



Welcome to Pedaling4Paws

At 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday June 21, 2011, cyclists left West Chester Pennsylvania for a 485 mile trip through 7 counties in Pennsylvania and 5 counties in New York. They arrived at the Canadian border in Ogdensburg New York on the afternoon of June 25th. The ride benefited SPCAs and other animal rescue organizations located along the route.

Why Pedaling4Paws?

In what started as an idea to ride a bike to the Canadian border, Mike Van Ryn and Viktor Ohnjec, members of the West Chester Cycling Club cycled the same route in late June 2009. They didn't plan to make the ride a charity event but Mike's brother offered to contribute \$1 per mile to the Chester County SPCA. From that point forward the ride took on a life of its own. The two approached Ellen Zadoff, a fellow cyclist and avid animal lover / cycling advocate and great organizer. Word spread to the local community and donations started to come in. By September, the Chester County SPCA was presented with checks totaling over \$2000 from the money collected on behalf of the ride.

In 2010, the ride expanded to cover 16 SPCAs and animal shelters between West Chester, PA and Ogdensburg, NY. The theme became, "Ride Locally, Donate Locally, Benefit Locally" as local bike clubs and businesses along the way were invited to join Pedaling4Paws. A website (www.pedaling4paws.org) and blog (<http://pedaling4paws.wordpress.com>) were established. During the ride, the blog was updated almost every 2 hours. Donations were accepted via cash, check or online and donors specifically chose where to send their money. From the initial \$2000.00 collected in 2009, the donations grew to well over the \$5000.00 – the 2010 target set by organizers. Zadoff coordinated the various SPCAs and shelters as well as much of the behind-the-scenes activities, Van Ryn moved to NY state for a new job, and Ohnjec remained in West Chester and updated the routes, the accommodations and planned breaks. The three worked well as a team and found many other riders who were willing to join some or all of the ride.

How did people get involved?

There were several ways for people to participate in Pedaling4Paws and many did more than just one of the following:

- Join the ride for all or some portion of the ride
- Met riders along the way - see the day-by-day route (to ride or to cheer them on)
- Create your own cycling and animal loving event to collect locally
- Find companies in your area that can be a collection point for donations. Restaurants, banks, grocery stores – any high frequency location – works great!
- Donated to their local SPCA or animal shelter of choice
- Sponsored the ride directly or through their company
- Publicized the ride with fliers in local businesses and bike clubs / animal advocacy groups
- Followed the ride via the <http://pedaling4paws.wordpress.com/> blog

Media Coverage

Pedaling4Paws became well documented in both 2009 and 2010 as local newspapers, television stations and radio stations contacted the riders for coverage about the journey. Some of the coverage can be found at



2009 Coverage:

[Cyclists ride 4 days to Ogdensburg](#)

Watertown Daily Times 6/27/09

[Local cyclists pedaling for paws](#)

Daily Local News 7/16/09

http://mikeandviktor.blogspot.com/2009_06_25_archive.html

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiRA-QQjN2g>

http://www.gpseg.org/pdf/PR_GPSEG_biking_release_6-24-09.pdf

2010 Coverage:

[Top Animal Rescue Blogs – Winners](#)

Online University 8/15,2010

[Pedaling 4 Paws raises money for SPCA](#)

YNN 6/26/2010

[Pedaling4Paws](#)

Times News 6/24/2010

[How to help](#)

Reading Eagle 6/23/2010

[Pedaling 4 Paws all the way to Canada](#)

Reading Eagle 6/23/2010

[West Chester Cyclists ride to Canada for animals \(Video\)](#)

Daily Local news 6/22/2010

[Pedaling4Paws Stops in Berks County](#)

WFMZ-TV 6/22/10

[Blogging a bike ride to Canada](#)

Daily Local News 6/22/2010

[Pedaling4Paws heads to the Canadian border](#)

The Mercury 6/17/2010

[Cyclists raising awareness for animal rescue](#)

Times News 6/17/10

[Pedaling 4 Paws June 24th](#)

NY Nonprofit Executive Directors Network, 6/24/2010

[Cyclists plan ride to help SPCAs](#)

Daily Local News 6/16/10

[465-Mile Bike Journey To Raise Money for Local SPCA](#)

The Journal 6/10/10

[2010 Pedaling4Paws Press Release](#)

6/1/10

[Pedaling4Paws on Facebook](#)

Media links no longer available:

[Penn's Peak Radio](#) interviews on 6/22/2010 (Afternoons with Casey Parker) and 6/23/2010 (Office Party with Layne "The Doctor" Roberts).

[ABC6 - WPVI](#) , Philadelphia – Action News coverage of Pedaling4Paws departure from West Chester.



[Blue Ridge 13 Television](#) – Coverage of Pedaling4Paws as it visits Carbon County Friends of Animals on 6/23/2010

[Action News 12 – WBNG](#) – Coverage of visit to The Humane Society in Binghamton, NY on 6/24/2010.

The Route:

At a glance, the route appears to head straight north until Watertown, NY and then north east to Ogdensburg, NY. The PA portion is shown on the far right.

In reality, the ride meanders east and west while heading north to ensure riders have a safe route but also to allow for visiting of selected animal shelters along the way. Those familiar with bike routes would see large overlaps with PA Bike Route L while in Pennsylvania and NY Bike Route 7 and 11 while in New York.

The route can be summarized as:

- * 483.5 miles
- * 96.7 miles per day, average (62 shortest, 123 longest)
- * 18,020' of climbing



Planned Stops and Tentative Times

Each day typically looks like this:

- 1) Wake up, eat breakfast, start rolling by 8:00AM
- 2) Stop for fluids and a nibble after about 2 hours (10:00AM)
- 3) Stop for lunch some time between noon and 1:00PM – 1 hour break
- 4) Stop for fluids and a nibble around 3:00PM
- 5) Stop for the day around 5:00PM or another quick break for liquids if a longer day requires it
- 6) Wash up, walk to restaurant for food, walk back and sleep



2010 Day-by-Day Ride and Media Summary

Day 1: West Chester to Lehighon, PA

(WC/Glenmoore/Birdsboro/Earlville/Topton/Mertztown/Pleasant Corners/Leighton)

<http://www.bikely.com/maps/bike-path/1-2010-West-Chester-to-Weissport-Leighton>

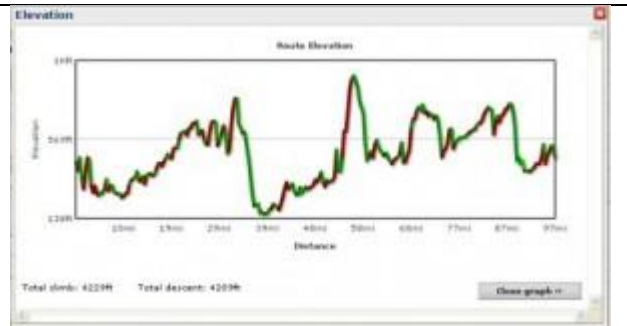
Breakfast: West Chester – Depart WC Borough Municipal Bldg with Chester County SPCA and Mayor Comitta. Media: ABC-6 TV, Daily Local News

Break: Birdsboro – Visit Animal Rescue League of Berks County; Media: TV (Channel 69) and Reading Eagle Newspaper

Lunch: Topton

Break: Pleasant Corners

Dinner: Lehighon – Media: Penns Peak Radio (Afternoons with Casey Parker)



* 100 miles

* 4547' of climbing

Day 2: Lehighon, PA to Union Dale, PA

(Lehighon/Jim Thorpe/Albrightsville/White Haven/Bear Creek Village/Moscow/Peckville/Jermyn/Carbondale/Forest City/Union Dale)

<http://www.bikely.com/maps/bike-path/2-Weissport-Leighton-to-Union-Dale>

Breakfast: Lehighon- Visit Carbon County Friends of Animal. Media: BlueRidge 13 TV and Times News

Break: Albrightsville, Media: Penns Peak Radio (Office Party radio show)

Lunch: Moscow or Peckville

Break: Carbondale

Dinner: Union Dale



* 103 miles

* 6707' of climbing



Day 3: Union Dale, PA to Skaneateles, NY

(Union Dale/Binghamton/Whitney Point/Marathon/Cortland/Skaneateles)

<http://www.bikely.com/maps/bike-path/3-Union-Dale-PA-to-Skaneateles-NY>

Breakfast: Union Dale

Break: Binghamton – Visit Humane Society

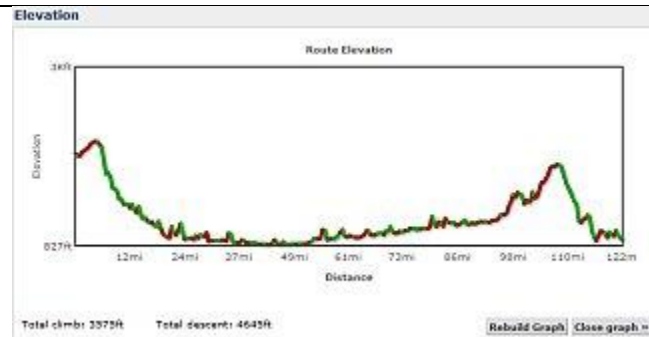
Binghamton, Media: Channel 12 (WBNG)

Lunch: Whitney Point

Break: Marathon

Break: Cortland

Dinner: Skaneateles



* 123 miles

* 3575 of climbing

Day 4: Skaneateles, NY to Watertown, NY

(Skaneateles/Syracuse/Brewerton/Pulaski/Watertown)

<http://www.bikely.com/maps/bike-path/Day-4-Skaneateles-NY-to-Watertown-NY>

Breakfast: Skaneateles- Visit sponsor Welch Allyn

and Finger Lakes SPCA of CNY

Break: Syracuse near the lake

Lunch: Pulaski

Break: Adams

Dinner: Watertown.



* 95.5 miles

* 1930 of climbing



Day 5: Watertown, NY to Ogdensburg, NY

(Watertown/Ogdensburg)

<http://www.bikely.com/maps/bike-path/5-Watertown-to-Ogdensburg-Border413286>

Breakfast: Watertown – Visit SPCA of Jefferson County. Media: YNN Television
 Break: Hammond
 Lunch: Ogdensburg- Visit St. Lawrence Valley SPCA; Media: Ogdensburg Journal



* 62 miles
 * 1261' of climbing

Participating SPCAs/Animal Shelters

Pennsylvania

<p>Chester County Chester County SPCA 212 Phoenixville Pike West Chester, PA 19380 610-692-6113 www.ccsPCA.org</p>	<p>Berks County Animal Rescue League of Berks County 58 Kennel Rd, Birdsboro, PA 610 373-8830 www.berksarl.org</p>	<p>Lehigh County Lehigh County Humane Society 640 Dixon St. Allentown, PA 18103 610-797-1205 www.lehighhumane.org</p>
<p>Carbon County Carbon County Animal Shelter 63 Broad Street Nesquehoning, PA 18240 570-325-4828 http://petfinder.com/shelters/PA80.html</p>	<p>Carbon County Friends of Animals 900 Walnut St. Jim Thorpe, PA 18229 570-325-9400 www.ccfoa.info</p>	<p>Luzerne County SPCA of Luzerne County 524 East Main Street Wilkes Barre, PA 18702 570-825-4111 www.spcaluzernecounty.org</p>
<p>Lackawanna County The Griffin Pond Animal Shelter 967 Griffin Pond Rd South Abington Twp, PA 18411 Phone 570-586-3700 Fax 570-586-4375 www.griffinpondanimalshelter.com</p>	<p>Susquehanna County Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals PO Box 485 Montrose, PA 18801 570-278-1228 www.pspca.org</p>	



New York

<p>Broome County Humane Society Binghamton 2 Jackson Street Binghamton, NY 13903 607- 724-3709 www.bchumanesoc.com</p>	<p>Front Street Dog Shelter 110 Cutler Pond Road Binghamton, NY 13905 607-778-2493 www.gobroomecounty.com/shelter/</p>	<p>Cortland County Cortland County SPCA 879 McLean Road Cortland, NY 13045 607-753-9386 www.cortlandspca.org</p>
<p>Cayuga County Finger Lakes SPCA of CNY 41 York Street Auburn, NY 13021 www.flspca.org</p>	<p>Onondaga County CNYSPCA Syracuse 5878 East Molloy Road Syracuse, NY 13211 315-454-4479 www.cnyspca.org</p>	<p>Oswego County Oswego County SPCA PO BOX 442 Fulton, NY 13069 315-592-5551 www.oswegospca.org</p>
<p>Jefferson County Jefferson County SPCA 25056 Water Street Watertown, NY 13601 315-782-3260 www.petfinder.com/shelters/jeffersonspca.html</p>	<p>St. Lawrence County St. Lawrence Valley SPCA 6718 State Hwy. 68 PO Box 594 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 315-393-5191 www.stlawrencevalleyspca.org</p>	

Cycling Clubs:

[West Chester Cycling Club](#) –Numerous members joined in riding the first morning, another group continuing the first day and a 3rd group riding two days and 2 members rode the entire distance.

[Brandywine Bicycle Club](#) – Two members rode the entire distance; others joined the first day.

[Berks County Bicycle Club](#) - based out of the Reading, PA area. Representatives joined us in the Birdsboro area and at the animal shelter. Will be organizing a local group in 2011.

[Penn State Cycling Club](#) – Invited and met with members in Topton area.

[Lehigh Wheelmen](#) – Contacted president.

[Southern Tier Bicycle Club](#) - These guys rock! STBC is based in the Binghamton area and they had people riding with us in 2009 and 2010. They posted Pedaling4Paws on their list of rides and rode with us from Binghamton to Marathon, NY in 2010 and up to Cortland in 2009!

[Onondaga Cycling Club](#) – This club is in and around the Syracuse area, and they posted Pedaling4Paws on the club’s listserv. We saw a number of members, albeit briefly due to work-week issues.

[Jefferson County Cycling Club](#) – Based in the Watertown, NY area, we were joined by various riders for brief periods both up to Watertown and towards Ogdensburg.

Corporations:

[Stillman Volvo](#) generously presented a red Volvo XC-60 as the official Pedaling4Paws vehicle. Ed Stillman rode with the group for the entire first day. The support was invaluable and the vehicle amazing!

[Welch Allyn](#) is hosting a breakfast on 6/25 at their headquarters and they donated a significant amount to the Finger Lakes SPCA. One of their senior managers rode with the group for 3 hours.

[Country Inn & Suites](#) in Leighton/Jim Thorpe and general manager Jennifer Leshner have been great



[The Vacation Inn](#) - in Union Dale, PA and owner Rocco Centonze were the first to come on board and helped with media in the area

Yves Dupont – our friend and fellow Pedaling4Paws collaborator based in the Ogdensburg, NY area, Yves once again allowed us to stay at his home and was with us for the Watertown to Ogdensburg leg and the visit to the St. Lawrence Valley SPCA.

Sponsorships

There were accommodations sponsors who either subsidized our overnight stays or who outright donated rooms for the riders. Food sponsors offered support with donated food and drink. Stillman Volvo presented Pedaling4Paws with a new Volvo XC-60 with full decals to support the ride. The vehicle followed riders all the way and was used to return the riders home. All other sponsorships were financial and the money received was redirected as donations to local SPCAs and animal shelters.



Posing with the Stillman Volvo (from left): Doug Atlas, Viktor Ohnjec, Gary Bianchini, Steve Petchon.
(Photo by Ed Stillman)