



A New Era Begins



Lisa Dennison, NHSPCA Executive Director, holds the building permit from the Town of Stratham prior to kicking off the groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, August 18.

The Campaign for Changing Times begins to take shape at the NHSPCA

By Brianne Wood

Director of Programs & Administration

As the oldest and largest animal rescue organization in New Hampshire, we have experienced firsthand the profound changes in the world of animal care and advocacy. For nearly 100 years, we were an “unsheltered” agency. We primarily worked out in our communities as a resource to prevent animal cruelty and neglect, especially for large animals.

More online

To learn more about the *Campaign for Changing Times*, please click [here!](#)

In 1976, our first animal shelter was built at our current site — 104 Portsmouth Ave. — in Stratham. In 2001, the ‘new’ Adoption Center

See **GROUNDBREAKING**, Page 3

A race against time

We met Winter when 20 small dogs and one bird were rescued from a neglectful situation. She came to us under-socialized and not comfortable with



Winter spent 29 days on the run before being trapped.

human contact. We knew upon her arrival that this sassy little lady had had a bit of a rough start. Shelter life can be scary. Imagine unexpectedly having to leave your home — the one place you knew for an extended period of time — and arriving at an unfamiliar place with unfamiliar people. Although these people have a whole lot of love and patience to give, animals don’t always know that at first. Sometimes, they’re just terrified.

That was the case for Winter, a nervous chihuahua —

See **WINTER**, Page 7

Twice the challenge, twice the love

By Courtney Vavra

Annual Fund & Digital Marketing Manager

2020 has been a difficult year so far. Our challenges feel doubled as we work to keep our essential staff safe during a global pandemic so we can continue to care for animals

Make a difference!

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that turn to us for help.

Despite the uncertainty of this year,

one thing remains sure: our dedication to helping innocent animals has never wavered.

A few short weeks into the government issued “Stay-at-Home Order”, local police called the New Hampshire SPCA for assistance with 20 dogs abandoned by their owner. They were discovered living in their own filth locked in cages. Our team rushed

MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY



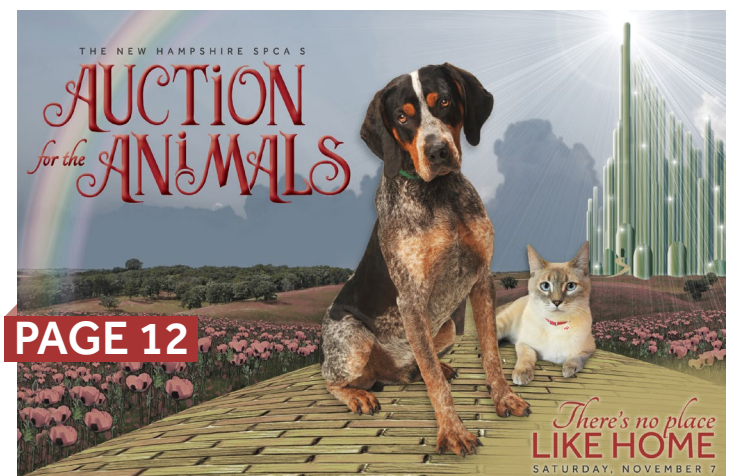
YES! I want my matching gift to go **TWICE AS FAR** to help animals!

them to the shelter for immediate care. Our medical staff administered medicine for untreated ear infections and trimmed their

See **TWICE THE LOVE**, Page 7

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Editor: Sheila Ryan | **Graphic Designer:** Melissa Mower

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Please pardon our appearance! It has begun! What has been seven years in the making has officially started!

Just a couple of weeks ago, a few of us gathered, masked and socially distanced, to pause and acknowledge the momentous occasion that was upon us — the start of the construction phase of our project — *the Campaign for Changing Times*. This was the culmination of many years of visioning, planning, strategizing, negotiating, and completing a campaign that engaged so many in our community with a vision for the future.

We celebrated the official Groundbreaking on August 18 — the start of a 13-month effort to create a more comprehensive campus that would serve many for generations to come.

Now areas are fenced, and construction vehicles abound. There are workers on the roof shingling and insulating and workers in newly dug trenches preparing footings and laying drainage pipes. The ground has been cleared in many areas as new drainage, driveways and additional parking is created. And, there are horses in the paddocks, dogs being walked, and cats dropped off for the day as a part of Spay/Neuter Clinic.

Please pardon our appearance as we improve the air ventilation systems in both buildings. This is work most will never see but we have all learned recently how critical it can be to good health — something we have understood in the sheltering environment and now expanding in all facilities.

The additional learning and multipurpose space being added will allow for so many to come, learn and explore all the marvels of our beloved pets. To share wonderful stories, talents and lessons and to celebrate and grow that common passion together.

Beginning in 2013, the board, staff and others created a strategic plan that outlined a path forward that included expanding our campus if possible, to serve more animals and people. The acquisition of our abutting properties over the next six years would provide a larger footprint for enhanced care of the animals we serve. There would be lovely walking trails for dogs, beautiful new paddocks for the horses, larger enclosures for training along and additional parking for all our clients and guests who visit.

Before the pandemic, the desire to include a pet in the family was important. Through the last six months, not only has that desire been magnified, the mental health benefits for those isolated or living alone have become abundantly clear. The com-



panionship of a pet — whether dog, cat, bird, rabbit etc. — provides a life to be shared; secrets told, love expressed, worries discussed. It gave purpose and we witnessed these precious relationships often.

This project includes the construction of a new wellness clinic for animals. Once this is operational, we will be able to provide more access to veterinary care for those whose pets mean the world to them but who may be financially challenged to provide basic care. We want families to have access to the necessary veterinary care for beloved pets. We will be able to help protect them, as has always been our mission: protection.

Caring for all companion animals is important and we will be able to provide support for those in need.

So, please pardon our appearance as we work side by side with contractors while continuing to support our community and the animals in need today. The construction has begun and while it is a bit noisier and messier, we remain open by appointment for many of our programs and services. We look forward to all of the exciting changes ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support and know that we wish each of you good health and comfort during these challenging times.

On behalf of the animals,

Lisa Dennison
Executive Director

New Hampshire Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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On August 18, we came together with some of the most prominent champions of *the Campaign for Changing Times* to officially break ground! Pictured above from left to right are: Paul Bonacci and Lucy Schlafler of ARQ Architects; Joshua Scott, Esq., President, NHSPCA Board of Directors; Ed Rimm, Project Manager for North Branch Construction; John W. Kellar, III of Kellar Associates; Joseph Campbell, President of North Branch Construction; David Choate, Chair of NHSPCA Properties Committee; Bill Richard, NHSPCA Board of Directors and Properties Committee Construction Liaison; Shanti Wolph and Tavis Austin, Town of Stratham CEO/Building Inspector and Town Planner, respectively; Karen Grover, Co-Chair, *Campaign for Changing Times*; Thomas W. Haas, *Campaign for Changing Times* Cabinet Representative; Joanne Lamprey, Co-Chair, *Campaign for Changing Times*; and Lisa Dennison, Executive Director, NHSPCA.

GROUND BREAKING...

Continued from Page 1

opened, 2003 brought the welcome addition of the Morris D. Lamprey barn, and finally, the Learning Center for Pets and People opened in 2004.

In 2013, the board and staff held a strategic planning session to set goals for the agency. Considerations at the time were our current services and what we anticipated the animals and the community needs would be in the future. It was a thought-provoking time.

We quickly realized there were some significant shifts to consider, and we needed to be prepared to adapt to continue to be the impactful and critical resource our community needs.

The past seven years have been an exciting and challenging road. We are thrilled that it is time to see this vision becoming a reality. The caterpillar is transforming into the butterfly as we move from [the Campaign for Changing Times](#) to the construction phase and *a New Era Begins* for the NHSPCA.

We celebrated this momentous occasion with the official groundbreaking on a beautiful sunny afternoon on August 18. While we would have loved to have invited all our donors, friends, supporters, etc., to join us at the groundbreaking, these times



Members of our staff join the construction team to celebrate the New Hampshire SPCA transitioning from the Campaign of Changing Times to a New Era Begins on August 18.

would not allow for it. With a small group of some of this project's most prominent champions, we cheered as shovels hit the ground, marking the start of something BIG!

The overwhelming generosity and support of our staff, friends, volunteers, donors, and the Town of

Stratham has been incredible. We thank you for all you have done to get us to this point and ask for patience and understanding as we undergo construction to enhance and expand our programs and services that will roll out to continue to support animals and people very soon.

Notes from the Barn

Francis' "pig" adventure

By Carrie Fyfe

Equine & Farm Animal Program Manager

It's not every day that you get a call about a stray potbellied pig who's been on the lam for over a week, but at the same time, it's not altogether unusual.

Over the years, the frequency of calls pertaining to loose or stray potbellies has increased. As the number of potbellies being purchased from breeders and discarded after outgrowing their homes keeps rising, we continue to see new potbellies arriving from odd circumstances.



Once little Francis became available for adoption, he and his best friend Lincoln were adopted together!

Take Francis, for instance. We received a call in early August from the Ossipee animal control officer about a stray potbellied pig who had taken up residence on a remote, old farm property. We packed up our gear and headed out to hopefully catch the potbellied-turned-"feral" pig.

Finding Francis proved a little complicated — at just 65-70 pounds and 12 inches tall, locating Francis in the tall grass was unexpectedly tricky. It wasn't until I heard a soft grunting sound behind me and saw a pair of tiny, brown eyes peering from around the corner of a chicken coop that I realized that little Francis was hiding from us — he was very afraid after being out on his own for many days.

When you think of a pig, your first thought is rarely how quiet and stealthy they are — but I am here to tell you, pigs are like silent ninjas when they are evading capture. Luckily for us, we caught Francis with the help of the PD and ACO in under an hour after a brief foot chase (cue the Cops theme song) and transported him back to our Stratham shelter.

Some scarring and sunburn on his back are really the only clues we have to Francis' trials and tribulations out in the wild. Although he's a bit skittish and unsure, Francis has begun to relax with the help of his pal, former stray pig Lincoln. We think Francis and Lincoln have a lot in common — who knows, maybe they swap stories of their time in the wild when their humans aren't looking.

Cheering for the underdog... or cat

By Melissa Mower

Marketing & Graphic Design Associate

The world can be a scary place for a cat who has no place to call home. Just last year, the New Hampshire SPCA took in close to 200 stray animals — animals who desperately needed help either finding their old family or a new one.

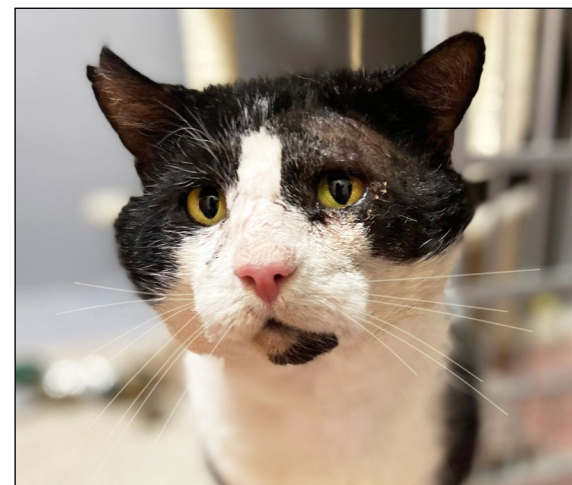
Dwayne Johnson — named by our Adoption Center staff due to his boxy, tough look — was brought to the shelter by a good Samaritan concerned about his health. Right away, we knew this guy had been struggling while fending for himself on the streets: his adorable face was covered in scars, he had a few fractured teeth, his eyes were painfully swollen, he had a heart murmur, and his 15-pound body was covered in fleas.

It appeared Dwayne had been on his own for quite some time, maybe even his entire life. We estimate him to be seven years old.

Right away, our medical staff conducted a thorough examination to determine what the best course of action was to get this guy feeling better in his own skin. During this exam, it was noted that he was fearful of humans, but he was charming and became comfortable enough to take treats and be petted. He was brought up to date on his vaccinations, was scheduled to be neutered, and our team determined a plan to fix his eye problems surgically.

Dwayne presented many signs that he was not feral and had received proper human socialization in the first three months of his life: He interacts with people, enjoys playing and petting, rubs up against people, comes running for treats, gives direct eye contact and slow blinks, and his body is loose when humans are present.

Our staff quickly enrolled him in Cat Pawsitive, a program created to help shelter cats experience reduced stress levels and build connections with



Dwayne Johnson has been recovering from what we believe has been many years on his own.

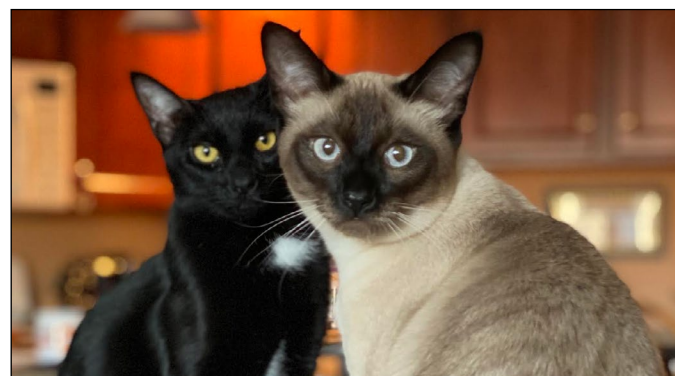
humans. Enrichment and positive-reinforcement training are especially crucial for this handsome fella's well-being because he will be recovering at the shelter for a while, given his condition.

Along with his medical improvements, it has been so rewarding to see a boost in Dwayne's confidence. Regardless of what happened to him in the past, he has welcomed our staff's help and companionship. This once-scared cat has quickly realized that humans are good, just like the treats they give him!

We're excited for the day when we can transition Dwayne Johnson into the next phase of his life once he's medically cleared. He deserves everything good that comes with a safe, secure, and loving home. If you think you could be the perfect family for this rugged guy, keep an eye on [our website](#), which is updated daily.

The world can be a scary place for a cat who has no place to call home. We're all cheering for this underdog — or cat — to never have to experience that type of fear again.

HAPPY TAILS

*Hope & Zoey*

Hope and Zoey have really grown into two beautiful girls. They pretty much own the place and allow Rosey (my dog) and I to share their domain. They are such a joy to watch and have kept me entertained throughout the pandemic.

— Linda

Helping more than just cats and dogs

By Beth Elliott
Adoption Counselor

Most people relate the NHSPCA to dogs, cats, and farm animals. However, we help many other species of animals as well, including small critters like rabbits, guinea pigs, gerbils, hamsters, mice, and every so often, feathered friends.

Most recently, we had the opportunity to assist with a case involving 12 trained racing pigeons in desperate need of care.

Although many think of these birds as city pests, pigeons are much more than that. Some are kept as pet birds; others are kept and sold as hobby racing pigeons. They are beautiful creatures with unique personalities. They love their flock and can spread calmness and peace through their gentle nature and beautiful sounds. Just hearing their soft cooing every morning could lower blood pressure and calm anxiety during this time of uncertainty and chaos.

These birds' story began when a local town's Animal Control Officer was notified that the caretaker of the flock — which was being housed in a shed at a storage facility — had become ill and could no longer care for them, leaving them in jeopardy. The officer notified our Humane Agent, and arrange-



In July, the NHSPCA assisted with a case involving 12 pigeons. Their owner became sick and could no longer care for them, and they were living in a storage shed. Since the rescue, the birds have been transported to a sanctuary in Vermont.

ments were made to remove them and transport them to the NHSPCA for housing and care.

It is unusual for us to have such a large number of birds needing our care, so we quickly had to find

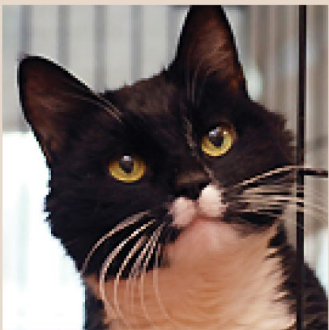
space to accommodate them. One of our cat-holding rooms soon became the "Pigeon Room." By retrofitting some of our portable cat cages, and other large bird cages normally used to house parrots, we managed to design appropriate housing for all 12 birds.

As one of the bird-lovers on staff, it soon became my job to provide their care. Through quiet interaction and a soft voice, I was able to soothe them into stepping up onto my hand, allowing me to handle some of them.

Since racing pigeons are unique and not trained to be pets, our plan was to transfer them to a sanctuary. Through the coordinated efforts of our staff, we were able to find placement at Vine Sanctuary in Vermont, a haven for animals that are often overlooked in the most common rescue efforts. After several weeks in our care, it was finally time to transport these beautiful birds to their new forever home. Two members from our Animal Care team carefully loaded them into our transport van and drove the many miles to deliver them to Vermont.

It is such a pleasure to know that by working together, we were able to allow these wonderful, sweet birds to live and fly in a flock. They're in their happy place, together and safe.

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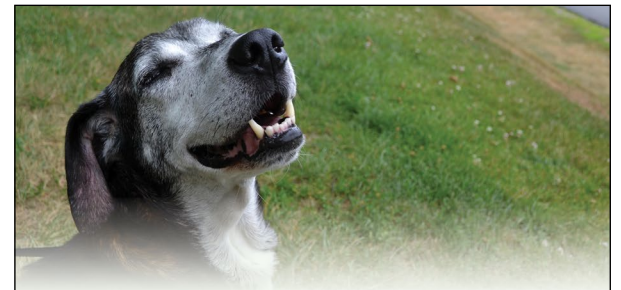
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NHSPCA
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Taking a leap of faith

By Felicia LeBlanc
Adoption Counselor

I believe that every staff member and volunteer have special animals that they will never forget. One that is near and dear to my heart is the adoption success of Sybil, who found her forever home in February 2020.

Sybil was a 4-year-old owner surrender who had a bit of a backstory before her arrival at the NHSPCA. She was originally rescued from a southern state and moved up to New England with her adoptive family. Although she was loved by her family, she was shaped by her past and was fearful of being alone. She also had digestive issues that made it hard for her to maintain weight.

When her family was unable to care for her any longer, she stole the hearts of staff and volunteers who cared for her here.

I got to know Sybil very well. She was loving and loyal towards her people but did not care for the company of other animals. She did not enjoy being left alone and would much rather spend her days getting attention and playing with her toys. We knew Sybil's behavior on top of her digestive issues would make it more challenging to find her the right home, but with time and patience, the special adopter would come to meet her.

One day near the end of February, a very nice woman came to the Adoption Center looking to adopt her first dog. She had always had cats before but was ready for the companionship only a canine could provide. She was looking for a dog

that may have been at the shelter for a while and was not having the best luck finding the perfect match. She was home most of the time and did not have any other animals.

Although she had never had a dog before, she was eager to learn how to properly transition a dog into her home and how to help that dog be the best they could be.

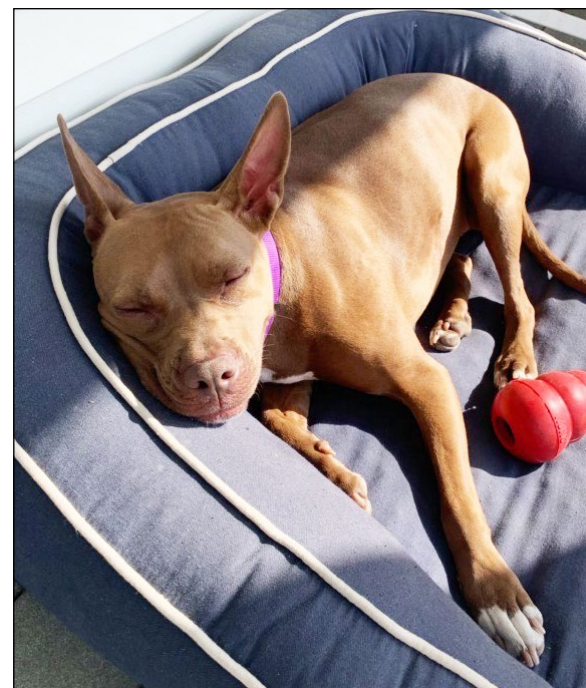
Sybil was the first to enter my mind. She was the underdog at the time and desperately needed an understanding adopter to give her a fighting chance.

The woman began visiting Sybil every day. During that time, she forged a bond with our girl to help ease her transition out of the shelter. She asked great questions about Sybil's behavior and was open to any tips on how to work on Sybil's confidence in the future. After almost a week, Sybil's adoption was finalized.

Sybil was not going to be the easiest dog to transition into a new home, but this first-time dog owner was fully prepared to take a leap of faith with Sybil into what we all hoped would be a bright future together.

It was an emotional day when Sybil walked out of the Adoption Center doors. I would certainly miss Sybil and the time we spent together, but was excited she had found an opportunity to live in a loving and nurturing home.

Thankfully, we have received wonderful updates on Sybil and her adopter, and the progress they have made together. Sybil has been working on being able to comfortably spend time home alone



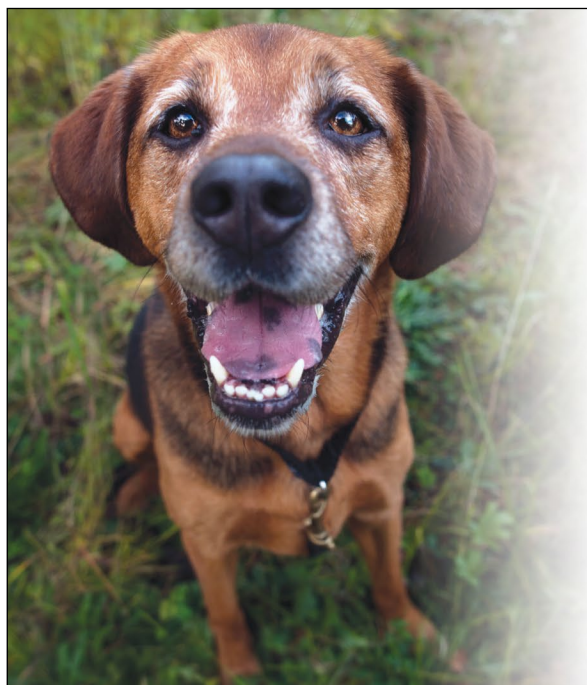
Sybil was a much-loved dog at the shelter despite her troubled past. Finding the perfect home for her proved challenging, but it was so worth the wait.

and how to not react when other dogs are nearby.

These are challenging behaviors to work through, but Sybil has been given the proper time and training to start overcoming her fears and anxieties.

I often find myself thinking about Sybil, and how the stars aligned for her and her adopter. This is one great example of the joys of adoption counseling, and to be able to find the best fit for both human and animal alike.

I am so thankful for being a part of Sybil's journey home.



Commemorative Gifts

We are so grateful for every gift received in support of the animals. Commemorative gifts are especially touching. Gifts to remember or honor a beloved family member, friend or pet or in celebration of a special life event, a birthday, wedding or promotion, are all very special to us. We are honored to be a part of your lives in this way.

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, we wanted to find a more permanent way to list these special gifts. We believe we've found a perfect way. Starting with this issue and going forward, we will be listing all commemoratives on a quarterly basis on our website. Those listing will reside there for at least a year and can be referred to at any time. Thank you for all you do for the animals.

[View Commemoratives](#)



TWICE THE LOVE...

Continued from Page 1

painfully overgrown nails. After we clipped away years of neglect from their coats, you could tell they felt so much better.

They felt safe, even in unsafe times.

An influx of 20 dogs, all with various medical/behavior issues, is complicated and stressful even in the most typical times. But having just made the hard decision to suspend our volunteer program temporarily, we were severely understaffed.

Turning these animals away was never an option. Instead, we faced the challenge head-on and did our best to provide these dogs a safe and loving place to heal. And then, when it became clear that we wouldn't be able to open the shelter for in-person adoptions, we quickly worked to develop a virtual adoption model that was safe and effective.



Right now, your gift can have double the impact, helping provide twice the love and support to animals in need like April, pictured above.

By mid-summer, all 20 dogs had found forever families.

We are so grateful for the support of our commu-

nity. We feel your support by our side, bolstering us, and guiding us through the most challenging times. Our essential work continues. Each day more desperate animals turn to us in need of rescue, crisis boarding, emergency food and supply assistance, veterinary care, and so much more.

It's only because of you that we are here for them.

The animals we help depend on generous people like you — that's why I'm urging you not to miss out on the opportunity to have your gift matched today. Jo Lamprey, former Board President and current Trustee, has stepped forward with a generous offer to match your gift dollar-for-dollar, up to \$20,000! Your gift will have double the impact, helping provide twice the love and support to the animals and essential staff at the New Hampshire SPCA. Please click [here](#) to make your matching gift before it's too late. This matching gift opportunity ends on October 31. Thank you so much.

WINTER...

Continued from Page 1

hua/miniature pinscher mix who was not quite sure of where she was. One thing she did know, though, was that she was fierce and determined. She reminded us of that daily.

We all knew this resilient girl deserved the best family in the world — one that would continue to show her what being loved felt like. Not too long after being made available, Winter was adopted by a lovely woman. We believe she scored precisely the type of home we imagined for her, one that came with a great support system.

One day, while scrolling through social media, we saw that there was a post with Winter's photo and "MISSING" in big, bold letters. It was hot and humid, and the days were long. We immediately started to worry about this sweet girl and quickly

created a plan: two to three times a day, we would go walk around the neighborhood, venturing deep into the woods in an attempt to leave our scents — scents that she knew and hopefully felt comforted by.

We set traps and even brought some of her dog friends to walk with us. Staff members spent their days off going and looking for hours for this 7-pound dog without a single sighting. We would hear of sightings from the community every once in a while, which kept our hearts hopeful and our confidence up.

This sweet little lady was a fighter.

We love and care about every animal that comes through our doors, and Winter was no exception. As a team, we had many sleepless nights. We spent every spare second talking about where we thought she was heading and brainstorming what else we could possibly do to get her home safe. We

tried to keep a positive mindset as we searched high and low for this little girl, but it wasn't always easy.

Worried was an understatement.

After a long, grueling, and heart-wrenching 29 days, we saw Granite State Dog Recovery had posted on their website that Winter was successfully trapped. She was finally heading back to her mom, who was beyond happy and relieved (as were we) that her little girl was safe.

Twenty-nine long days of searching, hoping, shedding tears, and refusing to give up on Winter. We were all able to wake up from this nightmare, and Winter was home. Finally.

We want to thank Granite State Dog Recovery for successfully trapping this thrifty little girl. We believed in her will to survive. Winter taught us a lot, and personally, I think she taught us all a little something from her will to survive.

Adoption
Angels

Do you want to help animals overcome their past and give them a chance at a new loving, forever home? **Then you should be an Adoption Angel!** Angels help the New Hampshire SPCA provide nourishing food, a warm cozy bed, necessary medical care, behavior modification and training when needed, and most importantly the time to recover, heal and find a home.

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How summer camp ended up in a box!

By Paula Parisi

Manager of Humane Education Programs

Back in April, when the NHSPCA summer camp registration opened, things were just starting to look and sound a little different in the world. The pandemic's effects were still unfolding, and the restrictions that followed left many events uncertain for the summer months, including our summer camp.

Typically a very successful program, many parents already had their children registered for summer camp; some were calling and emailing me to ask whether our plans had changed, what precautions we would be taking if we did have camp, and some even requested a refund due to circumstances that would make camp a safety concern.

It was a confusing time of watching daily news updates, health reports, and listening to the governor's press conferences while trying to figure out the best way to proceed with our summer plans.

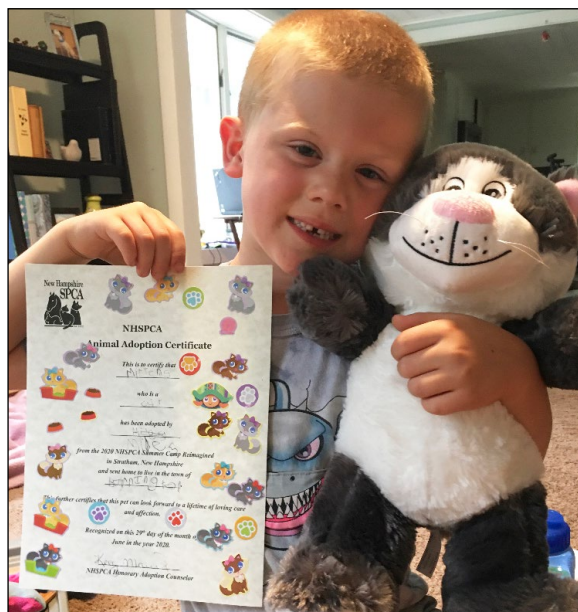
After much deliberation about whether or not we could make an in-person, onsite camp safe and comfortable for everyone involved, we reluctantly decided that we would not be offering camp onsite at the NHSPCA in the summer of 2020.

But we couldn't just do nothing, so we set about to reimagine summer camp!

I belong to an amazing organization, the Association of Professional Humane Educators, which is made up of educators from all over the world. When I turned to APHE, I found that I was not alone in my concern about summer programs. It was during an APHE Zoom meeting that I first heard the words "Camp-in-a-Box." I had no idea what that was or even what it would look like.

Once we decided to reimagine camp, "Camp-in-a-Box" became my whole life for nine weeks.

We decided to offer nine weeks of boxes, one per week, mailed or picked up at the NHSPCA. We also



We weren't able to welcome campers to the shelter this summer, so we brought camp to them! Our Camp-in-a-Box offered kids a chance to learn, play and create from the safety of their own home.

planned a weekly Zoom meeting for campers to ask questions and visit with some animals at the Adoption Center and from the classroom. Despite some technical difficulties, we worked through them and got to meet our campers every week online.

It was really fun to put a face to the names on the boxes! Even if we couldn't help but feel sad not to meet the campers in person.

We also provided a special video link made especially for campers. Various staff members helped by making videos for us. Among others, Linda Haley, Manager of Behavior & Training, taught the campers how to clicker train their pets; Julie Halama, Special Events and Sponsorship Manager, taught the campers how to do yoga animal poses;

Denise St. Onge, Farm Care Technician, introduced Buffy the rooster to the campers!

Then the real work began: we had to come up with nine weeks of activities to go in the boxes! We wanted the activities to teach humane lessons about animals *and* provide fun because that's what camp is all about!

We didn't know what to expect as to where the camp boxes would travel. We had many go to local cities and towns, but we also mailed some farther away to distant New Hampshire locations as well as New York, Massachusetts, and even to Germany!

It was nice that children who ordinarily wouldn't be able to attend our camps got to connect with the NHSPCA through our reimagined camp program.

One of my favorite stories from camp was when I got a phone call from a very pleasant mom on Cape Cod, who told me that her daughter had received a Camp-in-a-Box, and it looked wonderful, but unfortunately, she had not ordered it! I looked into who had actually ordered and paid for the box and called the mom back to share the name. She was shocked when she heard it and said it was one of her sorority sisters from back in her college days, and she had not seen her in 20 years! They were Facebook friends, but that was all. The mom was very excited to reconnect with her old friend, who now lives in New Hampshire, and thank her for her random act of kindness that had made her daughter very happy!

All in all, I think our Camp-in-a-Box program was a success. It was a lot of hard work, creativity, and planning but it was fun, too! I think we've learned a lot through this process and will be able to apply that knowledge to other projects in the future.

Speaking of the future, we have started to think up and plan fall and winter programs. We want to bring children and families back to the NHSPCA, but we want to be safe and responsible when we do. Check [our website](#) to see what's being offered!



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Shining a light on our volunteers

By Steve Jones

Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers at the New Hampshire SPCA are crucial in so many different ways.

We have our animal care volunteers who are always eager to ensure all animals — dogs, cats, smalls and farm animals — are happy and comfortable. We also have folks that help with administrative tasks and community outreach and help us spread the word about our programs and services.

In all, there are more than 700 volunteers who,

on an annual basis, provide over 40,000 hours of support. I chatted with just a few of these great individuals to learn more about their backgrounds and why volunteering means so much to them.

As our shelter remains closed to the public, we have been forced to suspend our volunteer services to limit physical interactions. As operations have adapted and we have been able to develop safe practices, a very limited number of volunteers have been brought back to help in very specific roles. The few who are back were selected because of their broad availability and diverse training.

So many great people have expressed interest in volunteering and want to lend a hand during this time; however, it simply is not a risk we are able to accept. The safety of staff and volunteers alike must come first.

We look forward to a time when all our volunteers can be back at the shelter, and their help will be needed then as it always has been.

Get involved, virtually!

Do you want to join our Auction Committee? To learn more about roles and responsibilities, please email sjones@nhspca.org today!

Barbara LeBeau

Volunteering Since: 2001 | **Primary Role:** MOD Squad Dog Walker

Pets at Home: Winnie, an 11-year-old Jack Russell & Shih Tzu Mix

SJ: In your close-to-20-years of volunteering, you have pretty much been trained for every role and have even joined our staff part-time. You clearly have a passion for it, but why is volunteering at the New Hampshire SPCA so important to you?

BL: The biggest reason is that it makes me feel good. When you walk into the dog area and see the look on their face when they know they are getting to go for a walk, it just brightens your day. I started volunteering as my three kids were getting older and two had already left the house. I have always been an animal lover and usually had multiple dogs in my home. I have stayed for so long, because the staff is great to work with and I have formed friendships with other volunteers sharing our common bond. I love being able to walk the dogs, spend time with the cats and then answer the phones. I have even turned out the horses before, but I do not regularly help in the barn.



SJ: That versatility and ability to take on extra responsibilities led to the shelter asking you to lend a hand during the pandemic. What has it been like to volunteer through all of this?

BL: It has been a little strange. Being retired, I was able to commit to volunteering for most of the shifts on one of the split teams. So, I only see the five or six staff members on my team, which has been different, but it has also given me the opportunity to help in areas that I did not normally assist. With the construction going on, so much can change every day, so being there for multiple days in a row really helps with consistency.

SJ: What do you like to do in your spare time?

BL: Spending time with my family. Being a grandmother is a great joy, and I love getting to be with them.

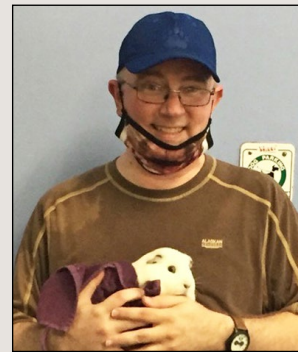
David Hersam

Volunteering Since: 2011 | **Primary Role:** MOD Squad Dog Walker

Pets at Home: None currently (reason to love being at the shelter!)

SJ: I know volunteering is important to you and that you have given the gift of your time to other organizations, too! Why do you volunteer at the New Hampshire SPCA?

DH: Volunteering at the NHSPCA is important to me because I feel like I'm able to contribute in real ways to the agency's mission of placing homeless animals in forever homes, and to properly care for them during their stay at the shelter. As a volunteer mentor to new dog-walkers, I have been able to open the door to people interested in helping with this work and try to pass along some of what I have picked up along the way. In my work with the Behavior & Training department, I've enjoyed the opportunity to learn and to educate and help pet owners care for, interact with, and better understand their animals.



SJ: Helping with the Behavior & Training program gives you an opportunity to see a different side of the shelter. Explain to me a little bit about how you help on Saturdays.

DH: In pre-COVID days, I would check people in, receive payment for each session, and take reservations for the next week's group. As classes have begun to start back up, I am really pleased to be back at the shelter helping. Now the payments and reservations are done online. I still check people and their pups in and direct them to the outdoor pen where we now conduct the groups. Once the session begins, I assist trainer Linda Haley in supervising play by interrupting and redirecting as needed to keep everything safe and fun. We recently posted a fun video on the NHSPCA Facebook page of a Rottweiler puppy playing sweetly with a little French Bulldog and a Black Lab. This is a great example of the type of play and socialization we try to foster in the groups.

How often should you be training your dog?

By **Linda R. Haley, KPA CTP, CPDT-KA**
Manager of Behavior & Training

Dog training students frequently ask, “How often should I train?” I am always taken a bit by surprise as in my mind the answer is “all the time”.

Of course, like most trainers I have been working with dogs for years and for me, training dogs is second nature and an integral part of my everyday life. Before answering, I shift my mind to student mode so I can understand where the student’s question is coming from.

Classes resume!

Interested in enrolling your dog in one of our training classes? Please click [here](#) to view our class offerings.

I realize what they are asking is, “How often should I formally train my dog?” How often do they need to leash up the dog, grab some treats, find the clicker, read the notes and practice what they have been taught? It’s a valid question that requires a little more depth to understand what true training is about.

Learning and behavior are happening all the time. Whether I take my dog out every day for a formal training session or do absolutely nothing, my dog is still learning. His behavior, good or bad is still occurring. The trick is incorporating the skills your dog learned in class into everyday life as well as setting up the dog’s environment so he can be successful.

If you leave your shoes out, your puppy will grab them, chew them up and you just taught your pup that shoes are fun to chew. Leaving food on the counter entices the scavenger nature of the dog to find it and get rewarded for searching the counter for food. Congratulations, you just taught your dog to counter surf.

Clearly, you cannot go through life without ever



New Hampshire SPCA Behavior & Training classes have resumed with special measures being taken to help ensure everyone remains safe and healthy.

leaving your shoes out or a cake on the table, but it is important in the developing stages of the pup or even an adult dog new to your home to not experience these behaviors. If the dog never experiences the taste of torn up shoe or the fun of searching for crumbs on the counter the unwanted behavior is never learned in the first place.

It’s much harder to extinguish a behavior than it is to prevent it from happening in the first place.

If I allow my dog to pull on the leash by following him in the direction of his pulling, he is learning that pulling gets me moving in the direction he wants to go. If he can race along the fence barking at passersby uninterrupted, the behavior becomes stronger and more engrained in the brain, making it habitual and much more difficult to stop.

Behavior is happening and the learning which is occurring is directly tied into the consequences of the behavior which in these is examples is fun,

food and getting to go where you want.

Setting up the environment is one of the easiest and most important building blocks for developing appropriate behavior.

Routines you learn in class or a private session are tools which provide a foundation for good behavior. These need to be practiced regularly in small sessions. Practice for five minutes and take a two-minute break.

During the break, play with your dog. Make it fun. If doing a “sit” is always followed by something fun, think how often your dog will readily want to sit when you ask him. Once your dog has learned some of these foundation behaviors, use them throughout the day.

Ask your dog to sit before feeding. Ask your dog to lie down while you make dinner. Practice doing some heeling routines during your walk. Ask for a stay before letting your dog run off leash at the park. Have him wait before getting out of the car. Ask for a sit before leashing up. Practice “drop it” during a game of tug. Ask for hand touches when you are too tired to get up and play with them.

Be sure to practice all these behaviors at the level where your dog can be successful. If your dog can’t stay in a down for more than five seconds, make sure you reward and release your dog from the down before the five seconds is up. With practice, you can build the duration of time your dog can stay in a down. Now you have a down that is useful.

The behaviors you learn in class have functional applications to be used when needed, but you must teach them first. Make it fun. Think of it as a game, rather than a chore and practice, practice, practice.

So how often should you train? All the time, every day and most importantly, have fun and enjoy. Happy training!

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The NHSPCA greatly appreciates the concern shown by donors who give of their financial resources to assist the Society with its mission. Through their planned gifts, the following individuals made generous contributions toward the ongoing programs and services of the NHSPCA.

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How do you measure a life...

By Sheila E. Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

If you are familiar with the Broadway play RENT, you know the song called “Seasons of Love”, which tells us we measure a life in love. Some tell us a life is measured by accomplishments, friendships, success, family... the list goes on. One of my favorite quotes comes from Winston Churchill when he said, “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

Brenda Carver, by every measure, had a wonderful life. Brenda was an outstanding realtor for which she had won awards and held multiple volunteer leadership positions. She loved ballroom dancing and was quite accomplished at it. She had a smile that could light up a room and a bright twinkle in her eyes. She loved spending time with friends she had met through work, dancing, or those from way back in high school.

But her very best friends and constant companions were her cats: first sweet Samantha and then beautiful Keiko.

When Brenda passed in 2018, she demonstrated another way that one’s life can be measured: by creating a lasting legacy of good.

You see, Brenda was a planner. According to her dear friend Lynn, she planned everything down to the smallest detail. When she began making her final plans, she knew her legacy would be impactful and that she wanted to choose two charities she had researched and trusted to use the money wisely. Brenda discussed her plans with her friend she had selected as Executrix.

She created her will and in it made two transformational gifts: one to the New Hampshire SPCA and the other to the New Hampshire Animal Rescue League in Bedford. With these gifts, Brenda ensured her legacy would be caring for animals right here in her beloved home state of New Hampshire.

Brenda’s gift was completely unexpected as we had never had the pleasure of meeting her personally. Through the process of the settlement of her estate, we got to know her through her friend. We learned she loved cats but was a little uncomfortable around dogs. She was not the typical,



Brenda Carver created a lasting legacy of good, one that will ensure that homeless animals in her home state of New Hampshire would be cared for and loved for decades to come.

passionate animal-lover that would be inclined to make this kind of gift. She didn’t have 52 animals, she had two — two cats that had made her life happier, more complete and that provided her with unconditional love. We can all relate to that sort of love.

Brenda’s gift came to us during our recent capital campaign, a pivotal moment in our history. Her generous gift helped us fulfill our plans for the future, helping make important transformation possible. Her gift will not only help animals and people through our services today, but a portion of her gift will help to feed and care for animals decades into the future. And, one day, when the construction that is now underway is complete, there will be a very special spot that will bear Brenda’s name. She will always be remembered here.

As Brenda has shown us through her generosity and planning, not only do we make a life by what we give, but what we give can create a life-saving legacy. On behalf of the animals and the people we serve, we are forever grateful to this bright-eyed and generous ballroom dancer with a big heart.



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Answer a few simple questions to get started making your planned gift.

Take your Planned Giving quiz

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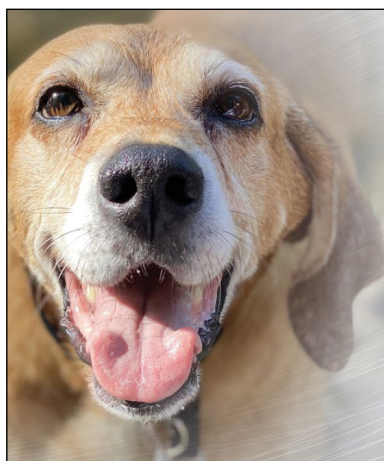
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