



PRESS RELEASE

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Honoring the best friends of man's best friend: KVIS to present Canine Rescue Awards

Kenmore, NY – They give of themselves tirelessly to help animals who need it ... and now the Kenmore Village Improvement Society is preparing to honor the rescue organizations who do so much to assist the area's canine population.

The idea for the first WNY Canine Rescue Awards, which will take place May 8, was born from KVIS' Dog Days of Kenmore event, an annual celebration of all things canine now in its fifth year. Along with pet-based business exhibitors, contests and entertainment, the event includes the opportunity for rescue organizations to showcase their mission.

KVIS President Melissa Foster said organizers learned so much about the dedication and passion of those who run these groups that they wanted to do more to recognize them. Rescue groups, she said, show the heart of a community.

"The work that these rescues do is so important," Foster said. "It's not just important for rescue dogs. It's important for who we are as a society."

Representatives from about 60 organizations from throughout the region, from Chautauqua County to Niagara County and even Ontario, Canada, have been invited to the celebration in their honor, during which each will receive a special award.

One of the organizations will be Hope Before Heaven & A Home Till Heaven, based in Niagara County and founded by Linda and Gary Hepler in honor of their late sheltie, Aasha. The Heplers' goal is to try to ensure no dog or cat is euthanized due to an owner's inability to pay for emergency medical care.

"It's nice to be recognized," Linda Hepler said. "We love everything we do, and we can't do it without the help of everyone in the community. Without the community, we would be nothing."

The WNY Canine Rescue Awards will take place at 6:30 p.m. May 8 at Banchetti by Rizzo's, 550 N. French Road, Amherst.

For more information on KVIS, call KVIS President Melissa Foster at 877-0477, visit the KVIS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KenmoreVillage or email melissa@villageofkenmore.com.