

Kennel Quarterly

A Joint Publication of the Rochester Police Department Animal Services Unit and the Verona Street Animal Society, Inc.



Animal Services shelter on Verona Street

Inside this issue:

Shelter Statistics	2
Future Cops Learn About Animal Cruelty	2
RAS Director's Chair	3
VSAS President's Pitch	3
New Faces	4
Volunteer Corner	5
Who's Who	5

Shelter Sterilization Law Passes

On December 19, 2006, City Council voted in favor of amendments to Rochester's City Code that will assist Animal Services in controlling populations of dogs and cats. The new legislation that takes effect February 1, 2007 will require all dogs and cats to be sterilized prior to release from the City's shelter. Both New York City and Buffalo have similar laws in place.

For the past several years, Animal Services has been sterilizing all dogs, cats, and rabbits adopted from the facility, however owners reclaiming lost or seized dogs and cats have been routinely reclaiming their pets reproductively intact. Now that will change. Beginning in February, all dogs and cats reclaimed by owners must first be sterilized before release from the shelter. Owners will be re-

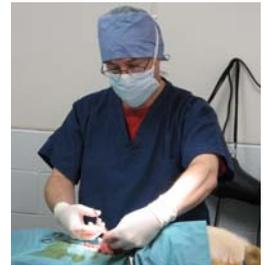
sponsible for the sterilization fees. The legislation provides exceptions for pets with a pure breed show record and for those owned by individuals visiting Rochester on a short-term basis.

The rationale for this type of animal ordinance is twofold. First, cats breed uncontrollably in Rochester as in other urban centers due to their extremely high reproductive capacity and to the lack of sufficient restraint laws. Cats may have 2-3 litters each year with 6-8 kittens per litter. It is possible for a single reproductive pair and all of their offspring to result in over 420,000 cats in just seven years! Additionally, owned cats allowed outdoors may contribute to growing feral cat populations if not sterilized.

Second, many dogs are bred irresponsibly throughout our

community by individuals looking to make a quick buck. Often these backyard breeders have little regard for the health or temperaments of the dogs they choose to breed. Such disregard may perpetuate negative traits in the pups which may then grow unruly or aggressive as adults.

Whether for cats or dogs, this new ordinance will help serve the mission of promoting public safety, quality of life, and responsible pet ownership, while working toward reducing numbers of stray, feral, and unwanted animals.



Dr. Blankfein in surgery at shelter.

Open House Showcases Shelter

November 5, 2006, Animal Services held its annual open house to celebrate National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week (November 5-11). The event is part of a week-long national campaign promoted by The Humane Society of the United States aimed at drawing special attention to the valuable role that local shelters play in enhancing the quality of life within their communities.

Adoption helps reduce the numbers of homeless animals in the community and ensures a safe and permanent home for a lucky animal.

In addition to adopting animals into new, loving homes, animal shelters offer many

other services to assist animals and people alike: controlling dogs running at large, rescuing injured animals, reuniting lost pets with their owners, and low-cost spay and neuter programs. They also offer the personal guidance of their staffs to assist the public with animal-related issues and concerns, from dealing with wildlife to helping with pet behavior questions.

During the event there were seminars on obedience training, exotic reptiles, tours of the shelter and the Mounted Patrol stables, and demonstrations of animal control equipment. A local pet groomer demonstrated her trade and provided free nail clippings to visiting pets. A pet

psychic was also available for readings and there was a microchip i.d. clinic. "Whether you're interested in adopting a pet, getting your pet spayed or neutered, want to learn about volunteering, or just want to see what we do, your involvement can make a lifetime of difference for the animals," said Chris Fitzgerald, Director of Animal Services.



Crowded lobby during event.



“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>October</u>			
Impounded	222	256	15
Adopted	48	34	2
Redeemed	55	1	0
Transferred	13	23	5
Euthanized	111	192	3
Sterilized	40(18)	32(+88)	0
<u>November</u>			
Impounded	205	195	16
Adopted	59	21	2
Redeemed	57	2	0
Transferred	6	26	12
Euthanized	86	140	7
Sterilized	45(+15)	23(+67)	0
<u>December</u>			
Impounded	221	151	7
Adopted	49	56	1
Redeemed	50	3	0
Transferred	5	11	0
Euthanized	114	103	2
Sterilized	42(+10)	34(+77)	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.

Future Cops Learn About Animal Abuse

On December 12, 2006, recruits at the Public Safety Training Facility on Scottsville Road were the first class to receive the newly state-mandated course on Animal Abuse Cases. Director of Animal Services, Chris Fitzgerald, was contacted by the Public Safety Training Center and asked to prepare and present a course on animal abuse. Fitzgerald agreed to take on the new responsibility and developed a lesson plan and presentation encompassing the material provided by NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Fitzgerald recruited Richard

Gerbas, The Humane Society and Lollypop Farm’s Director of Operations and Field Services, to assist with the presentation.

The link between animal cruelty and human violence is well-established. Whether considering domestic abusers, teenage school shooters, or serial killers, the vast majority of such criminals also engaged in various forms of animal abuse or torture. The presentation included discussion of this link and also outlined violations of the various animal cruelty laws in New York State.

Particular emphasis was placed on dog fighting and ani-

mal hoarding given the prevalence of these criminal activities within various communities. Other topics discussed included dog licensing, dangerous dogs, providing proper sustenance and shelter, poisoning, leaving the scene of injury to animal, and sexual misconduct with animals.

Both Fitzgerald and Gerbas were honored to be involved in preparing future police officers for this disturbing but incredibly important area of law enforcement. The animal abuse course will be included in academy training for all future recruit classes.



PSTF on Scottsville Road.



Dog fighting may occur in “pits” like this one discovered in basement of Mt. Read home in 2003.

From the Director's Chair



Happy New Year! Although it started out as a mild winter, the cold is finally upon us. With the onset of winter comes some challenges for pet owners and shelters. During the cold weather, we receive an increased number of calls to check the welfare of animals left outside with inappropriate shelter. Please keep these tips in mind during the winter.

Cats should be kept indoors at all times, year-round because of the variety of hazards associated with roaming at large. However cold weather poses some additional risks. Cats can become frost bitten or freeze if left outside. Many outdoor cats will seek shelter under car hoods, so take a second to bang on your hood before starting your engine.

Antifreeze represents a sea-

sonal hazard given its sweet taste and lethal properties. Make sure to clean up spills and consider using coolant containing propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol. Also, never leave pets unattended in cars during cold weather or they might freeze.

Dogs should always be kept on leashes at all times of year. Be particularly mindful of this during the winter, though, because dogs may lose their scent with snow cover and become more easily lost.

Although we do not encourage people to keep dogs outside for long periods of time, we do realize that this does occur. If your dog is kept outside, make sure to provide appropriate shelter from the elements. The shelter should be insulated and have an opening that not

face our prevailing westerly winds.

Also, make sure to wipe off the paws, legs, and stomach of your dogs when they come back in from the cold. This will help remove salt, antifreeze, or other chemicals that might be ingested. Keep your dogs coat long during the winter to provide better insulation and consider purchasing a coat or sweater for your short-haired breeds. Age and health can also affect a dog's tolerance to cold. Puppies, old dogs, and sick dogs should only go out to relieve themselves. For dogs spending a lot of time outdoors, increase the food intake to help keep the fur thick and warm.

In addition to these cold weather tips, make sure to spay and neuter your pets to help control numbers of stray and

unwanted animals. Also, keep your pets properly confined and identified with collars and tags so they can be returned to you should they stray from home.

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



Seamus, Chris, and Rooney

The President's Pitch

I would like to start out by wishing everyone a safe and happy New Year. 2007 is getting off to a great start with the City's new pet sterilization legislation which goes into effect at the beginning of February. The Verona Street Animal Society (VSAS) strongly supports the City's position and will provide any necessary assistance to the shelter. We are currently in the process of setting up additional days for the low-income spay-neuter clinics, as well as obtaining outside support and resources including, but not limited to, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and surgical supplies. If you or anyone you know is interested in getting involved please contact us at 727-2533 or vsasinc@gmail.com.

Flashing back to 2006, VSAS was out to support the shelter on November 5th at the annual Open House. A good number of attendees visited to learn about the various programs and services. One such visitor was my

dog Nanook, who periodically drops in to show his appreciation. Nanook and I also took the opportunity to visit the Mounted Patrol stables (see picture).

During the event VSAS raffled off an assortment of items including pet beds, pet treats, Kong toys, handmade earrings, books, and gift certificates. Attendees were generous with donations and we received several applications from individuals interested in getting involved as volunteers. All in all, it was a successful open house!

As the animal population starts to cycle back up once Rochester starts to thaw, keep an eye out for strays. If you see cats roaming around outside, especially large numbers of cats in one general area, call Animal Services to find out how you can help. For dogs, contact 311 or 911 for Animal Services to respond. Given the leash law in the City, a loose dog may be lost or stray and should be re-

united with its owner and removed from harm's way. Not only can these roaming animals become severely or fatally injured but, they may also cause accidents resulting in property damage and human injuries. Remember that pet population control saves lives, so please get your pet sterilized. Also, encourage friends and family to do the same.

The Verona Street Animal Society is planning fundraisers throughout the calendar year to expand awareness of the shelter and to increase our ability to improve the lives of Rochester's animals. The group has begun planning a 10k run and 1-mile dog walk for June 30, 2007. To keep abreast of the race/walk or other upcoming events, please visit our website at www.vsas.org. Make 2007 the year you get involved – let's see how much we can do together!!!

Jennifer Brown



Jennifer and Nanook



Jennifer and Nanook visiting Mounted Patrol during shelter open house.

Get involved!

Volunteers needed!

Do you have experience in marketing, sales, fundraising, web management, event planning?

Join one of our sub-committees today!



585-727-2533
VSASinc@gmail.com
www.vsas.org

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



Who's Who at Animal Services

Shawn Alessi was born and raised in Rochester. Shawn has been a City of Rochester employee for four years. She joined Animal Services as an Animal Care Technician in July 2006. She says that she loves the job despite its challenges. When not working, Shawn enjoys reading, cooking, and bike riding with her sons.



New Faces at Animal Services

Terra Ross-Caleb moved to Rochester in 1987. Before joining RAS as an ACO, Terra worked in banking for 10 years, but realized that her passion was for nature and animals. She enjoys outdoor activities like camping, hiking, and kayaking, but also loves to shop, to play and listen to music, and to enjoy a good glass of wine.



Amy Bianchi has always been interested in the field of animal control. Before being hired as an ACO Amy worked at veterinary hospitals for 12 years, five of those in emergency care. Amy is also involved with cat rescue and would like to see an increase in cat adoptions at RAS. Amy enjoys gardening and caring for her pets.



Jennifer Edwards joined the team as a Part-time Animal Care Technician in January. Jennifer has a B.S. in Zoology from Rockford College and spent 13 years working with primates in Florida before relocating to Rochester. She enjoys bowling, basketball, football, tennis, and softball as hobbies and she loves all animals.



Spay and Neuter Your Pets

Call 428-SPAY / Rochester Animal Services

 Robert J. Duffy, Mayor
City of Rochester, NY



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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

WWW.VSAS.ORG

Volunteer Corner

Halloween Party — On October 26, 2006, Animal Services participated in a Halloween Party at PAETEC Communications corporate headquarters in Fairport. Assistant Manager Pam Cook, Animal Control Officer Elaine Lalka, and Director Chris Fitzgerald attended the holiday event along with a team of volunteers and several adoptable animals. The event was a great way to provide some much needed exposure for the unit's pet adoption program and to showcase some of the wonderful animals available at the shelter. Animal Services applauds PAETEC for their efforts in promoting shelter awareness and in encouraging adoptions among their employees. Once again, Jim and Patti Mistretta were essential to the recruitment of volunteers for this event. Thanks to all of you who assisted or attended the party.

Furry Scurry — The Verona



PAETEC employees enjoying festivities

Street Animal Society has begun planning a 10K road race and 1-mile dog walk to benefit Animal Services. The First Annual Furry Scurry is scheduled for June 30, 2007 and will require assistance from a lot of people to run smoothly. Anyone interested in getting involved with the race planning committee or in assisting at the race should contact Chris Fitzgerald at Animal Services (numbers and email above).

The unit is always in need of more volunteers to assist with these types of events and to provide care, exercise, and socialization for the animals.

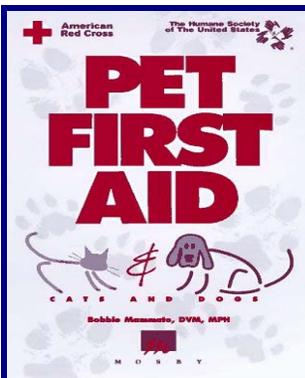
Thanks again and keep up the great work!

Who's Who at Animal Services

Farrell Eli was born and raised in Rochester, New York. He has been a City of Rochester employee for 28 years. Earlier in his career, Farrell spent two years working at a veterinary hospital. He has always had a love of dogs, so when a vacancy opened up for an Animal Care Technician at Animal Services, Farrell jumped at the chance to get involved. Farrell joined Animal Services in March 2006.



Farrell Eli



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