



# Paw Prints

## Buffalo Humane

Mailing address: 4817 Wilson-Burt Rd  
Wilson, NY 14172

www.BuffaloHumane.org  
Info@BuffaloHumane.org  
(716) 862-9183

Clara Miller, Editor

Volume 4 Issue 1

Spring 2009



### Inside this issue

- Taking on the HSUS
- Soothing the Shy Cat
- What's in a Name
- Fulton 14 - A Rescue Story



## What's in a Name?

People outside the animal welfare community sometimes have the idea that all animal control facilities are connected, that all animal shelters are connected, that all SPCAs are connected, and that all Humane Societies are connected. The reality is much different. Most shelters, rescues, humane societies, and SPCAs started with a small group of people sitting around a table, deciding there was a need in their community, and working to form a not-for-profit organization to fill that need. Just like for-profit corporations, the name is a matter of the organization's choice.

In New York State, there are 127 organizations with "Humane" in their name. Many are animal welfare organizations, many are not. Also, 29 organizations have "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals" in their name, including the ASPCA in New York City and the SPCA Serving Erie County. None are affiliated with each other except for their common goal to fight against animal cruelty in their respective areas. Some also have the authority to investigate and prosecute animal neglect and cruelty.

Buffalo Humane is a not-for-profit rescue organization completely autonomous from any other organization. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is a not-for-profit agency located in Washington, DC, and has no regulatory authority over other groups. In fact, the HSUS may better be considered an animal rights organization since it focuses on all animals, not just pets. Although the HSUS has occasionally stepped forward to help with disaster relief and established temporary shelters, the organization has no permanent shelter facility, they have no veterinary hospital, and they do not investigate charges of animal cruelty or prosecute those involved. Instead, HSUS is primarily

a lobbying group attempting to better the lives of all animals, from puppy mill dogs to factory farm animals, from wild horses to circus elephants.

Animal Control (commonly referred to as AC) facilities are always localized. They are part of local governments and are open-admission facilities, which means that they must take strays and surrenders. In Erie County, most municipalities have their own animal control facility and at least one dog warden. Most local ACs do not have animal adoptions, and their only role is to enforce animal laws such as dog licensing, dogs running at-large, etc. Some ACs depend on the SPCA Serving Erie County and area rescue organizations to take the animals into their own adoption programs once they have passed the legally-required stray hold. Other AC facilities have no adoption policy and routinely euthanize all animals once their stray hold is up. All animal control facilities are limited in what they can accomplish by the funding and commitment from the local government and the AC staff. The City of Buffalo Animal Shelter, however, is an AC facility that does have an adoption program, mainly due to the commitment of their staff, the city government, and Buffalo residents.

Variations among AC facilities are even greater between states than they are within. Many Animal Control facilities in Ohio, Kentucky, and Georgia still use gas chambers for euthanizing animals and have no adoption programs at all. Some even use heart-sticks (injections of sodium pentobarbital directly into the heart without anesthesia) to euthanize animals, which is illegal in most US states and considered inhumane in all circles of veterinary medicine.

*Continued . . . p. 2*

## Name ... (continued from page 1)

Many AC facilities in other states have no inside kennels and all dogs are housed in outdoor runs, even during frigid winter months. Many have merely a single employee for both animal control and animal care. All such facilities are animal control, but they are not all alike.

Just as animal control facilities differ, so do various SPCAs. Nearly all are funded exclusively by private donations and fundraising efforts and receive no taxpayer money. Most are open-admission, though this too may vary. We are lucky in Erie County to have a wonderful, well-run, full-service SPCA (Serving Erie County). They have clean kennels, enrichment programs for the animals in their care, a behavioral department, a humane education department, a wildlife rehabilitation department, an animal cruelty department, and a full adoption program. The ASPCA in New York City has all these things as well, plus they operate a full service veterinary hospital open to the public. There are other SPCAs in the state that have little more than a tiny shelter, a few staff members, and a small adoption program. All of these organizations are completely separate, each with its own mission, vision, and focus, and they are not affiliated in any way.

Comparing Humane Societies, the differences are even more pronounced. Some are similar to an SPCA in that they are the designated animal cruelty investigators for their area, though many are not. The Humane Society of New York (in NYC), for example, has adoptions and a full-service clinic, but it is not an open-admission shelter, nor do they handle animal cruelty investigation. The New York State Humane Association (Kingston, NY), on the other hand, has no shelter and does not handle any animals; instead, they are an educational organization that

holds workshops on animal cruelty investigation and will sometimes step in to help coordinate large-scale rescue efforts. The Humane Society of the United States exists primarily as a lobbying agency, trying to effect change in all aspects of animal rights. Buffalo Humane is a small grass-roots rescue organization with no shelter facility and a handful of foster homes; our focus is dogs and cats only.

Rescue organizations probably have the greatest range of variation because such organizations are typically formed and founded by individuals who have their own purpose in mind. Some groups rescue cats and dogs as we do, some rescue cats only or dogs only; some rescue wildlife while others rescue small mammals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, and hamsters. There are breed-specific rescue organizations, such as Brightstar German Shepherd Rescue or Second Chance Boxer Rescue; there are others that focus on trap/neuter/vaccinate and release of feral cats, such as Feral Cat Focus, while others specialize in helping household cats, such as HEART and Ten Lives Club. All differ in focus, objectives, and mission.

So the next time you are thinking about adopting, donating, or volunteering, remember that not all SPCAs, Animal Control facilities, Humane Societies, and rescues are alike. Do your homework to find the one that best meets your own interests, philosophy, and moral compass. While there is often overlap in mission and purpose, all are not created equal. The organization, not its name, defines its ultimate mission.

*Clara Miller*

## Cat Tip of the Month – Soothing the Shy Cat

So, you've visited the shelter and found a beautiful cat that you can't get out of your mind. You want a cuddle muffin, a cat who will rub against you, greet you at the door, and sit in your lap all evening. That gorgeous Tortie or Tabby that's captured your heart, however, is so shy that instead of greeting you, the cat backed away from your hand and hid in his box. You want to give this cat a good home, but what can you do to bring the cat out of its shell?



Shyness is really a form of fear. It may be due to genetics, lack of socialization/stimulation, and/or trauma early in life. Whatever the cause, the best way to overcome shyness is to understand the cat's needs, its body language and calming signals, and begin a patient

program of non-threatening interaction.

The most important tool is the cat calming signal: a slow blink with a lick of the tongue. The lick should begin just as the eyes close and end as the eyes open. Cats use this signal when greeting each other as well as to avert confrontations if two are scrapping over something – often one cat will back down with the blink/lick and turn away. You can use it to great effect too!

Follow these rules:

- Use the above calming signal whenever the cat looks at you.
- Never stare directly at the cat's face – full frontal stares are read as aggression.

*Continued on back cover . . . p. 6*

## Fulton 14 – A Rescue Story

*Editor's Note: This article is adapted from a recent update sent to Buffalo Humane volunteers by our president, Carol Tutzauer, just as the last of the rescued Rottweilers from the Fulton 14 case found a home. That last rescued Rottie, Cuddles, spent 7 months in foster care, and her placement provided closure to a difficult rescue effort. Related documents, articles, and photos can be found online at our website: <http://www.BuffaloHumane.org/Fulton14.html>*

There were times that I never thought I'd see this day, but indeed that day is here, and I couldn't be more thankful. I thought I'd provide some closure to this summer's work we did in rescuing 5 of 14 Rottweilers seized by the City of Buffalo in a crazy case of a man and his family being put out on the sidewalk and his 14 dogs seized.

Some of you may remember this summer when we were contacted to see if we might be able to take some of 14 Rotties seized from a family removed from a Fulton Street home deemed uninhabitable by the City of Buffalo. The occupant was a veteran of the Kuwait war, on disability after suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and who moved into the house with his family and 14 dogs after speaking to the owner about fixing up the place. The property had fallen into quite a state of disrepair and had literally been taken over by area thugs and was being operated as a drug house. Only after this gentleman offered to move in (a win-win for him AND the neighborhood), were the drug thugs run out and the home finally began to get some needed (sweat-equity) repairs. After sitting on the City of Buffalo's demolition list for over a year, finally, a neighborhood and one man were trying to put things right.

Alas, however, the City of Buffalo finally came around to check on the state of the house, only to find this man and his family along with 14 dogs. There was no running water (hence the place was deemed uninhabitable), even though a neighbor was supplying water by hose and repairs were slated to be finished so that water could soon be turned on at the house. The man, his family, and his belongings were put on the sidewalk, and the 14 dogs seized. With no options for the dogs, they were put into Buffalo's inadequate and outmoded shelter to await their fate – and the prospects were not good for so many undersocialized Rottweilers/mixes. Behavioral assessments were beginning, and the dogs were simply deemed insufficiently adoptable, when outrage by this man and his neighbors motivated Mayor Byron Brown to step in and stop the dogs from being killed.

Thankfully, the Mayor interceded and directed the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter to work with area rescue groups to get the dogs moved out. A volunteer from a fellow rescue organization contacted us and indicated that the situation was a dire one; could we take any of the dogs? Groups would have to do their own behavioral assessments. (Word had it that one dog had been moved to a traditional

shelter, failed its behavioral assessment, and was euthanized. No more would be transferred to other than no-kill groups like our own.) These dogs were skittish and undersocialized, and would probably need some rehabilitation work, but the owner swore that they were good dogs and not aggressive.

The truth is, normally we get little cooperation from the City Shelter. We would like to take dogs from there (as we do from out-of-area shelters), but we are only contacted on the City's terms rather than having an ongoing supportive relationship. For once, however, we were being asked to simply walk in, look at the dogs, and take whichever ones we wanted. It was about time!

Take dogs, we did – 5 of them (first 3 and then 2 more a week or so later). City Shelter staff worked with us and went out of their way to actually transport some of the dogs directly to the low-cost Operation PETS clinic where they received a health check, neuter, vaccinations, and worming, and we could pick them up afterwards. In other cases, I personally took off of work to go down to the City Shelter and pick up the dogs myself. Those dogs were housed in the City Shelter's isolation area, reserved for dangerous and ill intakes, though I simply found the dogs nervous, scared, and definitely not well-socialized to people. I simply walked into the run with a looped leash, ready to lasso a dog at a time, no matter how much time it took. I kept looking away (eye contact is threatening) and waited for my opportunity to hook a dog. Once lassoed, we then had to somehow get them loaded into crates in my vehicle. It was a brave and dog-savvy shelter volunteer who worked with me to herd first one dog, then another into the crates in the car, with shelter staff and Animal Control Officers looking on in bewilderment and (possibly) a bit of awe.

Off we went to my rural property in Niagara County. Our organization, completely dependent upon volunteer foster homes, really didn't have space, but I could house the dogs at my place temporarily while I rallied to find other rescue groups, including Rottie rescues, to take them. We offered to sponsor their vetting prior to transfer, and we also had some wonderful people from out-of-state who sponsored a couple of the dogs' expenses as well. Among the dogs that the City Shelter transported directly to the Operation PETS clinic, one dog, Red, was returned by Operation PETS to the shelter as "aggressive and unmanageable," and was one of the dogs I had to lasso and handle with the aid of a shelter volunteer. In Red's case, after a brief stay at my home, Dr. Latson at Central Park Animal Hospital stepped up and had just the right bedside manner with the skittish Mr. Red.  
(continued, p. 4)

## Fulton 14 ... (continued)

Now, with all the dogs completely vetted, it was time to try to find other groups who might be able to take them. As the story made its way through Internet newsgroups and list-serves, people stepped up and offered to help.

Two dogs (Heller and Bandit) looked more Lab/Golden and were transferred to Owen Sound Animal Shelter, in Owen Sound, Ontario, after about 3 weeks, and completely vetted. That shelter is a no-kill facility, and they managed to place the two dogs together into a wonderful home in rural upper Ontario.

The remaining three dogs (Butch, Cuddles, and Red) were then driven downstate to Pets Alive Animal Sanctuary in Middletown, NY. This sanctuary had fallen into a bad situation a couple years ago when its owner/founder fell ill with cancer and couldn't keep up with the animals there. Best Friends Animal Sanctuary came in and re-organized them and helped them get back on their feet. Although functioning reasonably well, I still was nervous when I left them there, though I felt I had little choice.

A short time later, Pets Alive called me and said that Butch was doing fine, but Cuddles and Red were showing aggression to the staff. So, I called the dogs' original owner (fearing the worst and thinking he could at least handle them), and we drove down to get Cuddles and Red to bring them back to my house. When I got to Pets Alive, the staff person unlocked their run and stood far away, with fear in her eyes. When she saw that I was going to walk right in, she said, "Are you sure you want to do that?" I simply replied, "I can see that they are scared, but they aren't going to do anything to me."

Needless to say, I walked into their runs and sat there as they came up, then darted away, barked a bit, and finally became curious enough to come close where I could finally lasso them around the neck and guide them outside and into crates. We then lifted the dogs, crates and all, into my car for the trip back to my home.

Back to Buffalo: Cuddles and Red fostered with me for quite a long time, first separated from my other dogs and kept in my pole barn, then moved into my unheated garage. Well, summer turned to fall and fall turned to winter. The weather began to turn cold. I had no choice but to bite the bullet and integrate Cuddles and Red with my dogs and get them inside the house. One at a time, I introduced them to my gang. My husband and I sat out in the garage with a propane heater, enjoying a beer or two while we gradually got the entire gang acclimated to one another. With a bit of pack management, we'd be ok.

Come December, I got a call from a woman in the South Towns area who rescued Chihuahuas with her sister. But her son wanted a REAL dog, and Red was

just what he wanted. The person told me that the only reason they would return Red was if he was aggressive to the son.

Two weeks later I got a call on my cell and my heart filled with dread when I noted that it was from Red's adopter. "I just wanted to call you and let you know that things were tough at first, but we LOVE Red, my son LOVES Red, and he's doing GREAT. He's even is doing well around my husband, and he's fabulous with the little Chihuahuas." Phewww! But I was so happy for Red and for the family.

Cuddles continued to stay at my home, and with Red gone, it seemed the weight of the world fell from her shoulders. No longer responsible for looking after her brother, she blossomed. Sweet, loving, more confident. I had an inquiry about her at one point and ventured to bring Cuddles to the Camp Bow Wow Valentine Adoption. Cuddles being out in public wasn't something I was confident about, but I figured I could always keep her in a crate in the car.

Well, don't you know. . . Cuddles did great at that event. Maybe she'd finally come out of her shell somewhat. Maybe she just felt comfortable so long as she was around dogs and dog people. If you could have seen how far she came, from that shivering, skittish, semi-wild dog at the City Shelter to this day at Camp Bow Wow, you'd truly understand that the work we do is miraculous.

I had been in conversation with a woman down in the Jamestown area who trains and does agility. They have 4 dogs, all hounds (2 rescued, 2 purebred). She wasn't really looking for another dog, but her 10-year-old daughter wanted to do obedience and agility work with a dog in 4-H. Cuddles looked like she was just the right candidate.

February was turning to March, and Cuddles had finally found a home. I immediately got an email with a photo of the daughter and Cuddles on the drive home. A few days later I got another update, complete with links to a photo album. I couldn't be happier. Cuddles will get some one-on-one attention from a very special girl who decided that Cuddles was the dog for her. She's also got a new name (Greta) for a new start in life.

I don't know if any of you are still reading, but if you are, I've posted on the Buffalo Humane website several items that may provide some background on the case, and you can also see a few pictures of Greta with her new family:

<http://wwwBuffaloHumane.org/Fulton14.html>

This is what rescue is all about. Sometimes the cases are hard, but with dedication and diligence, we CAN find homes for these dogs.

*Carol Tutzauer, President  
Former foster mom to Cuddles (now Greta)  
Current foster mom to Anthem, Dilly, Ollie, Logan, Sasha*

# Taking on the HSUS – One Opinion

Because our organizational name includes the word “humane,” we find that people often confuse us with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). I frequently hear, “We just donated to you – we went to your national website and gave money”, or “We love what you do. We watched all the work you did during Hurricane Katrina.” I flinch when I hear this, not because I begrudge anyone donating to a different organization; I’m thrilled they are so interested in donating to benefit animals. My frustration is directed toward the HSUS because I do not agree with many of their core values, and particularly their policy pronouncements. I fear that they have become so far removed from true animal welfare interests that they may actually be worse than many of the parties against which they advocate.

My reasons? Past HSUS policies on pit bulls and feral cats are a case in point, as are fundraising tactics they have used in the past. In 1992, HSUS Vice President, Marc Paulhus, advocated euthanizing all feral cats.<sup>1</sup> Even as late as 2005, when Trap/Neuter/Release programs were proving to be effective at reducing feral cat populations, the HSUS answer to feral cat issues was to advocate increased regulation on owned cats and feral cat caregivers!<sup>2</sup> Seriously????

In 2007, when Michael Vick was arrested and charged with dog fighting, it was the HSUS that immediately raised the flag of victory against dog fighting and started a massive donation campaign to help fund the care of the animals. But just two weeks later, the HSUS sent a representative to recommend the mass killing of all the dogs confiscated from the Vick property, describing them as dangerous and unadoptable.<sup>3</sup> While the dogs were in the care of various animal control agencies in Virginia pending the court cases, the HSUS posted a donation plea on their website soliciting money for the care of the Vick dogs.<sup>4</sup> It quickly began circulating throughout the rescue world, raking in millions of dollars in donations. But when people found out that they had recommended killing all the dogs and started complaining about the ad, the HSUS quickly pulled it.

The killing didn’t stop there. HSUS again took center media stage during the bust of a large dog fighting ring in North Carolina in December of 2008. In February of

2009, the HSUS gave court testimony stating the dogs were bred for fighting and should be destroyed. As a result, 145 dogs, *including 75 puppies*, were killed.<sup>5</sup> Some of these puppies were a mere 5 weeks old, born at the shelter, and had been in foster care for several weeks. Are these vicious dogs? Seriously????

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. While we all watched in horror, the rescue community quickly came to realize that companion animals were being left behind during evacuations. HSUS, along with other large organizations, stepped in to help with disaster relief and established rescue operations in the affected areas. We were all mesmerized by the efforts to rescue these animals, and HSUS raked in around \$30 million dollars in donations for their relief efforts. It wasn’t until later that the truth came out. As volunteers from other areas returned home after weeks or months in the devastated areas, we started hearing horror stories of HSUS treatment of the animals supposedly in their care.<sup>6</sup> Hundreds of rescue groups and shelters offered to take dogs and cats, hundreds filled out necessary paperwork, hundreds contacted the necessary people and very few were allowed to take animals from the HSUS. Instead, once the HSUS left, the animals were transferred back to local shelters that were already overwhelmed, understaffed, underfunded, and overcrowded. Meanwhile, the HSUS rode off into the sunset with their \$30 million dollars. (Note - by 2007, the HSUS claimed to have spent \$25 million on Hurricane Katrina relief initiatives). Seriously????

It should be noted that in 2007, the Humane Society of the United States reported assets totaling \$245 million dollars.<sup>7</sup> It should also be noted that although \$6.5 was spent on grants to various animal welfare organizations, much of it was spent on groups outside of the United States.<sup>8</sup> Expenditures that were reported on their 2007 IRS form-990 include \$23 million in salaries, \$3.3 million in travel expenses, and over \$4 million in professional fundraising fees! So the next time you think about donating to the Humane Society of the United States or see them in the media spotlight, ask yourself if they are truly representative of all the wonderful humane organizations in the US. Seriously.

*Clara Miller, Editor*

<sup>1</sup>Shelter Sense, Volume 15, Number 5, May 1992.

<sup>2</sup>HSUS 2005 Statement on Free Roaming Cats, [http://web.archive.org/web/20050130092220/www.hsus.org/pets/issues\\_affecting\\_our\\_pets/hsus\\_statement\\_on\\_freeroaming\\_cats.html](http://web.archive.org/web/20050130092220/www.hsus.org/pets/issues_affecting_our_pets/hsus_statement_on_freeroaming_cats.html).

<sup>3</sup>[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/01/sports/football/01vick.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/01/sports/football/01vick.html?_r=1), Michael S. Schmidt, August 1, 2007.

<sup>4</sup>[http://www.consumerfreedom.com/images/hsus\\_clip.png](http://www.consumerfreedom.com/images/hsus_clip.png).

<sup>5</sup><http://www2.journalnow.com/content/2009/feb/18/145-pit-bulls-put-to-death-in-wilkes/>.

<sup>6</sup><http://rantand.blogspot.com/2006/03/hsus-katrina-relief-effort-under.html>, Jacqueline L. Salmon, Washington Post Staff Writer, March 26, 2006.

<sup>7</sup>[http://www.hsus.org/web-files/PDF/hsus-2007-990-pp-1\\_49.pdf](http://www.hsus.org/web-files/PDF/hsus-2007-990-pp-1_49.pdf), pg 1-2.

<sup>8</sup>[http://www.hsus.org/web-files/PDF/hsus-2007-990-pp50\\_80.pdf](http://www.hsus.org/web-files/PDF/hsus-2007-990-pp50_80.pdf), pp 1-10.

Buffalo Humane  
4817 Wilson-Burt Rd.  
Wilson, NY 14172

*Buffalo Humane – Helping one animal at a time*

*Your donations are essential, no matter how small!*

## **Cat Tip .... (continued from page 2)**

- Never point your toes directly at the cat – keep your feet parallel to the cat’s body
- Give an extra foot or more space between you and the cat.
- Use a string-type toy on a long pole to entice the cat to play – once the cat is involved in play it will usually relax a bit.
- Never reach for the cat, just sit quietly in one spot and let the cat approach you.
- Once the cat is brave enough to rub against you, give it a little stroke along the top of its head between the ears, and a stroke along the sides of the mouth.
- Make sure to quietly praise the cat whenever it does touch or approach you – use a soft, high, happy voice – “good kitty/girl/Spot”
- Cats also have a soft “burble” sound that they use as a friendly greeting ... the human throat can imitate the sound by vibrating the tissue around the soft palate. If you can figure this out, use it along with the blink and lick.

With patience and time, even the shyest of cats will improve in their interactions with humans.

One feral cat took four years before she would allow us to touch her, but now she comes and asks for head scratches. Some cats also respond well to yummy treats given when they rub against you, or sit in your lap.

Remember, each cat is an individual, just like children, and each will respond in its own time. Learn all you can about cat-to-cat behavior, and use it to your advantage.

*Pam Rose, Buffalo Humane Cat Behavior Counselor*

**[www.BuffaloHumane.org](http://www.BuffaloHumane.org)**