
HUMANE SOCIETY NEWS

Humane Society of Wyoming County, Inc.

Spring/Summer, 2021

A Year Unlike Any Other

The year 2020 will go down as the most difficult time ever experienced by the Humane Society of Wyoming County since our incorporation in 1985. Despite COVID-related lockdowns, cancellations of all our fund-raising events, temporary closing of spay/neuter clinics, loss of meeting and rabies clinic venues, and personal struggles by some of our officers, Board members, and volunteers, we were able to continue serving companion animals and their owners in Wyoming County. In the past year:

- Our humane officer responded to an alarming and growing number of abuse, neglect, and cruelty cases. Animals involved included horses, dogs, cows, goats, donkeys, chickens, pigs, a pigeon, and (for the first time in our history) Koi fish. Many calls involved lack of proper care and the need for owner education, but sadly there were intentional cruelty issues as well.
 - Our spay/neuter program continued. Since the beginning of 2020, 85 free or reduced-cost vouchers were issued to Wyoming County pet owners for spay/neuter surgeries on dogs and cats. Disappointingly, an additional 16 free cat vouchers which had been issued to Wyoming County residents who had requested them in 2020 were never utilized by the pet owners. These will be reissued to others this year. Additionally, ten vouchers for free spay/neuter surgeries, which had been provided to us by the Bissell Pet Foundation, were distributed to qualified pet owners in Wyoming County.
 - Pet food donations to local food banks continued. Due to the pandemic, demand increased over previous years.
 - Administrative work continued, with grant applications being submitted, our tax return filed, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania required paperwork submitted, and an audit of our Pennsylvania Workmen's' Compensation filing successfully completed.
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Rabies Clinic Update

The Humane Society of Wyoming County reminds all dog and cat guardians that rabies vaccinations are **mandatory** in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In order to assist county residents in obtaining these required vaccinations for their dogs and cats over three months of age, the HSWC normally sponsors two low-cost rabies vaccination clinics each year (spring and fall). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both clinics in 2020 were forced to be cancelled.

We are hoping to be able to run one clinic this summer. This will be dependent on factors beyond our control, but know that we will do everything possible to schedule this event. If COVID numbers begin to decrease in Wyoming County, and we can obtain a venue, veterinarian, and adequate volunteers, we will proceed. Feel free to check on clinic updates (as soon as available) in local media, on our answering machine, or on our webpage at www.hswcPA.org.

Remember: vaccinating pets protects not only the animal population, but the human population as well. If you have any questions on this event, please call us at 570-836-4745.

NEPA Gives! Beginning at 12 a.m. (midnight) on Friday, June 4, 2021, and continuing for 24 hours, over 200 NEPA non-profits will work to boost awareness and raise funds (including the HSWC). To make a secure, tax-deductible, on-line donation to us, log on to www.nepagives.org. Your gift will be appreciated!!

Help us help them:

- * Contact us (or local police) if you witness animal abuse. Calls are confidential.
- * Make sure your pet is always wearing an I.D. tag. (We receive many calls on found pets, and would be able to return them home quickly if only they had on proper ID!)
- * Prepare a disaster plan that includes your pet.
- * Be sure all your pets are spayed or neutered to fight pet overpopulation.
- * Adopt your next pet from a shelter or rescue rather than purchasing one.
- * If you shop on Amazon, indicate our name under the "Amazon Smile" program, as we receive a donation for each purchase made.
- * Consider a bequest to the HSWC in your will.

Check Your Mailing Address Label

Do we have your correct mailing address? Please check your label. Also, if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, we will remove your name. All changes may be left as a message at (570) 836-4745.

Important Reminder . . .

2021 dog licenses were due by law on January 1st. If you haven't yet purchased your dog license, please do so immediately. This will help you avoid a fine and provide identification should your dog become lost. Wyoming County dog licenses are available at the courthouse, as well as designated area businesses. All dogs 3 months and older must be licensed each year. Discounts are available for spayed or neutered pets, and for senior or disabled owners. (Yet another reason to spay or neuter your dog!)

Humane Society members and volunteers desperately needed!

Financial Update for 2020

The Humane Society of Wyoming County had income of \$13,025.92 for 2020 (mostly from grants, donations, memberships, and memorials). Total expenses for the year were \$15,356.00 (mostly for humane officer expenses, veterinary costs, spay/neuter program, insurance, and pet food for food banks). It should be noted that every single one of our normal fund raising events was cancelled during 2020 due to COVID. We had to dip into savings to meet expenses for 2020.

The Humane Society of Wyoming County's Mission Statement:

Prevention of cruelty to animals, relief of suffering among animals; the extension of humane education.

Lake Winola Fire Company to the Rescue

Special thanks to the members of the Lake Winola Fire Company! A Golden Retriever reported missing to us in March was later located by the owner, tightly trapped in a cave near Mill City. The brave and compassionate members of the Lake Winola Fire Company were dispatched, and were able to rescue the dog. The story was reported on by local media, later picked up by national news outlets, and went viral on the internet. Thank you, Lake Winola Fire Company!

Dog Bank Program

Thank you to the many merchants who allow us to place our dog bank collection canisters at their locations. Your spare change donated at the check-out helps us a lot. Merchants participating include:

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| Marty's Market (2 locations) | Samario's Pizza |
| Center Moreland Deli | Penn Mart/Dunkin' Donuts |
| Hoagie Hut | Bartron's John Deere |
| Burger King | Purkey's Pink Apple |
| La Catalina Store & Eatery | Gay's True Value |
| Bluhm's, Laceyville | Smith's Country Store |
| Laceyville Hardware | Bowman's Creek Service Center |
| Vern's Agway | Citgo |
| McCain Electric | Cigarette Outlet |
| D&C Fuel (2 locations) | Pump 'N' Pantry (4 locations) |
| NAPA Auto Parts (2 locations) | Kintner's Olde Mill |
| J's Pizza, Lake Winola | Dollar Tree |

Please support these fine local merchants. When you have some spare coins, drop them into one of our friendly (and hungry) dog banks. We appreciate it!

2021 Membership Application for The Humane Society of Wyoming County Inc.

Yes! I am interested in becoming a member of the Humane Society of Wyoming County, Inc., for the year 2021. My membership will run from June 1, 2021, through May 31, 2022.

I will receive a membership card and newsletter (all membership categories). Individual and family members (adult heads of house within family) will receive voting privileges at the October general membership meeting (for election of officers and board members).

Return the completed form and check or money order (payable to "The Humane Society of Wyoming County, Inc.") to P.O. Box 478, Tunkhannock, PA 18657-0478.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Membership Category: (check one)

_____ \$10 individual

_____ \$20 family membership

_____ \$1 student membership (grade 12 or younger)

\$_____ I wish to make an additional contribution to the Humane Society of Wyoming County (or I just want to help but not become a member)

Your donations fund education, cruelty investigations, emergency response, spay/neuter assistance, pet food donations to local food pantries, etc.

New!!! _____ Please save money for the animals. Do not send a thank you letter or membership card. I will still receive newsletters/voting rights.

Please support your humane society by becoming a member today! We are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, non-profit organization. Your contributions are tax deductible as provided in Section 170 of the federal tax code. All work performed by officers and Board members is voluntary—no salaries or benefits are provided. (Our humane officer is the only paid employee within our organization.)

Memorial & Honorary Donations Noted

The Humane Society of Wyoming County gratefully acknowledges the following memorial and/or honorary donations:

- * In memory of Snoop, from Gabe & Bonnie D'Ulisse.
- * In memory of Owen, beloved pet of Hal & Mary Pratt, by Cheryl & Garry Wamset.
- * In memory of Anna Van Auken, from her grandmother, Susan Thompson.
- * In memory of Court, beloved horse of the Donnelly family (and a gentle giant), by Frances Picicci.
- * In memory of Miss Kitty, beloved cat, by her mom (Catherine Noreika), Bill & Janet Shaw, Gail & Bill Sickles, and Beth Gallagher.
- * In memory of Emma, beloved dog, from Steve & Roberta Casella.

Please note: If we have inadvertently missed any memorials, please notify us and they will be included in the next newsletter. We are working under less than optimal conditions, and do apologize for any errors. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

And thank you for your support from:

- ◆ Wyoming County
- ◆ Wyoming Co. Democratic Women's Society
- ◆ Scranton Area Community Foundation
- ◆ Wyoming Co. Covid Relief
- ◆ North Branch Township
- ◆ Overfield Township
- ◆ Back Mountain Kennel Club
- ◆ Dr. Herbner & Chiropractic & Rehab Associates
- ◆ The Sheldon Family Foundation
- ◆ The Bissell Pet Foundation

Elective Cat Declawing

Animal advocates have been lobbying to outlaw elective cat declaw surgeries (except in rare cases when it is medically necessary). Many countries, Canadian provinces, U.S. cities, veterinary clinics, and even the state of New York now forbid the procedure. Sadly, feline declawing can sometimes lead to long-term emotional and physical problems. According to VCA United States animal hospitals, "feline scratching and nail sharpening are normal behaviors, and the removal of nails has been shown to lead to chronic pain and, in some cases, to cause long-term behavioral issues." Instead, please consider asking your veterinarian about environmental changes to properly channel your cats' need to scratch. Also, your veterinarian or groomer can instruct you on how to safely give Kitty's nails a proper trimming.

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Wyoming County, Inc.**
P.O. Box 478
Tunkhannock, PA 18657-0478
(570) 836-4745
www.hswcPA.org

Place First
Class Stamp
Here

**Please Don't Litter
Spay or Neuter
Your Critter**



Inside This Issue

- *A Year Unlike Any Other*
- *Rabies Clinic Update*
- *2021 Membership Application*
- *Dog Bank Program Update*
- *2020 Financial Recap*
- *Elective Cat Declawing?*
- *NEPA Gives is June 4th*

Please notify us of any address change