



PET GAZETTE

NEWS FROM THE ANIMAL PROTECTIVE FOUNDATION

53 MAPLE AVE., GLENVILLE, NY 12302 | 518.374.3944 | WWW.ANIMALPROTECTIVE.ORG

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From Fear to Forever: Zoey's Journey



When 8-month-old Rottweiler sisters Zoey and Rumi were abandoned at The Dog Chateau, their future was uncertain. Thankfully, the owner of The Dog Chateau—one of the APF's wonderful supporters—called us right away to make sure the girls would be safe.

When they arrived, both were terrified and underweight, caught in a constant state of fear. For Zoey, even simple things like walking outside or stepping onto a new floor were overwhelming. With time, patience, and a few creative "treat trails," our team gently helped her learn that the world wasn't so scary after all.

Within a week, Zoey began to blossom. Her playful, cuddly side emerged, and she quickly became a favorite—chasing toys, soaking up affection, and proudly showing off her new commands like "sit" and "down."

Before long, the perfect family came to meet her, and it was an instant match. Today, Zoey is thriving in her forever home, a happy, confident dog who reminds us what compassion and teamwork can achieve.

So Much to Celebrate: Highlights from the 2025 Capital Region Fur Ball

On October 4th, we hosted the 2025 Capital Region Fur Ball, presented by BBL Construction Services, at Rivers Casino & Event Center—a night celebrating compassion, community, and the animals who inspire us all.

The evening's highlight was honoring Steve Caporizzo with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Steve shared how his mother's kindness toward animals shaped his lifelong mission to help those in need. Through Pet Connection on NEWS10, he's reunited countless lost pets, found homes for thousands, and built bridges among animal welfare organizations throughout the region.

We were also proud to present Benson's Pet Center with the Business Partner in Caring Award. Benson's has made an incredible impact by donating over 100,000 pounds of pet food annually through its pantry program, partnering with nearly 100 community groups, and contributing more than \$325,000 each year in sponsorships and donations to help local pets in need. Their Benson's Cares initiative also supports spay/neuter services and pet wellness clinics, helping hundreds of families keep their animals healthy and safe.

Guests were touched by stories of transformation—like Porter, a chocolate lab once surrendered to APF who's now thriving as the Wish Dog for Make-A-Wish Vermont & Northeast New York. Porter and his adopter, James, joined us at the event, showing how love and trust can lead to a beautiful new beginning.

Thanks to the generosity of our guests, sponsors, and community partners, the 2025 Fur Ball raised approximately \$240,000 to support rescue, medical care, and second chances for animals across our region.

It was truly a night filled with heart, hope, and happy tails—proof of what we can accomplish together for pets in need.

Make your Fund-A-Need gift today and help create more happy endings for animals who need us most. Visit www.animalprotective.org/furball today or scan the QR code to give.



UPCOMING EVENTS



APF Pet Calendar Photo Contest: Save the Date!

Get ready for the **2027 APF Pet Calendar Photo Contest**, kicking off in **February 2026**! Every pet entered gets included in a special collage just for registering—and your votes help support our furry friends at the Animal Protective Foundation.

How it works:

- **\$1 per vote:** Each donation counts as a vote for your favorite pet.
- **Win a Month:** The Top 5 Dogs, Top 5 Cats, and Top 2 Other Pets will each win a month in the calendar.
- **Cover Star:** The pet with the most votes will appear on the cover!

Every vote helps our shelter animals receive the care, love, and support they need. Don't miss this chance to show off your pet and make a difference.

Visit www.animalprotective.org/news-events to learn more and get ready to enter!



Banjo's Second Chance at Happiness

Eight-month-old Banjo came to the APF with his two brothers after their owner surrendered them from an accidental litter. Having only ever known their home, the trio arrived shy, scared, and unsure of the world around them. For Banjo, everything felt overwhelming—new people, new sounds, even new spaces.

That's where the Animal Protective Foundation's compassionate staff and volunteers stepped in. With patience, understanding, and plenty of cheese treats, our team worked gently to earn Banjo's trust. Volunteers spent time sitting quietly with him, offering comfort and encouragement until he was ready to come out of his shell. Slowly but surely, Banjo's goofy, affectionate personality began to shine through. He discovered a love for stuffed animals and quickly proved himself to be a lap dog at heart.

Banjo was adopted once but returned when his fearfulness became too much for his first family to manage. But the APF team never gave up on him. They continued to help him build confidence and prepare for his next chance at a loving home.

The second time truly was the charm—Banjo met a wonderful family with another dog, and the connection was instant. His new canine sibling helped him feel safe and supported, and today Banjo is thriving—happy, confident, and surrounded by love.

Banjo's journey is a beautiful reminder of how compassion, teamwork, and time can change a life forever.



Pippi's Progress: From Pup to Community Hero

When Pippi first began her classes with the APF Canine Academy, she was a bright and eager pup—but she had her challenges. She was unsure around strange dogs, struggled to stay focused in busy places, and had a tendency to wander. But with time, patience, and structured training, something incredible began to happen.

Today, Pippi is not just well-trained, she's transformed.

"She is the best!! She is so smart and brings so much joy, not only to us, but the disabled and elderly people I work with!" her owner shares proudly. Once uncertain around other dogs, Pippi now walks calmly in public spaces—"She got over strange dogs in public"—and she thrives in environments where people need her the most.



She's more than a pet; she's a quiet companion for seniors and a steady presence for those with disabilities. Her gentle nature brings smiles wherever she goes. At home, her loyalty shines even brighter. "She loves her kitty sister too," her family laughs. "She's doing GREAT off leash. She stays right with us."

Pippi's story is just one of many. The Canine Academy doesn't just train dogs—it builds bridges between animals and the communities they serve. With each class, dogs like Pippi learn more than commands; they learn how to be a source of calm, connection, and joy.

Debo's Story: Proof That Love Heals

When Debo first arrived at the Animal Protective Foundation, he was terrified. After being surrendered by his previous owner, we learned he had spent most of his life alone in a basement. He didn't trust people and shied away from every touch.

But thanks to the patience and dedication of our staff and volunteers—and a steady supply of Churu treats—Debo began to realize he was safe. He was visited multiple times a day, spoken to softly, and offered love without expectation. Over time, his fear melted away, revealing the affectionate, gentle cat hiding underneath.



Then came the best part: Debo found his perfect match. His adopter recently shared this wonderful update: "He is a sweet, cuddly little boy who loves his treats and loves to snuggle." From a scared cat who couldn't be touched to the world's best lap cat—Debo's transformation is nothing short of remarkable.

Stories like his are possible because of people like you. When you become a monthly donor, you give cats like Debo the time, care, and love they need to heal. Your steady support ensures that every pet who walks through our doors has a chance at their own happy ending.

Become a Monthly Donor Today

Your recurring support provides:

- Lifesaving medical care for pets in critical need
- Daily care and nourishment for shelter animals
- Lifelong hope for pets waiting for their forever homes

Sign up to be a Monthly Donor and save lives today.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a lasting difference. Together, we can give more pets a second chance—because no animal should have to face the world alone.

