



Finger Lakes SPCA

A New Year Begins at the Shelter!



As 2024 begins we look back on a year that at times was difficult at the FLSPCA. Our Executive Director of 32+ years, Vicki Mosgrove, retired from her post and a significant time of transition began. Our staff and volunteers rose to the occasion, however, and not a beat was missed in the day-to-day operations of the Shelter. A search for a new Executive was begun by the Board, led by President Jean Peterson. In the end, it was a Shelter volunteer and Board member who ended up taking the reins of the organization.

2023 was also a year when we struggled with being over-capacity, with both cats and dogs. See the Cane Corso story and our census figures to understand more of what this has meant for us. Over-crowding has created very challenging circumstances, but, again, our staff and volunteers have met the challenge. Sadly, one consequence of being over-capacity has been having to say "no" to some admissions. We regret this, but we must always put the well-being and safety of our current animals first.

Needless to say, the large numbers of animals in our care require incredible amounts of food and other kennel supplies (we go through 1200-1500 pounds of litter a week, for instance), as well as significant amounts of medical treatment (animals frequently come to us in poor health). We continue to depend on folks like you to be generous givers and enable us to do what we do best, give top-quality care to homeless and suffering animals. Can you begin 2024 with a gift to care for our animals? Use the QR codes below to get to our Network for Good platform or our Venmo account. We're depending on you!

Here's to a new year of hope for the animals!
Michael Hopkins, Executive Director

The Cane Corso Story

Cane Corso (aka Italian Mastiff) are a specialized breed known to be highly intelligent and loyal. In early February 2023, the Steuben County Sheriff's Department, with the help of the FLSPCA, seized a total of 13 dogs from a home in the Town of Avoca. They were found in a severely malnourished condition. Six of them were month-old Cane Corso puppies. The Hornell Area Humane Society took four adult males. In addition to the puppies, the FLSPCA took three adult females, one of whom was a pit bull mix.

The case was complicated by the owners of the dogs refusing to sign over ownership of them. When FLSPCA takes dogs from animal



cruelty cases related to the County Sheriff's Department, we receive support from the County to care for the dogs until they are no longer evidence in a criminal case. If the owner or owners do not sign over the animals to us, we are simply their caretakers. We are responsible for their medical care, but are unable to spay or neuter them unless a medical condition makes that procedure crucial.

It is not unusual for animal cruelty cases to go on for months in local courts, and this was no exception. Because this case involved so many dogs, we followed it closely. Those six puppies (three male and three female) grew very quickly, and by early summer they were essentially adult dogs. Nine dogs mean nine kennels in use. We have fourteen kennels, three of which are for small dogs and four of which are in our medical isolation area. You can see the math caused problems all year long.

The dogs were finally signed over to us and the case resolved in early December 2023, ten months after the dogs were seized. We are grateful that since that time five of the dogs are adopted and three remain (one of the dogs developed a severe medical condition and was humanely euthanized). Unfortunately these very large and energetic dogs were very hard on our kennels and there is much repair work that needs to be done in their wake.

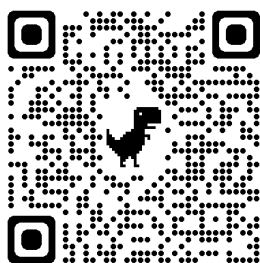
Animals Cared for In 2023

New Cats: 289
New Dogs: 47

Cat Adoptions: 147
Dog Adoptions: 34

Census at 12/31/2023
Cats 156
Dogs 17
8 Pigs
6 Rabbits
4 Roosters & 1 Hen
9 Ducks
2 Resident Mini-horses
3 Horses in Boarding; 3 in Foster
Total Animals in care of FLSPCA: 208





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