



# DUTCHESS COUNTY SPCA 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wow, what a year!

As the economy continued its slide, and people felt pressures from all angles, I am proud to report that, through sound fiscal management and oversight, we ended the year in the black! Your Board, Staff, and volunteers worked tirelessly to diversify our fundraising efforts so that we could maintain our services and meet the needs of the animals in our care.

We often hear that the DCSPCA is a “family”, united around the care for the animals, and to some extent that is true. There is the core group, the staff, whose dedication knows no bounds, and who rise to meet all challenges. They are amazing, and I salute them one and all. And surrounding that core is the equally dedicated and amazing group of volunteers, without whom the organization simply could not function. From Dog Walkers who show up no matter the weather, to the members of the Board; from the Cat Care Crew to Special Event Volunteers, their continuing efforts allow the organization to thrive, and even to dream.

We are well on our way to realizing our dream of a new Adoption and Education Center. Our capital campaign, the Campaign for Hope: Building a Better Future for the Animals, has raised over \$2.153 million, almost 72% of our \$3 million goal, from over 900 individual donors, including every member of our Board. We have approvals from the Town of Hyde Park, and are awaiting final approvals from the DEC. We hope to break ground in 2010.

While we are excited by the prospect of the Capital project, we remain focused on the continuing operations of the organization. Our thanks go out to all of the Board Members, staff members, volunteers, and donors, who believe in the work carried out by the Dutchess County Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals and enable us to carry out its mission.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Ewing  
President, Board of Directors



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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Over the past year, the Dutchess County SPCA has done much to improve the lives of animals and the people who care for them. Across the country and in our community people feel the sting of the economic downturn. Companion animals are feeling it, too. Our strong financial position is helping us weather the storm while we look forward to a future filled with hope: Hope for the Animals.

This year we lost an animal very dear to the hearts of our staff and volunteers. Lumpy, the shelter mascot passed away. Lumpy lived at the shelter for five years - longer than any cat. She was the curmudgeonly queen of the Animal Services Office. Efforts to find a home for her always fell short but the shelter never gave up on her. We look forward to naming a new mascot in 2010.

### Here are some of the highlights for the shelter over the past twelve months:

- The weak economy brought many challenges for pet owners and put pressure on shelter resources. By August the feline population had grown to well over 400 and stayed high through the end of the year. Adoptions are down a bit this year while relinquishments, or voluntarily giving up an animal, have increased. Animals entering the shelter were more likely to have untreated medical issues and were less likely to have had spay/neuter surgeries. Just as with humans, medical costs for animal care continue to rise.
- To respond to the overwhelming cat population we hosted two "Nine lives cat adoption days" with deeply discounted adoption fees. Such events helped us find homes for older and special needs animals.
- Thankfully, the community stepped up to help us meet increased demands. It is an honor when the shelter is selected by youth groups, school classes and children celebrating their birthdays to receive much needed food and supplies. We call these our "junior heroes" and we added a section in our newsletter to recognize these remarkable children.
- Our volunteer program had a very productive year. There were 13 orientation sessions and we maintained a growing list of active volunteers. As a result, we were able to increase the number of outreach events we could attend. Last year we added a part time volunteer coordinator, Sue Stives. The impact Sue and her team have had at the shelter has helped off-set the poor economic news. We are grateful to all our volunteers for all they have helped us achieve.



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- We added Canine DNA testing to allow the public to have an accurate test of their dog's breed. One thing we learned is that the majority of the animals tested that were thought to be American Standards (pitbulls) are not from this breed.
- We are fortunate to have our dedicated lead veterinarian, Dr. Gail Lichten, in the Spay/Neuter clinic. Dr. Liz Higgins and Dr. Nicholas Spacarelli demonstrate the compassion, and excellent skills that we are so grateful for in our clinic. We are proud to have them as part of our shelter family.
- We added low-cost vaccinations and a free veterinarian exam to the services offered at our low-cost spay/neuter clinic for cats. Micro-chipping and rabies vaccinations are included as well.
- The Meet Your Match™ adoption program, which we began last year, has proven to be a powerful tool to help adopters identify the best fit for their current lifestyle.



This feral cat is part of our Trap Neuter Return program, which aids those who are responsibly managing cat colonies in the county.

- In May 2009, our Shelter Manager and Assistant Manager attended the Humane Society of the United States Animal Care Expo and brought back many wonderful ideas which helped to provide a better quality of life for the animals in our care.
- With money tight and getting tighter, some household budgets can no longer accommodate the costs associated with responsible pet ownership. The DCSPCA maintains a Pet Pantry stocked with food items and pet supplies for those who are having a hard time making ends meet. Unfortunately, more families are contacting us to relinquish pets and we are seeing more abused and abandoned animals. Medical costs are rising and we see more animals going without necessary veterinary care and spay/neuter surgeries.
- In December, the Dyson Foundation generously donated \$55,000 to general operations.
- This past year we were honored to have been mentioned in people's wills. Through their bequests we have been able to do so much to improve the lives of homeless animals in our care.

Our Humane Law Department has had many successes:

- Last year we co-sponsored a seminar on the link between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence. This year we began to see this work pay off. Organizations are collaborating in new ways to prevent all types of abuse. The DCSPCA trains law Enforcement officers about these links during the basic academy and through on-going training. This helps officers better recognize the signs of animal cruelty when investigating allegations of abuse or vice versa.
- We expanded the educational programs for children to reach more schools throughout the county. Our PAWS program teaches young people to properly care for and respect the animals who share our world, thus intervening early in the lives of youth and helping to prevent abuse in the future.



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## **The Campaign for Hope: Building a Better Future for the Animals**

Maintaining the general operations of the shelter is critical as we are also engaged in a Capital Campaign to build a new Adoption and Education Center on our property in Hyde Park. In October, we received preliminary approvals from the Town of Hyde Park Planning Board to move forward, pending approvals from the Department of Environmental Conservation.



Dr. Har-Esh's cat, Lucky

The campaign began in 2006 with a lead gift from the estate of Dr. Edith Har-Esh. As of March 31, 2010 we raised \$2,153 million including the \$305,994 raised in calendar year 2009. We began 2010 having raised 71.8% of our \$3,000,000 goal. We anticipate breaking ground in 2010.

We are 139 years old, and continue to be a fiscally sound, responsible humane organization. We embrace our mission to help find loving homes for the animals in our care, to provide humane education for adults and children, and to investigate animal cruelty throughout the county.

We are funded by the generosity of the big-hearted people who are the members of our society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. We would never be able to accomplish all that we do without the help of those who care deeply about the future of the innocent animals who depend on us to provide for them.

Thank you very much for helping us to succeed.

Joyce Garrity  
Executive Director



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## **MINUTES OF THE 2008-2009 ANNUAL MEETING**

*Held: April 26, 2009*

*Location: Dutchess Golf & Country Club, Poughkeepsie, New York*

*Prepared by:*

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to Order at 2:30 p.m. by Don Briggs, President, presiding.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Briggs offered a welcome and thanked various individuals for their hard work and support.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting were accepted with a correction to the Treasurer's Report. The year was incorrectly reported; it should read, "for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007". Motion: Eric Ewing Second: Owen Clarke Accepted

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Garrity spoke about the many accomplishments of the previous year. Mrs. Garrity also spoke about our large number of adoptions and gave an overview of our many different programs.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Owen Clarke, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008. Mr. Clarke advised the members that we received an unqualified Opinion on our annual audit and the organization stands on firm ground.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Karen Blonder, Member of the Nominating Committee, presented for Michelle Almeida, Chair. Ms. Blonder presented the slate of candidates for 2009-2010 including returning and new members and called for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations the slate was accepted.

### **PROGRAM**

The second Annual Humanitarian Hero Award was presented to William V. Grady and the District Attorney's Office.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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## FINANCE COMMITTEE OPERATIONAL REPORT

*Prepared by: Susan K. Tucker*

*Our annual audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009 has been received and approved by the Dutchess County SPCA Board of Directors. We are very pleased to announce that we have again received an unqualified opinion, which is the highest rating that can be achieved. For the fiscal year ending 2009, our revenue from operations amounted to \$1,341,767 and expenses were \$1,257,933, increasing our Unrestricted Net Assets to \$1,584,102.*

*For the fiscal year April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010 we were able to stay within our operating budget of \$1,150,295. We anticipate our audit for the 2010 fiscal year to be completed in late spring of this year.*

*A balanced operating budget of \$1,240,000 has been approved by the Board for fiscal year April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011. Our budgeted operations include 18 full time positions, and 8 part time positions that staff our organization.*

*We extend our thanks to the many generous supporters who continue to make it possible for us to serve the homes animals of Dutchess County. We also extend our appreciation to the staff, the Dutchess County SPCA Finance Committee, the Board of Directors, and the many volunteers who help minimize expenses and generate earned revenue. The Finance Committee would also like to express appreciation for the hard work of the Administrative Office. As a result of their effort, the Dutchess County SPCA is ready to meet the challenges of the new fiscal year.*



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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

*Prepared by: June S. Pierson, Chairperson*

*Nominating Committee Members: Karen Blonder, Anne Dexter, Ron M. Lane, Jonathan Smith, and June Pierson.*

The Nominating Committee of the Dutchess County SPCA is pleased to submit the following slate of candidates for the Dutchess County SPCA Board of Directors:

### DIRECTORS FOR ELECTION

*(re-election to a two-year term)*

Steven Crew, D.V.M.                      Anne Dexter  
Ron M. Lane

*(one year remaining on term)*

Michelle Almeida                      Karen T. Blonder  
Marco Caviglia                         Linda Engelhard  
Eric S. Ewing                             Carol Menken  
Susan L. Moore                         June S. Pierson  
Jonathan Smith                         Susan K. Tucker  
Peggy Walsh

### NEW DIRECTORS

Carol Bogle  
Debbi Calabrese  
Nicholas Galente  
Clare Graham  
Robert Kampf  
Teresa Laffin



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## **THROUGH ITS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THE DUTCHESS COUNTY SPCA:**

- Helps over 1,500 animals annually on their way to a better life by participating in PetFinder.com, providing training for shelter animals, adopting them to new homes, placing them in foster care, or reuniting owners with their lost pets.

In 2009, adoptions were down 5%: 1,053 for the year compared to 1,113 in 2008. The economy may have made it that much harder for families to add a pet.

- Provides Emergency Assistance via our community Pet Food Pantry to needy families, allowing them to keep their beloved pets.
- Employs Dutchess County's only Humane Law Enforcement Officers. Our officers handle approximately 3,000 calls each year resulting in numerous cruelty investigations and arrests. Our officers remove animals from inhumane and dangerous situations, offering them a second chance at life. In 2009 they removed 155 animals.
- Promotes Humane Education for Dutchess County school curriculum. Early humane education is proven to help end the cycle of abuse and violence (both domestic and



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animal) in the home. In 2009, the PAWS program reached 6,842 county residents with messages about proper animal care and abuse prevention.

- Provides low-cost Spay/Neuter assistance for the public's felines in our DCSPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic. This program has enjoyed steady growth over the past several years. In 2009 veterinarians completed 1,585 surgeries for the public as well as spay/neuter surgeries for animals in our care.
  
- Comforts people when their beloved pets pass away through the professional services of our Faithful Companion Crematory and Cemetery Program.
- Maintains a county-wide lost and found listing and website, aiding owners in finding their lost pets: [www.lostfoundpets.com](http://www.lostfoundpets.com).
- Offers Mutt Hutt professional dog and cat grooming services. Members of the public rely on Mutt Hutt and from time to time, the Mutt Hutt cleans away years of neglect helping animals new to the shelter look their adoptable-best.
- Offers canine DNA testing for pet owners wishing to know their dog's breed.



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## KEY STAFF

Joyce Garrity, Executive Director  
Catherine Forbes, Development Director  
Sherry Taylor, Shelter Manager  
Rachael Frey, Business Manager  
Jami Landry, Senior Humane Law Enforcement Officer  
George Roussey, Faithful Companion Director

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Our volunteer program continues to grow as we are very grateful to the many volunteers who give of themselves. In 2009, more than 300 active volunteers helped in the shelter or at events. Visit our website at [www.dcsPCA.org](http://www.dcsPCA.org) to read about some of the wonderful work being done by volunteers.

**This year we are recognizing active volunteers with more than 10 years of service.**

Dr. Madeline E. Bashoff  
Nancy Best  
Dr. Karen T. Blonder  
Debbi Calabrese  
Jacquie Cookingham  
Sandy Cornell  
Steven Crew, DVM  
Anne Dexter  
Dave Doreo  
Toni Emery  
Linda Engelhard  
Jerry Gilnack  
Susan Gilnack  
Aide Kopito  
Cathy Lane

Ron M. Lane  
Mary Ellen Mikula  
Jim Moore  
Susan Moore  
Georgina Murphy  
Ross Pattison  
Aggie Poillucci  
Yvonne Sewell  
Pat Tetrault  
Jerry Toepfer  
Dolores Volk  
Bill Volk  
Joan Von Gonten  
Peggy Walsh  
Gloria Wenk



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# Annual Meeting Sponsors

## Thank you to our Bronze Sponsors

Dawn Alexander  
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Mary & Robert Elwell  
Angela Gregory  
Barb Gutzler  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kampf  
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Amy Lander & Wayne O'Brien  
Vincent & Patricia Sacerdote  
Karen Swanson  
Alice M. Timothy

## Thank you to our Silver Sponsors

Phebe Banta  
Bill Bogle, Jr. Photography  
Marion & Lincoln Cantwell  
Staff of the DCSPCA  
Toni Emery & Joe Lucas  
Eileen & Don Halliday  
Bill & Dolores Volk, Barbara Mauri, & Ruth Recchia

## Thank you to our Gold Sponsors

Dr. Madeline E. Bashoff  
Martin F. Grossman  
June Pierson  
Bill & Carol Rohde  
Arlene Barresi, Carol Bogle, Cheryl Stanley, Dora Pagano, Joe Croshier,  
Gretchen Carpenter; and Cactus Jack, Jake, Auggie and Jazz, Smash, Mona,  
Felicia, Neek & Missy



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