



wall st. tails

Monmouth County SPCA Fall Newsletter

2024



Happy Reunions



Life-Saving Rescues



Shelter Events



Monmouth County
SPCA

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We can't believe it's almost 2025: time flies when you're saving thousands of lives! 2024 is proving to be another tough, but wonderful year of rescuing homeless, neglected, and abused animals in our community and beyond – a feat we can only succeed in thanks to the support of generous donors like you. In 2023, we cared for over 6,000 animals and still maintained a live release rate of 96% - a number we are so proud to share, and work so hard for.

Our **Humane Law Enforcement Division** continues to be a leader in the State of New Jersey. Our officers work tirelessly to investigate and prosecute offenders under the power of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office - countless animals have been removed from abuse, neglect, and cruelty thanks to their hard work. On call for our community 24/7, our **Animal Control Division** holds 28 municipal contracts so that any animal who needs us can get help as soon as possible. A pillar of our organization is our **Adoption Program**, that continues to find loving homes for animals. Whether it be an 8-week-old chihuahua or a 12-year-old mastiff, we believe all animals deserve a second chance to be loved.

This past June we celebrated our fabulous Fur Ball Gala, our largest and most important fundraiser of the year to help generate the critical funds we need to save the lives of innocent animals and support our life-saving shelter programs. Our next community event will be our 4th Annual Polar Plunge on Saturday, November 30th in Belmar - a fun and family-friendly event that brings hundreds of people together to support our mission.

Currently, we're in our busiest months of the year with our highest animal intake, specifically "kitten season" where we'll see over 1,000 orphaned or abandoned babies who need specialty care to become strong and healthy. Shortly after, the holiday season will be here when we always see an uptick in pet surrenders due to financial struggles and pets being given up after being purchased as gifts. Your donations will allow us to care for each and every animal that comes into our care - thank you for being part of our family; we couldn't do it without you!

Ross Licitra
Executive Director



2024 Shelter Directory

Monmouth County SPCA
260 Wall Street
Eatontown, NJ 07724
Tax ID/EIN: 21-0679893

Main Shelter: 732-542-0040
Vogel Veterinary Care Center: 732-542-3125
Adoption Center: 732-542-5962
Animal Cruelty Hotline: 877-898-7297

Our Fabulous Fur Ball Gala



Development Director & Associate Executive Director Barbara Lovell; Executive Director, Ross Licitra; Fur Ball Honorees Robin & John Klein

On a beautiful evening in early June, the Monmouth County SPCA held its 2024 Fur Ball Gala at Tilling House in Eatontown. The event was held in celebration of the rescue work and animal advocacy of Robin and John Klein and their beloved rag-tag family of rescue pets, affectionately called the Klein Pup Pack.

The “Studio 54: Paws & More” themed evening transformed the venue into a glitzy and nostalgic party where guests dressed to impress! Classic Studio 54 posters,

a glimmering disco ball, 70s music and professional dancers set the tone for an evening of fun and fundraising! During the cocktail hour, guests were able to meet with MCSPCA Alumni, including Gus, a once stray and homeless pitbull who was recently adopted as the station dog for Deal Firehouse. There were lots of other furry faces to snuggle including some of our adoptable puppies and orphaned kittens accompanied by our staff.

The dinner program showcased some of our most heartwarming rescue pets like Bentley, a senior dog abused by his former owner; Bluey, a beloved family dog who was surrendered due to his family becoming homeless; and Jolene, a pregnant and heartworm-positive dog who gave birth to 11 puppies.



At the program’s conclusion, guests took advantage of their final opportunity to bid on the silent auction packages. The curated selection included a private dining experience for six at 2nd Jetty Seafood in Sea Bright, a luxurious evening at members-only social club Le Malt Royale, and an overstocked bar cart with a surplus of spirits. Two lucky bidders also took home live auction items: a private boat cruise, and a rooftop party at the Count Basie Center for the Arts. The night wouldn’t have been complete without a full dance floor boogieing down to classic tunes from Studio 54!

The 2024 Fur Ball Gala was made possible by the large amount of support of the event’s sponsors, most notably the 2024 Sponsors, The Cooper Voccola Family Foundation, Stillwell-Hansen, and Edgewood Properties.

Supermom Jolene Finds Her Family



Jolene and her puppies upon arrival

Jolene came to the Monmouth County SPCA sick and exhausted after giving birth to and caring for eleven puppies. She was extremely underweight, and further testing showed that she was heartworm-positive. Sadly, one of her puppies died before they arrived - something that could have been avoided if she had gotten proper care.

Jolene's story began with a young woman who took her in without being capable of giving her the care she needed. Her former owner never had her medically assessed, and would take Jolene away from the newborn puppies for hours at a time. Family of the caretaker pleaded with us to take Jolene and her puppies, and after hearing the story, our Executive Director sent officers to bring

all 11 dogs to the safety of our shelter, free of charge. Despite her physical state, Jolene was an excellent mama and showed us the sweetest, most patient temperament. The whole family was placed in a foster home where they could finally get the care and love they so desperately needed!



Happy at home!

Once Jolene's puppies were old enough to be adopted, this mama was **REALLY** able to relax! Jolene was wonderful in her foster home, so much that her family just couldn't bear to part with her and decided to make her a permanent member of the household. Jolene went from being out of hope, confused and scared to being a beloved friend - we are so grateful to have the resources to make these kinds of happily ever afters possible! By supporting our mission, you help us pave the way for dogs like Jolene and her puppies to get the life they deserve. THANK YOU!

Another PAWsome Dog Walk!

We want to give a huge thank you to everybody who participated in the MCSPCA Dog Walk and Pet Fair on April 27th! Thanks to the generosity of Mayor Anthony Talerico and the Borough of Eatontown, we were able to host this beloved tradition at Leon Smock 80 Acres Park for the first time - right across from the MCSPCA!

We were happy to welcome vendors, pet parents, and animal lovers alike! Many of the vendors generously offered free goodies to our attendees and donated a portion of their proceeds back to the shelter. Our MCSPCA program departments had educational tables for guests to visit and learn about what their donations are working so hard to support!



One of our cute attendees!

A Unique Adoption for a Special Kitty

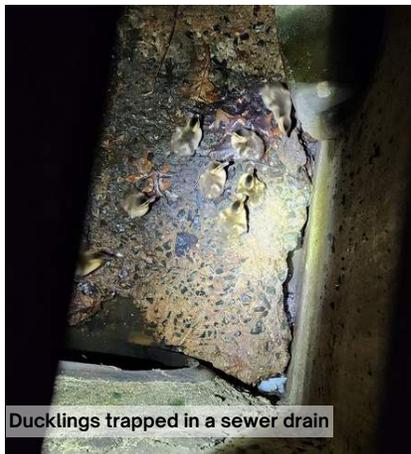


RoPURRt Downey Jr. was once a very shy and scared cat, refusing to interact with anybody for the first month he was in our care. As time went on, he became slightly more comfortable but was still wary of strangers. Unfortunately, it's common for adult cats to shut down in a shelter environment. RDJ's lucky day came when a couple saw his photos online and fell in love. One of their cats had recently passed away, leaving their other feline companion very lonely. There was just one issue; his potential adopters are immunocompromised, and avoid public settings to protect their health. **So how could they come in to adopt RDJ?** Our adoption staff was hardly going to let that stop them from finding RDJ his perfect life! Our Feline Adoptions Manager first counseled the couple over email to make sure it would be a good fit for RDJ. The couple asked a trusted friend to act as a proxy for them, and the friend joined us at the shelter to FaceTime with his potential family.

Shortly thereafter, RDJ (now named "Henry") joined his new family at home thanks to the help of their generous friend. In the comfort and safety of his own home, RDJ has blossomed into the loving, happy pet we always knew he could be. His new family says, "He is rolling around on the floor, giving head bumps, playing with toys, he LOVES chin scratches, and he is purring like a motorcycle. We love this guy! Thank you so much for helping to make this happen for us."



Midnight Duckling Rescue: We're On Call 24/7!



Spring and Summer leave us no shortage of adorable wildlife stories, but some rescue missions are trickier than others. Two MCSPCA Animal Control Officers arrived on scene after receiving a call about ducklings that had fallen into a storm drain. The drain cover refused to budge - even with four firefighters trying to pry the bars off! A hydraulic tool finally did the trick.

After an hour and a half of struggle, an ACO climbed into the drain and recovered eight healthy ducklings. Their mother had flown off during the commotion, but fortunately, we were able to reunite the family the following morning. Thank you so much to our amazing Animal Control Officers and the Freewood Acres Fire Department for their willingness to assist in this duck tale! With the help of our generous donors and our community, we're able to help the ones that need us most ❤️



Lost An Eye, But Found a Family!

Eggplant was surrendered along with his four siblings in early April. This little kitty was born with microphthalmia, a condition that causes the eye to appear smaller and sunken in. In more severe cases, the eye may not develop at all. This condition can affect one or both eyes and is sometimes accompanied by other vision-related health issues. Our medical team decided to remove Eggplant's eye for the benefit of his overall health. If they left the eye in place, it may have caused issues like infection or cancer down the road. Furthermore, potential adopters may have turned away from Eggplant out of fear that his deformed eye could become an expensive medical bill in the future.

Our team successfully removed Eggplant's affected eye and ocular tissue. He spent a few weeks recovering with our veterinary technicians, who made sure he was comfortable. After a few days on our adoption floor, one of the veterinary technicians who aided Eggplant in his recovery decided to adopt him and the rest is history! Your donations help us care for cats like Eggplant so that they can live a life free of pain and full of love ❤️



Sound The Alarm 🚒 Shelter Dog Turned Station Dog



Pony Boy (now named Gus) came to the MCSCPA as a lost pet back in November and was sadly never claimed by an owner. It's not always easy to find a 90lb dog a home, so Pony Boy waited and watched out his window for months wondering when a new family would choose him.

Finally, on a sunny day in March, members of the **Deal Fire Department** stopped by the shelter hoping to find a new station dog and it was love at first sight! Gus was adopted by the fire station and is now their official mascot!

Gus will now provide company and companionship and help our first responders reduce stress levels just by being his wonderful self! This heartwarming adoption goes to show that a loving shelter dog is waiting out there for every family - or firehouse! We wish Gus and his big new family a happy life.

Smile, You're Adopted!

Thanks to our **Pearly Whites Program** dozens of our shelter animals have received pro bono dental cleanings and surgeries from our participating partners. As some pet owners may know, dental work can cost anywhere from \$500-\$1500 and since we want our animals to go home in tip-top shape, it's a huge relief to have our partners cover this before adoption. **We're so grateful for the support of our veterinary partners!**



Age Is Just A Number - It's Never Too Late To Start Again!



Tinker was surrendered to our care after living with his owner for 12 years; it was the only home he'd ever known. As you can imagine, transitioning from your safe place to an unknown building with unfamiliar faces can be very scary! Tinker was completely shut down and hid in a box, wasn't interested in being pet and was barely eating - we were heartbroken for this senior boy. We put a plea on social media to see if anyone had the room in their heart and home to adopt this boy, and our community sure came through! The next day a wonderful family came in to give Tinker his second chance - and what a difference it made for him. Tinker only took a few days to settle in and his behavior totally shifted from a scared, shut-down kitty to a playful, snuggly and loving companion!

Tinker's new family shared, "He's so amazing, best thing that has happened to us in a long time. I had no idea I could fall in love with such a cat. So I don't think we saved him, he saved us. He's something really, really special." Tinker is now happy and loved! ***It's stories like this that make every hard day worth it.***



Chief & Lieutenant of Humane Law Enforcement
Mike Goldfarb and Mike Magliozzo

Animal Cruelty Has No Home in New Jersey

We've said it once and we'll say it again - a pillar of our mission is to **protect, care, and advocate for all animals.** Over the last year, we've been fighting hard for justice, and it's paid off. Our Humane Law Division, granted authority by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, has had three unprecedented sentences for animal cruelty offenders. Recently, A Middletown woman was sentenced to 364 days in Monmouth County Jail and \$32,500 in fines for the abuse and neglect of 61 dogs. Another offender, an Asbury Park man, was sentenced to 5 years in NJ State Prison for the sexual assault, torture, and murder of a cat. Lastly, a Howell man was sentenced to 5 years in

NJ State Prison for the murder of a cat. Years ago, a small fine would be all that offenders would have as a consequence - but thanks to hard work, dedication, and love for all animals, our Humane Law Enforcement Division will keep fighting to make sure those who abuse animals are punished to the fullest extent of the law. When you support our mission, you help us speak for those with no voice.

Free Microchips for Community Pets

We have always stressed the importance of getting pets microchipped. Statistics show that one in three pets will become lost at some point during their lives, but cats and dogs with registered microchips are much more likely to experience a happy reunion with their loving families. On June 22nd, we held a free microchip clinic and welcomed families to take advantage of this life-saving initiative! We were so proud to microchip over 50 pets and offer free lifetime registration so that if their pet were ever to become lost, it would be easier than ever to get them back home! **Our Vogel Veterinary Care Center offers microchip services regularly** - call 732-542-3125 to make an appointment.



Medical Director, Dr. Samantha Mammen
VVCC Clinic Manager, Danielle Rullo

Community Thank Yous



Barbara Lovell, Jessica Scaduto, Abigail Gwydir

Thank you so much to our friends at **Food Circus Supermarkets** who did a campaign at their stores to support our shelter! During a 10-day span in March, the family-owned supermarket chain collected donations at all of their registers and raised over \$6,000 for our animals and life-saving programs!

We were so happy to welcome them to our shelter to meet some of the furry babies the donations work so hard towards saving. Having the support of our community keeps our mission strong ❤️



The Monmouth County SPCA would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Howell Girl Scout Troop #1105 and Brandywine Senior Living of Wall for their hard work and dedication in collecting donations for our animals. These groups are an excellent example of how every person can make a difference as part of a team, at any age. Every donation, no matter how big or small makes a difference in the lives of our shelter and community pets!

thank you

We'll Be Freezin' For a Reason!



Saturday, November 30th

Dog Friendly
Family Friendly
Pre + After Party
Live Music

SAVE THE DATE

Our 4th Annual Polar Plunge!

Monmouth County SPCA Doggy Paddy Polar Plunge
Saturday, November 30th @ D'Jais in Belmar



Can't Adopt? Sponsor Instead!

Our **Sponsor A Pet Program** provides routine care for one of our shelter animals for one month.

This provides:

A safe and comfy place for them to live
Nutritious food and treats • Routine medications
Exercise, play + enrichment • Lots of TLC

Sponsors will have their names advertised on a special sticker placed on the animal's cage card ❤️

Scan your phone here to get started, visit monmouthcountyspca.org/sponsorapet or give us a call at 732-542-0040 x 7



Do you think your pet has what it takes to be a Therapy Animal?
Our Pet Therapy Program is looking for more members!
petterapy@monmouthcountyspca.org

