



# VERONA STREET NEWS

A Joint Publication of the Verona Street Animal Society & Rochester Animal Services

SPRING 2014

Verona Street Animal Society, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that supports Rochester Animal Services.

## The Fast & The Furriest® 5K & 10K Races, Dog Walk & Pet Fest

Saturday, June 7th, 2014

The Fast & The Furriest is shaping up to be our largest event to date. Our goal for this eighth annual event is to raise more than \$80,000 with the help of our runners, walkers, fundraisers and corporate sponsors.

If you haven't already signed up to run, walk and fundraise, please do so on our website: [www.VSAS.org](http://www.VSAS.org).

This year will feature:

- More food vendors including newly added food trucks
- New fundraising prizes
- More pet rescue groups
- Rabies and microchip clinics
- Raffle for a great new prize
- Discounted pet adoptions
- Afternoon play group in the new Play Yard at Rochester Animal Services
- Kids activities
- Pet Contests
- Exhibitors and vendors
- Live music
- Free parking

Get Ready!

- Get involved
- Form a team
- Gather pledges
- Start training
- Sign up to volunteer

We need a lot of help to make this event a fun and successful time for everyone involved. With your help, we will exceed our goals and be able to help even more animals. If you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer, corporate sponsor or vendor for The Fast & The Furriest® 2014, please visit our website: [www.VSAS.org](http://www.VSAS.org)



**THE FAST & THE FURRIEST**  
5K & 10K Races, Dog Walk & Pet Fest!  
SAVE THE DATE: Sat. June 7, 2014  
Questions? Call 311  
[www.rochesteranimalservices.com](http://www.rochesteranimalservices.com)  
Outside the city call 428-5990  
City of Rochester, NY Lovely A. Warren, Mayor

**Save the date!**  
**Saturday, June 7th 2014**

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[veronastanimalsociety.tumblr.com](https://veronastanimalsociety.tumblr.com)



## The Director's Cut

The cold winter months are typically slower times for animal shelters. As we slowly emerge from the winter and prepare for the spring, we are also bracing ourselves for the anticipated increase in animals. Longer daylight hours lead to increased activity by animals and humans, therefore increased calls for animal control are not surprising. Springtime also marks the peak season for cats and dogs to produce litters. Many of those litters are unwanted and end up surrendered to shelters.

The live release rates for February and March reached record highs at 75% and 76.47%, respectively. Reduced intake numbers certainly contributed to those results however our continuous efforts to promote adoptions via website and social media, discounted adoption events sponsored by our non-profit partner the Verona Street Animal Society, and support from Best Friends Animal Society have amplified our success in live releases.

This year, we are trying to be as pro-active as possible in preparing for the inevitable increase in animals entering our care. Through the Best Friends Animal Society/No More Homeless Pets Network we have obtained contacts for several shelters throughout the northeast. In addition to continuing to work with dozens of local animal rescue organizations, we have found a few distant shelters in New York and in Vermont willing to accept some of our animals. Increasing our outlets for transfers will help make room for incoming animals and ultimately it will help save more lives.

Discussions have commenced regarding the creation of a formal transportation program to handle the transfer of the animals to these distant shelters. We are in the process of developing the procedure on our end as the shelter of origin and we will be working with our partners at the Verona Street Animal Society to coordinate the physical transportation of animals. At the end of March, we received word from a Best Friends partner shelter in Vermont that they had space for accepting cats from us. So, with the help of VSAS and a volunteer transporter, we were able to send six cats to that shelter. Initial feedback has been positive. We hope to learn from that initial experience as we formalize our transportation program.

In addition to increased transfer efforts, we are also planning spring adoption events to help increase live releases and make space for the increasing volume of intakes anticipated with the warmer weather and longer days. Look for details in the coming weeks on our facebook page and web site.

Another sure sign of spring is the increased activities surrounding the planning for The Fast & The Furriest®. The event planning committee has been plugging away for months and this eighth annual event aims to be the biggest and most successful to date. There will be more exhibitors, more activities, more rescue partners, new prizes, and a wider selection of food options including a sampling of Rochester's local food trucks. The event is our major fundraiser but also a great vehicle for promoting the programs and services offered by Animal Services. You can learn more about the event and how to get involved at [www.vsas.org/event.html](http://www.vsas.org/event.html).

As the weather improves and animal intakes increases, so do our needs. This is a great time to get involved by volunteering, participating in an event, or providing financial or in-kind support. Please visit the Animal Services Center at 184 Verona Street, visit RAS online at [www.rochesteranimalservices.com](http://www.rochesteranimalservices.com) or VSAS at [www.VSAS.org](http://www.VSAS.org), and join us on June 7 for The Fast & The Furriest®.

Christopher S. Fitzgerald  
Director of Animal Services

## Happy Tails Story



My boyfriend and I started thinking about adopting a dog a few months ago. I initially looked on the Rochester Animal Services (RAS) website, and Finnigan had caught my eye. When I came to the shelter, I was overcome by how many beautiful, sweet dogs there were that needed good homes. As I walked by Finn's kennel, he started "talking" to me which I took for noises of dislike. I was disappointed because he was one of the dogs I came to visit. I came back again and the same thing happened when I walked by his kennel. He never barked, just made this "talking" noise. At that point I figured there must be something about me that Finnigan didn't like.

The next weekend my boyfriend came with me to meet some of the dogs. We went out to the play yard, and I recognized Finnigan playing. I told one of the volunteers how Finnigan growled at me and didn't seem to like me. The volunteer seemed surprised, and said, "That simply isn't Finnigan's personality! Let me get him out of the play yard so you can meet him." I was a little nervous, but as soon as she opened the gate Finnigan came right up to me and leaned into me, wanting to cuddle. I tell people now he wasn't growling at me in his kennel; he was asking me to take him home. We went into the play yard, and I knew my decision had been made. We went back inside the shelter because my boyfriend was really interested in Shirley (now Harley). We met her and immediately fell in love with her also. She is the biggest sweetheart. And so our plan to adopt one dog changed.



As soon as we got them both home, it was like they had always lived here. They are a part of our family that we never knew we were missing. Finn and Harley have been inseparable since we re-introduced them to each other at our home. Harley copies everything that Finn does; thank goodness Finn is such a good boy. The only time they disagree is when they are both trying to be on our laps and give us kisses.



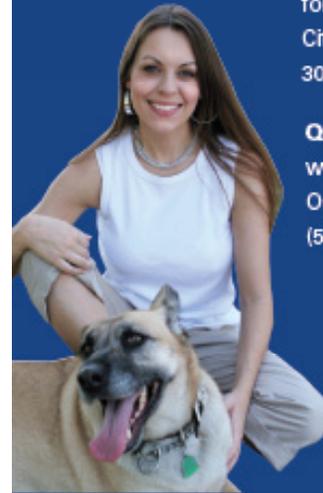
We feel blessed to have found such amazing dogs. Thank you to the INCREDIBLE volunteers at RAS. You went beyond being helpful throughout the adoption process.



## KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE & LICENSED

City residents can apply for a dog license at the City Clerk's Office  
30 Church St. Room 100A

**QUESTIONS?** Call 311  
[www.cityofrochester.com](http://www.cityofrochester.com)  
Outside the City call  
(585) 428-5990



Art: John Hawk

### TO APPLY FOR A DOG LICENSE, CITY RESIDENTS CAN

- (1) Mail the following information to the address below:
  - A copy of the rabies certificate
  - Proof that dog was spayed or neutered
  - Check or money order for \$8.50 (spayed or neutered) or \$20.50 (not spayed or neutered)
  - Provide us with your name, address and telephone number

Or

- (2) Visit the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 30 Church Street, Room 100A with the information listed above

**Believe.**

 **City of Rochester, NY**  
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor  
Rochester City Council

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Have you adopted an animal from Rochester Animal Services? Tell us your story. You can submit your adoption story at [facebook.com/VeronaStAnimalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/VeronaStAnimalSociety) or email to [AnimalServices@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:AnimalServices@cityofrochester.gov).

## Kitten Season Will Soon Be Upon Us

This time of year doesn't only mean warm weather and longer days. It also brings kitten season to us. According to the Humane Society, the number of feral cats is said to be in the tens of millions in the United States alone, estimating thousands of kittens born each day. Many people assume when they find a mother and kittens, that you can easily scoop them up and bring them inside. ***We strongly advise you against doing so.***



**What should you do if you find kittens without their mother?** It is imperative that you don't act impulsively. Before taking any action, it is important to keep in mind that a new mom has to make sure her babies are fed.

This could take her on a journey lasting several hours, giving the appearance of abandonment. If she doesn't return, the first thing you must do is determine the age of the kittens. If their eyes are not open, the kittens are less than two weeks old. If they are just crawling around and their eyes are open, they are less than three weeks old. If they weigh less than 16 ounces, they are less than four weeks old.

If you find kittens outside and have determined that the mother is not returning, you can put them in your car to keep them warm. Ideal temperatures for kittens is 75-80° F. Raising newborn kittens requires extensive, around-the-clock care. They can also be expensive as kitten replacement milk is not cheap. If you are not prepared for bottle feedings every two hours, please contact your local humane society, shelter, veterinarian, or cat rescue organization.

**What if you find a litter of kittens with their mother?** The scenario may be tricky. You have to establish if the mother is friendly or not. If she is and she is not a known pet of one of your neighbors, the Humane Society recommends that you trap the mother and kittens in a humane-trap and bring them inside. Although turning over such cats to a shelter may be an option at times, the constant influx of cats, limited space, and limited resources often results in high mortality rates at shelters. Instead, consider keeping the cats, finding homes for them directly, transporting to a cat rescue organization, or contacting an organization involved with Trap Neuter Return (TNR).

The ASPCA supports the management of community cat colonies primarily through TNR and scanning for the presence of a microchip, vaccination, sterilization, ear tipping (to indicate an animal has been surgically altered) and when feasible, micro-chipping. Rochester Community Animal Clinic conducts a "Friends of Ferals" clinic once a month and provides the aforementioned services. Lollypop Farm will also provide the same veterinary assistance for feral cats. For more information, please contact Rochester Community Animal Clinic at 585-288-0600 or Lollypop Farm at 585-223-1330. An additional resource serving Ontario County is Colony Caregivers and they can be reached at 585-289-6353.

As a community, we need to help keep the cat population under control. Uncontrolled cats can become a nuisance in the neighborhood. They often create excessive noise and unsanitary conditions. The best way to ensure this is done is to spay and neuter all of your pets, even indoor cats.

## National Volunteer Week – April 6-12, 2014

Municipal shelters like Rochester Animal Services (RAS) rely heavily on the dedicated services of volunteers. Some of these duties may include animal enrichment, social media, photography, dog walking, grooming and animal socialization among many other things. “Our volunteers are critical to our success in helping the Rochester community of human and animal citizens,” said Chris Fitzgerald, Director of Animal Services. “They give so much of their own time and are deeply passionate about saving lives, making improvements, and promoting the organization. We rely tremendously on the volunteers to augment and complement the work of the employees and I genuinely appreciate each and every effort from folding laundry to coordinating the canine playgroup program.”



RAS is fortunate to have a strong, dedicated group of volunteers to enrich the lives of the animals that are in our care. Diane Howie, a volunteer since 2006, recorded the most volunteer hours with 633 for the year. Lorie Roethel had the second most for 2013 with 582 recorded volunteer hours. Lorie is also a long-term volunteer and has been at RAS since 2007. Maureen Acri-McDonald came in third place with 501 recorded hours.

We recently asked our volunteers why they wanted to volunteer and why they specifically chose Rochester Animal Services when there are a myriad of animal-related opportunities in and around Rochester. Many found comfort in the idea of helping a shelter animal after the loss of a beloved pet. Many wanted the camaraderie of like-minded people. A few had overcome tough personal experiences and sought solace in the unconditional love of animals. Some did it to conquer long-held fears. Some people became involved because of friends and family who were already volunteering. Without exception, each of them indicated that their experience at RAS has been more rewarding and life-enriching than they ever would have thought.

Every volunteer has a story that led him or her to RAS. Every story is unique. There are far too many to include in this article. However, here are a few of the more compelling ones.



As a child, Colleen Seeley was bitten by a dog and grew up afraid of them. Colleen suffered through a second dog bite as an adult and even has the scar to prove it. In 2005, Colleen bought a house and was looking for a companion to walk the neighborhood with her. She searched several animal organizations in the area and one day, found herself at RAS. “The very first dog I saw on the very first day I walked into RAS was Lila in kennel A19. When I stood in front of the kennel, Lila quietly walked up to the front, sat down and looked me in the eyes. I liked what I saw, but she was the very first dog I’d seen so I wasn’t sure. I continued my search at other organizations for a week, but no dog really spoke to me so I went back to RAS. Lila was still there. Again, when I stood in front of her kennel, she walked up to the front, sat down and

looked me in the eyes. However, this time she cocked her head to the side, and I swear she was asking, “Have you figured it out yet? I’m the one you’re looking for.” Because of Lila, I knew I wanted to give back.” Colleen has been volunteering at RAS since 2011. She has conquered her fear of dogs and now is one of the Play Yard leaders. “Having Lila in my life has changed me in ways I never knew possible. She has taught me about fears and what it takes to work through them.”

*Continued on the next page...*

## National Volunteer Week - Continued



Leslie Barnes' daughters had always begged her for a dog. Finally, she relented and agreed, but on one condition – it had to be a rescue dog. They adopted a hound mix puppy from a rescue group in Brockport. The dog that was supposed to be the girls' turned out to be Leslie's as he was happiest snuggling with her. "Unfortunately, Brodie was a dog riddled with behavior problems. We tried numerous trainers and behaviorists. We took him to Cornell and eventually had him on Prozac. He was a messed up dog. He was scared, anxious and aggressive. He bit numerous people and literally attacked both of my daughters on more than one occasion. Ultimately, I made the heartbreaking decision to euthanize him. I hope the Rainbow Bridge is applicable in situations like this. It was the hardest thing I have ever done and I was haunted by the 'what ifs'? What if I had done better? What if I didn't have him sleep on the bed?" She swore she was done with dogs when one day she found herself at RAS adopting a kitten. "I heard the call

for volunteers. I saw the volunteers walking dogs. The woman who was completing my paperwork told me to go for it, that they always needed help. I have been so impressed by the commitment and compassion of the volunteers. They project an all-inclusive feeling. I wish I had more time to give as I feel energized by the passion of this experience." Leslie has since adopted from RAS the "sweetest, most gentle pit bull in the world" named Jazzie.

Mike Broccolo, Jr. recently completed orientation and has jumped feet-first into all aspects of volunteering – from off-site adoption events to play yard to attending a rescue-partner benefit as the sole male representative with a group of ten women. Most importantly, Mike started fostering a dog, "Gertie" for RAS. Recently, Gertie found what was thought to be her forever home. However, that home was not a good fit. Mike, without hesitation, opened up his home again to Gertie while she waits for the right family to find her. Mike's family owns All-City Auto Parts on N. Clinton Ave. "I brought in stray dogs a couple of times that I found wandering around that part of the city. We also check for cats and dogs when we are scrapping a car. You never know when you would find one living inside. I often wondered what happened to the animals I brought in. I've always wanted to volunteer. This was definitely one of the best and most rewarding choices I have ever made. I wish I had known before how helpful and welcoming the volunteers would be – that is the one thing I would like to pass on to potential volunteers. Had I known, I would have filled out an application five years ago."



Annette Oresick has the distinction of being the longest-serving volunteer and says, "I've been volunteering for so long and one of the things that I love is seeing how far RAS and the RAS volunteers have come. When I started, pit bull mixes were not allowed on the adoption floor, there were no foster homes. RAS didn't have the extensive rescue network and connections it has now. There was no play yard and VSAS didn't exist. RAS was still run by Lollypop Farm the first two years I volunteered. The dedication of the cat and dog volunteers is a beautiful thing to see and much of the progress RAS has achieved is due to the dedication of the volunteers."

President Richard Nixon established National Volunteer Week with an executive order in 1974. Every sitting President since Nixon has issued a proclamation during National Volunteer Week urging Americans to give their time to community outreach organizations. Margaret Mead once famously said, "Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." This quote sums up very eloquently the commitment and dedication of the Rochester Animal Services volunteers. In honor of National Volunteer Week, we salute you! Together, we are saving more lives!

# Are you interested in helping us save lives?

**Call**

**(585) 428-7274**

**today or e-mail**

**[animalservices@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:animalservices@cityofrochester.gov)**

**Rochester Animal Services is  
looking for part-time vets and vet  
techs for busy municipal animal  
shelter and spay/neuter clinic.**



**Questions? Call 311**  
[www.rochesteranimalservices.com](http://www.rochesteranimalservices.com)  
Outside the city call 428-5990

**Believe.**



**City of Rochester, NY**  
**Lovely A. Warren, Mayor**  
**Rochester City Council**

## St. Patrick's Day

For many years, Rochester Animal Services has participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade to help promote adoptions and awareness for the organization. Our parade entry usually consisted of an Animal Services van and a handful of volunteers walking adoptable dogs and carrying our banner. This year, a small group of shelter volunteers wanted to do something different. In lieu of the Animal Services van, volunteers requested to have a float in the parade. The team created a St. Patrick's Day-themed float to let parade-goers know that Rochester Animal Services is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Volunteers and adoptable dogs walking the parade route were also adorned in festive St. Patrick's Day attire.



The RAS float was met with great enthusiasm by parade-goers and other attendees alike. Many people in the crowd commented on how well-behaved the dogs were. "This is my third parade," stated Colleen Seeley, "RAS Pets On the Town" – coordinator and float chairperson. "These dogs were calmer because of the Play Yard at RAS. They already know each other and it shows in their behavior today." A highlight of the day was when animal-lover, United States Senator Charles Schumer, stopped by to lend his support to Rochester Animal Services.



On Saturday, March 15th and Monday, March 17th, RAS hosted their "St. Patrick's Day" promotion. Select dogs and cats were available for only \$40.00 and \$20.00, respectively. Many people who saw the dogs in the parade came right to the shelter afterwards to adopt them.

Such awareness, coupled with the shelter promotion, "Your Lucky Charm is Waiting for You at RAS" served to help rejuvenate the RAS image, broaden our reach, embrace the festive nature of the holiday and ultimately help save more animals. During this very successful promotion, 15 dogs and 7 cats went to their forever homes. Now that is very luck indeed.



## Fostering Saves Lives.....and Money!

Foster homes provide a vital service to shelters, like Rochester Animal Services, who are often overcrowded. Opening up adoption space allows more animals the chance at a second life.



Foster homes also diminish the stress of living in a shelter environment and can help an animal adjust to life in a family home. Many dogs and cats have never known the warmth of a home or what home life is like. Fostering provides that for them.

When you open your home to a foster animal, not only are you saving that animal's life but you are also saving the life of the animal who takes its place. As if that is not reason enough, when you foster an animal through an approved charity, you may be able to deduct related expenses on your federal taxes.

As always, consult with a tax professional before taking any deductions. It is recommended to follow these guidelines:

- An approved charity is one that holds a 501(c) (3) designation as a Not-for-Profit organization.
- Expenses must be directly related to and solely attributable to the rendering of services to a charitable organization.
- Document all of your expenses. Keep a journal if you need to but detail any expense that is not obvious. Keep your receipts and cancelled checks.
- You can claim any expense related to their care including vet bills, medicines, supplies, food, etc.
- For charitable purposes, you can deduct 14 cents per mile.
- Be sure what you claim is reasonable.
- For any expense over \$250, make sure the charity gives you a statement of written acknowledgment.

If you are interested in our foster program, please contact our Dog Foster Coordinator, Ginny Randisi or our Cat Foster Coordinator, Maureen Simpson at 585-428-7274.

Rochester Animal Services has an active and engaging foster program, although not a designated 501 (c) (3) organization. Rochester Animal Services is a tax exempt government entity. Contributions to a government agency are tax deductible if the gift is made and used for a public purpose. Foster care expenses would fall into that category.



iGive.com®

**Donate  
just by  
shopping!**

VSAS is now listed on iGive.com, a simple, no cost to you, donation platform that enables a portion of your online purchases to be automatically donated!

Together we can raise money for Verona Street Animal Society without spending anything we wouldn't already be spending.

Every time you shop at any of the 1,000+ online stores in the iGive network, a portion of the money you spend benefits Verona Street Animal Society. Smart shoppers will also enjoy iGive's repository of coupons, free shipping deals, and sales.

**Learn more at:**

**[www.iGive.com/](http://www.iGive.com/)**

**VeronaStreetAnimalSociety**

## Painting with a Purpose

Enjoy an evening of artistic fun and help VSAS at the same time!

Painting with a Twist® will sponsor this event scheduled for Tuesday, August 5 from 6:30 - 9:00 pm. The cost is \$35 for a two hour painting session lead by an artist. Additionally, there will be a raffle to win great prizes.

Half of the proceeds will be donated to VSAS, enabling more animals to be saved. Painting with a Twist has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to local non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Odyssey House. They are committed to giving back to the local community, one painting at a time.

To learn more about this great event and to register online, visit <http://bit.ly/1ml0H3x>

Please share with your friends. We look forward to seeing you at this fun, new event.



## There's a fix for that...

Spayed or neutered pets prevent unwanted animals from being put down & reduces unnecessary suffering in the streets.

Learn more about **affordable** spay and neuter opportunities. It's the right thing to do.

# Call 428-SPAY

[www.rochesteranimalservices.com](http://www.rochesteranimalservices.com)

Outside the city call 428-5990

**Believe.**



City of Rochester, NY  
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor  
Rochester City Council

## Shelter Asilomar Stats

Start Date: 1/1/2014  
End Date: 3/31/2013

### Annual Live Release Rate: 73.52%

The Annual Live Release Rate does not include 15 owner/guardian requested euthanasia which were unhealthy & untreatable and 5 dogs and cats that died or were lost in the shelter/care.

	<u>Dogs</u>	<u>Cats</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>A</b> BEGINNING SHELTER COUNT 1/1/2014	63	56	119
INTAKE (Live Dogs & Cats Only)			
<b>B</b> From the Public	527	294	821
<b>C</b> Incoming Transfers from Organizations within Community/Coalition	0	0	0
<b>D</b> Incoming Transfers from Organizations outside Community/Coalition	0	0	0
<b>E</b> From Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia	28	8	36
<b>F</b> Total Intake [B + C + D + E]	555	302	857
<b>G</b> Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	10	5	15
<b>H</b> ADJUSTED TOTAL INTAKE [F minus G]	545	297	842
<hr/>			
<b>I</b> ADOPTIONS	199	155	354
<b>J</b> OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations within Community/Coalition	76	79	155
<b>K</b> OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations outside Community/Coalition	24	15	39
<b>L</b> RETURN TO OWNER/GUARDIAN	59	1	60
DOGS & CATS EUTHANIZED			
<b>M</b> Healthy (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	57	13	70
<b>N</b> Treatable - Rehabilitatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	41	13	54
<b>O</b> Treatable - Manageable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	2	0	2
<b>P</b> Unhealthy & Untreatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	88	20	108
<b>Q</b> Total Euthanasia [M + N + O + P]	188	46	234
<b>R</b> Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	10	5	15
<b>S</b> ADJUSTED TOTAL EUTHANASIA [Q minus R]	178	41	219
<b>T</b> SUBTOTAL OUTCOMES [I + J + K + L + S]	536	291	827
<i>Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy &amp; Untreatable Only)</i>			
<b>U</b> DIED OR LOST IN SHELTER/CARE	3	2	5
<b>V</b> TOTAL OUTCOMES [T + U]	539	293	832
<i>Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy &amp; Untreatable Only)</i>			
<b>W</b> ENDING SHELTER COUNT 3/31/2014 11:59:00 PM	69	60	129

Asilomar data enable all organizations that shelter animals to utilize uniform statistical recordkeeping and facilitate accurate comparisons. For more details, visit [www.asilomaraccords.org](http://www.asilomaraccords.org). These statistics include numbers for dogs and cats only.

Rochester Animal Services temporarily houses approximately 6,000 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 behaviors. Sadly, many animals are euthanized because there are more stray and unwanted animals in our community than our space and resources will accommodate. We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same. If the number of animal intakes declines, then we can devote more time and energy to those animals we do shelter, we can increase adoptions and redemptions, and reduce or eliminate unnecessary euthanasia.



## President's Message

Although March is now over, as we head into spring we can still continue the idea behind March's Third Party Awareness month.

The Verona Street Animal Society has been very fortunate to be the beneficiary of several third party fundraisers that not only give dollars but spread awareness. Third party fundraisers can take virtually any form, from a book sale to a bowling tournament but no matter what the form, you are giving back.

A recipe for a great event involves being creative, keeping it simple, having fun and keeping the mission in mind. Sometimes it's a drive for wish list items ([www.vsas.org/support](http://www.vsas.org/support)), a neighborhood lemonade stand or a seasonal event.

If this idea sounds like something you would like to do, here is some additional inspiration:

- Athletic tournament (golf, volleyball, tennis, softball, bowling)
- Birthday party
- Pet wash
- Auction
- Car wash
- Casual/jeans day (pay \$10 to wear jeans to work)
- Holiday party (entry fee or suggested donation)
- Concession stand at little league games
- Loose change jar
- Dunk tank (\$5 for 3 attempts)
- Pampered Chef or Tupperware party
- Book sale
- Talent show (entry fee)
- Garage sale
- House cleaning (for donations)
- Pet sitting
- Gift wrapping (for donations)
- Kissing booth (a dog kissing booth, of course!)
- Chili cook-off (entry fee)

Each of these ideas provides a way to make an impact in the lives of animals at Rochester Animal Services. If you would like to hold an event that benefits Verona Street Animal Society, please contact our Development Chairperson Diedra Kirk at [diedrakirk@live.com](mailto:diedrakirk@live.com).

Speaking of events, I hope to see all of you on Saturday June 7th at Brown Square Park for The Fast & the Furriest@!

Until next time,  
Jennifer Brown,  
President, VSAS



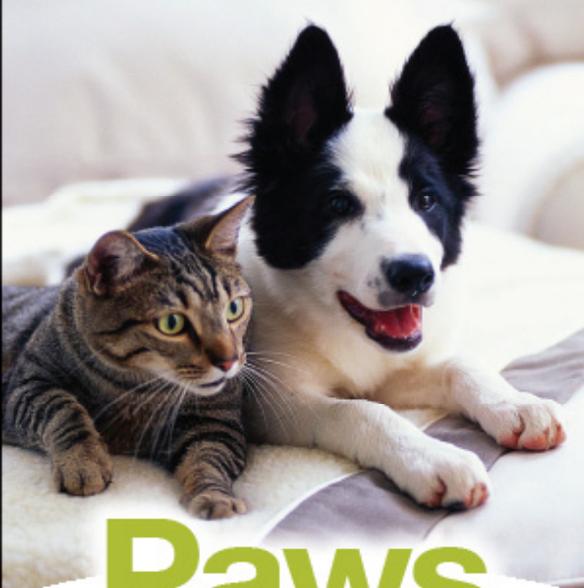
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Exotic & Pocket Pet Care  
Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine  
Housecall Service  
Boarding Services  
Rehabilitation Service

*Proud supporters of the Verona Street Animal Society  
and Rochester Animal Services*



**Paws  
and think...**

...about how you can help  
Rochester's furry friends:  
Adopt ■ Foster ■ Volunteer ■ Donate

The Verona Street Animal Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization that was established to raise funds and promote awareness for Rochester Animal Services. We can't succeed in this crucial mission without your support. Visit:  
[www.facebook.com/VeronaStAnimalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/VeronaStAnimalSociety)  
[www.VSAS.org](http://www.VSAS.org)



**Questions? Call 311**  
[www.rochesteranimalservices.com](http://www.rochesteranimalservices.com)  
Outside the city call 428-5990

**B**lieve.  City of Rochester, NY  
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor  
Rochester City Council



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Rochester Animal Services (RAS) is owned and operated by the City of Rochester. The Verona Street Animal Society is a not-for-profit organization that provides resources necessary to enable RAS to more effectively serve the public's animal care and control, pet sterilization, and pet adoption interests and, in cooperation with the City of Rochester, supports the mission of RAS.

### VSAS:

P.O. Box 22874  
Rochester, NY 14692  
585-727-2533  
[VSASinc@gmail.com](mailto:VSASinc@gmail.com)



# THE FAST & THE FURRIEST

Presented by American K9 Training Services

**5K & 10K Races,  
Dog Walk & Pet Fest**  
**Saturday,  
June 7, 2014**  
**Register now!**  
**www.vsas.org**



**Time:** 7:00 am Road Race Registration  
8:00 am 10K Start  
8:15 am 5K Start  
9:00 am Walk Registration  
10:30 am Walk Start

**Place:** Rochester Animal Services,  
184 Verona Street, Near Brown  
Square Park, Rochester, NY 14608

**Awards:** **5K-** Top male /female finishers  
overall, medals for first in age group.  
**10K-** Top male /female finishers  
overall, top 3 in age group.  
• Prizes for top 3 fundraisers and  
overall team

**Fees:** • \$15 for 5K and \$20 for 10K  
before June 5, 2014  
• \$20 for 5K and \$25 for 10K on  
Race day.  
• Free tech shirts for first 300  
registered runners.  
• Walkers: Pay or raise \$30  
(includes t-shirt).  
• Children 10 and under are free  
(t-shirt not included).

**Activities:** Pet Festival, Pet Contests, Live  
Music, Food Vendors, and Rabies  
& Microchip Clinic

Please make checks payable to: **Verona Street Animal Society, P.O. Box 22874, Rochester, NY 14692**  
Contact: **585-727-2533** or **vsasinc@gmail.com** • Visit us at **www.vsas.org** for event details.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M  F  Race: 5K  10K  Dog Walk

Amount Enclosed: \$15\_\_\_ \$20\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ \$30\_\_\_ I can't participate, but would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_

\*Runner Pre-Registration & Packet Pick-up at Fleet Feet Sports:  155 Culver Rd.  2522 Ridgeway Ave. \*Runners Only

All event participants must read and sign the following disclaimer: I, the undersigned, wish to participate in The Fast & The Furriest® 10K, 5K, Dog Walk, and Pet Festival on June 7, 2014, in Rochester, NY. By signing below, I agree to the following Waiver and Release:

I agree not to participate in The Fast & The Furriest® 10K, 5K, and Dog Walk unless my dog and I are physically able and properly conditioned, and my dog is properly socialized and has a current rabies vaccination. I have read and will abide by the rules of this event and any decision of event officials, including any decision relating to my ability or my dog's ability to safely complete the 10K, 5K, or Dog Walk, or otherwise participate in the event. I understand that participating in the 10K, 5K, and Dog Walk involves risks to me and my dog, and I assume all risks to me and my dog associated with participating therein, including, but not limited to injury and/or death as a result of falls; contact with other participants; the effects of weather, including high heat or humidity; the conditions of the course; and injuries or damages resulting from my dog.

I have carefully read this Waiver and Release and agree to a global and general release of liability. I hereby waive, release and discharge Rochester Animal Services, the Verona Street Animal Society, the City of Rochester, American K9 Training Services, Yellow Jacket Racing, Fleet Feet Sports, and any of the aforementioned entities' employees, officers, and agents, and all other individuals and entities in any way assisting in, sponsoring, or connected with this event ("the Organizers") from any and all claims, harm, and liability of any kind or nature arising out of my or my dog's participation in this event, whether or not those claims and liabilities arise as a result of negligent action or inaction by individuals or entities released by this Waiver and Release. I understand and agree that the Organizers do not insure against, and accept no responsibility for, personal injury, property loss or damage, which I may sustain, or any injury my dog may sustain. I hereby agree and covenant for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and anyone else who my claim on my behalf, not to sue the Organizers.

I understand and agree to permit event officials to authorize emergency treatment for me or my dog at my cost. Any decision to use emergency treatment shall be made in the sole discretion of the City of Rochester.

I also grant the Organizers full permission to use, for any proper purpose, my name and photographic images of me and/or my dog, without liability or obligation to me.

Signature of Runner/Walker  
Or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_



**8th Annual**  
**THE FAST & THE FURRIEST**  
 Presented by American K9 Training Services  
**5K & 10K Races, Dog Walk & Pet Fest**  
**Saturday, June 7, 2014**

**Participant Sponsorship Pledge Form**

Name	Address	Amount
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
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20		

The more pledges you raise, the more we can help our furry friends! Total

Bring your pledge form and donations to the registration area on event day or mail to:  
**Verona Street Animal Society, PO Box 22874, Rochester NY 14692**

REGISTRANT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

