

Are You Ready to Run?

Run the 10K or take a stroll with your dog? Regardless of which sounds more fun, here's a checklist to get ready for Rochester's 2nd Annual **The Fast & The Furriest™** 10K Road Race and 1-Mile Dog Walk.

- Clear your calendar for **June 28th, 2008**.
- Visit www.vsas.org to register online or mail in a **Registration Form** (pg. 4).
- Get your friends and family to **sponsor** you! It's an easy way to raise money for the **Verona Street Animal Society**.
- Stretch** before the big event.
- Show up to **Rochester Animal Services** on Verona Street on June 28th, 2008 and have fun!



To Benefit The
Verona Street Animal Society

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The Verona Street Animal Society, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that supports Rochester Animal Services.

184 Verona Street
Rochester, NY 14608

How can you help?

Volunteer your time:

Whether it's walking, bathing, or just socializing with our animals, you'll help enrich their time at the shelter and improve the likelihood of their adoption!

Donate needed items:

Blankets & towels
Pillowcases
Collars & leashes
Heating pads
Laundry detergent & dish soap
Sturdy chew toys
Stuffed animals
Pet brushes & shampoo
Pet carriers and crates
Pet treats
Rubbing alcohol
Hydrogen peroxide
Cotton swabs
Cat litter scoopers
Can openers
Brooms & dustpans

The Fast & The Furriest™ Quick Facts

When: Saturday, June 28th, 2008

7:00 AM Registration

9:00 AM 10K Race start

9:15 AM 1-Mile Dog Walk start

Where: Rochester Animal Services

184 Verona Street

Rochester, NY 14608

Why: Keeping Rochester's pets safe and healthy keeps our citizens safe and healthy. We all deserve the best care.

How: Register online at www.vsas.org.



Runners, walkers, and our furry friends at last year's event.



From the Director's Chair

It's springtime in Rochester and that means crocuses, daffodils, lilacs, robins, warblers, some sunshine, and plenty of rain. However, for those of us in the animal care and control industry, spring signals the onset of "kitten season" and animal shelters and rescue groups become overwhelmed with stray, unwanted, and feral kittens.

The "season" actually begins in early spring and extends well into the fall. Female cats can begin breeding at 6 months old, breed three times in a year, and typically have litters of 4-6 kittens. Cat populations can grow extremely fast as a result of these and other factors combined with the promiscuity of male cats. A single female cat and her offspring can produce more than 400,000 cats in just seven years! Animal Services takes in over 3,000 stray, unwanted, or feral cats each year without actively capturing them. Most are surrendered by owners or trapped by citizens. Imagine how many more cats are actually out there, roaming the streets.

Some cats come in individually, whereas others are turned over with an entire litter of four, six, even ten kittens! With all of those cute, cuddly kittens it tends to make it more difficult for adult cats to find homes. The increased numbers of cats at the shelter leads to crowded conditions and increased stress. As their stress levels increase, disease becomes more prevalent. Upper respiratory infections (URI) are the major shelter cat nemesis. Most of these URIs begin as viral infections, which are frequently triggered and accentuated by stress. As one cat becomes sick, it then infects its neighbors, and within a few days the entire shelter population can be sneezing.

June is designated **Adopt-A-Cat Month**. We originally implemented a discount on cat adoptions solely during that month as an incentive to help find homes for the large numbers of cats entering the shelter. However, given the 7-8 month duration of the kitten season and the ability of cats to produce multiple litters per year, we decided to extend the "2-Fur-1" discount for cat adoptions throughout the entire year.

What can you do to help? Spay and neuter your cats. Sterilization prevents your cat from producing unwanted litters thereby helping address the cat overpopulation crisis. However sterilization also helps improve the longevity of cats by reducing the risks of certain cancers, namely ovarian and testicular cancers. Nuisance behaviors such as spraying are less likely. Plus there's no heat cycle to deal with. **Keep them indoors.** Whether cats are altered or intact, they should be kept in doors to keep them safe from collisions with vehicles, parasites, ingestion of toxics, and encounters with stray dogs or wild animals. **Adopt from a shelter.** By choosing a shelter cat that will be spayed/neutered, you are saving several lives including the cat and its potential offspring. Adopting from a shelter also makes space for another cat that will hopefully be adopted into another responsible household. **Microchip your cat.** Even if your cat is kept indoors, there's always the chance that it might slip out and become lost. By implanting a microchip identification tag in your cat, the pet can be traced back to you should it find its way into an animal shelter or veterinary hospital. **Contact the shelter** about volunteering or about becoming a foster home for cats. Shelters are overwhelmed with cats during much of the year and can use lots of extra hands to assist with cleaning, feeding, and socializing with the cats. Such assistance can help enrich the lives of the cats while at the shelter and help get them placed into new homes. Foster homes help to reduce the crowded conditions at the shelter while extending the holding periods for the cats thereby increasing their chances of placement into a forever home. Lastly, **encourage others to do the same.** Perhaps you already practice these items, but you can be an ambassador for the animal shelter and the cat population by promoting such involvement among your friends, family, and acquaintances.

Chris Fitzgerald

Director, Rochester Animal Services


Vets Wanted

to Help Rochester's Animals.



The City of Rochester is looking for veterinarians interested in providing assistance with the Animal Services spay-neuter program.

For more information contact Chris Fitzgerald: cf1274@cityofrochester.gov or call (585) 428.6898

 City of Rochester, New York



Spay and Neuter Your Pets

Call 428-SPAY / Rochester Animal Services

 Robert J. Duffy, Mayor
City of Rochester, NY

Shelter Statistics: January 1 – March 31, 2008

January	Dog	Cat	Other
Impounded	207	153	15
Adoption	39	47	1
Redemption	44	0	0
Transfer	9	10	4
Euthanized	109	80	9
Sterilized			
Adoption	28	52	1
LISN	10	50	0
Redemption	15	0	0
Total	53	102	1

March	Dog	Cat	Other
Impounded	219	166	17
Adoption	44	43	1
Redemption	64	3	5
Transfer	0	38	3
Euthanized	93	76	2
Sterilized			
Adoption	39	27	0
LISN	8	64	0
Redemption	9	0	0
Total	56	91	0

February	Dog	Cat	Other
Impounded	184	127	13
Adoption	40	32	1
Redemption	36	4	0
Transfer	6	10	11
Euthanized	105	79	1
Sterilized			
Adoption	31	19	0
LISN	13	57	0
Redemption	13	0	0
Total	57	76	0



www.rochesteranimalservices.com



Prevent Pet Overpopulation

Spay and neuter your pets.
For information about RAS's
Low Income Spay/Neuter Program,
call 428-SPAY.

Rochester Animal Services temporarily houses approximately 6,500 animals annually. We are committed to reuniting owners with missing pets and to placing animals in new homes; however it is impossible to find homes for all of them. Some animals are euthanized due to illness or injury. Others may display vicious or aggressive temperaments. Currently, the City of Rochester does not authorize the adoption of "pit bulls" from the shelter, so those that are not reclaimed are euthanized. Sadly, many animals are euthanized because there are just far too many stray and unwanted animals in our community and we do not have space to house them all. We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same. If the number of animals coming in declines, then we can devote more time and energy to those animals we do shelter, we can increase adoptions and redemptions, and decrease euthanasia.

Sterilization figures are separated into adopted pets, owned pets sterilized through the Low Income Spay Neuter (LISN) program, and seized pets sterilized upon redemption by owners.

Breed of the Month



The **American Shorthair** is considered a gentle and playful family pet, especially if you have children or dogs. Generally healthy and easy-going, they are low-maintenance additions to your family. Visit the Rochester Animal Shelter to find an **American Shorthair!**

For more information on this breed and others, visit The Cat Fanciers' Association at www.cfa.org.



RAS offers
certification class
and book for
only \$25.

Call 428-7274
to enroll.

Because of the overabundance of adoptable cats at Rochester Animal Services, we are allowing families to adopt **two cats, for the price of one!**

What better way to bring extra joy to your home.

Adopt a cat or kitten and get the second free.



The Fast & The Furriest™ 10K Road Race & 1-Mile Dog Walk



To Benefit The
Verona Street Animal Society

Presented by  **Invisible Fence**
Brand by PetSafe.

Date: Saturday, June 28th, 2008

Time: 7:00 AM Registration
9:00 AM Race start
9:15 AM Dog Walk start

Place: Rochester Animal Services,
184 Verona Street, Near Brown Square Park

Awards: Top 3 male/female finishers overall
Awards for top 3 in each age group
Prizes to top 3 pledge earners

Fees: \$18 if received before June 26, 2008
\$20 Race Day
Walkers: \$10, Children under 5 are free.
Free t-shirts for all registered runners and
for walkers with \$20 or more in pledges.

Please make checks payable to:

Verona Street Animal Society, P.O. Box 22874 Rochester, NY 14692

*DONATIONS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED for our ANIMAL FRIENDS
(Toys, linens, 6 ft. leashes, treats, etc.)

Contact: Chris Fitzgerald (585) 727-2533

Visit us at www.vsas.org or register online at active.com



FLEET FEET
Sports

Name: _____ Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ DOB: _____

T-shirt size: S M L XL Age: _____ Gender: M ___ F ___ Race: 10K ___ 1 Mile Dog Walk ___

Amount Enclosed: \$18 ___ \$20 ___ \$10 ___ I can't participate, but would like to donate \$ _____



All race participants must read and sign the following disclaimer: I, the undersigned, wish to participate in The Fast And The Furriest™ 10K Race or 1-Mile Dog Walk on June 28, 2008 in Rochester, NY. By my signature, I hereby state that: I am in good physical condition and am properly trained to complete the race/walk, I agree to abide by the decision of a race official as that decision relates to my ability to safely complete the run/walk. I assume all risks associated with running/walking in this event including, but not limited to: injury and/or death as a result of falls; contact with other participants; the effects of weather, including high heat or humidity; and the conditions of the course, all risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read and understood this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of the Race organizers having accepted my entry, I and everyone entitled to act on my behalf, knowingly and voluntarily hereby release the Verona Animal Street Society, Rochester Animal Services, the City of Rochester, Yellow Jacket Racing, Fleet Feet Sports, and all other Race sponsors from any claims, lawsuits, proceedings or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event. I also grant the organizers full permission to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, or recordings, or any other record of this event for any other purpose.

Signature or Runner/walker or guardian: _____

The Fast & The Furriest™ 10K Road Race & 1-Mile Dog Walk

Saturday, June 28th, 2008

Sponsorship Pledge Form		
NAME	ADDRESS	AMOUNT
1		
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19		
20		
TOTAL		



To Benefit The Verona Street Animal Society



RAS and VSAS Around Town

You'll spot Rochester Animal Services (RAS) and the Verona Street Animal Society (VSAS) all over town this spring. RAS has already made all-star appearances at the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Lilac Festival. Keep your eyes open for VSAS at the 2008 Paws in the Park event in Genesee Valley Park. Stop by and visit our booth for info on the upcoming **2008 The Fast & The Furiest™ 10K Race and 1-Mile Dog Walk!**

Visit www.vsas.org or www.rochesteranimalservices.com for more information.



In Case You Didn't Hear

There has been a lot of talk about everything **The Verona Street Animal Society's (VSAS)** has accomplished since its inception in September 2006. Here's a quick review of what we're about and what we've achieved...so far.

The **Verona Street Animal Society, Inc. (VSAS)** is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that was established for the sole purpose of assisting Rochester Animal Services. The VSAS mission is to provide the resources necessary to enable Rochester Animal Services to more effectively serve the public's animal care and control, pet sterilization, and pet adoption interests and, in cooperation with the City of Rochester, to support the mission of Rochester Animal Services. The group consists of a board of nine individuals, the directors. The group began its fundraising efforts in September 2006 with a small buffet and cocktail event that raised \$8,600 through ticket sales, silent auctions, raffle tickets, and corporate sponsorship. In June 2007, the VSAS held the Rochester Furry Scurry, a race and dog walk that was destined to become the group's signature event. That event generated over \$23,000 from entrance fees, pledges, and corporate sponsorship. This June, the 2nd annual event has a new name, **The Fast & The Furiest™ 10K & 1-Mile Dog Walk**, and aims to double the first-year numbers.

To date, the VSAS has directed some funds toward spay and neuter surgeries performed by the Monroe Veterinary Associates. However, the majority of contributions have been deposited and managed toward the larger goal of improving and expanding the spay/neuter program at RAS. Pet sterilization and identification have been identified as the areas of greatest concern for Animal Services. Spaying and neutering is the most pro-active means of addressing most animal control concerns, whether its minimizing numbers of stray and unwanted pets, reducing roaming tendencies, or subduing negative behaviors that might lead to surrender and impoundment at the shelter.

Animal Services sterilized 1,815 animals during fiscal year 2006-2007 at a total cost of about \$13,000. In addition to surgery supplies, the shelter spends another \$24,000 on vaccines, tests, and other veterinary supplies to treat the sheltered animals. The VSAS will begin assuming some of these veterinary supply costs to help Animal Services manage the expense of maintaining the spay/neuter program. This assistance may enable Animal Services to increase the numbers of dogs and cats sterilized at the shelter each year.

Additionally, the VSAS will also provide funds for the purchase of microchip identification tags. Beginning in fiscal year 2008-2009, Animal Services plans to include an implanted microchip with each adoption. The microchips containing unique identification numbers are implanted between the shoulder blades of the pet and can be read by handheld scanners. Such identification tags help ensure that lost and stolen pets are returned to their rightful owners should the animals find themselves at an animal hospital, shelter, or rescue organization.

By **increasing spay/neuter surgeries** and **adding microchips to adoptions**, Animal Services will continue to serve its mission of reducing the numbers of stray and unwanted cats and dogs roaming our streets, filling the shelter, and being unnecessarily euthanized. Both sterilization and identification are pro-active measures that owners can take to help reduce the stress on local animal control agencies, shelters and rescue organizations. The VSAS is helping Animal Services to do their part. Visit www.vsas.org and www.rochesteranimalservices.com to find out how you can get involved in these efforts.

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by PetSafe.

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Peace of Mind for You!**



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For Dog Safety and Freedom**

*Must present this coupon at initial consultation to receive \$100 off select Invisible Fence, Brand outdoor solution packages. Not valid on prior sales or with other offers or discounts. New outdoor containment solution sales only. Participating dealers only. Terms and conditions apply. Offer expires 12/31/08.

The Society Page

As we head into summer, the idea of having a pet for the first time, getting an additional playmate or opening yourself up to having a pet in your life again, may be crossing your mind. And although there are many options for finding a pet, from the newspaper or a pet store to perhaps a breeder, please always consider adopting from a shelter first. It is important to be mindful that not all breeders are responsible and doing what is best for the animals in their care. By adopting from these unscrupulous puppy pushers, you are supporting them and helping to continue a cycle of greed and in some cases, absolute neglect for even the most basic needs of animals.

This plight has become much more evident in recent months and although it might seem like there are only a few isolated cases, it is in fact pervasive throughout this country. *The Humane Society of the United States* has launched a campaign to help stop this cruelty and neglect; even Oprah did a one hour special to help expose this growing epidemic.

As an animal lover, I find it both offensive and heart wrenching. It is one of those things that people (myself included) never even thought of. Like with the exposure of dog fighting resulting from the Michael Vick case, America is now waking up to the fact that animal neglect and cruelty is a much greater problem than we had realized.

Every year in the United States alone, animal shelters euthanize 3 to 4 million dogs and cats; many of those dogs come from puppy mills. It is also startling to think that of this country's 11,000 or so pet stores, one third of them still sell puppies. The breeding dog facilities that supply pet stores often keep these breeder dogs in cages for years without any human contact or life outside of the cages, like solitary confinement.

There is much that can be done, from prosecuting those responsible for neglect to supporting legislation to help protect these animals. I urge you to learn more about this. Start by visiting www.HSUS.org and learn more about the reality of puppy mills and find out all the different ways that you can help. Also, please encourage others to visit a shelter and give these animals a chance before going to any other source.

On another note, as mentioned earlier in this issue, our 2nd annual **The Fast & The Furriest™ 10k Run and 1-Mile Dog Walk** is Saturday June 28th. I hope to see all of you there, supporting those less fortunate animals in our hometown. or more information on our group, please visit our website at www.vsas.org.

Until next time,

Jennifer Brown
Director, VSAS

P.S. Looking to the future, the VSAS is planning a fall event at Artisan Works to continue helping those animals at the shelter. It will be a magical and charming evening full of tasty nibblets, intoxicating spirits, and some very rare finds. It is a perfect venue for such a night and those of you who have been there before know what an inspiring location it is, with its original art pieces, themed galleries, and roof top terrace.

For a glimpse behind the scenes, get involved! From hands on event preparation, to offerings of unique auction items, we would love your help in making this our best event yet. For more information, email us at vsasinc@gmail.com.



Verona Street Animal Society Newsletter



Contributors:

Jennifer Brown
Chris Fitzgerald
Sarah Schwenk

Rochester Animal Services (RAS) is owned and operated by the City of Rochester. The Verona Street Animal Society is a not-for-profit organization that provides resources necessary to enable RAS to more effectively serve the public's animal care and control, pet sterilization, and pet adoption interests and, in cooperation with the City of Rochester, supports the mission of RAS.

VSAS
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