



WINTER 2015-2016

The Wags & Purrs Report

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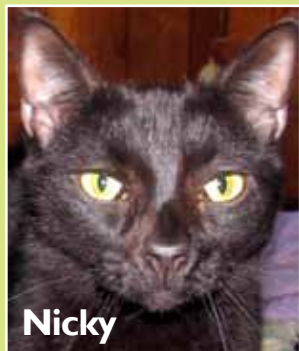
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Nicky

As 2015 draws to a close, our hearts are warmed by thoughts of all of the animals that the Hudson Valley SPCA has helped through rescue, adoption, humane law enforcement, and trap/neuter/release this year.

Rescue & Adoption

At this writing, 225 dogs and 193 cats found shelter, safety and compassion at the HVSPCA over the course of 2015. This included saving 62 puppies and 94 kittens from life on the streets or potential euthanasia at other shelters. But we were only able to save so many lives because of successful placements into forever homes. Adoptions have reached a new record in 2015, as 221 dogs and 144 cats found families to call their own!

Humane Law Enforcement

For better or for worse, our Humane Law Enforcement team has also experienced a record-breaking year in 2015. By year's end, we expect to have responded to nearly 400 complaints – up 18% compared to 2014. HLE's work was most noted in a raid on a Hamptonburgh, NY farm – the largest raid in Orange County history, where nearly 200 animals suffered severe neglect. While the prosecution of the farmer is ongoing, the animals who were rescued will live out their lives in sanctuaries in New York and Pennsylvania.

TNR Program

We all know that spaying/neutering is the only way to prevent animals from winding up in shelters... or worse. And so, we started a trap/neuter/release program to target feral cat colonies throughout Orange County this year. More than 80 cats have passed through this program since it began in July. Given feline reproduction rates, this effort could prevent the births of more than 1000 kittens into these colonies over the next 2 years!

Volunteers, Staff & You

We have been blessed with volunteers and staff who make our dreams of saving suffering animals a reality. But all of our work starts with you! Despite staffing costs at just above minimum wage and a wide network of dedicated volunteers to help with feeding, cleaning, transport and other tasks, necessities like vet bills, medications, utilities and insurance translate into operating costs of more than \$225,000/year. Every penny of that budget comes from supporters like you!

The Hudson Valley SPCA does not receive money from the ASPCA, HSUS, or any municipal or government entity. We rely 100% on donations to keep our doors open! The sad reality is: **Our doors cannot stay open without your contribution!**

We hope that we can count on your support to keep saving the homeless, abused and neglected animals of Orange County in 2016! On behalf of all of your friends here at the HVSPCA, we wish you and yours a very happy holiday season and a healthy, prosperous new year!



Shelters across the country saw the busiest kitten season in memory in 2015. Of the nearly 100 kittens who came to the HVSPCA, 30 of them were bottle babies – orphans still reliant on their mother’s milk to survive. In the absence of their mothers, their survival depends entirely on the kindness of humans.

Here at the Hudson Valley SPCA, we are lucky to have dedicated staff and volunteers willing to provide loving care to these needy babies. As each of them will tell you, while the amount of care required is daunting, the cuteness is a pretty good trade-off!



- Did you know that laser-pointer-play can be psychologically damaging to dogs?! Sadly, pups whose owners used lasers to “entertain” them will spend the rest of their lives staring at patches of light, hunting for shadows or snapping at anything that shines. Border collies, Aussies, and other herding or hunting breeds with strong gazing tendencies seem to be impacted most. Please look for other cold-weather ways to expend your dog’s energy!

- Cats have a 5 toes on their front paws and 4 on each back paw. Count them.
 - For running purposes, the shoulder blades on dogs are not attached to the rest of the skeleton. Weird.
 - A cat's field of vision does not cover the area right under its nose.
 - "Him" and "Her" were the names of President Lyndon Johnson's two beagles.
 - Cats actually have dreams, just like us. They start dreaming when they turn 1 week old zzzzzzzzzzzzzz.
- Out of the 12 that were on board, 3 dogs survived the Titanic - 2 small Pomeranians and 1 Pekinese.
 - Each side of a cat's face has about 12 whiskers. Count them.
 - Dogs are not colorblind. They are able to detect color, just not as vividly as their humans.
 - Cats can't taste sweetness. Bummer.
 - Spiked dog collars were used in ancient Greece to protect dogs' throats from wolf attacks.

Meet Matt Hughes

THE MAN BEHIND SO MANY DOG RESCUES & HAPPY ENDINGS



Moments before this photo was taken, this scared little dog, who had just been saved from a NYC kill shelter, was shaking, growling and snarling in his cage. He was terrified at what he thought to be imminent danger because his life had been very hard until now.

But Matt Hughes had a job to do. He had to get a collar on this boy so he wouldn't hurt himself while he healed from surgery.

The little dog barked and lunged in desperation - trying to save himself from what he feared was more pain. Matt had seen hundreds of dogs come into the Hudson Valley SPCA full of fear and anger. He was patient and talked calmly to the little dog until he was able to get a collar around his neck. In the blink of an eye, this pup was in Matt's arms — looking up in wonder at the big man with the gentle hands.

Around here we say Matt is magic. And everyone who knows him knows exactly what we mean.

Matt Hughes, the HVSPCA's Manager of Dog Intake & Adoptions, gets up before

sunrise to serve the dogs under his care. And his workday never really ends. Matt's days are always long and exhausting — filled with heartache as well as unmeasurable joy. It takes a special person to turn a scared dog into a loving family companion. It takes a special person to see the possibility in every animal in need. But you see, like we said... Matt is special. He's magic.

Maybe because Matt had a rough start in life himself, every dog knows his heart. He has suffered more bites than he can count, yet Matt's hands are always loving and his approach is always

patient. You only have to see him around the dogs to know what they think of Matt. He is their leader. He is their friend. And most importantly, Matt is their fierce protector.

Big Man — Just One Story

A little over a year ago, Matt and his team rescued a beautiful, abandoned American Bulldog he called Big Man from the City of Newburgh. Big Man had been wounded in a dog fight and needed extensive medical care. He was rushed to the vet where he was placed in a cage next to a sick elderly dog. The elderly dog's owners visited their boy daily and slowly fell in love with Big Man. When, sadly, their dog died, Matt got a call: This wonderful couple wanted Big Man to become part of their family. There was no question they would provide a wonderful home, so he was adopted and began a new life.

Big Man was taken to training classes where he excelled. In fact, the trainer used him to help calm nervous dogs in the class. Big Man was so good, that the trainer suggested he take classes for the AKC Canine Good Citizen certification. And, of course, Big Man aced it! The two awards in the picture on the left are for *AKC Star Puppy* and for the *AKC Canine Good Citizen*. Matt, other staff and volunteers are all very proud of how this stray — a chewed-up young dog from Newburgh — has become a "Rock Star" with great owners who love and encouraged him every step of the way.

On a recent visit, Big Man showered Matt with kisses. We're pretty sure he was thanking Matt for saving his life so he could be a champion.



Champion Big Man visited us with his awards so we could see them in person and he ran excitedly to Matt — remembering him immediately.

GEORGIA PUPPY RESCUES

With your help, the Hudson Valley SPCA has rescued 62 puppies since March of this year from rural Georgia.



With the help of rescuers and fosters in our area, the HVSPCA has rescued 62 puppies, year-to-date, from rural shelters in the State of Georgia. Had these babies not been rescued, all faced euthanasia due to lack of available homes in Georgia.

But in coming to the HVSPCA, all were adopted within days of arrival!

While puppies are harder to come by in the Northeast, they overflow the shelters and streets of the rural south. This is partly due to a different mindset between these two regions regarding the importance of spaying/neutering pets. But economics is also a major factor, as many rural Southern families could not afford to have their pets fixed even if they wanted to.

The euthanasia lists issued by shelters are torture to review, full of both adults and pups of widely varying ages and breeds. Our hope is to offer a chance at life to those puppies in the greatest danger of being put to sleep. We are fortunate that once they arrive on our doorstep, they don't take up much space

or stay very long... which means saving their lives is not a burden on our resources. But these rescues are not free. It costs an average of \$200 to save a pup, including vetting and transportation to the HVSPCA. Funding for these rescues comes from supporters who earmark donations specifically for this effort. We also charge an adoption fee for puppies, unlike adult dogs for whom adoption fees are waived.

Please email sdicarrado@gmail.com if you know of puppies in our area in need of rescue, or if you would like to sponsor a rescue yourself. You can also donate to our puppy rescue efforts by making donations through YouCaring.com. All sponsors receive our gratitude as well as a digital certificate with the sponsored puppy's picture and name!

We're Looking for Angels

Without immediate assistance from supporters like you, the Hudson Valley SPCA is at risk of closing. Should we have to close, the ramifications will be dire: There will be no one left to fight for the well-being of homeless, abused and neglected animals in Orange County.

It costs over \$225,000 to keep our doors open each year. Our medical bills in August alone were \$25,000 with so many

sick animals abandoned at our threshold! Since we do not receive support from the ASPCA, HSUS or any municipal or

government agencies, we rely on donations to stay afloat. But more than donations, we are desperate for Angels... individuals who might commit to holding small fundraisers each month with the goal of donating \$100/month to the animals of the HVSPCA.

I want to be the animals' Angel

- ☐ I pledge \$100 a month for one year to keep the doors open at the Hudson Valley SPCA so they can continue to save animals and the humans who adopt them.
- ☐ My business pledges \$100 a month for one year to keep the doors open at the Hudson Valley SPCA so they can continue to save animals and the humans who adopt them.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____



We are fighting to help animals in need as well as our community at large. But we desperately need your help to continue our work! Won't you be an Angel to the animals of Orange County in 2016? You can get started by returning the form below to us, or reaching out with your contact information to info@HudsonValleySPCA.org. A member of our Board of Directors will get right back to you. And animals in need will thank you!

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.