



## The Society Page



Volume 7, Issue 2

April–June 2008

### Sandy Howell—the Right Woman for the Job

Sandy, HSWC’s newest staff member, is proud of the work being done by the people she supervises; she appreciates their level of commitment to the common goal of giving homeless animals their “second chance.” The Board of Directors, in turn, is highly pleased to have Sandy taking responsibility for animal care at our Shelter.



Sandy Howell and Cooper

Since becoming the Shelter Operations Manager in February 2007, Sandy has been a positive force in fostering camaraderie among her co-workers, and in displaying a confident and informed attitude with the public. Her major accomplishment, however, has been the successful implementation of her plan to increase the number of animals altered *prior* to leaving the Shelter. In addition to Dr. Linda Schneider of Macedon Veterinary Care performing cat neuters at the shelter, Sandy was able to enlist the services of Dr. Michele Linnenbrink to do cat spays and dog neuters and spays at the Shelter. To make this happen, Sandy set up a room for the surgeries, secured an anesthesia machine, and wrote a project proposal for this endeavor. Since 7/30/07, the date Dr. Michele Linnenbrink started to do surgeries, 275 animals have been altered at the Shelter by both vets through February of this year. Additionally, Palmyra Animal Hospital, Walworth Animal Hospital, Lyons Veterinary Clinic, Newark Veterinary Hospital, and Macedon Veterinary Care continue to support HSWC by doing free surgeries.

Prior to coming to us, Sandy was employed by Palmyra Animal Hospital. She has always wanted to work with animals. Sandy comments, “Animals should be fun and

### SNIF (Spay/Neuter Incentive Fund)

Animal shelters across the country, even the world, share a common goal—to end pet overpopulation. The Humane Society of Wayne County is no different and we are proud to share with you progress we have made to that end.

The first tool in the battle to end overpopulation is spaying or neutering our pets. As you are aware, more than 1,100 unwanted or abandoned animals were brought to our shelter in 2007 alone.



We are grateful to Dr. Michelle Linnenbrink and Dr. Linda Schneider for their dedication to spaying and neutering dogs and cats at our facility. We would also like to express our

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**Our Mission:**

The mission of the Wayne County Humane Society Animal Shelter is to provide a humane facility to shelter, feed and care for lost, unwanted and abused animals of Wayne County, New York and to provide a facility for humane education to citizens of Wayne County.

**Shelter Hours**

**Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Friday:**

10 am to 4:30 pm

**Thursday:** 10 am to 6 pm

**Saturday:** 10 am to 4 pm

**Sunday & Monday:** Closed

**Telephone:** 315-946-3389

**Fax:** 315-946-9132

**Email:**

humane@usadatanet.net

**Web:** www.hswaynepets.org

Mark Plyter, *Executive  
Director*

Sandy Howell, *Shelter  
Operations Manager*

**Board Members**

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Marge Laws

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**Programs and Services**

Pet Adoptions

Shelter for lost, abused and  
unwanted domestic animals

Humane Education

Low Income Spay/Neuter  
Financial Assistance Program

Adult Companion Program

Foster Care Program

Volunteer Opportunities

Charlie's Fund

*All interested members are welcome to attend Board Meetings. Regular Board Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. The meetings are held in the basement of the Citizens Bank, at 711 West Miller Street, Newark, New York. To obtain a copy of board meeting minutes, write to: Marianne DeBellis, c/o Humane Society of Wayne County, 1475 County House Road, Lyons, NY 14489.*



*Mark Plyter*

**Assessing Behavior in Shelter Dogs: Learning to Understand our Animals**

*A message from our shelter's Executive Director Mark Plyter*

We have made it a standard practice here at the Shelter to perform a temperament test on all dogs. This Behavior Assessment (BA) is another tool to help us paint a picture of a pet's behavior traits. A BA is an added building block in the overall evaluation of a dog's adoptability and brings us additional insight into the type of home where each individual pet will thrive.

These BAs are extremely important in assessing not only the behavior traits of our dogs and the best type of home for them, but also in determining whether a dog poses a safety hazard for our community. The Behavior Assessment process has helped contribute to our success in building a 90+ percent adoption rate for all dogs that come into our care. As importantly, we only have a three- to four-percent adoption return rate—a rate much lower than the national average of approximately 20 percent.

The assessment for a dog consists of several steps in which trained Humane Society staff members place the dog in a series of "real life" situations and record his reactions and behavior. By placing an animal in these situations, the assessment can reveal behaviors that otherwise may not be displayed in the normal day-to-day shelter setting, but could possibly be expressed in normal home situations. An assessment may take from fifteen to forty-five minutes, depending on the individual animal. Behavior Assessments are performed after a dog has had several days to adjust to the shelter setting and can be repeated if determined that a particular dog needs more time to feel comfortable.

Just as blood work can show areas where a pet's health is abnormal or in need of treatment, a BA can show us areas where a pet's behavior is in need of some improvement, or at least warrants a second look. For a majority of our dogs, the BA is not a determining factor in whether or not they are adoptable, but just another step in building an overall picture of the environment best suited for the dog and how the dog is likely to behave in his new home.

We do not use breed, age or size as determining factors in a dog's adoptability, but rather we treat each one as an individual, assessing behavior without bias brought on by stereotypes. Appearances can be deceiving: for example, we've seen the traditional type of family dog breeds whose personalities make them best for adult-only homes, while we've had other so-called "aggressive" breeds whose sweet natures made them a great fit for any type of environment.

We have an over 90 percent adoption rate for a reason—because we know that there is a great home out there for our pets, we just have to know enough about them to help them find it. It is thanks to support from our members, animal lovers and the community, that we are able to take the steps necessary to find not just any home for each of our pets—but *the right home!*

## Memorials

Thank you to the following friends who made contributions to our shelter between December 1, 2007 and February 29, 2008

### LIDA ALLEN

- ♦ Betty Ahrens

### MARY MARGARET ANDREWS

- ♦ Donald & Judith Combs

### GENEVIEVE BARDMAKER

- ♦ Robert & Joan Schinsing

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- ♦ Sherri & Michelle Winter

### EMOGENE LEVERE

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- ♦ Theresa & Richard Molisani
- ♦ Tony & Edie VanVleck

### KAREN MARCZESKI

- ♦ Sherri & Michelle Winter

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- ♦ Tim & Robin Boerman
- ♦ Chris & Cassandra Boerman
- ♦ Pam Boerman
- ♦ Heidi Boerman
- ♦ Melanie & Donald Cummings
- ♦ Robert & Victoria Daly, Jr.
- ♦ Robert & Janet DeRidder
- ♦ Kenny & Marisel Green
- ♦ Agnes Griffith
- ♦ Lorrie & Dick Helling
- ♦ Sally McPike
- ♦ Sandy & Jan Means
- ♦ John Scribner, Jr.
- ♦ Steven & Cathy Sheldon

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### DELORES MORGAN

- ♦ Ella Sebesta

### BARBARA OAKES

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- ♦ James Dietz
- ♦ Phyllis & Robert Dietz
- ♦ The Richard Farrell Family
- ♦ Richard & Millie Loucks
- ♦ Marilyn & Albert Lucas
- ♦ Nancy & Helen Nevelizer
- ♦ Neil Rojek
- ♦ North Rose-Wolcott High School Main Office Staff

### BETTY REDFIELD

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### HERBERT SMITH

- ♦ Judy & Paul Johnson
- ♦ T.F. & S.T. Sova

### DEE STARK

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- ♦ Don & Ellie Van Waes
- ♦ Theresa & Ernest Volpe
- ♦ Corliss Vonn
- ♦ Cherie Yager

### DARLENE WELLOT

- ♦ Betty Burnett

### AUDREY WICKHAM

- ♦ Rochester Institute of Dog Grooming
- ♦ Macedon Veterinary Care

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- ♦ Deborah & Edward Carlucci, Jr.
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- ♦ Joyce Moyer
- ♦ Anne Perkins
- ♦ Leon & Anne Sawyko

### WILLIAM ZARETESKY

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- ♦ Penfield Education Association
- ♦ Katherine & Norman Adolfsen
- ♦ Lois Bramer
- ♦ Richard Brown
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- ♦ Anthony & Karen Gledhill
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- ♦ Mario & Jill Lomonaco, M.D.
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- ♦ Robert & Gloria Renkert
- ♦ Richard Samson
- ♦ H.J. & Gretchen Schindler
- ♦ Shirley Sibley
- ♦ Sodus Bay Ice Boat Club
- ♦ Harvey & Cheryl Steron
- ♦ Joan Thomann
- ♦ Jeffrey & Joi Washburn
- ♦ Edwin Wheeler
- ♦ Roy & Doris Wilson
- ♦ Kaijin Zhou



### DIXIE (DOG)

- ♦ Andrea & Gordon Meyer

### BO (DOG)

- ♦ Keith & Nadine Brill

### MOLLY (DOG)

- ♦ Keith & Nadine Brill

### KIRBY (CAT)

- ♦ Gordon & Andrea Meyer

### TARA (CAT)

- ♦ Jane Allen

## A Lesson in Caring and Compassion



Mrs. Feistel and Mrs. Morton's 1st Graders at Wayne Central School donated \$101 to the HSWC. The donations were made in lieu of gifts for the teachers at Christmastime. The project helps develop the children's awareness of being good citizens and caring for the less fortunate members of our society, and was done in conjunction with the New York State Character Education Curriculum and the primary school's own Good Citizen program called "Kids Under Construction."

### **Sandy Howell**, *continued from first page*

rewarding; animals are not negative; animals are inherently good . . . animals give unconditional love even if you deny their basic needs." Sandy believes that she is the lifeline when animals are considered disposable.

Job positives for Sandy, besides the animals, are her co-workers, talking with potential adopters, and educating people about being good animal owners and helping to raise the "standard of care" for dogs and cats. She likes the diversity of her work, from paperwork, to health checks, to interaction with people.

Of course the sad stories of Shelter animals are emotionally draining. Even though we are euthanizing animals because they are sick, debilitated, or have an aggressive temperament, it still "takes a little of your soul each time you put an animal down," says Sandy. When euthanasia is deemed necessary, Sandy states it must be done so that the animal absolutely does not suffer.

As with the rest of the Shelter staff and the Board of Directors, Sandy will work toward a new larger Shelter so that all dogs and cats in need can be promptly admitted, cared for, and adopted. We hope that Sandy will want to continue her good work with us for a very long time.

## HSWC Open House!

June 8th

12:00pm - 4:00pm

Join us at the HSWC Shelter for our annual Friend Raiser!

Tour the grounds and meet the animals!

Highlights include:

- ◆ Special speakers covering animal related topics
- ◆ Vendors
- ◆ Flower sale
- ◆ Mutt Strut 2008 sign up
- ◆ Go Fetch! and 50/50 raffles
- ◆ Used book sale
- ◆ Silent auction
- ◆ Bake sale
- ◆ PAWS for a Cause
- ◆ Renew your membership
- ◆ Children's Activities
- ◆ Lunch (hot dogs, soda, chips) at a family price!

Please stay tuned for more information.

### **Wayne County Motorcycle Club Benefit a Huge Success!**



It may have been too cold for a motorcycle ride this March, but a great time was had at the dinner/dance held by the Wayne County Motorcycle Club to benefit the Humane Society of Wayne County.

The Motorcycle Club Dinner/Dance held at the Newark Elk's Club, was a huge success. If you joined us for the 6th annual event, you know how much fun it was! Along with dinner and dancing there was a large array of auction items and an abundance of raffle items! The HSWC received \$1877 in donations from the Wayne County Motorcycle Club!

## The Foster Care Life Line

By *Sandy Howell, Shelter Operations Manager*

It is a well-known fact that volunteers are essential for the survival of a non-profit organization. The Humane Society of course is no exception to this rule; we simply could not survive without them. Our volunteers, a group of highly skilled and dedicated people, work diligently behind the scene to make operations at the Humane Society run smoothly. We can not show enough appreciation for all that they do and though every volunteer is appreciated and important, there is one group of special people that I want to take a moment to discuss: our foster care volunteers, or as I like to call them our foster “mommies” and “daddies.”

First, I feel it is important to tell you a little about our foster care program and then about the people that make it work. Our job as a Humane Society is to take in animals from all situations, from strays, to abuse cases and everything in between. The staff at the shelter carefully evaluates each animal to determine its adoptability based on age, health, temperament, and so on, but what do you do when an animal does not meet some of the criteria? Well, that’s where foster care is sometimes needed. It has long been a horrible situation for staff when we have healthy, friendly animals that just need time, TLC or medical intervention, but we are simply not equipped or staffed to accommodate such extreme circumstances. Our solution—foster care families to the rescue! Luckily we can call one of our foster volunteers willing to accept the challenge, and like magic the crisis is averted. Our foster volunteers take these special animals with their unique situations into their homes, and their hearts, thus allowing these special animals a chance to be adopted in the future.

Take Nikita for example, a husky that was treated for heartworm infection. Part of her treatment required eight weeks of quiet cage rest with leash walking exercise. Now lets be honest, I love the Shelter but it is just not possible to keep a dog quiet and caged for eight weeks! Enter Nora Craft, one of our foster volunteers. Nora took Nikita into her home while the dog recovered from the dangerous heartworm treatment that saved her life. Once the treatment was finished Nikita was able to find a loving home. We have so many more touching stories like this one, and behind each story is the foster parent that helped make it possible. On a final note, a most remarkable thing I have discovered about foster volunteers is their ability to love and care for these animals knowing that eventually these animals will have to come back to the shelter to find forever homes. If you would like to become a foster volunteer please, contact the shelter for more information.

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Thanks to all of our donors, and participants we had the best auction ever, raising over \$7,000.00 for our four legged friends. A special Thanks to all who assisted the day of the auction, we had lots of fun, food and great items to bid on. Also thanks to Vans Auction Service of Marion, New York, who were our auctioneers, and to Burnham's Canalside at the Quality Inn who hosted the auction for us.

As you all know we are totally self supporting, and events like the auction keep the doors open to care for and provide for lost, unwanted, injured or harmed animals. The members of the fundraising committee plan the event, but you the members make it happen. It is a wonderful testament to our community that we can and will provide for our best friends!





## SNIF, *continued from first page*

deep gratitude to the following veterinary offices for spaying and neutering shelter pets at their facilities: Palmyra Animal Hospital, Lyons Veterinary Clinic, Macedon Veterinary Care, Walworth Animal Hospital and Newark Veterinary Hospital.

Finally, we would like to recognize that the financial support of our members and donors allowed the Humane Society to spay or neuter 486 dogs and cats in 2007, and helped fund the spaying or neutering of 176 others. By spaying or neutering pets before they leave the shelter, we are ensuring that they will not be contributing to the pet overpopulation problem in our community in the future. This is an exciting step in the growth of our organization and cause for celebration!

We are also pleased to see the increasing number of Wayne County residents taking advantage of our Spay/Neuter Incentive Fund (SNIF). Regardless of the origin of the pet, we offer assistance in covering the cost of a spay/neuter procedure to pet owners that qualify financially. This is a program we are able to offer thanks to the generosity of all the Wayne County veterinarians and Bob and Gail Houghtaling. We are grateful to be able to offer this assistance.

To find out more about the SNIF program, whether you are a pet owner in need of assistance, or you are considering making a donation to further fund this valuable program, please visit [www.hswaynepets.org](http://www.hswaynepets.org) or call (315) 946-3389. As always, thank you for your support.

## Be Kind to Animals Week May 4–May 10, 2008

The American Humane Association created *Be Kind to Animals Week* in 1915 to celebrate the unique bond between humans and animals. We are often asked “What can I do for the Animals?” and “What does the shelter need on a daily basis?”

Well, during *Be Kind to Animals Week*, we will:

- wash 70 loads of laundry
- use 14 gallons of bleach
- use 28 rolls of paper towels
- go through 525 pounds of cat litter

So, it's true that it takes many of the same items to run the shelter as it takes to run your house. We just super-size.

Please consider these genuine needs the next time you're making a non-monetary donation to the HSWC.



## Wally—A PETsMART® Story

Although our seven-year-old feline, Wally, was sorely in need of a home of his own, he did not set out to ingratiate himself to his potential adoptive family. PETsMART® volunteers, Marge Laws and Andi Meyer, were treated to a slapstick comedy scene when potential adopters Roberta and Ted brought in their handsome eight-year-old German Shepherd, Fred, to meet Wally in the Adoption Center.



Wally and Fred

The scene unfolded slowly. Ted held onto Fred's leash. While making eye contact, Wally strolled forward to meet Fred, stopped directly in front of the large dog, hauled back his paw, and socked poor Fred a good one—right on the nose! Fred appeared to “see stars” as his eyes blinked in disbelief and his big stick-up ears went out to the sides of his head. Roberta, Ted, Marge, and Andi belly-laughed with hilarity while Fred just stood there being a sweet dog. It was incredibly funny!

Despite this questionable first encounter between Fred and Wally, Roberta and Ted made Wally welcome in their household of four cats (Beanie, Cecil, Eddie, and Pawlie) and, of course, Fred. Why did they choose Wally? According to Roberta, “You know what you are going to get with an older cat,” and “older cats are less work than kittens.”



Ted and Roberta are animal rescuers; Fred was a Bright Star dog who came from a foster home in Ohio. Before Fred there was Max, another German Shepherd from Bright Star. It was Max who drew Roberta and Ted's attention to two abandoned kittens, Beanie and Cecil. Eddie was a stray kitty. Pawlie was fending for himself outside Polimeni's Restaurant in Canandaigua. Ted and Roberta represent the many excellent adopters who find their cats at PETsMART®.

Wally went to his permanent home in September. Now, Wally sits on the back of the couch to enjoy fire trucks and buses going by his house; he favors bright lights, but likes to sleep in the closet. Wally gets along with the other cats and, despite their first encounter, Wally and Fred are living comfortably in the same household.

**A final comment from Ted:** “I appreciate the relationship that the Wayne County Humane Society has with PETsMART®. I would recommend this place to anyone looking for a cat.”

## Jade . . . my dearest friend

By Amy Ackerman

Date: 11/26/2007

Dear HSWC,

In February 1995, my family adopted a Rottweiler from your shelter. At the time her name was Lady Bud, and she had answered to that her whole life; we called her Jade. I was 14 and she was around one. She left my side yesterday for the first time in 12 years.

Jade was with me for half of my life, and certainly here for all the really impressive formative parts. She was undyingly loving, faithful, patient and kind. She spent some time as a therapy dog at senior homes, pulling wheelchairs and occasionally climbing into the beds of the willing, and at kid's hospitals, where she endured endless humiliations with grace. She made dog owners of the apathetic, and made a dog lover of a friend who had been attacked by a large black dog as a child. She babysat kittens, some homeless and some mine; tolerated intolerably behaved puppies, and even made friends with an orphaned duckling. She protected me carefully, making her big, scary presence known when she felt it was appropriate, always going just far enough. While she grew old, I grew up, and she forgave my mood swings and teenage idiocy in a way I'm sure even my parents can't. I met a wonderful man a few years ago, and when we moved in together, she accepted him kindly. She got a little slower and a lot grayer in the last few years, but she never stopped being Jade.

Thursday night, she enjoyed some snuck-under-the-table turkey and settled down for the night; by Saturday, it was obvious that she wasn't planning on getting up again. I called four close friends; seven showed up to say goodbye, and the phone calls came from the most surprising Jade fans—friends' mothers, grandmothers, siblings, significant others, landlords. On Sunday morning, we went for our last ride together, and at the vet's office, even my doctor choked up a little—heartening from a man who does this for a living. She went to sleep like she's done everything else in her life, dignified and graceful. I sent a picture of her from last summer, lazing away at the lake house. I sent a donation so that some other ill tempered kid can find a best friend in an unlikely package at the Shelter.

Thank you so very much for giving me a chance to have her in my life. I'm sorry if this is rambling and too profound, but she was my dearest friend through so much, and I had to let you know how you changed one girl's and one dog's life. Thank you again and keep up the good work.



*Jade, enjoying a summer day*

## PAWS FOR A CAUSE

Plans are underway for our annual May "Paws for a Cause" campaign. Paw prints will be sold at various locations throughout the county for \$1. Paws can be purchased to honor a person or a pet. The paws will be displayed at the HSWC shelter or at the Veterinary clinic where they were purchased.

As always, we need volunteers to represent the HSWC at the participating locations. Our goal is to have a very noticeable and frequent presence at all locations throughout the month of May. We need a good "crew" of volunteers to accomplish this—to talk with people and sell paws. This fund raiser has been fun and very successful in the past. With your help, this year can be even better. Please help if you can!! To volunteer, call Andi Meyer at (315) 986-1287 or Marge Laws at (315) 986-4320. New volunteers will be teamed with more experienced—so if you are new to volunteering—not to worry. We certainly welcome and hope for new volunteers.

Paws will be for sale at the following locations: Breen's IGA: Palmyra & Williamson; P&C Macedon & Newark; Bob's Big M: Wolcott; Loson's Big M: Lyons; Paton's Market Place: Sodus; Palmyra Country Max.

Paws will also be available at Macedon Veterinary Care, Newark Veterinary Hospital, Sodus Veterinary Clinic, Lyons Veterinary Clinic, Palmyra Animal Hospital, Walworth Animal Hospital, Williamson Animal Hospital, Lyons National Bank (all branches)

*Can't make it out to buy a Paw? Clip out the PAW below, dedicate it and send it along with a \$1 to the HSWC, 1475 County House Road, Lyons, New York 14489.*



In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**HSWC  
Calendar of Events:**

April – Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month  
May – PAWS for a Cause Month!  
May 4 thru 10 – Be Kind to Animals Week  
May 18 thru 24 – Dog Bite Prevention Week  
June – Adopt a Shelter Cat Month  
June 8th – HSWC Open House

**The GO FETCH Raffle is Back!**

It's not a game or direction, but rather a unique raffle being held by the Humane Society of Wayne County. Prizes are \$250 for first prize, \$150 for second prize and \$50 for third prize. Tickets are \$5 each, and can be purchased at the Shelter, or from the Law Office of Cynthia M Kukulka, 330 E. Main St., P.O. Box 65, Palmyra, NY (597-4641). Soon members will be getting tickets in the mail, but extras are available through these offices. Tickets are \$5 each, but if you sell 4 you get the 5th one free! The drawing will be held at the Society's Open House at the Shelter on June 8, 2008, at approximately 2p.m. You need not be present to win.



**Humane Society of Wayne County**  
1475 County House Road  
Lyons, New York 14489



***The Society Page* is a labor of love published  
by the Humane Society of Wayne County**

Fran Snyder, *Editor*  
Stephanie Cooper and Sandy Howell, *Photography*  
Production Staff:  
Marge Laws  
Andrea Meyer  
Thomas I. Parry  
Subrata Paul

**To submit an article to *The Society Page* send to:**

The Society Page,  
c/o The Humane Society of Wayne County  
1475 County House Road  
Lyons, New York 14489

**Email:** newsletter@hswaynepets.org

**Please note:** All articles must include the name and telephone number of the author to be eligible for publication.

Open House is coming  
June 8th!  
More details on page 4!

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