



**"Only"**  
doesn't mean  
**Lonely**

Animals come in all shapes and sizes, and with personalities as distinct as their fur. Although some pets find happiness amongst fellow furry companions, others prefer to be the "only child" in a home. But being "only" doesn't have to mean being lonely!

One such dog waiting for a home is Haley, an American Staffordshire Terrier whose personality is as colorful as her spots are plentiful! Two of Haley's three years of life have been spent patiently sitting in our shelter waiting for a home. Some animals would have given up, but not Haley. She still has a heart of gold and love to give. "Haley has such a warm and loveable personality," says Shelter Manager Debbie Ditter. "And she loves the car rides we occasionally treat her to." But while Haley loves playing with people, and would be happy to have human brothers or sisters, when it comes to the four-legged kind, she says "no thank you!" Can you blame her? She's got so much love to give that she doesn't want to share your snuggles with anyone else!

Another "only" waiting for a home is Autumn, a

(continued) quiet 8-year-old German Shepherd mix who would love an adult home where she can be truly spoiled. She is very well behaved and polite, but really only enjoys the company of folks like herself...older and quiet. But give her a snuggle, and a bit of her favorite treat (peanut butter), and she'll be your devoted friend forever. Does anyone out there love quiet old girls to enjoy a lazy day with? Autumn hopes so. And so does Pebbles, a sweet "only child" dog with lots of love to give. (Read more about Pebbles on page 4.)

"Only" animals like Haley, Autumn, and Pebbles aren't antisocial or withdrawn, or even temperamental. We have to remember that our pets are just like us; they prefer the company of some more than others. And once you figure out who they like to be friends with (or would rather *not* be friends with), they can be loving, gentle and loyal. If you think you might like the idea of sharing your life with just one special pet, then one of these girls may be just the friend for you. You might discover that one "only but not lonely" dog has more than enough love to fill your heart!



## Our Purpose and Passion

*The Sullivan County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals assists the animals of Sullivan County by improving their welfare, furthering their interests and nurturing the human bond through education and innovative community programs and services. The Sullivan County SPCA is committed to: providing shelter to homeless animals and to those in need of relief from neglect or cruelty, finding quality forever homes for adoptable animals through proper screening of potential adopters, reuniting owners with their lost pets, educating the public on responsible pet care, promoting spay and neuter practices, and providing basic or major medical care for animals in need. The shelter receives no public funding and relies solely on the generosity of donors and friends.*

# The Staff Corner...

Greetings from the staff and board. What a year it has been since our last newsletter! So many wonderful changes and developments are happening at the shelter that I barely know where to start!

If you stop by the shelter, you'll notice quite a few new faces. This Spring, we hired a brand new shelter manager, Debbie Dittert, and we couldn't be happier. Debbie came to us with loads of shelter management experience and the drive and enthusiasm to help the shelter run in tip-top shape. Animal attendants Angela, Kyle, Kristy and Bill round out the bunch, along with our trusty volunteers. The shelter is running better than ever before and we're proud of the many positive changes that Debbie and her new team have made.

As we've often talked about in the past, one of our greatest burdens is keeping up with the repairs and maintenance of our old, but faithful shelter building. As you'll read about on page 3 many of our wishes for help have been granted this year. With new windows came lower heating bills. With a repaired roof came less worries. And with a new play park and renovated outdoor kennels, came fresh air and wagging tails!

What's best of all however, is the unprecedented outpouring of support and donations we have received from the community leaders and friends this past year. It has been truly remarkable. We thank you for spreading the word about our wonderful shelter. It helps more than you'll ever know.

We look forward to seeing you as we're out and about in the community or even better, when you stop by to find your new best friend. Until then...happy tails!

## Manon

Manon Fortier  
Board of Directors Vice-President

Special thanks to:



Sullivan County Fence



north shore  
animal league  
america



*Long-time shelter resident Julie, happily snuggling with her new family.*

## "Whatever happened to Julie?"

We have been asked this question so often over the past year, that we thought it would be great to let everyone know about our popular newsletter cover girl!

As many of you may remember, in our last newsletter we featured the story of Julie, a foxhound mixed breed who had been with us at the shelter longer than any other animal in our shelter's history (over two years.) Though she was quite loveable and well-mannered (not to mention quite adorable) she had a few issues that made most folks keep on walking right past her cage. That is, until the day our regular volunteer Cindy, and her family decided that it was time to give this wonderful dog a brand new forever-home. "When everyone else gave up on Julie, I never did," says Cindy. "She just needed a lot of love and understanding and I am very happy that I was given the opportunity to give her what she needed. Julie loves to play and needs lots of attention. We happily give her plenty of both! She has made a wonderful addition to our family and we love her very much!"

It was a long wait for Julie and we couldn't be happier to see her happy and loved.



# Warm Hearts and Warm Paws

## Generous donors bring about much needed shelter improvements

This past year, we had the ability to make dramatic changes to the building and grounds at the shelter, all thanks to the incredible generosity of some wonderful donors.

The most noticeable difference this past winter, was that not only was the building warmer, but the heating bills lower. MUCH lower! One of our toughest financial burdens has always been to heat the shelter. Leaky windows combined with the soaring rate of oil over the past few years have been a constant strain on our operating budget. So you can imagine our joy this past winter, when in a wonderful act of generosity, community member, Alan Gerry, stepped forward and offered to cover the entire cost of our heating bills throughout the coldest months of the year.


I didn't stop there! When Jodi Kane, heard that we were trying to replace the windows in the building to make it more efficient to heat, she knew she wanted to sponsor the project as a way of honoring her sister, Kim Bober, who had recently passed. "During her lifetime, Kim showed everlasting generosity and love towards homeless animals. Others' unwanted pets became her treasured friends," said Kane. Jodi's thoughtful gift on behalf of her sister will help to keep homeless animals safe and warm for years

to come. So far, thanks to these two heartwarming contributions, our heating bill no longer burdens the shelter, and we have installed 12 brand new windows.

Last Fall's exciting improvement to the shelter was the addition of the Pippin Berkowitz Play Park. After seeing last year's newsletter, in which we mentioned that we hoped to install a fenced-in area where the animals could run and play, the Berkowitz family kindly offered to sponsor the project in honor of their beloved dog. Two months later, we celebrated the grand opening! It has been wonderful to see the dogs playing, free of a leash, happy to be frolicking in the fresh air. It was a project near and dear to our hearts and it felt great to see it happen!

Another project has been the rebuilding of three outdoor kennels, courtesy of one of our most helpful and resourceful volunteers, Dave Fisk. These outdoor kennels give dogs the opportunity to get fresh air and help to occupy their minds during the day by giving them a nice new view to enjoy when the weather is good.

All of this, plus a newly shingled roof! After seeing these exciting projects become a reality over the past twelve months, we can't wait to see what the next year has in store for us! We feel proud and excited about these important improvements and appreciate the kindness and generosity that made it all possible.



Our needs are many, and your generosity and kindness help to keep us happy, healthy, and full of hope! Please consider putting your faith in the people who care for us by donating to the shelter. We promise they will put your gift to good use!

Sincerely,  
The animals of the Sullivan County  
SPCA

To make an online donation visit  
us at:  
[www.sullivanspca.com](http://www.sullivanspca.com)

# Around the Shelter



Miss Patricia loves to play ball and frisbee! She is a 2 year- old mixed breed & is a beautiful, well muscled, intelligent darling who would make a devoted friend and protector. Won't you come to meet her? She'll be your new best friend.



Petey is a beautiful 3 year old shepherd/chow mix who loves children. He is happy, curious, very bright and loves to learn. And hey, Martha Stewart loves Chows, maybe you will too!



Pebbles is a fun and friendly brindle girl of 6 years who is housetrained. She is very sweet and quiet. She loves to be petted, cuddled and played with but would prefer a home where she can be an "only child". Read more about dogs like Pebbles on page 1.



Iggy is a very friendly playful little boy who is just looking for a family with children to play with. This Boston Terrier is ready to go. Come visit and fall in love.



Squee is an adorable Mountain Curr mix with a devoted and loving personality. And she loves kids! Squee has been with us for quite awhile and would love a visitor. Come see her for yourself and you'll see she's even cuter in person!



Gracie is a shy and reserved 1 year old gal who is learning to come out of her shell. She is getting friendlier everyday and is sooo ready for a quiet home and a soft voice.



Fushcia - an elegant young lady



Allegra - the socialite!



Ivalyn & her brothers & sisters are Boxer/Border Collie mix puppies



Integra & her brothers & sisters are Great Dane/Catahoula Leopard Dog mix puppies

## Your New (other) Best Friend

Adding a second dog to your family can be a wonderful experience that brings extra companionship, exercise and joy. It takes time to build good relationships though, and the following tips can help you start these lifelong relationships off on the right paw.

Introduce your new dog to the resident dog in a neutral area or outside of your home. This way, your dogs can do something enjoyable together while getting to know each other in neutral territory. If this isn't possible, try introducing the dogs through a closed door where they can sniff one another through the bottom, before meeting face to face.

Contain your new dog when you first take him into the house. Don't allow him to race through your home, laying claim to everything in his path and practicing bad manners.

Remove prized objects that might cause rivalry. Before you bring your new dog home, buy him his own food dish, bed, crate and toys. Until you know whether your dogs are going to be able to share, bring out toys and bones only when you can supervise their interactions.

Feed your new dog separately from the resident dog for a while. You cannot be too conservative when it comes to high-value resources such as food. Fights often start when one dog hovers over another's food.

Keep things happy for your current dog. He needs to see that things aren't going to change for the worse, but for the better! So be careful not to scold him too often during his interactions with the new dog.

Let the dogs work out the new hierarchy. Dogs have a hierarchy in their relationships. Don't assume the resident dog will have top-dog status. Let them work it out for themselves and be careful to treat them both equally special in order to decrease the possibility of jealous feelings towards one another.

Most importantly, remember to keep things light and happy, and be patient. Do not expect a good, healthy relationship to be born overnight. But with a little help, the new relationship will be a positive one.

## about our work?

When we're out in the community, we get asked a lot of interesting questions. In our new section, "About our Work", we'll be answering some of the most common queries! We hope you enjoy reading about how things work at our happy dog shelter!

*Are you a "no-kill" shelter?* This is the question we get asked most often, so we thought it was appropriate to answer it first. The answer is YES! While this wasn't always the case, throughout the past few years, we have been proud to have made the transition to being a "no-kill" shelter. Shortly stated, this means that no animal will be euthanized (put to sleep) at our shelter due to length of stay or lack of space or money.

*Do you accept all animals dropped at the shelter?* We have a limited capacity, so no, we can't always take an animal in. We have a certain number of animals we can safely care for, and to exceed that number would be irresponsible. We also do a temperament assessment prior to accepting any surrendered animal. When we do have to turn someone away, we do our best to assist them with alternative suggestions until space opens up.

*How many animals do you care for?* We generally have around 25 cats and 25-30 dogs, plus 2-4 litters of kittens and puppies at one time. We've also had the occasional horse and rabbit.

*What do you mean that you are a "private" shelter?* This means that we do not receive public funding or fall under local government. However, we do have to abide by New York State Agriculture and Markets regulations and are subject to regular inspections. We are run by a board of directors and all funding comes from adoptions and donations. As a privately run shelter, we operate as a "limited access" shelter, which means that we have the ability to choose which animals we accept based on a variety of criteria.

*Have a question that you'd like to see answered in our next newsletter? Send an email to [kmcneil@lucydm.com](mailto:kmcneil@lucydm.com)*

# Sponsor-a-Spay!



We here at the Sullivan County SPCA are committed to taking a proactive approach to the pet overpopulation issue. While adoption and rescue are incredibly important aspects of what we do, spaying and neutering prevents the problem before it even starts. Just think of the staggering number of unwanted births prevented by spaying and neutering. The fewer cats, dog and rabbits that are born locally, the better it is for shelters, our community and animals in need of forever placement.

Every year, shelters like ours are filled to capacity with animals waiting for homes. Even worse, in many shelters across the country, literally thousands of animals are being euthanized every day. Unplanned and unwanted kittens and puppies are born every day here in Sullivan County, and many of them are either dropped at our doorstep, or worse, neglected and uncared for.

To support this proactive approach, we are now committed to ensuring that every dog or cat that leaves our shelter is either spayed or neutered prior to adoption.

The spay and neuter program here at the shelter is one of the most important aspects of what we do. But the cost of spaying and neutering hundreds of animals each year is high. Fortunately, a few of the local veterinarians

Yes, I Want To Sponsor-a-Spay

Enclosed is my sponsorship of:

- \$50 to spay or neuter a cat
- \$80 to spay or neuter a dog
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ other

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

-or-  
To donate online, please visit  
[www.sullivanspca.com](http://www.sullivanspca.com)

Please make checks payable to: Sullivan County SPCA.  
Send your donation and this form to:

Sullivan County SPCA  
attn: Sponsor-a-Spay PO Box 995 Rock Hill, NY 12775

generously work with us to reduce a bit of the expense. But we still need help.

We hope you'll consider making a donation to our Sponsor-a-Spay program to help support our ongoing efforts.

## Shelter Wish List

### IT'S TIME FOR A MAKEOVER!

Our next big project is a makeover for the inside of the shelter. After all, you never have a second chance to make a first impression! What's in our plans? To start, we'll be:

- re-painting the dog kennels (with "low" or "zero" VOC paint, to prevent harmful chemical fumes)

- installing new kitchen cabinets and countertops for the storage and wash area

If you would like to sponsor this project, or would like to donate any of the materials or labor, please call us at (845) 796-3120 (ask for Debbie). Thank you!

It's the little things that count! Interested in helping? Below is a current list of our most needed items:

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| canned cat food (paté)    | cat toys              |
| bleach                    | dry dog food          |
| laundry soap              | Frontline or Advantix |
| paper towels              | printer paper         |
| dry kitten food           | file folders          |
| dry cat food              | stamps                |
| canned kitten food (paté) | envelopes             |
| cat litter (non-clumping) | cat condos            |



Thank you!

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Heads & Tails Above the Rest!

In addition to the tireless work of our dedicated staff, we at the shelter also depend on the dedication and hard work of volunteers to help care for the hundreds of animals admitted each year. While each and every volunteer is truly appreciated, there are a couple volunteers who stand head and tails above the rest. We are pleased to share this letter we received recently from one of our most cherished volunteer families.



## TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Are you interested in helping? Just a few hours can make a difference. Please consider volunteering in the following ways:

### DIRECT ANIMAL CARE

Assist shelter workers in the hands-on care of the animals

### DOG WALKERS

Get your exercise while helping animals!

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Do you have a professional skill that you would like to share? Whether you're a plumber, an accountant, an electrician, or a grant-writer, whatever your skill may be we can use your help in some way.

From the top of our heads to the tips of our tails, we thank you!

Interested persons should send an email to:  
[contact@sullivanspca.com](mailto:contact@sullivanspca.com)

visit us online at  
[www.sullivanspca.com](http://www.sullivanspca.com)

Dear Sullivan County SPCA:

Our first visit to the SPCA was 15 years ago to adopt a puppy. We wanted a medium to large size dog, but then our 4 year old set eyes on a 3lb terrier. 16 years later, our Sassy is still a joy in our lives.

During that time, we also have enjoyed volunteering at the shelter. It has become our family time to help the animals. We bring adoptable animals to street fairs, special events, and festivals. Our oldest daughter, Melanie has since worked for a veterinarian during high school and chosen a career in wild life conservation in college. Whenever she is home on visits, she still joins the family in volunteering at the shelter. Our youngest daughter, Melissa, has followed in her older sister's footsteps, joining her mother and adding her special skills. She now sews and makes crafts to be sold to raise money for items needed at the shelter.

We are a family that truly believes in lending a voice and a hand to the shelter and the animals they care for. We thank the shelter for allowing us to be there for the past 16 years.

Sincerely,  
Dan, Andrea, Melanie & Melissa Roberts

Contact Us:

Sullivan County SPCA  
PO Box 995  
Rock Hill, NY 12775  
(845) 796-3120 phone  
[contact@sullivanspca.com](mailto:contact@sullivanspca.com)  
[www.sullivanspca.com](http://www.sullivanspca.com)

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**SPCA**  
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Rock Hill, NY 12775



Visit us on the web at:  
[www.sullivanspca.com](http://www.sullivanspca.com)

**Animal**  
Summer/Fall 2010

A stylized yellow flower with a green stem and two green leaves is positioned to the left of the text. The flower has five petals and a dark brown center.