

Kennel Quarterly



Rochester Police Department
Animal Services Unit

VSAS Fundraiser A Success!

On September 24, The Verona Street Animal Society, Inc. held its inaugural fundraising event at the Pig 'n' Whistle in Rochester's East End. The event was sponsored by Invisible Fence of Upstate New York, PAETEC Communications, and Clean-Rite Floor Care Services. Many local companies donated items for gift bag items and raffle prizes.

There were about 150 people in attendance for the food, fun, and prizes. The consensus was that everyone enjoyed themselves and walked away with some neat gifts.

The event raised \$7,000 for the VSAS. These funds will be used for promoting adoptions, spay/neuter clinics, and other programs at Animal Services.

The VSAS Board of Directors was also announced during the event. The Board is comprised

of: Jennifer Brown, President; Linda Luxenberg, Vice President; John Campolieto, Secretary; Cheryl Gioia, Treasurer; Mary Magee; Josh Moscov, and *ex officio* director, Chris Fitzgerald, Director of Animal Services.

The VSAS views this first event as an overwhelming success and have already begun discussions about future endeavors. The group hopes to have several events each year including a cocktail party, a formal gala, bachelor/bachelorette auction, golf tournament, dog walk, and 5K race. Anyone interested in getting involved with the VSAS and possibly assisting with any of these events should contact the group at 585-727-2533 or at VSASinc@gmail.com. You can also learn more about the group at www.VSAS.org.



Event attendees



Jennifer Brown and Chris Fitzgerald



More supporters enjoying the grub!



Animal Services shelter on Verona Street

Inside this issue:

Shelter Statistics	2
Disposition Numbers	2
RAS Director's Chair	3
VSAS President's Pitch	3
Thomson West Aids RAS	4
Volunteer Corner	5
New Faces	5

Summer Pet Fest Benefits RAS

On August 19, Clyde LeFevre of *Petpalooza* Magazine and Invisible Fence sponsored the 1st Annual Summer Pet Fest at ESL Sports Centre on Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road. Exhibitors, vendors, and displays included exotic wildlife, air purification systems, a variety of pet products, agility training, carpet care, pet literature, grooming, rehabilitation and therapy, obedience training, and pet treats. Despite the dreary weather, the event was well attended for a mid-summer affair and exhibitors and attendees seemed to agree that it was a success.

Animal Services brought

adoptable pets to the event and had a team of volunteers on hand to answer questions and promote the unit's programs and services. RAS vet, Dr. John O'Donoghue, answered questions about pet health. Chris Fitzgerald, Director of Animal Services and Jennifer Brown, President of the Verona Street Animal Society, Inc. (VSAS) were also in attendance to promote both Animal Services and the VSAS group and its inaugural fundraising event. Animal Services received \$421 from a portion of the proceeds from ticket sales. Additionally, Pet\$aver Superstore raised \$60 for RAS

with a dog biscuit eating contest (speed, not quantity).

Fitzgerald and LeFevre are hoping to organize a similar event for mid-winter. They anticipate significantly higher attendance for such a Winter Fest.



LeFevre's Petpalooza beetle at ESL



“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>July</u>			
Impounded	268	368	15
Adopted	44	24	7
Redeemed	66	1	1
Transferred	13	39	6
Euthanized	154	306	8
Sterilized	31(14)	21(+28)	1
<u>August</u>			
Impounded	217	456	16
Adopted	43	46	0
Redeemed	55	18	2
Transferred	12	36	6
Euthanized	102	329	8
Sterilized	38(+21)	39(+84)	2
<u>September</u>			
Impounded	235	398	13
Adopted	35	36	1
Redeemed	59	2	2
Transferred	4	63	3
Euthanized	125	309	6
Sterilized	27(+11)	24(+63)	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.

Disposition Numbers

During the first quarter, Animal Services impounded 720 dogs. Of those, 180 (25%) were reclaimed by owners, 122 (16.9%) were adopted, 29 (4%) were transferred to other animal welfare organizations, and 381 (52.9%) were humanely euthanized.

Of the 540 dogs not reclaimed by owners, 365 (67.6%) were deemed not adoptable due to temperament, policy, or medical issues, or were euthanized at the owner’s request due to age or medical problems. That means that 175 dogs were actually available for adoption. Of those, 122 were adopted. That

represents a 69.7% adoption rate for those dogs deemed adoptable. With the 29 transfers, that rate increases to 86.3%. Unfortunately, 11 dogs were pulled from adoption rooms for euthanasia due to space restrictions. The remainder represent those dogs impounded during September that were still sheltered into October.

As mentioned in the previous issue, the increase in euthanasia is likely attributed to the implementation of temperament evaluations for every dog before being deemed adoptable. Animal Services began temperament testing every dog

in April. Although these evaluations reduce the number of dogs made available for adoption and thereby increase those requiring euthanasia, the unit is confident that there will be fewer dog bites associated with dogs adopted from the shelter and fewer dogs returned as a result of aggression.

The unit also impounded 1,222 cats during the fourth quarter. That represents a 24% increase compared with last year’s first quarter. Of those 1,222 cats impounded, only 21 (1.7%) were reclaimed by owners, 106 (8.7%) were adopted, 138 (11.3%) were transferred to other animal

welfare organizations, and 944 (77.3%) were humanely euthanized.

Of those selected for euthanasia, 131 (13.9%) were due to temperament, 179 (19%) were due to policy restrictions related to age or pregnancy, 204 (21.6%) were due to space limitations, and 214 (22.7%) were due to illness or physical conditions. Most of those sick cats had treatable ailments, however resource and space limitations prevent Animal Services from treating the majority. Only one cat was surrendered for euthanasia at the request of its owner.

From the Director's Chair



Cats are still a huge challenge for Animal Services. Cat impound numbers rebounded markedly in the first quarter after what had been a relatively slower 2005-2006 year. As reported in the last issue, we impounded 2,815 cats last fiscal year, down 388 (12%) from the previous year. Although we were hopeful that the trend would continue, the 1,222 cats impounded during this year's first quarter suggest that the apparent decline was more of an anomaly than a noteworthy change.

The good news is that there were a lot of outreach events this summer that helped draw attention to Animal Services, its mission, and its programs. The

low-income spay/neuter program continued with additional surgeries performed during Sunday Spay Days in August and September with the assistance of the Monroe Veterinary Associates.

Petpalooza Magazine organized a Summer Pet Fest to benefit Animal Services as did Thomson West with their Petapalooza event. Both events helped raise awareness, promote adoptions and other services, and generate some funding to help with shelter supplies and promotional materials.

Perhaps most significant, though, was the official coming out party of the Verona Street Animal Society, Inc. (VSAS) on

September 24. This group had been a long time in the creation. We were talking about the possibility of a "friends" group back in 2001 and 2002. There were conversations, correspondences, meetings, but nothing really took shape until Jennifer Brown resurfaced the topic with me nearly two years ago. After all of the filings and paperwork, the VSAS finally took form with the appointment of its first Board of Directors and the inaugural fundraising event. Thank you to all who assisted with the event. You really helped contribute to its success. Joanne Brown and Don Crumb both deserve my special thanks for all of their behind the scenes assistance. I am excited about

what the future holds for VSAS and for RAS.

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

Being that this is my first column, I should take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jennifer Brown and I am the President of the Verona Street Animal Society. (Hence, the 'campy' title above.) Neko, my first dog of fourteen years, came from the City's animal shelter before it was actually on Verona Street. When he passed, I decided to do something in his honor. Beginning as a volunteer, I encountered a new friend who quickly decided that I should take him home. He is a devastatingly handsome Husky/Shepard mix named Nanook (yes, a reference to the movie *Lost Boys*). Neko, Nanook, and all my furry buddies at the shelter, plus the dedicated staff and volunteers, keep me inspired to do what I do. And I am hoping to entice more than a few of you to get on board.

For the past couple decades, the Humane Society held the contract to care for Rochester animals. In 2000, the responsibility was given back to the City, effectively eliminating the opportunity for the shelter to openly solicit for donations and

qualify for many grants like other not-for-profits. This is where we come in. The Verona Street Animal Society is acting as an arm to the shelter; a helping hand if you will. We are there to increase their resources and improve the lives and care of Rochester's four-legged citizens. To find out more about this group, please visit our website at www.vsas.org.

Now onto the fun stuff...our first fundraiser!! It was a great start out of the gate for the VSAS's inaugural event. With attendance around 150, generous donations by various supporters, and an extremely supportive volunteer staff that did all this work for the love of Don Crumb and the animals. Attendees could watch the slide show presented on the big screen by RAS and view animals available for adoption, possibly finding their match, as they sat at the octagon bar.

Rochester businesses were very welcoming toward this new group and stepped up to show their support. As mentioned in the cover story, corporate sponsors included Invisible Fence,

PAETEC, and Clean-Rite Floor Care Services. Gift certificates were donated to the raffle prizes from several businesses including Phillips European Restaurant, P.F. Changs, Aladdin's, Baker Street Bakery, Ravenwood Golf Club, and Geva Theater Center.

Items included prints from photographer Todd Nielsen, Champions Pavilion tickets to the 2007 Wegmans LPGA, a Hahn's Graphic digital camera, Sound Concepts surround sound speakers, gym memberships, Renee Furterer hair care products, and beauty salon services donated by the Bazar Salon...you name it, we had it. With packages named 'Art imitating Life,' 'A Golfers Dream,' and my personal favorite, 'The Man's Package' (Yes, these were really the names), lucky winners left with some great prizes. Fortunately I didn't have to present these alone, as I had a charming co-host, VSAS Board member Josh Moscov. We received a lot of "Pat and Vanna" comments, even without the 'WHEEL!' In addition to Josh, attendees were also introduced to the rest of our illustrious board members: Cheryl Gioia, John Campolieto, Linda

Luxenburg (*in absentia*), Mary Magee, Director of Animal Services, Christopher Fitzgerald, and oh yes...me.

With surprisingly nice weather (I was overdressed in a sweater-whoops!), two hours of open buffet, and fabulous raffle prize packages, it was a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon helping Rochester animals!

Hope to see you all at the next event...

Jennifer Brown



Jennifer and Nanook

Thomson West's Petapalooza

On August 3, Thomson West held its 3rd Petapalooza event in downtown Rochester at Aqueduct Park adjacent to the firm's corporate complex. The event included an agility demonstration, a mobile pet groomer, dog trainers, and a few adoptable pets from Animal Services. Thomson also sold pet supplies and raffled gifts and raised over \$800 for the shelter.

The event was held from 11am-2pm as a sort of lunch break outing for Thomson employees. While licking ice cream, attendees perused the information tables, visited with the animals, and submitted raffle entries.

"The folks at Thomson West are just great! They are so compassionate and generous and we genuinely appreciate all that they do for Animal Services and for the animals themselves," said Chris Fitzgerald, Director of Animal Services.



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



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City of Rochester, NY



Rochester Police Department Animal Services Unit

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Spaying and Neutering Saves Lives!

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

PETSMART's National Adoption Weekend was September 15-17. The unit sent volunteers with a few cats to each of the three area locations, Greece, Henrietta, and Webster. These offsite adoption events should help boost cat adoptions. Anyone interested in getting involved with future offsite events should contact Pam Cook at Pam.Kent@cityofrochester.gov for details.

The annual open house is right around the corner on Sunday November 5 and the shelter can use lots of help from the volunteers. The event is the kickoff to National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week to draw special attention to the lifesaving work that animal shelters perform on a daily basis. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the facility for the public and for assisting with visitations, escorts, and shelter tours

throughout the event. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Pam Cook or simply drop in anytime Sunday November 5. The event runs from 10am-3pm.

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!



New Faces

Ron Lodar was born and raised in the City of Rochester. He graduated from Monroe High School and then served a 20-year career in the US Navy before joining Animal Services as an Animal Control Officer in early August. While in the Navy, Ron spent a few years as an Animal Research Technician. It was during that assignment that Ron realized how much he enjoyed working with animals and ultimately lead him to this new career. In addition to enjoying working with animals, Ron loves the excitement

associated with being an ACO.

When not at work, Ron enjoys playing golf and riding his motorcycle.



Ron Lodar



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