

HUMANE REVIEW

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The Newsletter of the New York State Humane Association



A New Chance for Francis



Francis begins his journey with Sister Mary

In 2010 the US census bureau designated the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx the poorest in the country. In the midst of a population struggling with poverty, crime, drug addiction and homeless animals there is a haven of serenity, the Corpus Christi Monastery.

This is where Sister Mary of the Dominican nuns resides. She was a child of privilege who attended international schools, skied in the Alps, and enjoyed many luxuries few can only imagine. Yet, she chose a life of service and contemplation.

She remembers when growing up her parents would take in any animal in need. This left a deep impression on her as a child. "I can't even kill an ant," said Sister Mary. "They are all God's creatures and God wants us to be good stewards of his beautiful creation."

When Sister Mary learned of a pit bull being abused, she immediately contacted her friend Lia Albo, a NYSHA board member, for assistance. Together with fellow NYSHA board members and volunteers, they quickly organized a rescue effort, working tirelessly to secure a safe future for the dog, appropriately named Francis after St. Francis, the patron saint of animals.

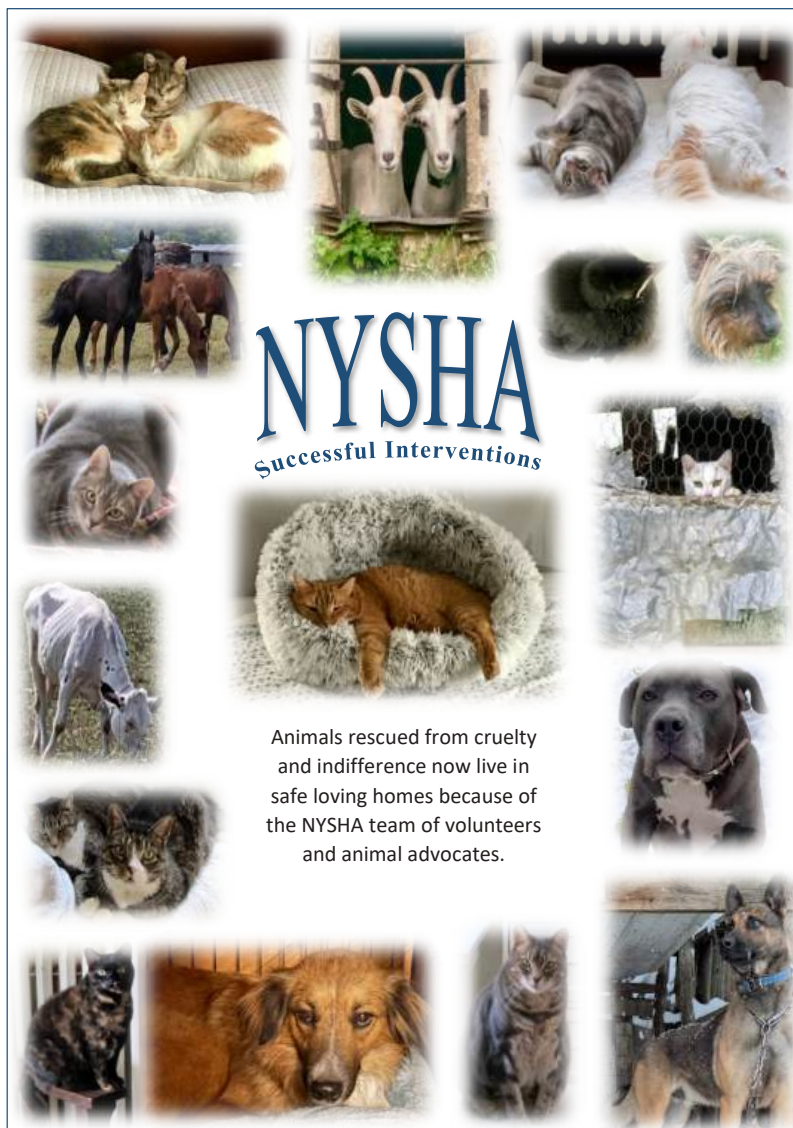
Despite the difficulties placing pit bulls and not knowing anything about his disposition, A New Chance Animal Rescue, a private rescue in Westchester County, welcomed Francis with open arms and all the toys and affection he never had. NYSHA provided the preliminary costs for his veterinary care as A New Chance immediately went to work on proper nutrition, behavioral assessment and enrichment. One thing they found, he loves balls. When he hears the other dogs playing outside with them, he gets excited, and even drools!

It's amazing that after all the abuse that he experienced, Francis is the most loving and sweet dog. A foster placement was found, and Francis is settling into his new life made possible by Sister Mary, NYSHA, and A New Chance Animal Rescue. The only thing Francis needs now is a forever family!



Francis enjoys his favorite toy

For more information on Francis, please contact www.anewchance.org.



President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

As I write this, the sound of baby birds preparing to leave their nest fills the air, bringing promises of new life, discovery, and freedom. This summer, our newsletter is devoted to those very opportunities.

NYSHA has been doing animal protection work for over 125 years led entirely by amazing and dedicated volunteers. For the last ten of those years, Pat Valusek has served as our president, tirelessly and endlessly devoting herself to the causes we all feel so strongly about. I am deeply honored to take on that role now, and look forward to continuing to work with Pat, our Board of Directors, our volunteers, and our devoted members to keep making a difference for the animals who need us most.

In this issue, we are highlighting some of the many animals NYSHA has had the privilege of rescuing from horrific situations, always in close partnership with other devoted animal advocacy and rescue organizations. Francis may be just one of those stories, but he is a shining example of what we can all accomplish together.

Our work goes far beyond individual rescues. Along with training law enforcement officials to effectively respond to and manage complex cruelty cases, we remain highly effective on the legislative front, working hard to change the laws and alleviate the abuse we encounter every day.

Thank you for your continued support as we step into this next chapter of fighting for animals together.

As always, for the animals,

Laura-Ann Cammisa

Driving Meaningful Change: NYSHA's Fight for Animal Welfare

In March, NYSHA brought back its Animal Advocacy Day event. Board members and volunteers together had the opportunity to push for legislative bills that NYSHA has made a priority this session. In April, NYSHA took part in the New York State Legislators' Animal Advocacy Day, where we met and spoke with legislators, as well as other like-minded organizations, to discuss legislation that would benefit New York's animals and explore the many ways we can work together to create meaningful and lasting change.

NYSHA's efforts to promote strong animal welfare legislation in New York extended well beyond these events. Throughout the legislative session, NYSHA maintained a presence at the NYS Capitol, engaging directly with lawmakers to advocate for priority bills, provided information on animal welfare issues, and helped identify practical solutions to existing gaps in the law. Furthermore, NYSHA members wrote letters and met with media outlets to bring attention to animal welfare reforms and improvements for protections for animals in New York.

NYSHA continues to play an active role in advancing policies that protect and improve the lives of New York's animals even after this legislation session ends. Throughout the year NYSHA works to build legislators' understanding of the need for change, continues education through media outlets and social media to publicize the issues, and responds to requests for investigations into cruelty and abuse. We need you, our supporters, to carry, wherever you go, the NYSHA message of humane treatment for all animals.

For more information regarding NYSHA's priority bills this year please visit our website. www.nysha.org

An Alliance for Advocacy

At NYSHA, we advocate for the right for all animals to live safely and peacefully. When we receive reports of abuse, or neglect, we reach out to our network of organizations and volunteers to investigate and, if necessary, intervene and deliver them from despair to proper care. We are deeply grateful to the organizations listed below for their collaboration in making this work possible.

The Dorset Equine Rescue



New Chance Animal Rescue



Dr. Kyra Haring,
For Pet's Sake
Veterinary Center



Rood and Riddle
Equine Vets



Dr. Andrea Kitson-
Keller, Barks & Rec



Peaceful Acres
Horses



Equine Rescue
Resource



Broome Animal
Sanctuary and Farm



Frederick Farm Goat
Rescue and Sanctuary



Hop On Home Rabbit
Sanctuary



Columbia-Greene
Humane Society



Kathy Hall, DCO



Sleepy Pig Sanctuary



Unbridled Sanctuary



Saratoga County
Animal Shelter



Rustic Creek
Rescue * Recovery



Hyer Ground Rescue



Taylor'd
K9 Training



Little Brook Farm



NYSHA Coordinates Equine Cruelty Investigation Workshops



Dr. Lauren Kleine explains signs of equine neglect at Unbridled Sanctuary.

NYSHA and Little Brook Farm have a long history of many years producing successful workshops focused on addressing animal cruelty. Last year, Unbridled Sanctuary joined us to produce two additional successful equine cruelty investigation workshops in 2025.

Over 30 police officers from various agencies in ten counties traveled to Little Brook Farm, nestled in the woods outside of Old Chatham. After receiving lectures on the laws and investigations by retired State Police BCI Sue McDonough and Steve Naile, DVM, both experienced in investigating equine cruelty cases, the attendees were given hands-on instruction on interacting with many horses housed at the rescue. Officers were provided with guidance

on how to “read” horse behavior to be safe when dealing with horses at cruelty cases they investigate. They were also taught how to put a halter on a horse to lead that horse to safety.

The police officers loved the close contact and felt bonded with “their” horses. A couple of officers were returnees who wanted to expand their knowledge. On the west side of the river, in October, NYSHA worked with the Unbridled Sanctuary to host its debut workshop on the investigation of equine cruelty, held at its facility in Greene County’s Greenville, which lived up to its name surrounded by verdant fields. Over 25 attendees from as far away as Suffolk County listened to Sue McDonough provide instruction on the laws, while Lauren Kleine, DVM, focused her talk on what to look for in terms of identifying neglect and abuse when viewing horses in a field, as well as observing them close-up.

In addition, Judge Muriel Frasher provided guidance on what she wanted to see when a case came to court, while Police Officer Dominic Martuscello explained in detail how he dealt with a cruelty case in Saratoga Springs involving a horse named Carson.

After presentations, the attendees were invited to visit the numerous horses who had been rescued from horrible circumstances and were now safely living at the Sanctuary. Staff pointed out various characteristics of equine behavior. Lastly, they got to meet Carson, who now looked great after receiving the veterinary care and a healthy diet he so desperately needed.

Both organizations are planning workshops for this year, and we know the police will be eager to attend.



A perfect outdoor classroom at Little Brook Farm’s Equine Workshop

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Editors: Laura-Ann Cammisa, Sondra Woodvine, Pat Valusek, Lia Albo, Diane Fingar, Linda Seward

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