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WINTER 2014-2015

# The Wags & Purrs Report



## A Home to Call Their Own

**W**elcome to our new Harley Johnson Park! Named after the two dogs that perished in the fire last March, our new dog park features safe and comfortable housing for our adoptable and long-term dog residents.

We considered rebuilding the structure lost in the fire, but realized we had the opportunity to build something even better – a group of homes that our dogs can call their very own while they wait days, weeks, months or even years for their forever families.

### Our own “Dogtown”

Modeled after Best Friends Animal Society’s “Dogtown”, the Harley Johnson Park was built on cleared land behind the shelter. This land was separated into eight 864-square-foot sections of living space, replacing the 60-square-foot kennels we lost in the fire. All of the houses are insulated and feature inside walls of reinforced fiberglass plastic paneling for easy cleaning. With a dedi-

cated freestanding generator and electric heat, the new residents will be safe and warm, even when power is lost in a storm.



Empire State Carpenter’s Apprenticeship Committee

Our new “gated community with sub-divisions” will not only improve our dogs’ lives, it will also help their socialization by catering to their natural “pack” behavior. Our plan is to have as many as three dogs per enclosure where they will live and play together — making them happier, better socialized and much more adoptable.

And, of course, the dogs will get plenty of love and attention for as long as they are residents of Harley Johnson Park.

### Thank you!

We are so very grateful to the incredible team that helped make Harley Johnson Park a reality! Architect Vincent Barbera designed the new living spaces and created the architectural plans. The Empire State Carpenters Apprenticeship Committee donated their time and expertise to build the houses. Bob Lutz shingled all of the roofs. Cross Landscaping cleared the work site. Gentech donated the

stand-by generator. And Jim Turner of Donation Vehicles transported the houses to the shelter. Harley Johnson Park couldn’t have happened without the amazing skills and hard work of these wonderful people!

But the MVP of the Harley Johnson Park team has to be supporters like you! Thanks to your generosity and love of animals, our dogs have a new place to call their own! We invite you to visit Harley Johnson Park in person and see our happy dogs for yourself! To set up a visit, please contact the shelter at [hvspca@yahoo.com](mailto:hvspca@yahoo.com).

## A FRESH START

Rising from the Ashes — Better than Ever

How does one recover from the tragedy of last March? How do the staff and volunteers pick themselves up from the sorrow of loss and injury to start again?

It hasn't been an easy recovery. The hard work has tested our physical and emotional strength. But with the overwhelming support of our community and the thousands of dollars generously donated during our time of need, we stand ready to begin anew — to make a fresh start.

### A new look

A fresh start. A new beginning. A new look. This redesigned newsletter and our new logo and are all evidence of our abiding optimistic view for the future. We hope you like it!

We present the new Hudson Valley SPCA logo! It illustrates a safe shelter from the elements for our animals — a place of love and harmony. Our shelter is a compassionate interim home for most animals, and a forever, safe haven for others.

Our new colors are a fresh and modern take on our previous palette, and we hope our new slogan will inspire staff, volunteers and donors to continue to fight the good fight.



So get ready to see some needed changes and to hear about the exciting plans we have for the coming year!

### Our promise

One thing will not change: Our promise to you and to the animals. We are more determined than ever to make the Hudson Valley SPCA a beacon of hope for all animals in need. We will rescue them, we will help them recover and we will find them happy homes — each and every one of them!

*Joannie Kay*

*President of HVSPCA Board of Directors*

## Our Volunteers THE EVERYDAY HEROES

Does a wagging tail fill your heart with joy? Do you think that cat hair is a desirable fashion accessory? Do you relax at the end of a hard week working in the garden? Then volunteering at the HVSPCA may just be in your future!



Our volunteers are the human lifeline that the animals crave while they wait for their own families. Not only do they take our



dogs on long walks and scratch eager cat chins, they make new friends, learn valuable skills and become the heroes the animals have been waiting for.

If you can spare a couple of hours a week, please consider becoming a volunteer.

Call us today and we'll get you started!



The animals will reward you with pure love and deep gratitude — we guaranteed it!

## Did You Know?

- Cats can't smile like dogs because they don't have facial muscles.
- Dogs have about 1,700 taste buds. Humans approximately 9,000 and cats have around 473.
- Most female cats are right-pawed while male cats are left-pawed.
- Dalmatian puppies are born pure white and develop spots later.
- A cat's brain is more similar to a human brain than a dog's brain.
- A dog's sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times more acute than that of humans.
- Cats can drink seawater to survive (their kidneys expel the salt).
- The average dog is as intelligent as a two-year-old child.
- Cats almost never meow at other cats — only humans.
- Puppies have 28 teeth and normal adult dogs have 42.
- The HVSPCA is NOT funded by the ASPCA nor by local municipalities. We rely 100% on your support!

# The High Cost of Saving Lives

**D**id you know that we need to raise more than \$225,000 a year to keep the HVSPCA's doors open? Did you know that we rely 100% on the generosity of supporters like you?

Many people believe that they are supporting their local animal shelter when they donate to the ASPCA. Sadly, that is not the case. While the ASPCA does tremendous work in raising awareness about animals in need, none of the \$185mn it raised last year was redistributed to local shelters for day-to-day operations. And only a small portion of those funds were set aside for grants to help shelters who need aid for special projects.

So how do we do it? How does the Hudson Valley SPCA raise the money needed just to stay open year in and year out?

You! You make it happen!

The generosity of our friends and supporters is the only lifeline the animals have to get them through each and every day. No animal would have a warm bed to sleep on. No animal would have a belly full of food. No animal would receive the expert medical care they need. And no animal would leap into the waiting arms of an adoptive family. None of this happens without your help.



## 200 more animals in 2014

Nearly 200 additional animals have come into the HVSPCA this year. Many of them hurting physically and emotionally. All of them in need of shelter, food and love.

Even with our healthy adoption rate, there are at least 50 dogs and 110 cats in our care at any given time. Each animal will stay with us until a "forever family" comes along. Some, through no fault of their own, have been with us for a long time. We promise all of them sanctuary, but that sanctuary comes at a high price – a price we can only afford because of supporters like you.

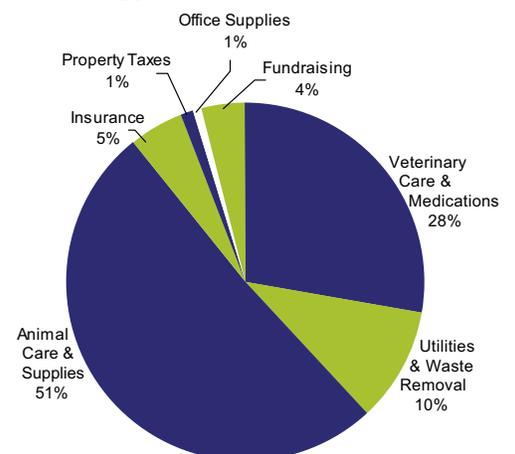
The chart on the right shows how donations were allocated last year. All too often we take in animals who have been turned away by every other shelter in our area. Parvovirus, respiratory infections, heartworm, broken bones, pyometra, and other serious maladies land on our doorstep and are very costly to treat – often more than \$1000 for just a single animal!

You can make a difference in the lives of the animals of Orange County this holiday

season by supporting the Hudson Valley SPCA. With a gift of \$15, you will support a dog for a week. With a gift of \$30, you will care for a cat for a month. With a gift of \$50, you can help us spay or neuter an animal to prevent overpopulation.

Your tax deductible donation can be made online at [HVSPCA.org](http://HVSPCA.org) or using the convenient enclosed mailer.

All of us at the Hudson Valley SPCA thank you for your support and wish you and yours a very happy and healthy holiday season!



*The Hudson Valley SPCA doesn't receive money from the ASPCA. We rely 100% on public donations for our survival. We are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations to the HVSPCA are tax deductible.*

## Rescue Stories

### TOMMY & TAMMY, TOGETHER FOREVER!



Our Humane Law Enforcement Division is the **ONLY** law enforcement agency in Orange County specializing in animal cruelty and abuse. To report suspected abuse or neglect, please visit our website at [www.HudsonValleyHumaneLaw.com](http://www.HudsonValleyHumaneLaw.com) or call (855) 448-2548.

Tommy and Tammy, two little terrier mixes, had been abandoned in an apartment and discovered by a woman who said she didn't want them.

Under a year old, they were covered in their own excrement, starved and terrified.

We fed them a hearty meal and gave them a good bath. They began to relax a bit and it became clear that they shared a very strong bond so there was no question that Tommy and Tammy needed to be adopted together.

With good care, patience and lots of love, these two plumped out and slowly learned to trust again.

Right before our eyes, they regained the puppyhood they had been too weak to enjoy. They became cheerful, delightfully friendly and very playful as they came to realize that no one was ever going to hurt them again.

Today they are in their forever home enjoying life to the fullest — together!



Tommy and Tammy - Before and After

## ADOPT • VOLUNTEER • DONATE\*



### Raffle to Win Lunch + Tour with Paul Sr. AT THE ORANGE COUNTY CHOPPERS CAFE!

This holiday season we are excited to raffle

The raffle drawing will be held December 20, 2014 at 3:00 PM at Orange County Choppers. You don't have to be present to win!

Our thanks go out to Paul Sr. for his ongoing support of the HVSPCA and for his love and dedication to all of the animals.

chances to meet Paul Sr. of Orange County Choppers! Purchase the winning raffle ticket, and you and three friends will sit down to lunch with Paul Sr. at the Orange County Choppers Café in Newburgh, NY. After lunch, Paul will personally guide you through a tour of the OCC shop!!

Raffle tickets are only \$20 each, and all proceeds will benefit the animals at the Hudson Valley SPCA! Get your tickets at the Hudson Valley SPCA shelter, at 940 Little Britain Road in New Windsor, or at Bloomingdeal's Resale Shop, at 436 Blooming Grove Turnpike in New Windsor.

Supporters outside the area may purchase tickets by mail. Just fill in, cut out and send this coupon. Mail orders must be received by Wednesday, December 18th, 2014.



### Lunch for 4 + Tour with Paul Sr. at Orange County Choppers Café

**DRAWING: DECEMBER 20, 2014 AT OCC**  
Mail orders must be received by December 18, 2014.  
Winner need not be present to win.



Please send me my chance(s) to win lunch with Paul Sr.!

No. of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 Each Ticket = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Make Checks payable to: Hudson Valley SPCA

Please mail tickets to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your order to: **Hudson Valley SPCA • PO Box 356 • Vails Gate, NY 12584**

\*\* The date of the lunch and tour will be coordinated with the winner. The lunch and tour must take place on the same day. Winner and guests will be responsible for transportation to and from Orange County Choppers.

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