



636 Violet Avenue  
Hyde Park, NY 12538  
845-452-SPCA  
www.dcsPCA.org

**For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Joyce Garrity  
Executive Director, Dutchess County SPCA  
(845) 454-5345 Ext. 107

## **Dutchess County SPCA Humane Law Officers rescue 22 cats after fire**

**HYDE PARK, NY** – Dutchess County Humane Law Officers rescued 22 cats following a fire in a condominium in Hopewell Junction. The East Fishkill Fire Department was at the scene at 27 Highview Drive when the DCSPCA received a call from a concerned neighbor. DCSPCA Humane Law Officers Jami Landry, Stephanie Fitzpatrick and a volunteer, Bill Reilly responded immediately to assist the fire department. The owner is safe but his unit is no longer habitable.

The Fire Department worked to save the cats. The cats were found and transported to the DCSPCA's Hyde Park shelter where they are being monitored closely and are expected to survive. Have-a-Heart traps were set to capture the cats that escaped the fire and could not be found. The shelter will provide medical and other care for the animals and adopt out those the owner has relinquished.

Assisting Humane Law Officers at the scene were Animal Services staff Manny Gronenthal and Leah Hapeman. The Executive Director of the Dutchess County SPCA, Joyce Garrity, stated "The East Fishkill Fire Department did everything they could to rescue these cats. They are heroes." She added, "I am proud of my staff and the way they responded, too. They worked as a team to assist the Fire Department, find the cats and provide medical care."

The owner relinquished many of the cats at the scene because he will not be able to live in his home and cannot bring the cats to where he plans to stay. The cats will remain at the DCSPCA until suitable homes can be found. Every spring brings an increase in kittens and the economic climate has meant more owners relinquishing or abandoning their pets. With the addition of 22 cats to care for, the **DCSPCA is requesting support from the community in the form of monetary donations, as well as the contribution of wet cat food and kitty litter.**

The Dutchess County SPCA, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, is the lead agency for animal rescue and adoption in Dutchess County. The DCSPCA is a no-kill shelter with a 138-year history of concern, caring and providing shelter for unwanted, abused, abandoned and neglected animals. Central to the

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mission of the DCSPCA is the securing of caring, responsible, permanent homes for the adoptable animals in its care.

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Cutline: Humane Law Officers Stephanie Fitzpatrick (left) and Jami Landry with cats rescued from a fire in Hopewell Junction