



Tails from the Shelter

Addison County Humane Society

April 2004

Thank You, Porter!



Next time you visit the Shelter you may notice a lightness, an airy calm feeling, a lack of clutter. This new look and feel is the result of a generous donation of time and energy by Porter Knight, a professional organizer and owner of Organized by Knight. Before Porter worked her magic the Shelter staff and Director felt overwhelmed by an accumulation of years of stuff. Under Porter's supportive, non-judgmental approach, files were purged, piles were organized or tossed and necessary papers and files found homes in easily accessible places. Stop by and see the results (and also the animals, of course). And, if you're in the need of a little organizing in your home, office or business give Porter a call at 453-5445 or visit her on the web at www.organizedbyknight.com. Porter's business address is 27 Garfield, Bristol, VT 05443.



2003 Lights of Love a Success!



Warm hearts gathered around a bon-fire on a wintery, cold and snowy evening recently to celebrate the role our beloved pets play in our lives at the Addison County Humane Society's annual Lights of Love tree lighting ceremony. Hundreds of sponsored brightly colored lights representing pets with us and white lights honoring pets that have departed contributed a beautiful display that symbolizes the vibrant connection between people and animals. The Addison County Humane Society is ever so grateful for the generosity of our community that was particularly notable during the holiday season. Lights of Love, Guardian Angels and other gifts in December raised nearly sixteen thousand dollars, an approximately 30% increase over the previous period in 2002. Thank you to all who supported our work in 2003. More than 50% of our budget is funded by donations; our work would not be possible without your benevolence. Together we are making a difference for the animals in our community.

Got Spare Change?

Keep your eyes open for our new dogbanks, now in more locations throughout Addison County! Your spare change is appreciated!



ACHS and HSUS Host an Animal Cruelty Prevention Workshop

On Tuesday, February 17, 30 people gathered at the American Legion Hall in Middlebury to begin a process of revamping the way in which animal cruelty investigations are handled in Addison County. Members of the ACHS staff and board, law enforcement officers, and animal control officers from most of the towns in Addison County, as well as veterinarians, animal rescuers, and representatives from various counseling agencies heard Joanne Bourbeau, director of the HSUS regional office, present the results of the Vermont Anti-Cruelty Task Force's efforts to provide resources helpful in investigating animal abuse. Following her presentation, the group discussed what is currently working and what is not in the handling of animal abuse concerns in Addison County.

It was agreed that the ACHS shelter will be the central point of contact for all calls regarding abuse. From there, concerns involving animals in immediate danger will be referred directly to the police. Other calls will be referred to the person or agency designated to handle complaints in each town. The next step in this process will be identifying these contacts. Once an investigation has been done, the shelter will be informed of the results and the caller will be informed as well.

We feel this meeting was a very successful first step in setting up a process that will work for all involved, beginning with the original caller and right through to the end. The goal, of course, is to provide the best possible outcome for any animal suffering from abuse or neglect. We also feel this is particularly important given the now-established connection between animal abuse and human violence towards both children and adults.

Anyone with an interest in this issue is welcome to call Jill Tucker, ACHS executive director, at 388-1443.

New Animal Cruelty Resources Available to Municipal Officials

Does your municipality struggle with animal care and control issues? Do you ever receive complaints about animal cruelty, but don't know what to do about them? If so, the Vermont Animal Cruelty Task Force has some resources that might help. The recently published 284-page book, *How to Investigate Animal Cruelty in Vermont: A Manual of Procedures*, is available for only \$20. The book uses real-life case examples to outline the basics of a good investigation, from start to finish. Also included are common "Animal Care Practices" for a variety of animals, as well as copies of Vermont's animal-related laws and regulations for your reference. Sample forms, fact sheets, and articles on a variety of animal care issues—from rabies to chained out dogs—can help you resolve animal complaints locally.

"Over the years, I have been asked to get involved in several animal cruelty issues," said Hardwick Town Manager Daniel Hill. "Within days of receiving this manual, I was asked to work on an issue with two horses. Using this manual as my guide, I was able to resolve the question within 24 hours and both owner and complainant seemed to be satisfied with my findings... The organization of the material in your manual and the completeness of the options to be considered make this a "must have" resource for all of us who deal with animal questions."

The manual is also available in an electronic format on the Task Force's new website, www.vactf.org. Visitors can search the entire contents of the manual, and get the answers to some frequently asked questions about how to recognize and report animal cruelty. You can download an order form on-line, or contact the New England Regional Office of the Humane Society of the United States at 802-368-2790 or email jbourbeau@hsus.org for more information.

Adoption Stories: Zeke and Simon

Zeke

Zeke is a lab-pitbull mix who spent 108 days at our shelter. Zeke's personality was all lab and no pitbull. Zeke is a happy guy who loves everyone. He even came to the aid of a local animal hospital to help another dog in need. While Zeke was at the shelter, he donated blood to another owned pet that was in critical condition. Zeke is a true hero.



Darren and Laurel came to the shelter to try and find a new companion for Darren's dad, Earl. Earl had a yellow lab that died of cancer and was missing the companionship that dogs offer us.

Earl and Zeke finally met and it has been wonderful ever since. Earl likes to call Zeke "funny face." Zeke likes to sit on Earl's feet (maybe he is trying to keep his owner's feet warm). Zeke is a wonderful companion for Earl and even likes to sleep on his bed with him.

Earl and Zeke are looking forward to the warmer weather (aren't we all?). Earl is looking forward to walking Zeke around Vergennes. Earl likes to visit with people of all ages and so does Zeke. So, if you're traveling through Vergennes and see a man walking his black dog, it just might be Zeke and his hero Earl.

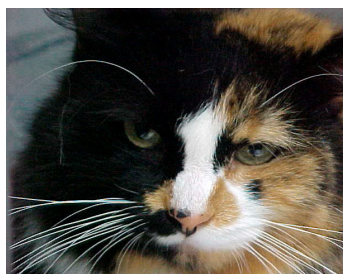
Simon

Simon is an older, shy cat who was at the shelter for 260 days. His extreme shyness and age kept many people from adopting him. ACHS believes that there is an owner for every animal at our shelter...some just take a little longer to find each other. Karen came to the shelter and Simon was just what she was looking for. Karen wanted an older, independent cat...it was Simon's lucky day!

Karen adopted Simon and when she brought him home she didn't see him for a week. As time went by, he gradually warmed up to Karen. Simon now comes running when Karen comes home and rubs through her legs (a cat's way of saying I love you). Karen and Simon are doing well together and really enjoy each other's company.

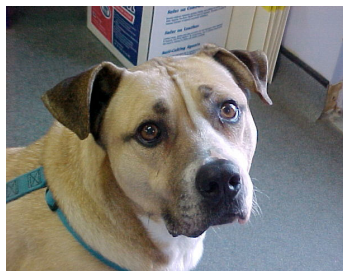
Thanks to both Earl and Karen for sharing these stories!

If you have adopted pet from ACHS and would like to share your story with us, please send your story to Jeanne at the shelter or email it to JKLeMner@aol.com.



Dear Zoë

Zoë talking here: I just wanted to introduce my new shelter mate, Max. Isn't he cute? Max is a 9-year-old pitbull/boxer mix that came to the shelter in August. He was originally adopted from the shelter, but was brought back in bad shape. The



shelter staff has done a great job in getting Max back in shape. We all want to thank Dr. Ross for treating Max when a kind man originally found him. You can see Max most days at the shelter. He spends night and weekends at the shelter manager's house basking in front of the fire. He deserves it after all that he has been through.

Dear Zoë:

I was wondering if you adopt out animals other than cats and dogs. I am allergic to them and can not have them. I was wondering if you had other animals I can get?

Susie

Dear Susie:

Thanks for your letter. The answer to your question is yes. We take in pocket pets, which are guinea pigs, hamster, gerbils and the occasional rat. We also take in birds and rabbits. Have your mom and dad bring you in to see what we have. The shelter usually has small animals year round. If we do not have any here at the shelter, we can take an animal request or refer you to another shelter. Good luck!

Love & Tuna, Zoë

P.S. If there are any questions you would like me to answer, please send them to me at Dear Zoë, Addison County Humane Society, 236 Boardman Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753.



**ADDISON COUNTY
HUMANE SOCIETY**

236 Boardman Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

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Addison County Humane Society
236 Boardman Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
shelter@addisonhumane.org
www.addisonhumane.org

Serving the People of Addison County by
Fostering the Humane Treatment of
Animals Since 1975

Shelter Hours:
Tuesday & Friday, Noon to 4PM
Wednesday & Thursday, Noon to 7PM
Saturday, 11AM to 4PM
Closed Sunday & Monday



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Humane Society**