

Humane News

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. HUBERT'S ANIMAL WELFARE CENTER

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Our Mission

St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center is dedicated to the humane treatment of animals. We believe in and provide services that support the human-animal bond and seek to foster an environment in which people respect all living creatures.

Contact Us

MADISON

575 Woodland Avenue
P.O. Box 159
Madison, NJ 07940
973-377-2295

NOAH'S ARK

1915 Rt. 46 West
Ledgewood, NJ 07852
973-347-5469

NORTH BRANCH

3201 Route 22 East
P.O. Box 5281
North Branch, NJ 08876
908-526-3330

Visit Us

-  sthuberts.org
-  facebook.com/StHubertsAnimal
-  twitter.com/StHubertsAnimal
-  instagram.com/StHubertsAnimal
-  youtube.com/sthuberts1



Mom and pups have all been adopted.



Dogs, Cats Rescued From Residential Breeding Operation

It was late in the evening on February 17 when the call came in from our friends at Plainfield Area Humane Society requesting our assistance with a case that was unfolding in Scotch Plains. The Union County Prosecutor's Office had authorized the removal of more than 130 dogs and cats from a private residence suspected of operating an unlicensed "puppy mill" under inhumane conditions.

St. Hubert's team helped with the removal of all 130 animals and welcomed 40 of them into our care. Among them were puppies and kittens and several pregnant animals. Thankfully, none of the animals were in life-threatening condition. All required spay/neuter, dental procedures, and other minor medical treatment. The animals' owner relinquished them for adoption, and so the very young and those expecting went into foster care right away and the others were placed in adoptive homes quickly. As we go to press, all of them have moved on and are enjoying their new homes and families.

Many puppies sold in pet stores and online come from puppy mills, often located in the Midwest and some areas of Pennsylvania, though a number of smaller operations such as this one have been found in New Jersey in recent years. In order to impact the business of inhumane commercial breeding operations that put profit over the health and well-being of animals, nearly 140 NJ municipalities have put in place ordinances that prohibit the retail sale of animals within their borders. This particular situation came to light as a result of a vigilant individual who visited in order to obtain a puppy, sensed that things "just weren't right" there and called authorities—an excellent example of a citizen who saw something and said something, ultimately resulting in the rescue of these deserving animals.

Letter From the President

Dear Friends,

Since you last received Humane News, all of us have felt the unimaginable impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Here at St. Hubert's, we quickly reinvented many of our core operations to meet the demands of our current environment, and we put rigorous measures in place to dramatically reduce COVID-19 risk to our employees and community members. It has been a challenging couple of months, but the compassionate support received from our community gives us strength and hope as we navigate this extraordinary time.

While our communities have closed in the face of the pandemic, the majority of our work is essential. Our field officers are responding to animal emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our humane law enforcement officers are investigating every report of animal cruelty, and we have rescued many animals from abusive homes in the past two months. Our shelters still welcome lost and abandoned animals; and while we have had to limit traffic into our buildings due to social distancing, we rapidly shifted to virtual adoption counseling so those animals can quickly move into loving homes. We stand firmly on the front lines to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the animals (of all species) and the people who love them.

In this issue of Humane News, we will showcase some of the inspiring ways we have partnered with animal lovers throughout the region to achieve our mission. You'll read about the rescue of 130 Chihuahuas and cats (several of whom were pregnant), who were living in poor conditions in a home-based "puppy mill" right here in suburban New Jersey. We will also share how we have adapted our programs in the face of the pandemic to ensure that animals continue to be placed into loving homes.

Your hearts will be warmed to see how we ramped up our community outreach programs to assist families and their pets who are struggling financially. The innovation and dedication of our team during this extraordinary time has reminded me of the words of one of NJ's favorite sons, Jon Bon Jovi: "If you can't do what you do, do what you can!"

There is no guidebook for how to navigate a global crisis like the one we are experiencing, but we are doing so successfully because we are doing it together. We look forward to welcoming you back to our shelters again so you can visit the animals and so we can thank you in person for the many ways in which you've supported our work and lifted our spirits through this unprecedented time.

All my best,



Lisa LaFontaine
President and Chief Executive Officer



Lisa LaFontaine

CONTACT US

Administration, Development
and Communications
973-377-7094

Doggy Day Camp
973-377-4524

Training & Behavior Center
973-377-0116

Volunteer Office, Humane Education
and Community Outreach
973-514-5920

ADOPTIONS 7 DAYS A WEEK

Madison, Ledgewood
and North Branch
Noon – 4 pm Sunday - Tuesday
Noon – 6 pm Wednesday - Saturday

BUDDY'S BOUTIQUE GIFT SHOP

Madison Campus
973-377-2295
Noon – 4 pm Sunday - Tuesday
Noon – 6 pm Wednesday - Saturday

St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center | Legacy Society

Remember St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center in your will or estate and leave a lasting legacy for the animals.

You can extend your love for the animals and be sure your support is felt for years to come, by naming St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center in your will or estate plans.

Our Legacy Society includes people just like you who have decided to make their commitment to compassionate animal care part of their lasting legacy.

If you would like to discuss your planning needs or have questions, please contact the Development Department at 973-377-7094 or development@sthuberts.org. If you have already included St. Hubert's in your plans, please let us know.

St. Hubert's Responds to COVID-19 with Drive Thru and Virtual Services



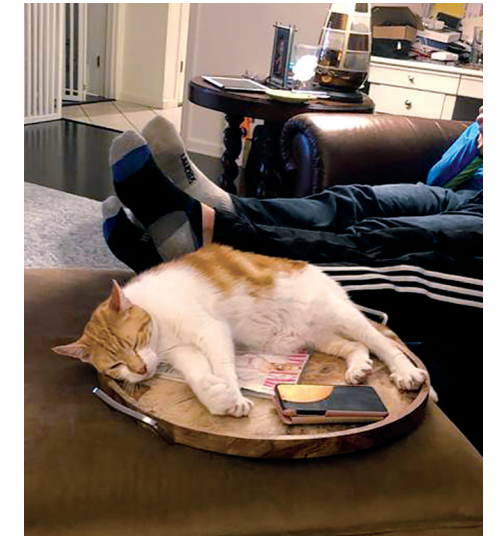
DRIVE THRU FOSTER

Very early in the pandemic, St. Hubert's mobilized our community of foster homes to clear our kennels so we could reduce staffing needs but ensure the continuing care of homeless animals. The response from our existing foster network and new community members was overwhelming. In the first few months, we placed 310 animals into foster homes, many of them under the newly instituted "drive thru" system. Foster Care Manager Steve Valentin and the animal care staff made matches based on caregiver input and potential foster home applications. Arriving cat and small animal fosters stayed in their cars, and staff put the carriers with their new guests and a bag of supplies into their vehicles. Animal care staff were able to maintain social distancing outdoors for foster families and dogs to have a brief meet and greet session before heading home together. Support staff are available to all foster caregivers who might need advice or assistance in helping their animal guests get comfortable in their homes.



PET FAMILY ASSISTANCE

As always, when disaster strikes, GreaterGood.org responds with speed and tremendous support for pets and the families who love them across the country. St. Hubert's, due to our expertise and experience, was selected as a New Jersey "hub" for the receipt and distribution of two trailer loads full of food and supplies to assist those in need. These large gifts, supplemented by the generosity of our community members who continuously dropped off dog and cat food, enabled us to not only keep our own and our partner agencies' pet food banks stocked but also to send almost 80 tons of food out to animal welfare and municipal entities across seven counties for distribution to struggling pet families. St. Hubert's no contact/no charge Drive Thru Pet Food Bank, available to anyone without reservation, was open for 6 shifts each week to help ensure that animal family members would not suffer. During this stressful time, St. Hubert's continues to provide a safety net to families struggling to feed and house their pets due to financial stress.



ADOPTIONS

St. Hubert's continued to offer adoption services during the pandemic in two ways:

- **By appointment:** Adopters could set up an appointment to meet potential new family members at the Madison shelter (for those animals still housed there). At the shelter, we asked adopters to limit the number of family members visiting, observe social distancing and wear a mask.
- **Virtual Adoptions:** For pets in foster homes, adopters could arrange a virtual visit with the foster family to see the pet and talk with the foster family about their experience with the pet. If they decided it was a match, they could set up a time to formalize the adoption, either at our Madison campus or somewhere convenient for the foster and adopter.

In addition to making sure adoptions could continue in this challenging time, the procedures developed will make it possible for pets to go from foster to permanent homes more easily in the future.



Youth Ambassador Program member Willow Phelps worked hard to make more than 80 masks for our shelter team. Her animal-themed prints were a big hit with staff members.

Youth Volunteers Step Up During Pandemic

As the COVID-19 shutdown loomed, we were forced to close several of our non-essential programs. But that didn't stop St. Hubert's and our young leaders from fulfilling our mission. With school visits, shelter tours, birthday parties and youth volunteering canceled, Humane Education Manager Karen Potocek found exciting new ways to keep animal-loving kids connected. She created a list of resources on our website with reading lists, coloring pages, live webcams, lessons and at-home activities to benefit animals and enhance homeschooling efforts. These are updated weekly and remain available to all at no charge at sthuberts.org/activities-for-kids.

When our Youth Task Force could no longer gather, the kids quickly shifted gears and got to work serving our Community Outreach programs. Students created their own fundraising pages, and together they raised \$4,563.26 to support our COVID-19 response. Their admirable efforts will assist us in providing routine and emergency veterinary care to struggling pet families who might otherwise face difficult decisions regarding their much-loved animal family members.

COVID-19 couldn't dampen the spirit of the young people who practiced social distancing while collecting and dropping off donations of food and supplies to stock our Drive Thru Pet Food Bank helping those in need during the shutdown. We salute our youth partners for their amazing and continued efforts to creatively support St. Hubert's mission during this unique time.

A Fond Farewell

Nancy Saxton-Lopez has led St. Hubert's free Pet Loss Support Group, one of the first in-person groups of its kind at an animal welfare organization, since its inception in April 1990. After 30 years of providing expert, compassionate care to those struggling with the loss of their animal companions, Nancy is leaving us to work with a local veterinarian and focus her attention full-time on pet parents experiencing end-of-life care. We congratulate her on earning a Certificate in Veterinary Social Work from the University of Tennessee. While we're sad to bid her farewell after three decades of rewarding partnership, we wish her the very best as she embarks on this new journey, further fulfilling her passion for pets and the people who love them. We'll continue to make good advice available through *The Pet Loss Companion*, co-authored by Nancy and available for purchase at Buddy's Boutique. Counselor Judith Bess will continue to facilitate St. Hubert's Pet Loss Support Group on the third Sunday of each month at 11:30 am.

