

Fieldtrip for Rochester Animal Services

Rochester Animal Services recently made a visit to Woodcrest Commons with a few furry friends to participate in their community walk-a-thon. Woodcrest Commons' Debi Benson had contacted RAS Director Chris Fitzgerald about bringing adoptable animals to the senior living center in Henrietta to coincide with a walk-a-thon event. Benson said that because many of their residents were animal lovers, they had selected RAS as the recipient for their charitable donation from the funds raised, and would love to meet some of the adoptable animals.

On September 27th, Rochester Animal Services, two dogs, three cats, and a team of volunteers including Jim and Patti Mistretta and Terri Clark all attended the event, where the residents enjoyed socializing with the animals. The residents paraded around the facility with the dogs by their side. After the walk, Fitzgerald was presented with a check for \$413.60 – all raised by the residents and employees of Woodcrest Commons. "I am overwhelmed by their generosity," said Fitzgerald. "Our intention was to visit with the residents and raise awareness about our adoption program. So, the money raised to help the animals is an extra treat."

The donation was deposited into the Animal Control Gifts Fund and will be used toward the purchase of veterinary supplies for the spay/neuter clinic, for supplies to enrich the lives of the sheltered animals, and for encouraging adoptions through advertisements and promotional materials. In all cases, the funds will promote animal health and wellness and help prevent suffering and homelessness by promoting adoption into responsible, loving homes.



Who's having more fun?



Volunteer Patti Mistretta and one of our furry shelter friends

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You probably noticed that our newsletter, formerly known as the Kennel Quarterly has changed hands... and names. The Verona Street Animal Society, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that supports Rochester Animal Services.

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

Pets for Life

If you've been thinking about adopting an animal, whether its from Rochester Animal Services or another shelter, you've probably done your research. What kind of pet will adapt to your family the best? What kind of pet will *you* adapt to the best? One thing to keep in mind that some families forget is that adopting a pet is a life-long commitment.

If you foresee big changes in your future, you may want to hold off on adopting. Will you be moving in the near future? Are you planning to have children in the next few years? Are you financially stable and ready to pay the expected expenses of owning a pet?

The Humane Society of the United States has found that thousands of animals are given up because owners aren't able to take care of them anymore – or just don't want to. They launched the Pets for Life program to limit the number of animals that are relinquished to shelters each year.

Visit www.hsus.org to learn more about Pets for Life, and how to be part of the solution.



Drop off all donations to the Rochester Animal Shelter at 184 Verona Street, Rochester, NY 14608

From the Director's Chair

When I began working at Rochester Animal Services (RAS) in 2000, one of my main goals was to integrate a spay/neuter clinic with the shelter. After obtaining the funds through grants and capital improvement dollars, renovations began for surgery, pre-, and post- operation rooms. In July 2004, the first on-site sterilization surgeries were performed for animals adopted from the shelter. Since that time, Animal Services has established a Low Income Spay/Neuter (LISN) program, for cats and dogs. To date, we have sterilized almost 5,000 cats and dogs and the demand continues to grow.

Although the LISN program continues to grow in popularity, there are several limitations to the numbers of surgeries that can be performed at the shelter. First, RAS doesn't employ any fulltime veterinarians. We maintain consultant contracts with several local vets who visit the shelter on weekdays to provide veterinary services, including spay and neuter surgeries. In general, there is a different vet at the shelter each day of the week and their hours of availability vary. As a result, the number of surgeries scheduled varies considerably from day to day. Additionally, there is only one fulltime RAS veterinary technician. Vet techs are licensed professionals who assist veterinarians with surgeries and other medical procedures. Veterinarians typically have a team of vet techs and animal care assistants who assist with surgeries, thereby enabling the doctors to perform more surgeries in less time. With just one vet tech and occasional volunteer support, the whole process takes a bit longer.

Supply costs present another limitation. Our operating budget provides sufficient funds to purchase veterinary supplies to maintain the current surgical load. However, an increase in surgeries resulting from increased adoptions or greater public demand for the LISN program would require additional supplies and therefore additional funds. Space presents another problem. The surgery room is cramped with two surgical tables, with no room to add a third. Even if we were to expand the surgical team, our current facilities would not accommodate the appropriate space.

At the end of the last fiscal year, I realized that we were down to two regular veterinary consultants. That meant that we could only guarantee vet coverage two days a week. So I reached out to Lollypop Farm to outsource some of our sterilization surgeries for adopted animals. We revised our existing collaborative sheltering agreement to include provisions for veterinary services and surgical sterilizations in the absence of a visiting vet consultant. Throughout the summer and fall, we have been sending adopted pets out to Lollypop on those days without routine vet coverage at RAS. Those few days per month have enabled us to keep up with the surgeries for adopted pets.

In late spring, it became clear that we could not keep up with the demand for LISN surgeries, which were being scheduled 2-3 months out. We had to do better than that. I approached Dr. Paul Black of the Monroe Veterinary Associates about providing some assistance. We worked out an arrangement in which we were able to reschedule LISN surgeries to earlier dates at one of the Monroe Vet practices (Animal Hospital of Pittsford) and we caught up with the backlog within a few weeks. Additionally, the Monroe Vets have continued to visit RAS one Sunday each month for a Spay Day. During these events, their team of vets, vet techs, and assistants generally perform 25-30 feline spay and neuter surgeries. I am so grateful for their support and assistance in working together to control the cat population within our community.

The Verona Street Animal Society, Inc. (VSAS) is serving its mission to support RAS and has been contributing funds to help pay for spay and neuter surgeries outsourced to the Monroe Veterinary Associates. The group is also exploring the possibility of expanding the veterinary team at the shelter. If any readers know of veterinarians or veterinary technicians who may be interested in getting involved with our spay/neuter efforts, please have them contact us. We are also looking for additional volunteers to work along side the veterinary team and assist with animal restraint, surgical support, preparing surgical packs, post-surgical recovery, and cleaning clinic cages. Visit us at www.rochesteranimalservices.com and download a volunteer application, or call the shelter at 428-7274 for more information.

Although we are getting a lot of assistance from the Verona Street Animal Society, Lollypop Farm, and the Monroe Veterinary Associates, we can still use more help. Even if you are not able to donate time or money to assist our efforts, you can each make a difference simply by making sure that your own pets are kept safely confined, up to date on vaccinations, and properly identified with id tags or microchips. Lastly, please spay and neuter your pets.

Chris Fitzgerald

**A note from Chris
Seamus & Rooney**

RAS
184 Verona Street
Rochester, NY 14608
585-428-7274



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



Shelter Statistics: July 1—September 30, 2007

July	Dog	Cat	Other
Impounded	288	360	9
Adopted	56	37	1
Redeemed	87	3	0
Transferred	16	82	8
Euthanized	142	208	0
Sterilized			
Adoption	36	22	0
LISN	14	66	0
Redemption	20	0	0
Total	70	88	0

August	Dog	Cat	Other
Impounded	261	378	25
Adopted	26	38	2
Redeemed	76	3	0
Transferred	9	73	10
Euthanized	136	262	15
Sterilized			
Adoption	23	43	4
LISN	16	60	0
Redemption	24	2	0
Total	63	105	4

www.rochesteranimalservices.com



September	Dog	Cat	Other
Impounded	222	364	12
Adopted	29	57	1
Redeemed	45	2	1
Transferred	8	32	1
Euthanized	118	254	6
Sterilized			
Adoption	25	39	0
LISN	21	73	0
Redemption	17	0	0
Total	63	112	0

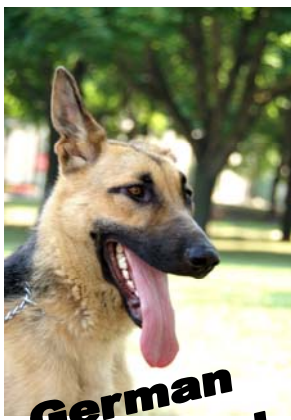
Prevent Pet Overpopulation

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



German Shepherd

As the 3rd most popular dog breed in the U.S., the intelligent and loyal **German Shepherd** can be a great addition to your family.

German Shepherds are utilized often as police dogs, service dogs, agility dogs, conformation animals, obedience dogs, and sentinels. Their high trainability and extreme loyalty and commitment make them an excellent choice for any agenda.

Fur: Short or long-haired double coat
 Size: Female, 65-75 lbs; Male, 80-90 lbs
 Temperament: Confident, alert, and protective

For more information on the **German Shepherd**, visit the American Kennel Club at www.akc.org.



Pet First Aid Class
 Certification class and book 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 for \$70 or kitten for \$85 at get the second free.

From the President



**ROCHESTER
ANIMAL SERVICES**

Pet Adoptions
Pet Lost and Found
Low Cost Spay & Neuter
Dog Obedience Classes
Join Our Volunteer Team

184 Verona Street
Rochester, New York 14608
585-428-7274

www.rochesteranimalservices.com

'Tis the season to be jolly and with all the excitement surrounding the holidays, we as responsible pet owners should keep some things in mind. Now we have all heard about poinsettias being a hazard to curious animals that may nibble on them but did you know that there are some other potentially harmful holiday traditions?

Holly and mistletoe can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and lethargy. Christmas tree water may contain fertilizers that cause stomach upset and the stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria that if ingested could lead to stomach and intestinal upset. So when decorating this season keep these items out of your pets reach or opt for artificial versions.

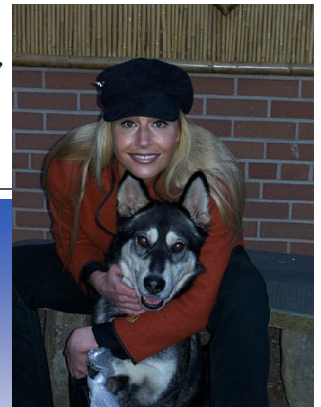
Many of the foods that we enjoy at celebrations can also cause potentially serious problems to your pets. For example, **chocolate**, coffee, and tea all contain dangerous components called xanthenes, which if ingested can cause nervous system or urinary system damage and heart muscle stimulation. With Theo bromine, chocolate is especially a problem because dogs love its taste and it is frequently around in human holiday treats. Problems range from diarrhea to seizures and death. Even unsweetened baking chocolate, dark chocolate and fudge can cause these health problems, so all of these items including candy should be placed out of your pet's reach.

Decorations and wrappings, though beautiful, can be dangerous to your pet. Strings and ribbons if ingested can cause intestinal obstruction resulting in an emergency vet visit, surgery to remove the blockage and even death. Keep this in mind when placing presents under the tree, as their easy accessibility provides temptation to harm and festive adornment around a pet's neck with perhaps a ribbon or bow, though charming, may also be a danger. Glass Christmas tree decorations can seem like a fun toy to a pet so place those types of ornaments, as well as potentially harmful tinsel, higher up on the tree and stay away from food decorated trees. For more on holiday safety tips, visit www.asPCA.org

Stress and schedule changes during this busy time may have an impact on your pets, so do try and reduce these factors. Here are some suggestions. Try to maintain your pets walking and feeding schedule, as this will keep them calmer even as your time with them is more limited. When friends and family come over to the house, it may be a good idea to put your pet in a quiet place with food and water where they can feel safe, as all the commotion and activity can cause your pets behavior to change and affect their health. If you are traveling with your pet, make sure that you have made all the arrangements for travel in advance, that you have all their medications accessible and that they are up to date on their vaccinations. If you are not bringing your pet with you when you travel, be sure to book a kennel in advance, as they tend to fill up fast this time of year. A pet sitter is a good alternative and if you have never used them before, it is a good idea to meet with them and have them meet your pet in advance.

From me, Nanook, VSAS, current residents at the shelter, and all the wonderful Rochester Animal Services staff, wherever you will be with your pets, we hope that these tips will help you have a safe and happy holiday season.

Jennifer Brown
President, VSAS



VSAS
P.O. Box 22874
Rochester, NY 14692
585-727-2533

Verona Street Animal Society Newsletter

Contributors:

Jennifer Brown
Chris Fitzgerald
Suthida "Fon" Sakulsurat
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.



Spay and Neuter Your Pets

Call 428-SPAY / Rochester Animal Services

