

animal crackers

Fall Newsletter 2022



**Mt. Pleasant
Animal Shelter**

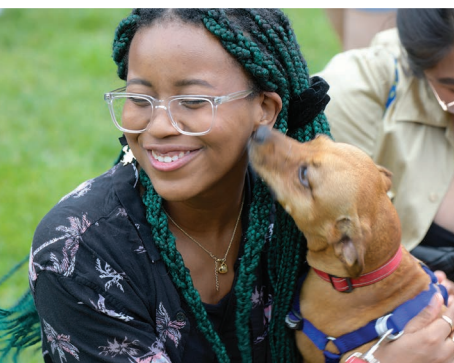
www.njshelter.org

Second Annual PET PALOOZA AND FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL



On June 11, Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter (MPAS) hosted our second annual Pet Palooza and Food Truck Festival. Presented by Autosport Acura of Denville and in partnership with Mega Bite Events, this was a fun-filled event featuring a vendor market, food trucks, live bands, games, and, let us not forget, the pets! Proceeds from the event supported animals in need of care at MPAS.

About 2,000 attendees joined us with their family pets to enjoy an obstacle course, fashion show, and a command contest. We look forward to seeing everyone next year!



YOU MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Dear Mt. Pleasant Community,

At Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter (MPAS), we strive to build a community committed to eliminating the occurrence of abused, neglected, and homeless animals. MPAS was founded in 1972 and moved to our facility in East Hanover in 1987. For 50 years we've been committed to our mission.

To celebrate our amazing community of supporters, MPAS hosted a 50th Birthday Celebration. Families and friends came to the shelter to celebrate with a DJ, carnival games, food, and more. It was a beautiful day to show our appreciation.

With your support, we are excited to see what the next 50 years will bring. We have transitioned to a community-centric animal welfare model. In this newsletter, you will read articles that display our commitment to the community. MPAS is actively building long-term relationships with people and organizations in our network to improve animal care. Additionally, one of our key goals is to increase our capacity so we can better provide care, services, and resources for our dogs and cats.

The MPAS team has been hard at work as animals continuously pass through our doors. We are highly focused on communicating and working together to perform at the highest level. The team especially looks forward to transport days, where we bring new faces from struggling shelters to MPAS. We choose animals to intake that are at risk of euthanasia or have an illness that has been neglected. Once medically healthy, our dogs enter a behavior modification program that addresses

undesired behaviors and mental health. As a Fear Free Shelter, we aim to reduce the fear, stress, and anxiety that our animals face. To that end, we have amazing fosters to look after animals until they find their forever homes, removing the stress of shelter life. The length of stay for animals at the shelter has also reduced in recent years. Research shows that long-term stays at a shelter can be detrimental to an animal's wellness, so this reduction in length of stay is a huge success.

In the coming years, we hope to expand the impact of MPAS. The MPAS Board and management have hired a consultant to assess our current property and provide insight into the best option for our future. As we forge ahead with the dream to save even more animals, we continue to be community-centric, build long-term relationships, and increase our resources and capacity for care. Thank you for your continued support that makes all this possible.

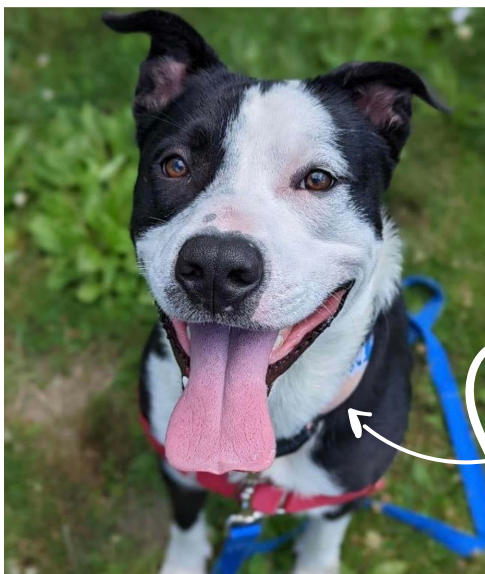
With gratitude,



Lorri Caffrey
Executive Director



Henry Ristuccia
Board of
Directors President



Saving AT-RISK LIVES

Scotty is just
one of the dogs
rescued from this
transport.

Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter has again had the opportunity to partner with Pilots to the Rescue to save twelve dogs and puppies from a tragic fate. Some suffered from treatable illness, while others were just lingering in a system that euthanizes for lack of space. Days away from certain death, these animals' lives were saved.



MPAS Executive Director, Lorri Caffrey, teaching the Verona Girl Scout Troop about kittens.

REACHING OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter (MPAS) is proud to be building a community to save neglected and homeless animals. It is with the support of our community that we can strengthen animal welfare at MPAS.

In June, Verona Girl Scout Troop 20636 visited our shelter. They met with our Behavior and Enrichment Manager to learn about dog body language. They also learned about kitten season and how important fosters are when there is an increase in animals at the shelter. The Verona Girl Scout Troop generously brought donations with them. **It is with community events like this that we can share the importance of animal welfare.**

At the same time, MPAS staff is continuously inspired by the passion and altruism of young changemakers, like those of Verona Girl Scout Troop 20636. If you are interested in having a school, corporate, or club group visit MPAS, reach out to us at 973.386.0590!

In May, our shelter also took in almost a dozen kittens that had upper respiratory illness and Ringworm. The organization where they were located did not have the resources to treat them. They would have been euthanized had we not stepped in to treat them.

When we have the resources to rescue animals from struggling shelters, we do so with the goal of saving more lives and strengthening the animal welfare community.

GuideStar: PLATINUM STATUS

Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter (MPAS) believes in complete transparency with its financial information. GuideStar allows users to search through millions of non-profits to gather insights on financials, staff and leadership, the organization's mission, etc.

GuideStar awards Seals of Transparency, of which there are four ratings, to demonstrate the level of transparency an organization has with its donors. Organizations earn Seals of Transparency by contributing information about their mission, staff and leadership, programs, goals, and more.

MPAS is proud to announce that we now hold a Platinum Seal of Transparency with GuideStar (the highest rating).

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

**With your support,
we have been able
to rescue over 250
animals in just the past
few months.**

IMPROVING ENRICHMENT AND BEHAVIOR AT MPAS

Just like people, each animal experiences its own challenges. We often do not know what our animals' behavioral challenges are until we spend time with them after they arrive at the shelter. Behavioral challenges can be a barrier to finding a home. However, Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter (MPAS) believes **there is a family for each animal, despite behavioral challenges.** The Behavior Modification Program (BMP) is a treatment approach to change undesirable behaviors exhibited by individual dogs at MPAS. This program addresses a broad range of issues and is designed to meet the needs of each dog.

Screening our dogs through temperament testing is the first step, enabling us to determine each dog's needs and personality. Through the BMP, dogs receive one-on-one training to address their needs. From puppies to senior dogs residing in our shelter, we provide the best training possible to help them prepare for their new lives. Whether a dog is in our program for one week or one month, each receives reinforced training throughout their stay at MPAS.

Not only does the BMP provide our dogs with skills, but it also increases their enrichment while at the shelter. The BMP gives our dogs the opportunity to exercise their minds and bodies.

By utilizing the BMP and training daily with our shelter dogs, even more animals get adopted. Staff can help prospective adopters choose a pet that complements their lifestyle. We see happier adoptive families and a reduction of returns to the shelter.



PAYING IT Forward

Between 5 and 25% of people experiencing homelessness have pets. We must consider animal companionship when working with people who have housing instability or food insecurity. **While there can be barriers to keeping a pet, we envision lifelong pet guardianship when someone adopts.** The Pet Food Pantry project will allow low-income families to provide food and comforts to their pets and ultimately retain them.

Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter has started a donation program. Often, we will receive food or comforts (toys, bedding, and blankets) that we cannot use at the shelter. However, we recognize that food waste and insecurity are major problems in New Jersey and around the country, so we pay it forward. We donate food, toys, bedding, and blankets to several food banks. Within the first two weeks of this program, we distributed over 700 pounds of food. Currently, we are donating approximately 250 pounds of food a week.

We are distributing materials to three shelters in Essex county: East Orange Animal Alliance, Human Needs Pantry of Montclair, and AAHS Newark. We hope to expand our program throughout Morris county as well. Support from donors like you helps us increase the amount of food we can donate.

Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter
194 State Route 10 West
East Hanover, NJ 07936
973-386-0590

ADOPTION HOURS:
Daily: 11 AM to 4 PM

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

Stay connected with us and see how your gift is helping

