

# The Companion

June  
2024

## Olive's Remarkable journey to love

When Olive arrived at the emergency hospital, she was in bad shape. Her body temperature was so low that it didn't even register on the thermometer. Olive was skin and bones, severely anemic, and her blood sugar levels were dangerously low. The doctors worked quickly to help her, giving her a blood transfusion and closely monitoring her. They hoped it wasn't too late.

Our Humane Law Officers and veterinary team documented Olive's condition. The bite marks, pressure sores, and broken teeth told a heartbreaking story of the cruelty she had endured.

At MHHS, we put Olive on a special diet and carefully watched her glucose levels. Her recovery was challenging and she gave us some scares. But Olive thrived on the love and care she received. After several months, we stabilized her diabetes, and she was ready for a home.

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MOHAWK HUDSON  
**HUMANE  
SOCIETY**

# A Message from the CEO



**Ashley and adoptable Jaxon get friendly.**

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Making sure every furry friend gets the love they deserve takes skill, kindness, and our community's incredible support. We're proud of our 93% live release rate. At MHHS, we strive to give each animal every opportunity to find a home that's right for them.

Through medical care and behavior and enrichment work, our goal is quality of life. If an animal is in distress and all medical options have been explored, or if they are dangerous, we will humanely euthanize. We won't let them suffer.


For animals like Olive, who were severely abused, we work with trusted veterinary partners for specialized care. Olive's strength amazed us, and she's now happy and loved dearly by her family.

Cats like Averill, who arrive too scared to handle, aren't forgotten. We give them time and patience, believing they can heal from past traumas.

As people's lives and families change, we help them understand their pets' feelings. Our training for new parents helps create a harmonious home filled with love.

Your support makes it all possible. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Ashley Jeffrey Bouck  
CEO, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society

- **Through medical**
- **care and behavior**
- **and enrichment**
- **work, our goal is**
- **quality of life.**

## Our Values

**COMPASSION**



We foster a kind and gentle environment for animals and people.

**ADVOCACY**



We create community partnerships to educate, protect, and prevent cruelty to animals.

**RESPECT**



We acknowledge and value each person's contribution to our organization.

**EXCELLENCE**



We cultivate organizational quality and innovation.

**STEWARDSHIP**



We are accountable for all resources entrusted to us to ensure our future.





**Matt and Sydney are making up for all the love Olive never had.**

## Olive's Story *continued*

Sydney and Matt discovered Olive's video on our website. Her joyful personality told them she was special. Her awkward gait and head tilt captured their hearts. Learning about Olive's painful past, they knew they had to meet her. They wanted to make up for all the love she had missed.

Our vet staff guided Sydney and Matt through the details of Olive's care, especially managing her lifelong diabetes. Olive gets insulin twice a day and needs regular blood glucose checks. Sydney has learned to recognize the signs of when Olive's sugar might be off.

"Now I can tell if she has high glucose. She might start panting or drinking and peeing more. She loves walking, so if it's high, a walk will help lower it," says Sydney.

Despite being mostly blind due to diabetes, Olive explores her world with enthusiasm! Though she only sees shadows, she never misses a beat, using her nose to meet new people and discover new things.

Sydney describes Olive as the dog she always wanted — sweet, cuddly, and playful. Their only regret? Not finding her sooner.

As for Olive's abuser, our Humane Law Enforcement team, collaborating with Albany Police, gathered enough evidence to execute a search warrant and seize a second dog. That person was charged with felony aggravated cruelty to animals and is serving a jail sentence for this and other crimes.

**Your generous support not only saved Olive but also helped us hold her abuser accountable. With your care and compassion, stories like Olive's can come full circle — from rescue to healing to the safety and love of the families they so deserve.**

## From Hiss to Kiss: Averill's amazing change

Averill came from a house with many cats all living in very poor conditions. At MHHS, he lived in our Spirit Cat room with other shy felines. Like Averill, many cats from these situations haven't experienced much attention or love from people. To gain their trust and help ease their fear, our staff and volunteers read to them and offer treats.

Marisol met Averill and she had everything he needed: a calm home, experience with shy cats, and another cat friend. **"I was drawn to him because he just looked tired and ready for love. I live with my senior cat and we enjoy our quiet time,"** she said.

At first, Averill hissed when he met Marisol. With a few treats, she won him over. That's when she knew it would be a match. Now, Averill is a different cat.

"He is an absolute lover boy! He loves demanding pets, zooming around the apartment, and playing with every toy he owns. He follows his new sister around and even gives kisses," says Marisol.

Our team celebrates these brave kitties for all they've overcome. We're proud of Averill and grateful to his adopter and everyone who supports our mission to transform lives.



**Time and patience has transformed shy Averill into a love bug!**

# Prepping Pups for babies and toddlers

Kids and pets go hand in paw! But introducing your furry friend to a new baby takes planning.

Dacia Proper wears many hats: dog trainer, foster volunteer, and children's physical therapist. However, when she became a mom, she realized there was more to learn. She discovered Family Paws, a program that teaches dog and baby/toddler dynamics, child development stages, and how these changes affect family dogs.

To help more new families, Dacia became a parent educator and teaches two online courses.

**"Dogs and Storks" helps parents prepare their dogs for a new baby.** Familiarizing your pup with baby things, such as strollers, will make them less scary as they become part of everyday life. There are many



Dacia's daughter Pari, pictured with her dog Frankie, is already learning dog body language.



Liberty tells DJ and Maddox, "I want more!"

ways for your dog to get comfortable with being around their human sibling without direct contact.

**"Dogs and Toddlers" focuses on safe play as babies become mobile.** As kids grow, families can do more enrichment activities together. The program encourages kids to become "doggy detectives" by helping them use descriptive words to understand behavior, such as "the dog's tail is down because he is nervous."

Our goal? Keep families together during change. We're also teaching the next generation to treat dogs with care and respect from the start.

Learn more at [mohawkhumane.org/dog-training](http://mohawkhumane.org/dog-training).

## The animals need faithful friends, like you

When you join Faithful Friends, you become a hero for animals.

Recurring gifts are like magic for our furry friends. They keep things stable and help us provide nutritious meals, expert vet care, and more. Imagine the joy your ongoing support brings: hearts healing, tails wagging, and happy purrs and barks. It also helps families find their perfect animal companions.

Joining is quick, easy, and powerful. In just a few minutes, you'll start making an even bigger difference for animals in need. Plus, you're in control. You can change or stop your gift anytime you want.

Ready to be a part of something amazing? Visit us at [mohawkhumane.org/faithful-friends](http://mohawkhumane.org/faithful-friends) or give us a call at 518-434-8128 ext. 208. Let's make the world a better place for our furry pals!



### mission

Transforming the lives of animals and people through partnerships, protection, and hope.

### contact us

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518-434-8128

To learn more about MHHS and ways to help, please visit

[mohawkhumane.org](http://mohawkhumane.org)

