



# Capital District Humane Association

*"For the Love of Animals"*

**Fall 2019 NEWSLETTER**

## **DOG ADOPTION CLINICS**

Latham Petsmart

10 am to 1 pm  
first & second Saturdays each  
month

Clifton Park Petsmart

10 am to 1 pm  
fourth Saturday each month

*Visit our website at [cdha.net](http://cdha.net)  
for a listing of all animals  
available for adoption.*

**CDHA, PO BOX 11330  
LOUDONVILLE, NY 12211  
(518) 664-3450**

**[cdha.net](http://cdha.net)**

[info@capitaldistricthumane.com](mailto:info@capitaldistricthumane.com)

[facebook.com/cdhadogs/](https://facebook.com/cdhadogs/)

## **Dorothy (aka "Toto")**



Few of the dogs we take in, whether from a private home or animal shelter, come in without need for medical care. Most are infested with intestinal worms. Hence, the dogs require an immediate deworming regimen, which can take weeks. In the meantime, the dogs can appear thin, thus leading to comments from potential adopters that would lead one to believe we were starving these animals. Ear infections, bad teeth, and skin issues are also common. Dorothy (aka Toto) had all of these issues and more.

We rarely know the back story of the animals we rescue, and Dorothy was no different. Dorothy is an adult West Highland Terrier mix who is as sweet as she was a mess. When we first met her, we were completely taken back. Her whole body was matted, and what parts of her skin we could see looked like the skin of a reptile. Her ears were swollen shut due to ear infections. Dorothy didn't know how unsightly she was. She happily wagged her tail.

Dorothy is slowly recovering. Sad to say, however, that the person responsible for Dorothy's neglect will likely go on to do the same thing to other dogs.

## Another Happy Ending

Animal rescue is full of challenges that don't end when animals are adopted. Recently there was a Jack Russell mix named Katrina.

So often, dogs come to us just about shell shocked. God only knows what they've been through. Katrina was one of those dogs. She wouldn't come out of her transport crate when we first got her, and when she did, she flew behind or under furniture to hide.

Due to her behavior, it was weeks before she could be shown at an adoption clinic. Even then, we were very cautious because we were afraid that she would escape. It turned out that our fears were not unfounded.

Soon after Katrina's picture appeared on our website, we received a call from a very nice man named Edward who wanted to adopt Katrina. It seemed like a good match, so Katrina found her home.

Several weeks later we received a call from Edward that sent us into a panic. While Katrina had been with Ed in his truck, she bolted with her leash still attached when he opened the vehicle door. Thankfully, the escape took place near Ed's home.

The bad news was that Katrina hadn't yet bonded to Ed so she would not come to him or anyone else. Kind neighbors tried to capture this will of the wisp. So did our volunteers, who set up traps and tried tracking her. Ed contacted everyone he could for help. His local animal control never even returned his calls. However, Ed kept reaching out for assistance and was led to a caring woman from another animal rescue who also helped by setting up traps. Still, the local authorities where Ed lived never returned his calls.

To compound the stress, Ed had been scheduled to move and was supposed to vacate the premises within a couple of weeks. Despite this, Ed refused to move until he had Katrina back.

Prayers are a powerful tool, and the many pleas for Katrina's safe return were heard. When Ed received a call from a neighbor that Katrina was on his front porch, Ed rushed over. He proceeded cautiously, so he wouldn't scare her away. He lay on the porch, afraid to move, but he needn't have worried. Katrina's leash, which was still attached to her collar, was caught on a porch floorboard so she couldn't flee. A minor miracle, of sorts.

The first night back with Ed his little runaway was sleeping next to him in bed. We don't think Katrina would openly admit it, but we think she's very glad to be home.



*Katrina*



## **SEFA number 50-00070**

Dear State employees,

Without your annual support, the Capital District Humane Association (CDHA) would be very limited in its ability to save animals lives. If you love animals and would like to help, please support CDHA in its work.

- CDHA is 100% volunteer
- Oldest animal rescue in the Capital District
- Approved by the ASPCA
- No-kill
- All volunteer

*ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE*

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### **Expectations**

Whether dogs come from private homes or from animal shelters, what we know about the dogs we take in is limited to what we can observe while the animals are under our care. Having said that, dogs may be one way with us, but very different in their new home due to various factors.

Before people adopt from us, we try our best to provide information that will be helpful in making the adoption a success. There would be no benefit in doing otherwise. Still, there is the occasional adopter who is disgruntled: you said the dog is crate trained but it's not; you said the dog doesn't like Blue Buffalo food, but it does . . . the list goes on and on. It can be very disheartening, but those thrilled with their new pets who come back to visit and to adopt again make up for others. We're thrilled with our many successful adoptions and for the loving people who were willing to give a homeless dog a chance.

## The High Cost of Free

Whenever animal shelters have attention-getting promotions, such as “clear the shelters” where animals can be adopted for free or next to nothing, I cringe. Certainly, there are good people who could get a free pet and be a responsible caretaker, but it’s risky. There’s no such thing as a free pet if you provide proper veterinary care for your animals. The calls we receive from irresponsible animal owners reflects only a small percentage of those who have acquired a cat or dog and didn’t provide care for their pet. So many times, the calls have come from those whose pets were dying. The callers didn’t have a vet, and they have said they couldn’t afford medical care. CDHA has intervened to help, but perhaps the situations might have been different if adopters realized the expense of having a pet.

It can be tricky when first-time adopters approach us, because these applicants don’t have a history of veterinary care that can be checked. In those instances, we proceed with caution.

We also receive requests to adopt from those who can’t afford the adoption fee. We explain that all our pets have been altered, have had their basic shots, have been heartworm tested (if seven months or older) and most are microchipped. This usually falls on deaf ears because the people to whom we’re talking does not care about any of that.

If there is a response it’s usually, “I thought you wanted to get rid of the animals.”

Animal ownership is a privilege, not a right. This piece is dedicated to precious, little Sandy who we lost due to both heart and renal failure. We had rescued Sandy from a kill shelter, where she was listed as being in jeopardy. Sandy’s back story isn’t known, but she appears to have had a life of neglect. At least her last days were in sunshine and with those who cared for her.



*Sandy*

## Please Don't Forget Us

To continue our valuable work, we rely on your continuing support. When we first went into operation in the spring of 1987, there were few, if any, other rescue groups in the Capital District. As with any business (and, yes, we are a business—albeit a nonprofit), there is competition for funds and for dedicated workers (volunteers).

CDHA always needs reliable volunteers to help in various ways—adoption clinics, help with dog transport on occasion, fundraising, fostering, etc.

If you can't volunteer but would like to help, please help us through sending a donation:

Capital District Humane Association  
PO Box 11330  
Loudonville, NY 12110

CDHA can always use the following items:

- ✓ dry and canned dog and cat food
- ✓ wire dog crates
- ✓ dog leashes and collars
- ✓ clean bedding (towels, sheets, blankets, quilts)
- ✓ dog beds
- ✓ postage stamps

Also, as a lasting gift please remember CDHA in your will.

Thank you,

Jennifer Politis, CDHA, President





## Lester

When I was growing up, there was a tv show called “Naked City.” Each program would begin with an over voice saying, “There are 1,000 stories in Naked City. This is one of them.”

Lester’s story is typical of the rescues CDHA does throughout the year but is not made any less special due to the numbers. Lester, an 11-year old Maltese mix, was rescued from a kill shelter, where he was faring poorly because he was so frightened. That, plus the fact that he was older, prompted the animal shelter to ask us for our help with him.

Once he was in one of our foster homes, Lester’s attitude changed. With shelter life behind him, his personality emerged. It turns out that he was quite the gourmet, relishing his dinner only if it was supplemented with mac and cheese and other foods he liked. He also wanted to wear a cozy sweater when he went out. Cold, it seems, was not his thing.

It breaks your heart when you think of the countless dogs and cats who are destroyed daily—all of whom have unique personalities and would have had a chance to have been indulged by a human. Each time we take a dog into our rescue program we realize the special animal we’re helping. Feedback from adopters who rave about their newest “family members” is a reminder of that truth.



*Lester*

## Foster a Dog

Help CDHA save more dogs by fostering.

The Capital District Humane Association (CDHA) does not have a shelter. We rely solely on our foster home network to provide a safe and stable temporary home to get companion animals ready for adoption. It's simple: the more people who open their homes for fostering, the more dogs we can save. It's a rewarding way to give to our organization, and it's a critical part of what we do. Most importantly, it's fun. **For more information please contact Jennifer Politis at [info@capitaldistricthumane.com](mailto:info@capitaldistricthumane.com) or call Jennifer at 518-664-3450.**

### Fostering requirements

- Complete a foster care agreement questionnaire
- Submit landlord permission or proof of home ownership
- Must attend adoption clinics three times a month—on Saturdays from 10 am until 1 pm.
- Must be willing to work with the dog to help them get ready for adoption. This includes housebreaking, basic training and socialization. However, some dogs come to us almost perfect in every way. We just never know and can't guarantee a dog's behaviors or needs.

### What fostering is not

Choosing a cute looking dog with the idea you'll ask to adopt it if it's perfect.



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