

Kennel Quarterly



Rochester Police Department
Animal Services Unit

Adoption Numbers

Compared to last year's fourth quarter, adoptions were lower than expected for both dogs and for cats. Of the 714 dogs impounded between April 1 and June 30, 137 (19.2%) were adopted. This was markedly lower than the adoption rate for dogs during last year's fourth quarter when we adopted out 184 (23.5%) of 781 dogs impounded. The good news is that the Unit again had fewer dogs impounded this year compared to last.

Cat adoption numbers declined less markedly from last year. During this fourth quarter, Animal Services adopted out 103 (12.2%) of the 841 cats impounded. Last year during the fourth quarter, Animal Services adopted out 121 (13.5%) of the 896 cats impounded. These adoption rates are ex-

tremely low due to the increase in cat numbers at the shelter during the spring. May and June represent the busiest time of year in terms of the cat impound numbers. The combination of "kitten season" and increased activity translates into hundreds more cats entering the shelter.

The year-end figures also show declines in adoptions for dogs and cats. Of the 2,914 dogs impounded during FY04-05, 663 (22.8%) were adopted out. Last year, 702 (22.8%) of 3,083 dogs impounded were adopted out. So despite the decline in absolute numbers, the adoption rate remained constant. Of the 3,203 cats impounded in FY04-05, 488 (15.2%) were adopted out. Last year, 509 (16.9%) of 3,005 cats impounded were adopted out.



Animal Services shelter in late spring.

Inside this issue:

Shelter Statistics	2
Bobcat kept as pet!	2
Director's Chair	3
Fundraiser helps buy dog beds	3
Volunteer Corner	4
New Faces	4

Missing Dog Reunited With Owner After 8 Months

On June 5, 2005, police officers spotted a loose dog roaming on Jay Street dragging a leash. The officers secured the dog and were able to read the tags on its collar. Police Officer Brent Newpher contacted the dog's owner, David Outerbridge and brought the dog to the animal shelter for the night.

The next morning, Outerbridge arrived at the shelter bright and early to reclaim his pet. Apparently the dog, "Scooter," had been missing for more than eight months. He was presumed stolen from Outerbridge who lives in Honeye Falls. Amazingly, the dog was still wearing its original col-

lar and tags. That raises some questions as to why Outerbridge had not been contacted by anyone during the months that Scooter was missing. Had the dog been stolen, one would expect the tags to have been removed. Yet Outerbridge received no calls regarding Scooter's whereabouts until the police officers found him.

Animal Services licensed Scooter to Outerbridge and implanted a microchip ID tag in the dog to facilitate Scooter's return should he ever show up at a veterinary hospital or animal shelter in the future. Outerbridge was thrilled to have his little sweetheart back and was

extremely appreciative of the efforts made by Officer Newpher and by Animal Services.



David Outerbridge and Scooter together again after 8 months apart.



“We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same.”

Shelter Statistics

	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Cat</u>	<u>Other</u>
<u>April</u>			
Impounded	243	244	24
Adopted	55	45	1
Redeemed	84	1	1
Transferred	9	61	6
Euthanized	112	106	10
Sterilized	59(+3)	18(+21)	0
<u>May</u>			
Impounded	236	308	11
Adopted	43	36	1
Redeemed	87	4	0
Transferred	17	54	12
Euthanized	84	193	1
Sterilized	36(+3)	20(+39)	0
<u>June</u>			
Impounded	235	289	8
Adopted	39	22	1
Redeemed	75	3	0
Transferred	9	45	5
Euthanized	102	198	3
Sterilized	30(+1)	10(+32)	0

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 and owned pets sterilized through the Low Income Spay Neuter (LISN) program, with the latter presented in parentheses.

Bobcat Kept As Pet In City

June 16, 2005—Animal Control Officers received calls for a mountain lion loose on Mulberry Street. Upon arriving at the location, the ACOs found the rain-soaked, frightened feline and knew it was not a mountain lion, however they weren't entirely sure what it was. Apparently the cat's owner, Ed Rayburn, had attempted to catch his “pet” after it had escaped that morning. He was bitten in the process. ACOs seized the large, wet cat and then issued citations to Rayburn who claimed the cat was a Serengeti lynx, a domesticated hybrid cat that ultimately arose from crossing other hybrids and domestics which initially originated from a

cross between a bobcat and a domestic cat.

It was not immediately obvious what type of cat the ACOs were dealing with because of the animal's drenched coat, however it was undeniably larger than the typical house cat. Based on the owner's description of the cat as an exotic hybrid and given its current rabies vaccination, the ACOs decided to leave the cat with Rayburn for the mandatory 10-day rabies quarantine. ACOs issued City citations for an animal at-large and unauthorized possession of a wild animal or hybrid and instructed the owner to get rid of the cat in a lawful manner before his hearing date in five weeks.

The next day, the owner's veterinarian contacted Animal Services to inform the Unit that Rayburn had taken the cat to her hospital and had the animal humanely euthanized. Given the bite Rayburn had sustained from the cat, ACOs seized the animal's body from the vet and sent a sample to the Health Department for rabies testing (the tests were negative). With the animal now dry and easily examined, it was obvious that it was not a Serengeti lynx or any other hybrid cat. It was a bobcat!

As troubling as it was to learn that this individual had been keeping a bobcat as a pet, equally disturbing was learning that the wild animal had been examined, vaccinated, de-clawed, and even

spayed by a local veterinarian without any notification to authorities

Animal Services contacted the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation and notified their law enforcement officers of the situation. In addition to City violations, Mr. Rayburn was issued a NYS violation for possession of a wild animal.



From the Director's Chair

Springtime proved busy as usual with the expected increases in calls for service and animals impounded at the shelter. The high numbers of cats entering the facility are staggering, but the Low-Income Spay-Neuter (LISN) program did take off in May and June which means that we are now addressing the overpopulation problem through owned pets, in addition to sterilization and adoption of stray and surrendered animals.

Unfortunately, adoption business did not increase with impound numbers. Despite our participation in a variety of events during May and June, adoption numbers were at an all time low. Perhaps we are dealing with a saturated popula-

tion of pet owners. Have the people who want to rescue pets already gotten them from Animal Services or from other shelters? Possibly. However, I suspect that there will always be some segment of our community that is looking for a first pet or a new addition to their home. There will be people who are interested in a playmate for their current pets, those whose new living arrangements permit pets, and those who have sadly lost a pet to age or illness. Regardless of the circumstances, there will always be people who want pets.

Our challenge then, is in continuing to raise awareness about Animal Services and in establishing our facility as one of the main pet adoption re-

sources within our community. We need your help with this. Whether you have adopted from us, or know someone else who has, or whether you simply like visiting or reading about the Unit's activities, we need you to be advocates for us. Help us spread the word and place more animals into new responsible and loving homes.

As always I welcome your comments regarding our programs, services, and procedures and any thoughts about this or any past or future issues.

Chris Fitzgerald



Cheers to Cat Vet!

The Animal Services Unit would like to recognize Dr. Marguerite "Peggy" Staderman and the All Cats Care Center for the support they have provided to the Unit and its volunteers. Thanks for being a friend to the shelter.



Dog Bite Prevention Week

Dogs bite more than 4.7 million people a year, and key experts believe that public education can help prevent these bites. May 15-21 was National Dog Bite Prevention Week, and Rochester Animal Services (RAS) and the United States Postal Service (USPS) teamed up to educate Americans about dog bite prevention.

Each year, 800,000 Americans seek medical attention for dog bites; half of these are children. Of those injured, 386,000 require treatment in an emergency department and about a dozen die. The rate of dog bite-related injuries is highest for children ages 5 to 9 years, and the rate decreases as children age. Almost two thirds of injuries among children ages four years and younger are to the head or neck region. Injury rates in children are significantly higher for boys than for girls.

In addition to children, adults working in a variety of fields including utilities workers, social workers, home health aides, and postal carriers are also at risk for dog bites. The USPS experi-

ences an increase in dog attacks on letter carriers during the spring and summer months.

Animal Services and the USPS held a joint press conference May 18, 2005 at the Animal Services Shelter, 184 Verona Street. Representatives from both agencies presented statistics and information about dog bites in our community and recommendations for bite prevention.

"Petapalooza" Raises Money for Dog Beds

On June 24, 2005, Thomson West sponsored a fund raising event at Aqueduct Park to benefit Animal Services. Deb Coia, a representative of the legal publishing company, approached Chris Fitzgerald early in the spring about the event they were planning. Coia wanted to know if there was something in particular that the shelter needed that could be used as a fund raising goal for the event dubbed Petapalooza. Animal Services was in need of 63 dog beds to get the dogs up off the floor and to provide some greater comfort.

The event raised \$1,495 through donations, raffles, and silent auctions. That was

enough money to purchase 50 kennel decks! All 63 beds have been ordered and should arrive later this summer.

The event was also an opportunity to promote adoptions. Animal Services brought a few adoptable animals as representatives of what is generally available at the shelter. Both dogs that attended the event were adopted within a day.

Thomson West and Animal Services agreed that Petapalooza was a success and both hope to continue with similar events in the future.



Chris at dog bite press conference



Rochester Police Department Animal Services Unit

184 Verona Street
Rochester, NY
14608

Phone: 585-428-7274
Fax: 585-428-6130
cf1274@cityofrochester.gov

Get personal. Adopt a pet.

Animal Services is a municipal animal care and control unit within the Rochester Police Department that is committed to improving quality of life and safety for city residents, the promotion of responsible pet guardianship, and the reduction of animal overpopulation to reduce animal suffering and euthanasia. Animal Services enforces all New York State and City of Rochester ordinances pertaining to animal control. We operate an animal shelter for stray, injured, menacing, and disowned animals. The shelter serves as a resource for locating lost pets and as an adoption center. We strive to provide the best possible care for all animals in our charge.

VISIT US ONLINE

WWW.ROCHESTERANIMALSERVICES.COM

Volunteer Corner

Animal Services would like to thank all of our volunteers for their continuing support and assistance during the fourth quarter. Several volunteers have assisted with promoting our programs at recent events. There are still a few summer events coming up with which we could use help including the Park Avenue Festival, Puerto Rican Festival, Dog Daze of Summer, the 1st Annual Lyell Avenue Street Fair, and a couple of Rhinos games. Check the sign-up sheets in the lobby or speak with the shelter management. We're always in need of more volunteers to assist with these types of events and to provide care and exercise for the animals.

Recently, a select group of interested volunteers has begun assisting our veterinary

team in the clinic and surgery room. These extra hands are invaluable in handling the increasing number of surgeries as the LISN program grows. Thanks again and keep up the great work!



Volunteers (Katie, Mary Lou, and Heidi) preparing a dog for surgery.

New Faces

Jamie Alexander was born in Rochester, New York. She graduated from Bishop Kearney High School. Jamie's interest in animal care was demonstrated early in her career when she worked as a Kennel Attendant at Irondequoit Animal Hospital for a few years. She left the hospital to work at Starbucks Coffee Company. After four years with Starbucks and a couple of subsequent office jobs in administrative support roles, Jamie found her way back to the animal care industry. Jamie was hired May 9, 2005 as an Animal Care Technician. Her skills and experience from the animal hospital have enabled Jamie to learn quickly and to excel in her new position at the shelter.

Jamie lives in Rochester with Josh, her boyfriend of 8 years, and their five cats. Please help us welcome Jamie to the Animal Services Unit!



Jamie with "Shelly" at the shelter