHA Board Member

Photo by Hongwei-fan - Unsplash

Summer Safety for Companion Animals



A reminder to take extra precautions to protect our animal family members! Of course, if it's too hot for us outside, it's probably too hot for them, too!

- Be careful with summer guests and children opening and closing doors and windows, allowing a dog or cat escape. And check screens to make sure they're secure.
- And don't leave canned food out in heat for kitties to nibble on during the day. If it's not gone in a short time, take it away! Food poisoning is not fun for anyone.
- Brush pets regularly to prevent mats, which are more prone to develop with heat and humidity and are very painful.
- Please don't over exercise your pets outside in the heat. Overheating can become a medical emergency. Signs of [heatstroke](#) are drooling, excessive panting, weakness, vomiting, and collapse.
- When walking your dog, be aware that roads and sidewalks can become extremely hot and can burn your dog's feet.

- Even in the shade on a hot day, the temperature in a vehicle can escalate extremely quickly. New York has a law enabling police to break into vehicles that have a trapped animal inside who may be in distress from the heat. Contacting them immediately to get to the animal out may be best option. Don't attempt to break a window yourself. Send someone into a store, if applicable, with information about the vehicle and ask for an announcement to be made to locate the owner the car. Sometimes people leave a car running with the air conditioner on. With an electric car, you won't hear the motor running, but there may be an electronic sign inside stating this. Remember though that there have been many instances that the air conditioning has failed, leaving the animal in a vehicle that heated up quickly.

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

May you and your animals have a safe, happy and comfortable summer!

Photo by Kojirou-Sasaki - Unsplash

Please Continue to Support NYSHA - [Donate Here](#)

Thank You!!

More to Come

Watch for the fall issue of our newsletter -- Humane Review!

It will have news about NYSHA's Investigating Animal Cruelty workshop at Saratoga County Sheriff's Department -- and much more.

Please check out NYSHA's Website - nyshumane.org

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!

The Board and Staff at NYSHA

Thank you for caring and taking action!

NYSHA is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization.

Your donation is fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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