

Spring/Summer  
2009



Protecting Suffolk County's Animals

Suffolk County SPCA  
363 Route 111  
Smithtown, New York 11787  
631 382-7722

## THE HELPING PAW NEWSLETTER



Equine Rescue Collaborative

### Equine Rescue Collaborative (ERC)

The Suffolk County SPCA's ERC is dedicated to equine rescue and rehabilitation and to restoring horsemanship, the heritage and humane treatment of the horse. The mission of the collaboration is to provide a program of horse rescue ad/or advocacy for physically or psychologically abused, neglected, troubled, or abandoned horses and The Suffolk County SPCA's ERC is dedicated to equine rescue and rehabilitation and to restoring horsemanship, the heritage and humane treatment of the horse. The mission of the collaboration is to provide a program of horse rescue ad/or advocacy for physically or psychologically abused, neglected, troubled, or abandoned horses and environment of physical well-being and trust.

**Rescue**-Our rescue efforts will consist of acquiring horses from locations that place horses in situations where they are in emotional or physical danger. We will provide support to rescue any cruelty, neglect or abuse case wherever and whenever possible.

**Funding**-Our efforts will be funded by donations from the general public, contributions fundraisers, adoption placement donations, and grants from grantors that support animal rights. The SCSPCA and its ERC partners will conduct rescue and fund raising efforts.

**Rehabilitation**-Once an equine is in our care we plan to rehabilitate him/her for as long as needed until the horse(s) are in a better state of health and condition.

**Placement**-After an equine has been rehabilitated and in a better state of health and condition, we will place that equine in our "Adoption Program" where the equine will be available to the general public. Our goal will be to find a safe and permanent loving home to continue to give the care he/she needs.

#### VISION STATEMENT

The joint vision of the Suffolk County SPCA and the Equine Rescue Collaborative (ERC) is to refurbish the Southaven Stables into a center where animal lovers can collaborate to provide shelter to animals rescued from abusive situations and to establish a network of foster/adoptive families for the rescued animals.

With the cooperation of Suffolk County Executive, the SCSPCA is in negotiation with the County to obtain the unused stables located in Yaphank. The Suffolk County Sheriff is coordinating his inmate construction capabilities to provide labor for the construction and operational assistance for the running of the shelter for pets of abused families. The equine community is working with the SCSPCA to operate the stables for abused horses. The coalition called ERC, the Equine Rescue Collaborative, is a unique organization focusing on rescuing horses from abusive or unhealthy situations. The SCSPCA is also planning to coordinate its pet friendly shelter operations with the center.

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## RECENT EVENTS...

- The five starving horses that were rescued from a Central Islip location this past winter have all been adopted. We are happy to say that they all now have wonderful, caring families to spend their lives with.
- The Suffolk County SPCA was called into service in June to set up our MASH unit to provide veterinary support for the MTA, State Police and State Park Police K-9's during the US Golf Open in Bethpage State Park.
- Suffolk SPCA officer rescued 2 duckings from a storm drain in Smithtown. The 3 week old ducklings were separated from their mother as they fled from a cat. The officer is caring for them until they can be safely released back into the wild.



## Dog Day's of Summer

If your dog or cat likes to sit in the sun you need to make sure he/she isn't getting too much of a good thing. Remember dogs and cats are at risk of dehydration, overheating and even getting a sunburn. Brachycephalic (short-snouted) breeds, geriatric and obese pets are especially susceptible to heat stroke. These pets should be kept indoors in an air-conditioned room.

Short-haired breeds with light colored coats or alopecia (hair loss) and puppies or kittens with delicate skin are especially prone to sunburn. Take some caution and care for your pet as you would any child. Avoid sun during the hottest part of the day between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. If these hours are unavoidable, you might consider a 100% cotton T-shirt or a non-toxic SPF sunscreen developed specially for pets containing titanium dioxide. This can be applied to sensitive spots like the ears, muzzle, nose or any bald spots exposed to the sun. Never use human products as they can be toxic if ingested.

Unlike humans, dogs wear fur coats 365 days a year. Compound this with a higher normal body temperature than us and summer days can be downright dangerous, if not deadly due to heat stress and stroke. Some obvious things that are a must for any pet are plenty of cold, fresh water and having shade available all day.

Do not exercise them in the height of the midday heat. Groom and brush your pet daily especially in the summer. Never shave your dog completely. Fur helps keep the hot air and sun rays from contact with the skin. Also remember that shaving a dog makes them more prone to sunburn if cut too short. Stay off blacktop surfaces, or any non-grassed surfaces, to avoid pad burns. You can use the palms of your hands to check surfaces when grass is not available.

If you and your dog are out for the day, wet your pet with a hose or a wet towel to aid in preventing heat stress or worse, heat stroke.

**NEVER** leave your dog in a car even for a few moments on a mild day, and know that being left in the car on a day that is 80 degrees or above can be a death sentence.

### ***Monitor closely for signs such as:***

Heavy panting, increased salivation, foaming/frothing from the mouth, lethargy, warm or hot skin to the touch, vomiting, muscle twitching, confusion or dazed look.

If you see any of these signs call your veterinarian immediately! Hose your pet down with cold water. If a hose is not available, wrap a towel soaked in ice water. This can be the difference between life and death. If you can remember two things from this article let them be: always provide adequate water supply and shelter from the sun, and never leave your pet unattended in a car, even with the windows open.

John Charos, DVM

**If you wish to receive our newsletter via email, please visit our website [www.suffolkspca.org](http://www.suffolkspca.org) and enter your e-mail address in the appropriate box. This will allow us to save postage and use that money to continue our services and programs.**

## Child and Animal Neglect Charges Against Mastic Beach Family

The adult occupants of a Mastic Beach house have pleaded not guilty to endangering the welfare of seven children living in the home.

In addition, the Suffolk County SPCA removed 14 cats and 2 dogs from the home. The owner was charged with 4 counts of animal cruelty.

## Southaven Stables

The Suffolk County SPCA is currently awaiting a contract agreement with the county to lease Southaven Stables. We will be responsible for the renovations which will be very costly. Our hope is to convert part of the stable to house small animals that have been rescued from unsuitable homes as well as farm animals. The balance will be dedicated to caring for abused and neglected horses. The animals will be rehabilitated and then adopted to loving homes.

This will be a major undertaking on our part. We will need to raise all the money for the renovation. We hope to have a green facility .

Please look into your hearts and try to donate to renovate this much needed facility which will benefit the animals of Suffolk County.

**Save the date:** Join us for the “**Summer Party for the Animals**” on July 11th at Martha Clara Vineyards . Our survival depends upon you!

[www.SummerPartyAnimal.com](http://www.SummerPartyAnimal.com)



## Hurricane Preparedness

The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially begins June 1st. The Suffolk County SPCA recommends that you develop an emergency plan that will help get you, your family and your pet(s) safely through a disaster. Keep in mind that when weather conditions are unsafe, evacuation may be necessary. It is possible that pets left inside or outside your home will die of exposure, starvation, predators, and/or contaminated food and water. Being prepared in the event of a disaster may save you and your pet's lives. For more information, please visit our website [www.suffolkspca.org](http://www.suffolkspca.org) and click on the link for Disaster Planning. Remember that due to the efforts of the Suffolk County SPCA Suffolk County now has Pet Friendly Shelters for you and your pets in the event that other arrangements cannot be made.

## **Suffolk County SPCA**

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*The Suffolk County SPCA is a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) not for profit organization consisting of over sixty individuals from all walks of life. Our peace officers are both active and retired law enforcement personnel who enforce the New York State Agriculture and Market Law with regard to the prevention of mistreatment and cruelty to animals.*

*Our civilian humane workers are volunteers who work on non-criminal investigations as well as delivering the support services ( free rabies clinics, spay/neuter programs, animal rescue) that the SCSPCA provides.*

*The Suffolk County SPCA is funded entirely by charitable donations. Our existence depends upon your generosity, as we do not receive funds from the State. Your gifts to us are tax deductible.*

**Suffolk County SPCA Board of Directors:** Roy Gross, Dr. Gerald Lauber, Herbert Kellner, Alex Parathyras, William Wexler, Lois Gross.

**Advisory Board:** Sheriff Vincent DeMarco, Ret. Comm. John Gallagher, Wendy Diamond.

**Veterinary Advisory Board:** Dr. John Charos, Dr. Charles Greco, Dr. Barbara Kalvig, Dr. Michael Shorter

**Thank you for your generous support. Your gifts are important to us especially during these tough economic times!!**

### **Ever Wonder Why Your Pet React to Storms?**

This spring has brought a large number of particularly severe thunderstorms to our area. Thunderstorm phobia is a very common problem in our pet dogs. Traditionally, owners have asked for sedatives for their pets. Unfortunately, the traditional medications do not alleviate the anxiety, they only sedate the dog. Then we have a sedated, but still anxious animal. The other problem is that many of these medications can take up to an hour to work, and by then the dog is really in a state. This is all complicated by the fact that dogs can sense the change in barometric pressure that proceeds the storm. So, by the time you hear the first clap of thunder, they are already in a frenzied state.

When dealing with thunderstorm phobias there are several points to remember.

1. Address the problem in the young dog as soon as it becomes apparent. The longer you let this go, the more the anxiety re-enforces itself and the more difficult it is to deal with.
2. Remember that our dogs often know the storm is coming before we do. They may actually be afraid enough that they show the anxiety behaviors just when a front comes through, even if there is no thunder.
3. Tranquilizers do not always work well. For severe cases of thunderstorm anxiety your veterinarian may prescribe an anti anxiety medication. For less severe cases certain pheromones, either as collars or sprays may work.
4. Medication always works better when used in conjunction with behavior modification. Talk to your veterinarian about desensitization or other techniques that might help your pet.

Phobias can become problematic enough that dogs will injure themselves trying to find what they perceive as a safe place to be. Work in conjunction with your veterinarian to help your pet get through this summer storm season safely.

Dr. Keith Niesenbaum, VMD

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www.suffolkspca.org**