



wall st. tails

Monmouth County SPCA Spring Newsletter
2021



NJ Humane Law

Hoarding
Before + Afters

Community Cats

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Monmouth County
SPCA
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to keep up with our events,
outreaches & our adorable
adoptable animals!



Monmouth County SPCA



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Monmouth County SPCA

An electronic version of our newsletter
is available on our website!
Visit www.monmouthcountyspca.org
to check it out!

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Here at the Monmouth County SPCA, 2020 felt like a decade but we came out even stronger and we're ready for what 2021 has in store for us! First and foremost, I would like to sincerely thank all of our supporters, old and new, for their unwavering support and generosity because without you, there would be no us. Despite the challenges of 2020, we are so extraordinarily proud of the work our organization was able to do for

for both animals and the residents of Monmouth County. Our accomplishments speak for themselves and I would like to commend all of our staff and volunteers who made the shelter their priority, who showed up each day, and who gave it their all to get the critical work of animal rescue done.

Our adoption process has shifted to an appointment-only based system so that we can keep our staff and community safe. Even with the decrease in foot traffic, we still found 2,700 pets new homes in 2020, a fantastic achievement. Another noteworthy accomplishment is the 300 pets that came to us lost and were able to be reunited with their families; that's 300 less pets waiting in a shelter and 300 more animals that can be saved in their place.

Our Vogel Veterinary Care Center still operates 6 days per week providing friendly, professional service at affordable costs which generate a small profit going right back to supporting our shelter animals. Our VVCC performed 4,800 surgeries in 2020 and that was in the midst of state-wide shutdown – all while social distancing by utilizing curbside service.

Our Humane Law Enforcement and Animal Control Divisions remain model programs for the State of New Jersey. In 2020, nearly 250 animal cruelty investigations were performed by our Humane Officers, which included the recovery of two large hoarding cases and the disruption of a state-wide crime ring.

With your support, we will continue to grow our mission so that we can rescue, recover, relocate and rehabilitate as many animals as possible!

Sincerely,

Ross Licitra
Executive Director

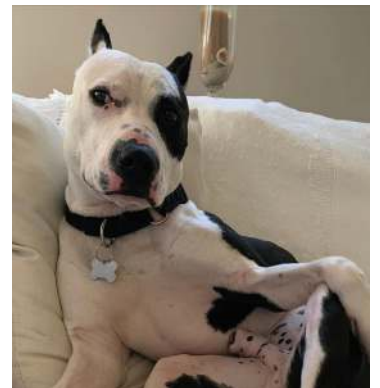
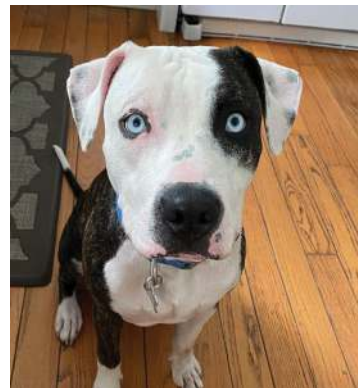
From Freezing to Forever Homes



3 of the puppies freezing outside

On a cold night in March, our Humane Law Enforcement Division responded to a call from the Neptune City Police Department about excessive barking. When we arrived at the apartment complex, our team heard the barking and whining from outside and we were prepared for the worst. What we found were 8 dogs and puppies, stuffed together in small crates, and living outside on a freezing cold porch with only a plastic tarp to protect them from the elements. We recovered every dog from the scene, who drank and ate ravenously when we offered them food and water. When the dogs and puppies arrived at our shelter, we made sure they had comfy blankets, plenty of accessible food and water and finally a warm place to sleep. The dogs were treated for their skin sores, intestinal parasites, ear infections and lack of care and placed in foster care for the length of the investigation.

Following the seizure of the dogs in Neptune City, 3 more dogs from Asbury Park were found in an abandoned home in connection with the original 8. An 8-month investigation with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office called "Operation Golden State" unveiled ongoing acts of gang criminality and organized crime, including dogfighting, which has led to charges against 29 people. **We are so proud to have brought closure to this awful ordeal!**



Some of the of the dogs after being placed in loving homes! What a difference!

Our Executive Director, Ross Licitra shared, "I am extraordinarily proud of all the hard work by the MCSPCA Law Enforcement division along with all of the Shelter and Medical Staff who worked side by side with our law enforcement partners to bring those to justice who would cruelly abuse these beautiful dogs. This is our mission and we will continue the pursuit to protect and advocate for all animals."

All of the dogs have been "foster failures" and are now living life free of fear or pain. We're so grateful to have the resources to be able to give every animal the second chance they deserve - and that's largely in part of our dedicated supporters! All of these dogs will have happy lives because of the hard work of our team, and because of YOU! From the day the dogs came into our care until now, they have received the highest level of care and more love than they could have ever imagined, thanks to your donations!

Interested in opening your home to a foster dog? Email fostering@monmouthcountyspca.org!



Executive Director Ross Licitra & Senator Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth)

A Grant for NJ Community Cats

We are so proud to have received another \$25,000 grant in order to fund TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) in our surrounding communities. The first grant was awarded in 2019, and with the hard work and reporting on the funds, our shelter was awarded a second grant in 2020. The awarding of this grant is unprecedented for shelters in New Jersey and the Monmouth County SPCA is proud to be the first organization to receive it, not once – but twice!

The securing of the grants are largely attributed to the hard work of Senator Vin Gopal, who recognizes the value of the shelter's community programs. Every cat trapped is spay/neutered, microchipped and vaccinated, both decreasing the population by preventing breeding and overall giving the cats a healthier, more enjoyable life. After being assessed, cats deemed feral are returned to the community to live in managed colonies while "friendly" stray cats are put up for adoption at the shelter. The grant has already funded the TNR of 229 outdoor cats, preventing thousands of new cats from being born in the wild over the next several years. With the help of public figures like Senator Vin Gopal, the quality of life for our New Jersey cats, and all animals, will continue to improve.

Super Swan Rescue

On a cold day in November, we got a call about a swan who was stuck in oil and not able to free herself. The swan was lethargic and weak but thankfully we were able to reach her and bring her to our shelter to be treated. Our medical team warmed her up, gave her fluids to stabilize her and hand-fed her until she was strong enough to be released. Our Animal Control Team brought her to a safe site, where she was happy to finally be healthy, and back in open water!



The swan, covered in oil to being released!

Adoption Success at World Subaru Event

Thanks to a grant from the ASPCA & Subaru Loves Pets Program, our shelter was able to hold an adoption event in October where 14 dogs and puppies found their forever homes! The grant allowed all of the dogs to be spay/neutered, microchipped and vaccinated before finding their forever homes. The event was held at World Subaru in Shrewsbury and served as an excellent opportunity to find new homes for the pets as well as educate the public on the importance of spay/neuter programs. Joe Wajda, Executive Manager of World Subaru, shared, "The success of the event couldn't have been better, and through our joint efforts we were able to unite 14 families with their forever dogs. In a year of such uncertainty, we were proud to be a part of a day filled with joy for local families, our team and the animals."



A few of the adorable pups who found their forever homes that day!

60 Dogs Rescued & Rehabilitated



On a sweltering hot day in July, we got a call to our Monmouth County Animal Cruelty Hotline describing a home with several neglected dogs. When our team arrived to the home, we could already tell by the smell that this would be a rescue mission.

Having to wear full PPE due to the conditions of the home, our team spent hours inside recovering over 60 dogs and puppies, living in filthy crates stacked up to the ceilings. The ammonia from the urine-soaked home burned the eyes of our rescue team for the short time they were inside, so we can't imagine what these poor dogs and puppies had endured for so long.

Several pregnant dogs, some dogs who had just given birth and newborn puppies just days old were rescued from the house. Many of the dogs were so matted in their own urine and feces that they could barely walk in their small, excrement filled kennels. The dogs and puppies were forced to drink out of filthy water bowls, if there were any accessible at all. It was a horrific event for us, but we knew that day was the start of their new life.



A litter of pups born under a sink



Day-old puppies in a dirty crate

The Road to Recovery Begins & Ends with LOVE (and we had plenty to give!)

Amazing Transformations!



It was a whirlwind of weeks from the initial rescue of the Belford dogs. Regardless of how chaotic our shelter is with hoarding cases, cruelty cases and our regular day-to-day intake, it never stops us from giving each animal the individualized love and care they need AND deserve!

Our 61 Belford dogs and puppies received everything they needed to finally feel safe and comfortable. We recruited an army of volunteers, in addition to our amazing staff, so that every dog and puppy could get exceptional, compassionate care! From professional grooming and husbandry to socialization and confidence-building exercises, we worked to make sure these dogs never had to feel anything less than loved. Almost 35 dogs went to experienced foster homes so that they could decompress from the unimaginable lives they once lived; many of them being adopted by their own foster families!

Seemingly having had no veterinary care for their lives, many of the dogs suffered from major dental problems, vision issues, and hip & joint problems that needed comprehensive surgeries to correct. Thanks to the support of our donors, the Monmouth County SPCA was able to provide every dog with the procedures they needed. We are happy to report that all 61 dogs and puppies found their forever homes through our shelter's adoption program!

Follow us on social media for more of our adoptable pets as well as "happy tails" updates!

20 Cats Dumped - 30 More Found



On a cold morning in September, a woman covering her face and license plate drove up to our entrance, opened her car trunk, and unloaded 5 crates full of cats. The shelter wasn't open for another several hours so the cats had to stay stuffed in their crates, without food or water, until our staff arrived. After bringing the cats inside and making sure none of them needed immediate medical care, it was discovered that all 20 of the cats were intact males, which struck our staff as odd. Our Humane Law Enforcement decided to pursue the situation knowing that where there are male cats, there are female cats too!

We followed the leads we were given and were finally able to track down the person who left the cats outside our doors. What we found was 30 more cats, living in disgusting and deplorable conditions in an unoccupied house. Every floor, counter, piece of furniture etc. was covered in urine and feces; the food was left for them on the floor in ripped bags and the water bowls were filthy. The conditions were so poor, that our Animal Control Officers had to wear full Tyvek suits while recovering them. Our team spent several hours in the home until every cat was safe and on their way to a second chance!



We took in a total of 50 cats from this case into our care. Many of the cats were underweight, dirty and scraped up but nonetheless happy to be in a safe place. All of the cats received spay or neuter surgeries, vaccinations, microchips and everything else we could offer to get them on track to find their forever homes. ***Their new life started when they arrived!***

A Forever Home For Every Cat

Although taking in 50 scared, confused cats is no easy task, our team rose to the challenge - because that's what we do best! Some of the cats were timid and needed a lot of work to come around, but our team of staff and volunteers made them a priority. Every single cat from the group was placed in a loving home where they will never have to feel scared, unloved or lonely ever again. Thanks to the support of our community, we were able to give these cats their happily ever afters!



Pilot Program Places Shelter Dogs Within Police Departments



Eatontown PD Lieutenant Bryan Mulholland; MCSPCA Chief of Humane LE, Mike Goldfarb; MCSPCA Executive Director, Ross Licitra; Mikaela Milano; Eatontown PD Chief Bill Lucia; Eatontown PD Sergeant Jason Cardamoni

The Monmouth County SPCA has recently introduced a pilot program placing shelter dogs within police departments to serve as emotional support animals. The Eatontown Police Department is the first to partner with the shelter with its Chief, Bill Lucia serving as the proud adopter of a dog named Tala, who says "It is really such a simple concept when you think about it, anybody can have a dog at home, but having a dog at work has proven to be very impactful in assisting officers coping with stressful situations. It has also had a significant impact on the overall morale of the department."

Tala, a purebred husky, came to the MCSPCA on a transport and was originally rescued from a hoarding farm in the south. Tala lived outdoors, with dozens of other dogs and rarely had the opportunity to interact with humans. Tala's life changed forever when she arrived in New Jersey and met Chief Lucia, as she was finally able to express all of the love she was saving up during her years alone. **For the officers of the Eatontown Police Department, having Tala at headquarters has been extremely valuable. A few times per week, officers will return from high-stress calls and seek out Tala for comfort.**

After hearing of the success of the Tala at the Eatontown station, other Monmouth County Chiefs and police departments have already expressed interest in the program. Interested parties are welcomed to contact the shelter for more information about the placement program by emailing info@monmouthcountyspca.org or calling 732-542-0040 x 7.

New Chief of Humane Law Appointed

This past December, Michael D. Goldfarb was named the Monmouth County SPCA's new Chief of Humane Law Enforcement. Chief Goldfarb retired from Chief of Police in Eatontown in 2018 after 10 years and joined the MCSPCA where he was quickly promoted to Lieutenant.



Being sworn in with his wife

Executive Director Ross Licitra added, "Working side by side with Michael, protecting and advocating for the humane treatment of all animals in Monmouth County has been an honor. As I continue in my role as the Executive Director of the Monmouth County SPCA, Michael and I will continue this mission always remembering the importance of animal welfare."

FeLVictory!

Danny, Jack and Lloyd came to us as tiny stray kittens who unfortunately tested positive for FeLV or Feline Leukemia Virus. FeLV (different from FIV) is easily transmitted to other cats and often brings a short life expectancy but regardless, we were determined to find them all homes. **We were over the moon when a wonderful woman decided to take ALL 3 boys home!** We couldn't have asked for a happier ending!



One happy family!

Thank You's All Around!



Pets and Pizza? What could be better? Angelo's Pizza in Matawan has been sharing our adoptables on their pizza boxes to get the word out! And bonus, Angelo's brought our staff lunch one day. YUM!



A truck full of goodies! Tommy's Tavern + Tap family brought over food, toys, treats, etc. along with restaurant gift-cards for our adopters! Tommy's also sponsors one of our animals each month!



Greenway Mortgage wanted to celebrate National Cat Day in a big way! Greenway presented a \$3,500 check to help support our shelter after the intake of the 50 cats from the Howell hoarding case!



When the Scaduto family, owners of Pet Supplies Plus as well as Food Circus Super Markets, Inc., heard about the 61 dogs rescued from Belford - they immediately jumped in to help! We received vans filled with supplies for the dogs, but their generosity didn't stop there! **Five of the Circus Foodtown locations collected donations at their registers over a 10-day period and raised over \$11,000 for the Monmouth County SPCA!** We are so grateful for the support and couldn't fulfill our mission without our amazing, animal-loving community!

Adoption Updates!



Our sweet senior seal, Mocha! This chubby girl was so patient as she waited for her forever home. She went to foster, and **SURPRISE**, they just couldn't give her up!



Judith, a senior girl who had both eyes removed, was lucky enough to find a lovely family! Judith adjusted perfectly to her new home and now lives a life of luxury!



In and out of the shelter system for most of his life, we had Freckles transferred to the MCSPCA where within months, finally found his forever home to live out his life!

Save the Date!



2020 would have been our **75 Year Anniversary** but we're celebrating this year instead!

Monmouth County SPCA Fur Ball
Friday, October 8th | Molly Pitcher Inn
Visit our website for more info!

Legacy Giving

Making a planned gift to the Monmouth County SPCA is an excellent way to ensure that your love and compassion for animals continues to benefit orphaned pets for many years to come. With your gift, the Monmouth County SPCA is able to care for the community's lost, abused and unwanted pets.

Contact us to talk about planned gift options to support the MCSPCA. **Please help us fulfill our mission and vision to save more animals.** For more information about legacy giving, please email barbara@monmouthcountyspca.org.