

## Saratoga Springs girl wins SPCA children's poster contest

July 1, 2011

SARATOGA, NY — Catherine Bergan, an 8-year-old from Saratoga Springs, is the winner of the 2011 Be Kind to Animals Poster Competition sponsored by the Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Printed adaptations of Bergan's entry will be displayed throughout the community to advertise the second annual Wags and Whiskers Family Fun Fair on July 9 at Mabee Farm in Rotterdam Junction.



Catherine will attend the fair as an honorary guest to receive her prize. She is an avid animal lover who just finished second grade at Caroline Street Elementary School in Saratoga Springs. Catherine also won \$400 worth of art or classroom supplies for her teacher, Miss Carnevale, and her fellow classmates. The contest was underwritten by the law firm Tully Rinckey.

The SPCA poster contest was intended to raise awareness and open conversations about animal welfare.

The organization understands that animal abuse can be a predictor of future violent criminal behavior and that early detection can lead to effective intervention. As well, the SPCA recognizes that programs promoting empathy and compassion can redirect or rehabilitate offenders.

The SPCA offers no-cost humane education programs to schools and other community organizations. These programs examine the impact that our personal and cultural choices have on other people, animals and the environment.