The Watchdog

The official publication of the Columbia County Humane Society
April 1, 2017, Issue #1

Letter from Executive Director
Susan Bratcher

As you may know, CCHS is constantly evolving to benefit animals. If we can do something that will directly impact the lives of the animals staying at CCHS, then we will do it. We encourage you to read this entire article.

CCHS management has decided to not allow customers to walk through the dog kennels. We know this may be an unpopular decision for some visitors because they like to come and see the dogs, but for the dogs, we feel we are making the right decision. If you have visited the shelter and gone on a walk through in the dog kennels, you know how the dogs react. It’s loud. The dogs are barking. Some are jumping at the kennels, some spin in circles in their kennels, some act aggressively and there are even some dogs that cower in the back of the kennels and shake. All these behaviors are signs of a stressed dog. Stressed dogs are not happy dogs.

On Friday, March 10, 2017, the Board President, and I visited another shelter for a meeting. The other shelter allows the public to walk through their dog kennels. When we walked through, we were strangers to these dogs. We saw all the stressed behaviors described above, and we realized we were the cause of the stress. We also realized we can make our shelter a better place for dogs by closing the dog kennels to visitors. We are taking away a stressor for our dogs and therefore, making the shelter a better place for dogs. On any given day, we have 20 or more visitors coming to CCHS. That is 20 or more times a dog may be subjected to stress we can alleviate by closing the kennels to visitors. We also know, that no matter how much visitors try to resist, they are still trying to pet dogs through the bars in their kennels. This can lead to a bite or the spreading of germs from dog to dog. Neither of which is something we want to happen.

We still encourage people to visit the shelter. So please, still intend to visit if you are looking for a dog. As always, “adoptables” will listed on our website and Facebook page. And we will have pictures of the dogs currently available and you can request to meet a dog if the dog is available without an application pending.

The dog you are interested can come in to the “Meet & Greet” room. Hopefully, you fall in love and adoption arrangements can be made. We are also excited because some adoptions may happen because a person didn’t get to see the dog acting like a fool in its kennel. There is a term that is thrown around the shelter world. That term is “kennel crazy.” This is a term that is used to describe a dog that is severely stressed in the kennel. If we can help the dogs avoid getting to that level of stress, we feel we have a responsibility to the dogs to make it happen.

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Letter from Board President
Michele Baillies

Fostering to the End

I want to tell you about a little dog that has touched many lives. We get 1200 animals a year coming through our doors but some of the dogs or cats just touch our hearts more than others. One of these special dogs is **Gracie**.

Gracie was brought to CCHS by a kind person last April who found her wandering in the country all alone. We assume she was dropped off in the country by her owner and they drove away. Gracie didn’t see them drive away though, she only heard them. Gracie is blind due to untreated diabetes. She waited patiently in a cage for her owner to come for her, but nobody came. Gracie went to live with a wonderful foster family who has been fostering for CCHS for many years. **Melissa and her girls** took Gracie in to love and care for her.

Gracie had been in her foster home for a few months last summer and we had been working with the **Poynette Veterinary Service, Dr. Fabrizius**, to regulate her insulin dosage because she is diabetic. During an exam, he noticed a lump in her mouth.

He contacted us and wanted to do a biopsy of the lump. That was scheduled and the biopsy results came back. Our little Gracie has a cancerous tumor. It is called **Ameloblastoma**. This tumor is aggressive and will eat away at the bone in her jaw. X-rays show, there is a tiny spot where it started to eat away at the jaw bone. Dr. Fabrizius told us because Gracie was in good spirits and doing well, euthanasia can be put off until she starts to do poorly. We started her on pain medication and continue to monitor her.

Gracie continues to love life a year after coming to CCHS and continues to live with her foster family!

When you donate to the **Bibi Fund** at CCHS, this is one dog that benefits from your donation. While in foster care, we continue to pay for vet visits thanks to generous donations.

Sometimes fostering is very difficult. Especially, when you hear the news that foster dog or cat will not become available for adoption because of a medical diagnosis. We are very fortunate to have foster families who are willing to care for the animal until they are no longer loving life.

Gracie will remain in her foster home with the people who love her until it’s time to say good-bye.

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Columbia County Humane Society Receives ASPCA Grant for Cat Habitats and Supplies

The Columbia County Humane Society (CCHS) was awarded a $13,000 grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) to purchase new cat cages and two feral cat dens for our Cat Intake Room.

“The ASPCA’s generosity in providing funding for this project has improved the lives of the cats in our care, “said Susan Bratcher, CCHS Executive Director. “There upgrades not only allow us to reduce stress in the cats, but also keep them healthier while they are in the shelter.”

The cages are now easier to clean and give the cats more freedom to move around naturally. Portals have been added to existing cages to give cats more space, and the staff the ability to separate sleeping and feeding areas from the litter box area. These additions help reduce the risk of illness and stress in the cats and make it safer for staff when working around feral cats.

The cleaning supplies purchased included two hoses, three scrub brushes, ten spray bottles, Rescue® disinfectant, Rescue® disinfectant wipes, foaming sprayers, the mixing station for the disinfectant, and a pump for the disinfectant and squeegees. These supplies are upgrades and replacements. In addition, Rescue® disinfectant not only saves staff time, but also improves disease management.

Official News Release and MORE PICTURES
www.cchswi.org/2016-aspca-grant-recipient
CCHS Alumni Happily Ever Afters

Drake – Shelter Dog to Titled Competitor

Adopted in May of 2014, Drake is “in fabulous health and is such a happy dog.”

Wrote his mom, “Drake is amazing, and I couldn’t be happier myself. He’s unbelievably intelligent and loves to work and play. He’s my best friend. He’s also great with children, and a very friendly, stable dog. I have him doing high level obedience, scent/nose work, and protection (Schutzhund) now. Other hobbies of his are swimming, agility, Barn Hunt, and lure coursing! He’s competing and getting titled now. I’ve keep him busy, and he’s turned out to be an amazing house dog, although I bring him almost everywhere. I also just wanted to thank the Columbia County Humane Society staff so very much for allowing me to adopt him, especially from out of state. I would love to bring him by one day.”

Calliope – Shy Shelter Cat to Sweet Snuggler

Adopted and retuned in for being “too shy,” Calliope was adopted by patient family, who helped her blossom.

“She is sweet and loving, “reports her forever home, “Is exploring our house more and more, and she also comes out looking to play!”

We can see she is purr-fectly happy!

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Adopters often wonder why our adoption donations are what they are. To better explain, here is a breakdown of a typical care bill based on 2016 numbers.

Female Dog totals: $149.60
without bloodwork or dental.
With the higher spay costs: $209.60
Average stay 13 days; $10/day = $130.00

Male Dog totals: $139.60
without bloodwork or dental.
With higher neuter cost: $159.60
Average stay 13 days; $10/day = $130.00

In 2016, CCHS took in 411 puppies and dogs.

258 were adopted.
113 were redeemed by owner.
16 were transferred to another shelter or rescue.

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Adopters often wonder why our adoption donations are what they are. To better explain, here is a breakdown of a typical care bill based on 2016 numbers.

**Felines by the Numbers 2016**

Female Cat totals: **$109.10**
without bloodwork or dental.
With the higher spay costs: **$149.10**
Average stay 31 days; $10/day = $310.00

Male cat totals: **$86.10**
without bloodwork or dental.
With higher neuter cost: **$109.10**
Average stay 31 days; $10/day = $310.00

In 2016, CCHS took in **871 kittens and cats**.

736 were adopted.
14 were redeemed by owner.
15 were transferred to another shelter or rescue.

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As a private, non-profit organization, the Columbia County Humane Society can only continue its mission with donations and memberships from caring people like you. The only way we can continue our mission is with financial support from our community. **THANK YOU!**

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**2016 Holiday Drive**

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Mimi Kmet

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Catherine Wilson

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Jeff & Patricia Huebel
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Faye White
ABS Global, Inc.

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We make every effort to recognize supporters correctly and in a timely manner.
If we have made an unintentional error, please help us make it right and bring it to our attention!

Thank you, Mounds!

Mounds Pet Food Warehouse
donates all of CCHS’s dog and cat kibble! It’s delicious; thank you!

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Supporting CCHS

Annual Membership

CCHS yearly memberships are due at beginning of our fiscal year: July 1.
We depend on community contributions to maintain the high standard of care for the shelter animals and to continue on-going programs in the area.

Our membership application is on our website (www.cchswi.org/membership), or you are welcome to send a check, use PayPal, or call our main office with your credit card information (if you’d prefer).

Membership Levels:
- Pet $5
- Senior Citizen $10
- Individual $15
- Family $25
- Patron $50
- Benefactor $100

Specific Designations

Please consider making an additional gift to support two of our designated programs. Your gift might be in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special event, or simply to help animals needing special care.

Bibi Fund – Extreme Medical Need
Cat Colony Fund – Trap/Neuter/Release

Donating Supplies

Amazon Wishlist
http://amzn.com/w/9XALHMJZEW0T

CCHS welcomes the following items:

Office
- First Class “Forever” Stamps
- #10 Business Envelopes
- HP DeskJet 3000: HP 61 or generic
- HP OfficeJet Pro 8100: HP 950 or generic
- Brother: LC 51 or generic

Dog
- Wellness® CORE Grain Free canned food
- Omega-3 Supplements (2000 mg/capsule)
- Merrick® Grain Free canned food
- Rescue® Brand Disinfectant

Cat
- Clay Cat Litter (non-clumping only!)
- PetAg® Kitten Milk Replacement (KMR)
- Merrick® Purfect Bistro canned food
- L-Lysine (100 mg/tablet)
- Sulfinex® Cream Maximum Strength

Ongoing
- Gasoline Gift Cards
- Garbage Bags (13 gallon & up)
- HE Detergent
- Dawn® Ultra Original Scent

Always
- Members & Volunteers!

CCHS Staff
Executive Director – Susan Bratcher
Shelter Manager – Simone Ederer
Office Manager – Pam Klitzke
Adoption Counselor – Jennifer Schkirkie
Animal Caregivers
Jackie Bachara, Andrea LaBella

CCHS Board of Directors
President – Michele Baillies
Vice President – Andrea Von Hoff
Secretary – Michelle V. Bright
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Andy Anderson, Patty Dover

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