



Dear Friends,

Here at DCSPCA, we are committed to improving the lives of animals, and through them, bringing joy and enrichment to the lives of people. It's an ongoing project—we'll never stop trying to improve on what we do. I would like to tell you a bit about some of the changes that you'll soon see at DCSPCA, and what we hope to achieve by them.

- **Improved medical care for animals.** This requires moving our clinic from our old building to the adoption center and having full-time vets and vet techs on staff. We will be able to enhance the veterinary care for both shelter animals and for the public.
- **A fairer and more humane adoption policy.** Soon, adoptions will require a 24-hour hold on the animal (you can pick him/her up the next day). This is in keeping with the best practices of many shelters throughout the country. This policy will allow the animal to have a final medical examination before it leaves. The adopters will have the time to set up whatever is needed in their home, and there will be enough time for DCSPCA and the adopter to ask questions and get information. Our hope is that this will maximize the chances for a successful adoption. DCSPCA realizes that not all adoptions work out and animals should definitely be returned if the adopter believes it will not be successful for any reason at all. Our goal is to try to the best of our ability to make sure a forever home has the best chance of being truly forever. Under special conditions, same-day adoptions will still be granted.
- **Giving every dog a chance.** We are investing in progressive behavior modification techniques for dogs and working with partner organizations that specialize in dog handling and temperament evaluation. We want to ensure that every dog gets every chance possible to become an adoptable pet. For us at DCSPCA euthanasia is the last and final resort. It should be considered only when an animal is so sick that its quality of life is gone, or when after every possible step has been taken to improve its behavior, including a thorough evaluation by canine experts, it still presents a danger to the public. We will do our best to find an alternative for it in a trusted sanctuary or organization that specializes in caring for such impaired animals. We believe, however, that if a dog faces a life in an isolation kennel with no contact from humans or other dogs, that may not be a life at all and therefore not a humane solution.
- **Expansion of the Humane Law Department.** We are re-staffing our humane law department in order to provide fuller and more efficient coverage for the entire county. As the only animal organization in the county that is chartered to provide humane law enforcement, it is our intention to ensure that any animal that is abused or neglected is rescued and provided with safe haven, and that the abusers are prosecuted.
- **Transparency and fiscal responsibility.** DCSPCA must operate according to the best practices of fiscal responsibility and transparency. Because we are an independent charity and not an affiliate of the ASPCA nor a government agency, we rely on community support and individual donations. We must see to it that overhead remains small and dollars contributed to us go directly to the benefit of the animals in our care.

I hope you will join with us making DCSPCA the best possible service organization for the animals and people of Dutchess County!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Meloccaro', written in a cursive style.

Lynne Meloccaro
Executive Director