

# The Companion

november  
2023

## Elsie's Amazing Recovery a tale of hope

Elsie must have been so scared when she was found lying by the road, unable to move. Thankfully, a Troy Animal Control officer discovered her. She seemed to have been hit by a car and was in bad shape.

They rushed Elsie to an emergency clinic, where X-rays revealed a broken left leg. After she was stabilized, she came to MHHS. She was moving carefully, putting weight on her right hind leg, but we suspected it was injured too. Despite the pain, Elsie was trusting and quickly warmed up to our vet team. Her tail wagged happily as she gave them kisses and let them check her bruises and sores.

*Continued on page 3.*



MOHAWK HUDSON  
HUMANE  
SOCIETY

# A Message from the CEO



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**CHAIR**  
Thomas Mackey

**VICE CHAIR**  
Vincent Miles

**SECRETARY**  
Gabrielle DeMarco

**TREASURER**  
Dana Stewart

**MEMBER AT LARGE**  
Susan Vernooy

David Ahl  
Beth Beshaw  
Karen Carpenter  
Shannon Forkin  
Christine Galeo  
Hugh Hammett  
Carrie Hillenbrandt  
Ted Minissale, Jr.  
Eric O'Bryan  
Wesley Price  
Sherman Stovall, Jr.  
E. C. Stumpf

This year has been extraordinary, and our community has been there for the animals all along the way.

In 2023, we faced a daunting 156% increase in cruelty cases compared to the previous year. Our Humane Law Enforcement team tackled 35 cases, rescuing 95 animals from abuse. Countless more were saved from horrible living conditions, like those from the hoarding case on page 3. These situations put a strain on our resources, but as always, our kind supporters came through for the animals.

Some of our animals needed expensive, specialized surgeries. Thanks to gifts to our Guardian Angel fund, pets like Elsie began their new lives with a healthy start.

August brought a crisis with over 400 animals in our care, especially dogs in desperate need of homes. Our caring community rallied: media outlets highlighted our pets, companies and individuals sponsored adoption fees, and rescue partners made space for our dogs, despite their own challenges. Many volunteered to foster, and when we were low on supplies, Chewy boxes flooded our lobby. In one remarkable August week, we celebrated 125 adoptions!

We did it together! While future challenges await, your support and dedication will continue transforming lives. Your unwavering commitment constantly inspires us, and we are truly grateful.

Sincerely,



Ashley Jeffrey Bouck  
CEO, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society

- **Your unwavering**
- **commitment**
- **constantly inspires**
- **us, and we are**
- **truly grateful.**

## 2023 Impact Through September



**1,618**  
adoptions



**61**  
active criminal  
investigations



**807**  
animals in  
foster care



**283**  
lost pets  
reunited



**73,547**  
pet food pantry  
meals provided



Elsie shares a snuggle with Jen, a veterinary assistant.



The circled area shows the dramatic fracture in Elsie's left femur, one of two breaks needing surgical repair.

## Elsie's Story

*continued*

Surprisingly, no one had come forward to claim this sweet girl, but we couldn't wait any longer to help her. Due to the severity of her injuries, we scheduled surgery right away, and as we suspected, her right leg was also broken.

Elsie went through quite an ordeal, but she was lucky. As part of our agreement with the City of Troy, if no owner comes forward, we take responsibility for the animal, including the cost of their care. This year, we've had several dogs come our way who were in need of expensive orthopedic surgeries. Elsie's surgeries for her two broken legs cost \$6,000.

Elsie recovered in the home of one of our fantastic foster volunteers and has now found a loving home. You should see her now! She runs and plays like a puppy. It's hard to believe that this happy, playful little fluff once had two broken legs.

**We believe that every animal deserves the chance to live their best life, and with the support of generous donors like you, we can provide pets like Elsie with the care they need to do just that.**

# A Fresh Start for neglected cats

Walking into a hoarding house is an overwhelming experience for the senses. The mess is everywhere and seems impossible to escape. But what's even harder to endure is the strong smell of ammonia in the air, the result of many years' worth of urine and feces on every surface.

In July, our humane officers received a call about a house in Troy. Neighbors were concerned about a terrible smell coming from inside. Even with respirator masks on, our officers' eyes and noses burned as they entered. Think about how awful it must have been for the cats stuck in that place.

Over several days, our team rescued more than 40 cats and kittens. Here at MHHS, for the first time in their lives, these cats had a clean place to sleep, fresh food, clean water, and clean air. We took care of them, treating them for parasites, respiratory issues, eye infections, and other problems caused by malnutrition. **Thanks to your support, these sweet animals are now in loving homes.**



**Kittens rescued from the July hoarding case in Troy.**



Jack with one of his shelter besties, Zaidey, and his new family on his gotcha day.



# Jack's Transformation from too much dog to part of the family

When Jack first arrived, he seemed scared, growled a bit, and looked a tad intimidating. His previous owners had found him on Facebook, listed as "free to a good home," just three weeks before bringing him to us. They soon realized that Jack was too much dog for them to handle.

Jack was a big puppy, weighing 80 pounds and not yet 2 years old. It didn't take our team long to see that he was just a big, lovable goofball who felt nervous in his new surroundings. Once he made a friend, all he wanted was to be close and show affection. Plus, he adored other dogs and became a star in our playgroups. Zaidey, a member of our Behavior and Enrichment team, spent a lot of time teaching him to be less jumpy and how to share his food and toys.

Today, Jack is like one of the "big boys" in his family. His human brothers, who are 14, 16, and 18 years old and over 6 feet tall, can easily handle his 110 pounds of love. He's always play-wrestling with someone, except for Grammy, who lives downstairs with her little dog Roxy. To them, Jack is a gentle teddy bear.

His mom says, "You trained him so well, and we still can't believe how lucky we are to have such a good boy. He's a vital part of our household and often called the youngest brother, son, or grandchild. We couldn't imagine our life without him."

**It took over 8 months, but Jack finally found his forever home. Your generous support made it possible for Jack to transform into a beloved family member.**

## The Good We Do Together



### \$25

provides core vaccines for one dog and one cat



### \$50

can provide food and supplies for an animal in foster care



### \$100

provides 5 microchips for identification



### mission

Transforming the lives of animals and people through partnerships, protection and hope.

### contact us

Mohawk Hudson Humane Society  
Lisa Mitzen Animal Care Center  
3 Oakland Avenue  
Menands, NY 12204  
518-434-8128

To learn more about MHHS and ways to help, please visit

[mohawkhumane.org](http://mohawkhumane.org)

