



Construction update: Phase 2 officially underway

By Sheila E. Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

We are so excited to share with you the progress we have made over the past few months of construction.

More Inside

For more construction photos, turn to page 16!

As you remember, the NHSPCA closed out [the Campaign for Changing Times](#) over a year ago and broke ground on our amazing project in August 2020, amidst the pandemic. During the ensuing eight months, “Changing Times” has been showing up every day!

As soon as the ground was broken, site work began in earnest. There was preparation for combining the adjacent properties into one solidified campus, new drainage systems, an enormous cistern for our future sprinkler system, new rain

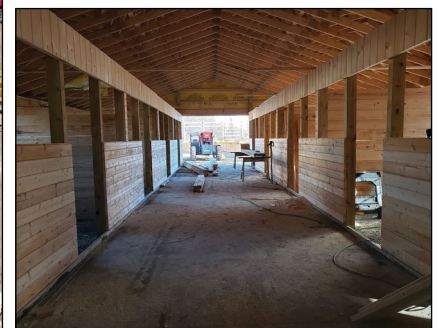
See **CONSTRUCTION**, Page 16



The trusses are secured on top of our new indoor riding arena.



The riding arena is looking good!



A look at our new 8-stall barn.

Cruelty prevention in a pandemic

By Steven Sprowl

Humane Agent, Field Services Manager

It seems the world has slowed down a bit since the start of the pandemic. People staying home, working from home, home schooling, businesses closing (sadly some permanently), and yet animal cruelty and neglect is still happening in NH.

As the Humane Agent for the NHSPCA, I began to see a decrease in animal cruelty reports in the early days of COVID-19. I wondered if this was happening because people were home and taking better care of their animals. I certainly hoped so.

On the other hand, I worried that cruelty was still on-going, but with so many people staying home, there were less opportunities to witness it happening, thus a lack of cruelty reports coming in.

See **RESCUES**, Page 3



The NHSPCA assisted the Pittsfield Police Department to rescue six horses that were in jeopardy and in need of help.

Homeless
animals
need your
help!



**Paws
Walk**
THE REMIX

Sunday, June 6

Stratham Hill Park or virtually

Pages 8-10

REGISTER NOW!

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

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This is such an exciting time! Like the first blossoms of spring, there's hope as we move forward in both the events of the world and as we look both globally and locally here on campus.

We are eagerly awaiting the transition as we end the first phase of construction. For months and months, we have been working shoulder to shoulder with contractors maintaining social distancing but getting the job done. The dust has flown, the jackhammers have pounded, and the campus has been transforming through these most challenging times.

Now, we are beginning to see what our future will hold.

In early April, we watched as the giant crane lifted trusses up onto the top of the arena and the building took form after dreaming of it for so many years. In the new barn, well, you can almost smell the hay and see the horses — we are that close! In the coming weeks, we will be moving into the newly constructed areas. After we settle into the new spaces, temporary walls will again be erected separating the front half and the rear of our Adoption Center and the hammers will fly again. As the walls change, we will again eagerly await as the spaces transform into state-of-the-art housing for those that come to us from near or far to find new homes.

We know how transformative these expanded and enhanced spaces will be in the years ahead and for generations to come.

As we begin to plan this move, we continue to look forward to welcoming our community back to our campus. April vacation camp was the first-time children were able to join us on campus in over a year and we were so excited! We are looking forward to summer camp when they



will join us for nine consecutive weeks spread across two classrooms to ensure the health and safety of everyone.

Today, we are caring for the many rabbits that need daily medical care, the horses that just came to us a few weeks ago, and all the other animals that are counting on us for a second chance.

We have been grateful to be able to continue our support to the community by providing food or surgery or training for the many new family members that arrived this past year.

For everything you have done and continue to do, thank you so much. We are forever grateful and look forward to welcoming you back in the early fall as we cut the ribbon and share with you all the excitement of what this enhanced campus can provide.

On behalf of the animals,

Lisa Dennison
Executive Director

New Hampshire Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

104 Portsmouth Avenue, PO Box 196 • Stratham, NH 03885

TEL: (603) 772-2921 • FAX: (603) 778-7804 • www.nhspca.org



The New Hampshire SPCA has remained a safe haven for victims of cruelty and neglect through the pandemic. We are currently working to nurse a large number of animals back to health, including 32 rabbits and a barn full of horses, and are excited to find them the perfect homes as soon as they're ready!

RESCUES...

Continued from Page 1

But despite a decrease in reports, I have still been busy assisting the police agencies around the state with information and guidance, and as needed, on site response.

Recently, I found myself involved in several large cases of cruelty and neglect and assisted police departments to bring the animals to safety. Despite the challenges of the pandemic and on-going construction on our campus, we are always committed to helping animals in need, and these difficult circumstances haven't changed that.

In Lee, NH, a senior citizen voluntarily surrendered her four horses to us after we received a complaint that the animals needed attention. Two of the horses were in their teens, while the

other two were mares around 30 years old! The woman finally had to admit that their care was just too much for her. After receiving consistent care in our barn, the young ones went home quite quickly. We were concerned about the mares given their advanced years, but eventually a very kind couple came along and is providing them the retirement home that they need and deserve.

In Pittsfield, the Police Department requested our assistance with the seizure of two adult dogs and their puppies. One mother dog and her pups were taken in by Pope Memorial SPCA, while we took the others, a young girl named Flower and her seven six-week-old puppies. The dogs had been living in squalid conditions and needed a clean, safe home with plenty of food, water, and love to thrive. Fortunately, the owner signed the dogs over so we could process them and find

them homes without having to hold them while the courts process charges.

Then the Pittsfield Police Department asked for our help again as they executed a search warrant following complaints of horses being in jeopardy. The police ordered the seizure of one adorable mini horse, one huge mule/draught horse mix and an additional four horses. Once again, the owner chose to do the right thing and surrendered them to the NHSPCA. They are receiving medical attention and proper food and water and recovering well.

Most recently, there were the 62 rabbits that we removed from a home in Farmington, NH. Their owner was overwhelmed with out of control over population. Due to the huge number of animals, Pope Memorial-Cocheco Valley Humane Society assisted in removing the rabbits. The ages ranged from newborn to 3 or 4 years old and fortunately, these animals were surrendered as well. We are caring for 32 of the rabbits and Pope Memorial is caring for the rest. The rabbits were diagnosed upon arrival with zoonotic illnesses. They will need to be in our care for at least six weeks while receiving treatment, after that they will be spayed/neutered before being made available for adoption.

Even in a pandemic, the NHSPCA will do whatever we can for animals in need. I am proud to say I work for this organization and proud of the staff that works with these animals to prepare them for their new homes.

Thank you for helping to make it possible for animals to receive the chance at a new home where they will receive proper care and love.



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Grant allows NHSPCA to help dog receive emergency care

By Kate Young

Community Programs Coordinator

As we all know, there are few things that compare to the mutual joy and love that comes from the companionship of a pet. Unfortunately, that joy can sometimes be strained when the pet is unwell and needs medical attention. Financial challenges only compound the stress, and it can be difficult to know if your pet is going to get the care it needs when you don't know how you will pay that bill.

This past year has brought many pet owners into that situation due to loss of income and other financial difficulties resulting from the pandemic.

The NHSPCA is fortunate to have been able to help a few owners and pets this past month through the generosity of a grant provided by [Greater Good Charities](#) and [Tito's Handmade Vodka](#).

Sadie was one of those dogs. This happy and friendly boxer living in Hampton had a health problem brewing. What was a small bump on the top of her head began growing larger and larger. Her owner didn't know what was going on, but she knew it was getting uncomfortable for poor Sadie and would need to be addressed soon.

Unfortunately, the timing couldn't have been worse after the loss of employment due to the pandemic.



A grant, provided by Greater Good Charities and Tito's Handmade Vodka, allowed us to help Sadie's owner pay for her emergency surgery.

The now-large bump became open and ulcerated. Sadie's owner rushed her to the Veterinary Emergency, Critical Care and Referral Center in Newington.

Just days before, the NHSPCA had informed VECC that we had funds available through a grant to help pets that needed care, but whose owners have trouble paying the bill. Sadie's case was referred to us and we were able to assist with a portion of the bill for the surgery so that the lump

Do you need assistance?

If you or someone you know needs help, please take a look at these resources:

[Red Rover Relief Grants](#)

[Onyx and Breezy Foundation](#)

[Brown Dog Foundation](#)

New Hampshire SPCA, Greater Good & Tito's Handmade Vodka Assistance

(Note: You must have seen a veterinarian and have a treatment plan and quote for services.

The typical amount of assistance is \$300-\$500.

Have your veterinarian's office contact us at info@nhspca.org.)

could be removed. Thankfully for Sadie, all this was handled within 24 hours, so she didn't need to wait and was home recovering with her owner soon after surgery!

We are happy to report that Sadie has been recovering well. It will take a little more time to heal, but she is so much more comfortable and has resumed her role as best friend in the whole wide world! Now that Sadie is better, her owner's stress is alleviated. Hopefully, she'll be back to work soon.

HAPPY TAILS



Bear & Myla (formerly Prince & Princess)

We had been looking to adopt for a few months and each time we had gotten close, it had fallen through for one reason or another. One time it was literally the day before we were due to pick them up (from Maine, a 6-hour drive!) and we had told our kids — they were so excited! We then had to tell them it had fallen through — they were so sad.

So with Bear and Myla, we didn't say anything to the kids. We contacted the shelter via email late the night before and felt sure they would be taken, being kittens and being so beautiful! We were surprised to get a reply so quickly the next morning, and before I knew it, my husband was telling me we needed to go to the pet store to pick up food because we were going to be picking them up in a couple of hours. Such a whirlwind!

When we got to the shelter we were told there

had been over 125 applicants for them. We did not question why we had been picked — we were just glad we were! They were obviously meant to be part of our family! Not a day goes by where they do not make us laugh at their antics and coo at their cuteness.

They have settled in so well. Bear is a snuggler: He loves to find a small space next to you and squeeze his way in for a cuddle. He's my companion when I am up late working. Myla is smaller but certainly more inquisitive than her brother. She loves to cuddle with my husband — she is a Daddy's girl!

Both my boys think they are wonderful. My 8 year old will say they are the best cats in the whole world while my 4 year old tells them how cute they are!

— Andrea and Mike

Adoption of 12-year-old dog helps new family find meaning in grief

By Melissa Mower

Marketing & Graphic Design Associate

In December 2020, we welcomed a darling senior Jack Russell Terrier mix to the shelter when her former family decided they could no longer care for her. It was not the first time Chimi had been uprooted from the place she called home, but she had spent half of her life with this family — brightening their days with her energized and playful spirit.

Now, at 12 years old, she found herself homeless.

Again.

It's no secret that senior dogs typically require a specific adopter. On paper, younger dogs and puppies are much more appealing to the general public than those that boast beautiful grey muzzles. Young dogs are a blank slate. They have years and years ahead of them, can easily accompany the family on all sorts of adventures, and aren't yet restricted by major health issues.

Young dogs just seem like the safer option to most adopters.

There's a pretty poorly kept secret around the NHSPCA and with those who have had a taste of what it's like to rescue an older pet, and it's that the love of a senior is absolutely unmatched.

The moment we welcomed Chimi, we knew this girl would fill her third and final home with joy and affection — all we needed was a special family that had a soft spot for the underdog.

Although Chimi might not have as many years



Chimi, a 12-year-old mix, went home the same day her owner lost her grandfather to COVID.

left as a younger pup, her next family would be guaranteed a lifetime's worth of love from this little Terrier.

Within just two hours of being available for adoption, that special family appeared. There was a collective sigh of relief that sweet Chimi wouldn't have to wait as long as most senior dogs do, and in just a few days, she would finally be home forever.

It's unclear who needed who more in that moment, because the day Chimi went home was the

same day her new mom, Erica, lost her beloved grandfather to COVID. While Chimi's arrival will forever be linked to her grandfather's passing, Erica says their capacity to welcome their new best friend (who was given the middle name RJ to honor Erica's late grandfather) was not hampered.

In fact, it was heightened.

"Chimi allowed me to find meaning in grief," said Erica. "The meaning I found goes something like this: Immense grief does not prevent immense love. Rather, it is the product of immense love... but that doesn't mean we should harden our hearts."

What is clear is that Chimi knows she is finally in her forever home.

"When we first got her, we thought her tail couldn't wag because we hadn't observed any wagging," noted Erica. "Maybe a week in, her tail began to wag when she saw us or when we would pet her, and it hasn't stopped wagging since! That was when we knew she felt at home with us."

Today, Chimi can be found burrowing in a pile of warm blankets, trying to take a nap in the arms of her people, or playing with one of her nine Lamb Chop toys. We are so thankful she didn't have to spend any extra time at the NHSPCA and that people like Erica and her partner are part of our community.

"We like to think of Chimi and her life with us as an embodiment of our values," said Erica. "One of which is this: Creatures are not unworthy of love just because they are old or haven't always been ours."



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.

All Commemorative Gifts are posted quarterly on our website and are honored there for a year or more.

Please click [here](#) to visit the Commemorative page on our website and view our most recent listing.

Thank you for all you do for the animals.



Notes From The Barn

Couple rescues two unrideable senior horses

By Michelle Murch

Equine & Farm Program Manager

Have you ever wondered why anyone would adopt an unrideable or senior horse? How about the people who adopt horses with known chronic medical issues?

Who are these people and why would they sign up for that?

Among them are Michelle and Chris, two amazing humans we were lucky to partner with at the New Hampshire SPCA, and this is their reason why:

“I’ve always said that if I won the lotto I’d buy a large ranch I would take in animals that needed homes. While I haven’t won the lotto or bought a large ranch, Chris and I are blessed to have started

a small farm, Duke’s Second Chance Farm. Duke was my beloved Bullmastiff who had the most beautiful temperament but many health issues. Through the years, people would remark about how lucky he was that I was able to take care

Did you know?

Senior horse: 15+ years old
Horse life expectancy: 25-30 years on average

*Most horses that come to the NHSPCA and other rescue organizations are seniors. Not all seniors are unrideable or have medical issues, but many are and do.

of him and give him many chances to get healthy, hence the inspiration for our farm. My dream became real today as we welcomed Cara and Cami. They are a bonded pair of elderly Arabian mares who are enjoying their retirement and are the founding members of our little farm.” #DukesSecondChanceFarm

Caralot (29) and Cambit (32) were surrendered to the NHSPCA early this year with Cambit’s son Atom (18) and a third mare Arwen (15). This little family lived on the same farm for their entire lives. Sadly, the owner’s life circumstances changed, leaving her unable to care for her horses. Soon they found themselves seeking a new place to call home. The NHSPCA’s barn was perfect, at least for the short term.

Arwen, a stunning “flea-bitten” grey Arabian, was the first to be adopted as a companion horse not



We’ve experienced the challenge of finding a home for an unrideable senior horses many times. When we welcomed Cambit and Caralot, a pair of bonded mares fitting that description, we knew it would take some time to find a family wanting to take on two seniors. The mares didn’t have to wait too long for their forever family to come and eagerly adopt them, giving them the second chance they deserved.

long after the herd arrived. Atom was next to find his forever. He was a gorgeous and charming bay pony-sized Arabian who stole the heart of a long-time Arabian owner and lover who plans to teach him to drive.

Left behind were the two senior mares who were so bonded they shared one stall for most of their lives. We knew these ladies needed to be adopted together. Of course, finding a home for one senior horse is challenging enough, but finding a home for **two** unrideable senior horses seemed nearly impossible.

Both mares struggled with maintaining weight and had significant muscle wasting as well as chronic health conditions. Their age and health required a specific feeding schedule and special diet to help them gain and maintain the much-needed weight.

Then, the nearly impossible became reality when Michelle reached out to us with a deep desire to

help. Specifically, she wanted to help the two senior mares — a miracle!

Michelle and Chris’ dreams became reality on that Friday afternoon when they finalized the adoption for these two deserving mares. They opened their hearts and home to a duo truly in need of a second chance and made Duke’s Second Chance Farm a reality.

They have gained forever friends in those mares and all of us here at the NHSPCA.

When you adopt a dog or a cat do you expect to ride them? Of course not! A horse can make a wonderful companion pet as well, so remember: *Two feet move your body, four feet move your soul.*

Interested in adopting a farm animal?

Contact Michelle at mmurch@nhspca.org

Training pigs doesn't have to be a *boar*

Farm staff corrects Millie the piglet's behavioral issues

By Haley Turmel

Adoption Counselor/Barn Technician

As you may know, pigs are one of the many farm animals that are misunderstood and underappreciated by most people. At the NHSPCA, we know pigs are an amazing species. In fact, pigs are at the top of the list of the most intelligent species on this planet and learning their behaviors and how their brains work can create greater understanding between them and us. Their intelligence can also be what makes them so difficult to understand. Often, people don't realize how much work really goes into taking care of pet pigs.

Pigs tend to be one of the hardest animals to find homes for and one of the most likely to be returned. Not every household is cut out for pig ownership and not every town will even allow pet pigs to live there. We recommend that potential piggie adopters spend some time doing their research, learning what their town ordinances are and what it takes to create a happy environment for a pet pig. Pigs can be a "man's best friend" and a very loyal companion for people and even other pigs.

Millie was just a young piglet when she was surrendered to the NHSPCA last year. There was only one word to describe her: Eccentric.

She had a wild personality but was one of the most affectionate pigs you could ever meet. She was excited to learn and taught us plenty, too. During her time with us, she learned how to walk on a harness, do tricks, and even ride a skateboard!

What's so amazing about pigs is that you can



Millie required a good amount of training before we felt comfortable placing her in a home because she exhibited a lot of piglet tendencies.

teach them anything if you are consistent and make it fun. Teaching a pig is just like training a dog or cat — treats are crucial! With Millie, we began by creating a positive interaction with an object that we wanted her to interact with (i.e. the skateboard). When Millie would put just one foot on the skateboard, we would click the clicker and then give her a delicious treat. Eventually, she would move the skateboard on her own, just to get that reward.

Millie did have some behavioral issues that needed work, such as jumping, invading the handler's space, and nipping. She was a piglet, so this was typical baby behavior. We used a target pole to help with these issues. We would hold the pole out and have her touch the end that was placed away from our body, then click and treat once she

touched it. This taught her to move away from us rather than invading our space, especially important as a pig grows larger.

Millie was adopted in April of 2020.

Unfortunately, she was returned to us at nine months old just five months later.

The adopters said her behavior had gotten worse, and we saw it, too. She would just about knock us over if there wasn't a barrier between us. We knew that Millie does best when her mind is being worked consistently — something to keep her busy in a positive way. So, we got to work figuring out what would help Millie be happy and adoptable.

First, we thought she may do better living with another pig outside. This seemed to help. Next, we began using a pig board while interacting with her. A pig board is a red barrier used to separate the human from the pig. When she would turn away from me (the desired behavior) I would click and treat. When I would step into her space, she learned to step back and again, I would click and treat. Eventually, it got to the point where she would sit a distance away from the pig board and wouldn't even try to come into my space. Huge progress.

Soon, there was an adopter interested in Miss Millie who already had an adopted pig from us. They knew how to work with a very sweet, if somewhat bossy pig and were the perfect match. They were willing to put in whatever work was needed to make her happy. I am proud to say she is in her forever home now and as happy as can be! They have not had any problems with her, and she was even seen snuggling with the other resident pig.

If you have a loving home to give and are willing to put in the work, pigs make great companions.



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Meadows

PET CEMETERY

a memorial resting place for pets

Rolling Meadows Pet Cemetery is a wonderful place of tribute located on Union Road in Stratham, NH. The cemetery grounds welcome visitors with flowering trees, decorative gardens and a feeling of serenity.

There are several burial options for Rolling Meadows, each designed to respectfully meet individual needs.

We also offer crematory services.

Please call 603-773-5739 for more information.



#STILLWALKING TO SAVE LIVES!

Sunday, June 6, 2021 | Stratham Hill Park or Virtually | Adult & Youth In-person: \$30; Adult virtual: \$20; Youth virtual: Free!

The animals are counting on you!

Grab your sneakers, a leash, and your favorite four-legged friend because Paws Walk is back! Join us on Sunday, June 6 for a hybrid event to celebrate compassion and companionship. Whether you choose to walk in-person or virtually, know that you are saving lives with every step!

This year's event — Paws Walk: the Remix — will look a bit different. We're offering both in-person registrations for those excited to get back on the trail at Stratham Hill Park, and virtual registrations for anyone who feels more comfortable walking on their own.

Safety is our number one priority, and face masks will be mandatory at Stratham Hill Park, along with standard COVID-19 protocols. **To allow for crowd control and social distancing, we're requiring all walkers to register in advance for a specific time slot between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**

Spots are limited, so click [here](#) to sign up today!

**Help homeless animals now.
Text PAWS to
26989 to donate.**

Thank you for your support!



Why your walk matters

Paws Walk is our largest grassroots fundraiser at the NHSPCA, and it's because of animal-lovers like you that we're able to give a second chance to so many unwanted, neglected, and abused animals. This year as we continue to face the financial repercussions of the pandemic, your participation is more important than ever. By fundraising for Paws Walk, you will help us continue to be a resource for our community and save the lives of homeless animals with nowhere else to turn!



Join us to help homeless & abused animals!



Click this code to help save lives!

- Date:** Sunday, June 6, 2021
- Location:** Stratham Hill Park or virtually from your own backyard
- Time:** 10:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:00 p.m.
***All attendees must register in advance for a specific time slot**
- Registration:** Adult or Youth In-Person - \$30; Adult Virtual - \$20; Youth Virtual - Free!

Need more information? Click here!

Your pet can be the star of our 2022 calendar!

Want to show off how ridiculously adorable your pet is? This is your chance!

Simply fundraise for *Paws Walk: the Remix* and your pet could appear in our official 2022 NHSPCA calendar. The Seacoast will get to see just how cute your pet is, and homeless animals will benefit, too. It's truly a win-win situation.

Top Fundraiser — Your pet will appear as the large photo for the month of June

All participants who raise \$500 — Your pet will appear in the block of whatever date you choose



REGISTER TODAY TO JOIN US!



Sunday, June 6, 2021 | Stratham Hill Park or Virtually | Adult & Youth In-person: \$30; Adult virtual: \$20; Youth virtual: Free!

From Fearful to Fearless: A 2020 Rescue Story

As soon as our staff receives notice that a large rescue case is happening, it's all hands-on deck. Cages are being wiped down, lined with blankets and toys, transport crates waiting by the door, anxious minds and hearts anticipating what comes next.

One rescue that stands out for me was when we took in 17 small dogs and a bird from an abandoned house. Unfortunately, most of the dogs had been kept in small cages, some even sharing a crate. They had been alone for some time. Their coats were matted, covered in urine stains, and were in desperate need of a warm bath. After thorough medical examinations, many were found to be underweight, their nails were severely overgrown, and they were incredibly fearful.

Our staff worked diligently to make them feel comfortable and safe. Once they had been bathed and cleaned up, it was time to help them come out of their shells. It was



Mollie was rescued early last year and appeared on the Catwalk during Paws Walk Reimagined!

apparent that many of them had never been on leash before or even knew quite how to be a dog. It can be heartbreaking but also incredibly rewarding to watch a dog experience grass for the first time or play with their first toy. Knowing they will never be hurt again and that all they will ever know is love makes the hard work worth it.

Soon the pups began to explore the great outdoors, learning to play together in the grass

and preparing for their runway debut. Of course, last year's Paws Walk had turned fully virtual, so our Dogs on the Catwalk segment was going to be streamed live on our Facebook page. We were excited because this portion of the event allows us to showcase adoptable dogs to event participants. Going live on Facebook, though, allowed us to reach an even larger audience. Just weeks prior, these dogs were shying away from human touch... but now they were walking confidently (some still preferred to be carried) in front of potential adopters and animal lovers across the state.

Shortly after the event, every single one of the dogs found their forever homes. They were off to enjoy their new lives full of love and happiness.

Our rescue teams heroic efforts are only made possible by generous supporters like you. [When you support events like Paws Walk](#), you are giving animals who have come from pain and neglect a second chance.

NOT JUST FOR DOGS...



While Paws Walk appeals to families with dogs, the event benefits all animals! From goats to dogs, cats to rabbits, and everything in between — all homeless animals need a champion. You can be that champion by registering for Paws Walk on June 6! Walk at the park or at home, but know that wherever you walk, you're making a difference.

Finding Mac's Match

A kennel is not a home, and many times when an animal enters our shelter, the stress of being in a new environment, surrounded by new people can cause the friendliest dog to lash out. That was the case with Mac, a handsome large breed mix who came to us with five other dogs after being rescued. Mac was incredibly sweet, but in the kennel his true personality did not show through. He began showing reactivity to strangers, so our staff knew he needed some extra help.

One of our staff members brought Mac home to see if he would fit in with her dog as a foster, and it was love at first sight. Having another dog around helped build Mac's confidence and brought his sweet, loving personality back out. During the time Mac spent with his foster family, they worked diligently on training techniques to help his anxiety, and successfully prepared him to find his forever home.

After a few introductions, Mac was well on his way. His forever family had a canine sibling



Mac rests his head on his new brother and instant best friend, Kasey, after four months with us.

— who became his immediate best friend — plenty of acres to explore, and the patience and compassion to allow him to settle in. Now, Mac spends his days protecting the farm goats, catching snowballs, and getting lots of love from his family.

[Events like Paws Walk allow us to give animals like Mac all the care and love needed to prepare them for their forever home.](#) Through training, fostering and a little extra time, every animal's true colors can shine through.

CALVIN'S CASE



One of the most popular events of the day is when our adoptable animals strut their stuff on the Catwalk! Calvin, wearing his adorable 'ADOPT ME' vest, caught the eye of his now forever family while at Paws Walk. Want to read his story? Click [here!](#)



Why you should get your company involved!

Bring more connection and compassion to your workplace by forming a corporate team for Paws Walk: the Remix. People who volunteer report that they feel better emotionally, mentally, and physically, while employees engaging in corporate giving programs have, on average, a 75% longer tenure with their company.*

Fundraising and walking together at Paws Walk is a great way to:

- Create a meaningful team bonding experience amongst peers
- Broaden your employees' leadership and professional skill sets
- Help give homeless animals a second chance and lifesaving care!

Start saving lives together, and contact Julie Halama at jhalama@nhspca.org or 603-773-5735 for a custom discount code to get \$5 off each member registration.

*Source: Non Profit Source

Taking strides through the years

Paws Walk is all about community: friends and families gathering, walking to raise money for homeless animals in need. What sets [Paws Walk](#) apart from our other signature events is the fundraising aspect. It's incredibly inspiring to see hundreds of animal lovers rally those around them to collect donations for a cause so dear to their hearts.

When our staff thinks of Paws Walk fundraising, there is one name that stands out. Stephanie Stanley, a dedicated volunteer and Paws Walk fundraiser for nearly 25 years. She has seen our shelter through its many phases and has witnessed thousands of animals find their forever homes.

So, what does Paws Walk mean to her? We asked, and here's what she said...

- Q:** How long have you been walking at Paws Walk?
A: 24 years
- Q:** What's your favorite Paws Walk memory?
A: Always the number and variety of dogs that came to walk with their people and meeting those people and their pets. There have even been pig and a goat appearances over the years, which is just so much fun!
- Q:** Why do you walk?
A: Having always known the value of walking our own dogs, Paws Walk was just walking with a grander purpose! I begged to raise \$250 that first year, and as the years went on,



Stephanie Stanley is one of our most dedicated fundraisers for Paws Walk! She's seen here with her dog, Heidi, and a sign featuring the name of every donor who supported her campaign.

I realized the need was so much greater than I could ever imagine. Paws Walk became bigger and bigger in my eyes and in my desire to help raise funds!

- Q:** What's your best tip to solicit donations?
A: One has to make their passion pertinent and honest! Tapping into people from the many aspects of your life, like work, school or social media friends, family, neighbors, etc. and asking genuinely for the help needed to address the needs is important; look around, don't be afraid to ask!
- Q:** Any advice for first-time walkers?
A: My best advice for new walkers is to let people know what you are doing this for and make it personal. I make a sign with the names of every donor's pets, people they might be memorializing, etc. People want to help, but sometimes, life just gets in the way and they need a little reminder. Let your passion out!



#STILLWALKING FOR THE ANIMALS

We're so excited to be able to welcome our community to come walk with us again this year! To ensure everyone feels safe, we will be sending groups of walkers through the park in waves, allowing us to limit how many people will be present at a time.

Haven't registered yet? Click here to sign up today! See you on June 6!

Planned Gifts Received

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.

Jan. 31 - April 1, 2021

From the Estates of:

Gail Oberlin Bates

Exeter, NH

Constance (Huckaday) Bosen

North Hampton, NH

Genevieve R. Bumstead

Conway, NH

Margaret T. Cadman

York, ME

Danielle E. DeWitt

Monteagle, TN

Faye M. Iacono

York, ME

Nancy M. Mathey

Exeter, NH

George C. & Allyson C. Pappas

Eliot, ME

Maurine B. Stard

Hampton Falls, NH

Faithful Friends needed!

By Courtney Vavra

Annual Fund & Digital Marketing Manager

Become a [Faithful Friend](#) by joining our extraordinary group of monthly givers!

The truth is, it takes a small amount to have a huge impact in the lives of homeless animals. For as little as 50¢ a day — the cost of one cup of coffee a week — you could help feed and care for animals all year long. Can you imagine a better return on your investment?

As a Faithful Friend, your monthly support will be used where it is needed most — and right now, we have an ongoing need for prescription food for sick, injured or stressed animals.

For animals with sensitive tummies, allergies, liver, kidney or urinary issues, a consistent diet is crucial. Very often, veterinarian prescribed food is the quickest way to help them feel better. Unfortunately, this type of food isn't something we can run to the grocery store to purchase; it can only be ordered with a veterinarian's prescription. And it's expensive... especially when you add up the costs over the course of a year.

With your recurring monthly gift, you'll help ensure we have the resources to give every animal the best food and care they need to thrive. And since our costs for managing this program are lower, more of your gift goes towards helping the animals!

How you can make a difference:

- **\$15 per month** could help purchase prescription dry food for cats with urinary issues.
- **\$25 per month** could help purchase prescription food to help ease upset tummies and provide consistency and comfort to animals.
- **\$35 per month** could help purchase costly hypoallergenic food to treat serious allergies and painful skin conditions.



For as little as the cost of one cup of coffee per week, you could help feed and care for animals like Paws, pictured above, all year long.

The average cost to feed an animal varies due to size, animal type, and medical condition, but our cost for one bag or one case of prescription food can range anywhere between \$25-\$55. Multiply that by the hundreds of animals that come to us every year with medical issues that can be helped immediately with a change in their diet, you can see how quickly the costs add up!

It's easy to sign up:

Simply click [here](#) and pick the amount you would like to be billed to your credit card each month. At the end of the year, we will send you a gift summary of all the donations for the year and details of all the ways your support has helped us to save the lives of so many animals. You decide how much to donate and for how long, and your contribution can be changed or cancelled at any time.

Thank you in advance for your loyal support the animals can count on through every season!

Have any questions? Please contact Lindsay at lsberman@nhspca.org or at 603-773-5743.

A Special Giving Opportunity for those 70½ Years Old and Older

A tax-saving way to help the NHSPCA:

Did you know that you can make a difference today and save on taxes? It's possible when you support our work by giving through your IRA. Contact us before you make your next Required Minimum Distribution.

sryan@nhspca.org or ldennison@nhspca.org



NHSPCA

CAR DONATION PROGRAM

Did you know you can donate that unused vehicle to support the animals of the New Hampshire SPCA?

Click here or call (603) 773-5732 to get started!

When it rains, it pours

How the addition of a rain garden will benefit our space

By Ali Lynch

Outreach & Events Coordinator

If you've driven by our campus over the last eight months, you've probably noticed significant changes taking place. Chain link fences encompass our parking lots, new structures — such as the new barn — are appearing right before our eyes.

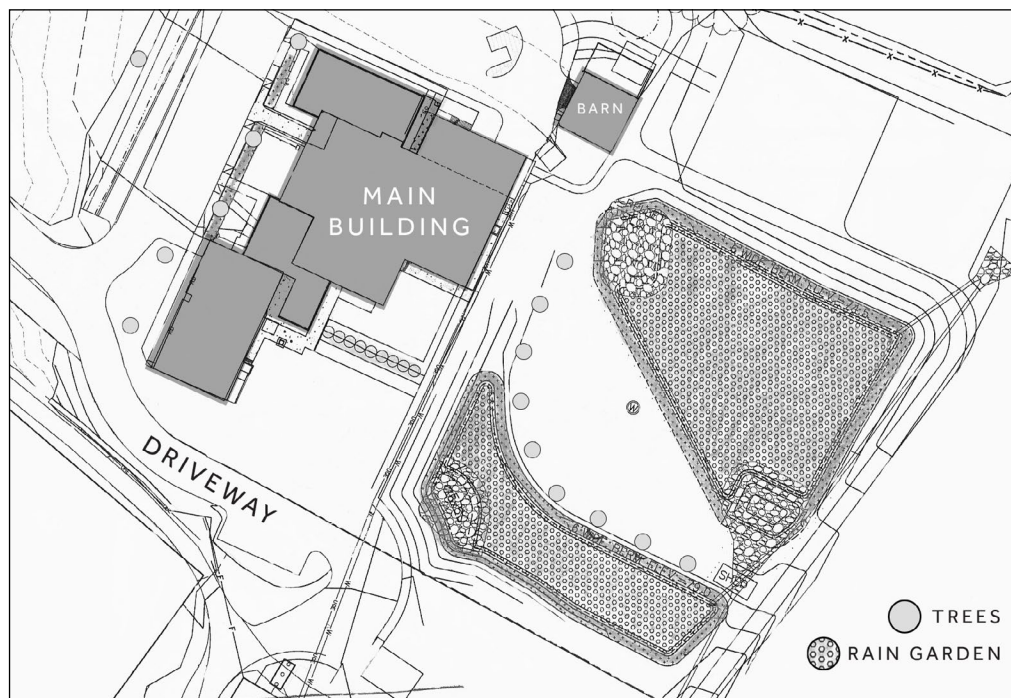
It's incredible to witness our dreams become a reality.

Throughout the years this construction project has been in the works, ecological sustainability has always been on the forefront of every plan, drawing and idea.

There are elements of each addition that demonstrate the steps the agency is taking to ensure our campus is an ecologically friendly space. One of those elements will be rain gardens, which will reside behind our main buildings. A rain garden, while beautiful in design, is a functional part of a successful and sustainable landscape.

Rain gardens are depressed areas that collect rainwater from a street, driveway or roof, instead of it puddling and potentially damaging the surface. The environmental effects of rain gardens are critical, providing food and shelter for beneficial wildlife such as butterflies, insects and worms and reducing soil erosion.

So, what type of plants make up a rain garden? It's important to surround the space with native plants with roots that can withstand getting wet for extended periods of time yet can endure dry spells. The plan is to create a semi-circle of dog wood trees and add close to 4,000 plants such as



Adding a rain garden to our campus is critical in laying the foundation for an eco-friendly campus. The garden, appearing behind our main building, will be made up of close to 4,000 native plants with a semi-circle of Scarlet Fire dogwood trees.

lilies, cats mint, and wetland grasses. Strong root structure is key in making sure the soil stays in place and allows for proper absorption of rainwater.

We knew this would be a large project: Planting such a high variety of trees and plants would not be an easy task, especially in such a strategic layout. Luckily, one of our community partners, Timberland, stepped up to take on the challenge. As avid volunteers, they are extremely well versed in outdoor projects and always represent their company's corporate philosophy of giving back to the community.

Over a three-day period in the middle of May, a total of almost 40 volunteers worked tirelessly to create a gardening masterpiece. In collaboration

with a landscape architect onsite, this project truly brought to life the beauty and functionality of a rain garden. Not only do we now have a space filled with young plants, trees and grass, but a space that will mature to preserve water and allow for proper drainage.

This rain garden project is critical in laying the foundation for an eco-friendly campus. It's incredibly important to be conscious of the footprint we create and the effect we have on our local and global communities.

We cannot wait to welcome you all back to explore and experience our new space in the coming months, it's been a journey to transform our ideas from paper to reality and it's only been possible because of supporters like you.

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.

Become an Adoption Angel today!

Visit nhspca.org, click "Donate" then "Sponsor an Animal"

Thank you for making compassion possible.



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Help your dog be the perfect coworker

Tips for keeping your pup entertained while you work from home

By **Danielle Fuchs, MSc, CPDT-KA**
Training & Enrichment Coordinator

Working from home with our dogs can be challenging. When we sit down to be productive, they may have other plans! Periods of unstructured time might result in destructive chewing, demand barking, getting into the trash, or other unwelcome behaviors.

While these behaviors are normal, they are not necessarily desirable! Luckily, there are plenty of safe options to keep dogs occupied while you work.

Plan ahead! If you plan to sit down for an extended period, make sure your dog's needs are met first.

Has your dog had a chance to go potty? Have they gotten sufficient exercise? Make the most of your walks by allowing your dog to sniff and explore for added mental stimulation. After exercise, create a calm atmosphere: dim the lights, play some white noise or calming music, and provide an enrichment item (see below!).

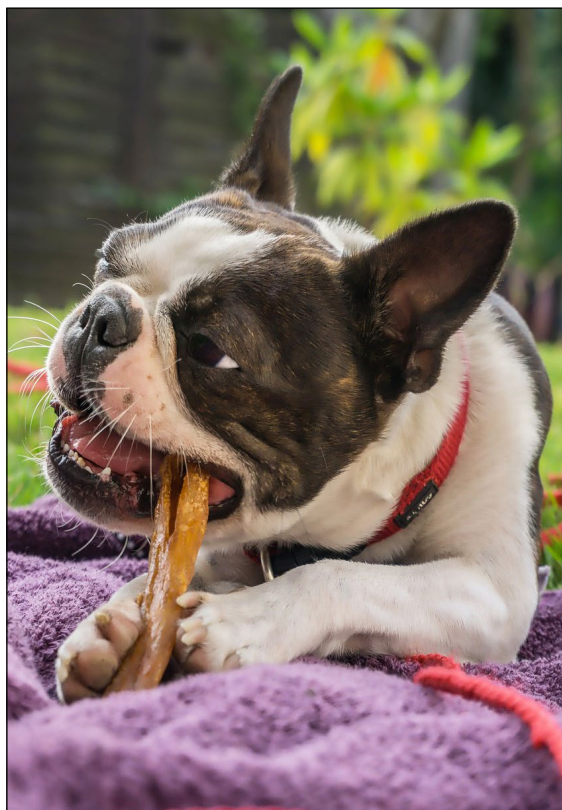
Always ask yourself if your home is “dog-proofed”. Close doors to areas where your dog is prone to finding mischief before you sit down — this step alone will set them (and you!) up for success.

Using reward-based training to teach your dog new behaviors can be a fun way to strengthen your bond and communicate your expectations: what do you want them to do instead of pestering you during work time? Teach your dog to relax on a mat, station on a bed, or stay calm in a crate to equip them with the skill of spending time on their own.

Keep things short and positive! To start, you can work on these skills for a few minutes at a time during breaks in your schedule or use their kibble at mealtime as training treats (if they enjoy their kibble).

Try ditching their food bowl in favor of food projects! Puzzle toys such as Kongs, lick mats, or West Paw Toppls that slow your dog's eating speed, giving them multiple time-consuming mental challenges each day. Fill the puzzle with something your dog enjoys. Keep things new and exciting: variety is the spice of life!

If your dog is not enthusiastic about their kibble, try mixing it with baby food (meaty or fruity – depending on what your dog likes), pureed pumpkin or yogurt. Many human foods are safe, tasty options for dogs; just avoid toxic ingredients such as onion or xylitol.



Having trouble getting your dog to settle down during your work day? Encourage your pup to chew, sniff, or tear something appropriate apart! Keeping their minds stimulated will help them decompress and relax, allowing you to focus.

If your dog finishes puzzles quickly, prepare and freeze them in advance so it takes longer for him to extract.

Give him outlets for natural behaviors! Activities that encourage chewing, sniffing, or tearing something apart can reduce problem behaviors. No Hide chews or bully sticks can satisfy chewers, just be sure to supervise your dog with any new item to make sure they consume it safely.

Remember, smell is a dog's primary sense, so encouraging them to use their nose can be a fun and tiring activity: hide some kibble in a snuffle mat, or scatter food in a part of your yard for them to forage.

Have a dog who enjoys tearing things apart? Put kibble in a brown lunch bag and roll it up, sprinkle treats in an empty egg carton and wrap it in some paper-based tape, or stuff a delivery box with the above items to increase difficulty — just remove plastic tape so your dog does not consume it.

Most of all, have fun!



Passing the torch

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

If you've recently attended a [training class](#) or a [doggie playgroup](#) you may have seen a new face in the department. That face belongs to Danielle Fuchs, our new Training and Enrichment Coordinator. Danielle joined the NHSPCA training team in January 2021 as a contract trainer teaching Puppy and Manners classes and recently accepted the full-time staff position.

Danielle previously held the position of Behavior & Training Manager at the East Bay SPCA in Oakland, CA. She has a Master of Science in Applied Animal Behavior and Animal Welfare, is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer through the Association of Pet Dog Trainers and holds a certificate in Training and Behavior Consultation from the Dog Training Internship Academy. She has been volunteering and working with shelter animals since 2014. She is passionate about animal welfare and animal training.

At the NHSPCA, she will continue teaching classes and will now take on teaching [private sessions](#) and conducting the small dog playgroups. She will also work with the in-house dogs to provide them training and enrichment as they wait for their forever homes.

Danielle will be filling the shoes of our beloved Associate Trainer Amillie Zickmund, who is headed to San Diego with her Navy husband John, her son Dean, her pup Kitara and her long-haired tiger kitty Kit Kat.

Danielle will also be stepping in for Salomé Barrot, our Animal Enrichment Coordinator who is headed back to France with her young family.

Saying goodbye is never easy, but it helps to know that Danielle with her kind and gentle spirit will accept the torch from these two wonderful individuals and continue our mission of helping animals and their people.

Welcome to the NHSPCA, Danielle!

Meet our new Manager of Humane Education!

By **Brianne Wood**

Director of Programs & Administration

We are happy to welcome Pilar Redmond as our new Manager of Humane Education. Pilar is excited to begin her journey with the New Hampshire SPCA with April vacation camp and is looking forward to getting to know each of you.



Pilar is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in Environmental Education. She has a long personal and professional history of creating educational programs for people of all ages, with a special focus on youth. Her passion for education and animals is evident the moment you meet her.

Pilar was pivotal in developing and running the highly praised Appleton Farms Summer Camp program in Ipswich, MA, which served 500 children ages 5-15. She also founded Community Roots in Lee, NH, a non-profit farm-based education program for children educating on the importance of local agriculture and the natural world.

Pilar is eager to bring her passions and professional expertise back to the seacoast community, where she can not only continue, but grow the incredibly important work of the [NHSPCA Humane Education programs](#). With our recent expansion of space and an additional classroom, Pilar is already brainstorming ways to offer even more engaging programs to people of all ages in our community.

While we are delighted to begin this chapter with Pilar, we would once again like to thank Paula Parisi for her amazing and critically acclaimed work as Manager of Humane Education for the past two decades.

We congratulate Paula on what she has accomplished and on her greatly deserved retirement. She will be sorely missed, but likely won't be too far away.



We have missed the smiling faces of our youngest animal-loving friends and are excited to open our classrooms to them again!

The campers are coming! The campers are coming!

By **Paula Parisi**

Manager of Humane Education Programs

Just when we despaired of seeing bright, young faces around the New Hampshire SPCA campus anytime soon, the decision was made to create a new, safe, in-person and exciting summer camp program to offer to the community.

We are over the moon excited to welcome back our youngest animal-loving friends! We've been way too long without them.

Our 2020 Summer Camp program was replaced by Camp in a Box as we "Reimagined" camp along with so many other things in our lives. We did not have any youth programs, no volunteers and most of our staff who could do so worked from home. In the earliest days when not as much was known about COVID, we had to practice extreme caution to ensure good health of our staff. If we all got sick, who would take care of the animals?

But now that the pandemic is somewhat under control and we have a better idea of how to keep kids healthy and safe, we are going to go ahead with our 2021 summer camp plans! There will be fewer campers, we'll all wear masks, maintain social distancing and keep everything super clean. This will be made easier this year because our second classroom will be ready for fun and learning when camp starts! Being able to spread out between the two rooms will make everything safer and easier.

We can't wait to christen this new beautiful room and fill it with happy campers and pets!

ALL SPRUCED UP!



Keep an eye out for our newly-wrapped van, coming to a classroom or library near you!

Our beloved classroom ferret finds his forever home

By Paula Parisi

Manager of Humane Education Programs

The pets that live in the New Hampshire SPCA [Humane Education](#) classroom are valuable and beloved components of our educational programs.

Children, families and other visitors love checking these animals out when they come to the classroom and will often have favorites. They are favorites for various reasons: maybe they love to feel the softness of the chinchilla, watch the playfulness of the degus or hold a cockatiel on their finger.

We Humane Educators enjoy seeing the bonds that develop and the joy these animals bring to people's lives.

The classroom pets also have a more practical reason for spending time in our programs. They offer educational opportunities for people who are thinking of getting a small animal pet and want some guidance as to how they are cared for. Some people already have small animal pets and want to provide enrichment or improve their pet's habitats. We are always happy to offer suggestions and share ideas with fellow small pet owners!

In general, the animals that come to the classroom to live are considered to be life-long residents with us and we care for them for their whole lives. This also provides a chance for visitors, especially youth, to see how animals age. Often, our classroom pets are retired from handling when they get old, and children understand and appreciate this. And when our pets pass away, we don't hide this fact — we share it with our visitors and celebrate the life of the pet and all the happiness they brought to the classroom.

Occasionally, however, we decide that one of our classroom pets really isn't suited for the classroom environment anymore.

This happened most recently with Wolfie, our sweet-natured and friendly ferret who has been living in the classroom for the past four years. Wolfie was most definitely a favorite of our campers, club members and every other person who visited the classroom. His playful antics and endless curiosity captured everyone's attention.

When COVID interrupted our lives and everything changed, we had to foster out many of the classroom pets. Some of them were upset by the change in their environment, such as our cockatiels, Fiji and Rebel; although, most were indifferent to the change since they were still getting attention (although a lot less) and the same nutritious food and daily cage cleaning.



Wolfie, a favorite to many classroom visitors, was recently adopted by another beloved member of our Humane Education department, Elizabeth, after he spent four years making children smile.

Of all the animals, however, Wolfie alone seemed to flourish in a home environment.

He was able to safely run around in a real home with his new family, had lots of new and interesting toys and activities, and a routine he could count on. He was fortunate to have been fostered by one of our Humane Educators, Elizabeth Segeberg, who has known Wolfie ever since he came to live in the classroom back in 2017.

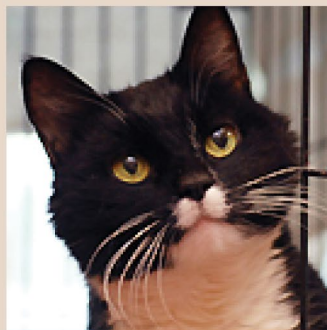
Although he had always gotten the best care here with us, including major surgery to remove an obstruction, even Elizabeth could see how he enjoyed family life. After over 250 days in foster care, Wolfie finally became a permanent member of Elizabeth's family on April 6, 2021 when she

officially adopted him.

He still comes to visit the classroom and has appeared in many Zoom programs, but when he settles in for bed every night, he's in his loving forever home in Epping.

Here's what Wolfie's new mom has to say about him: "Wolfie is so happy being a loved part of a family. He lives with four cats, one rat, one dog and two humans. His favorite family member is Ruby the dog. Wolfie loves to run up the stairs and on the bedroom carpet. He plays hide and seek under the bureaus! He has almost 30 toys that he hides underneath the living room furniture. Wolfie loves his family and new forever home!" And they love him, too!

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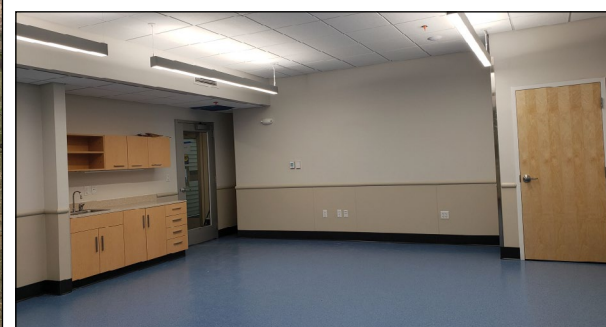
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Adjacent properties have come together as one solidified campus.



Our community wellness clinic is shaping up nicely!



A look at our new multi-purpose classroom.

CONSTRUCTION...

Continued from Page 1

gardens and foundations.

Rock crushers, back hoes and mud became the norm.

A few months went by and the initial site work was winding down. New foundations for the wellness clinic and classroom appeared and before the first snow flew, the structures were up and weather tight. Amazing!

Our new medical clinic, once complete, will help us reach more pet parents in need of low-cost spay-neuter and wellness care.

The new multi-purpose classroom will initially allow us to offer Humane Education programs this spring and summer with COVID safety protocols in place. Summer camp will be using this new space along with our traditional classroom and we are super excited that it will be available. In the future, the space will be an incredible resource to offer our community expanded youth and adult programming, lecture series, animal/owner consultations, flexible animal overflow space, and so much more!

Our new eight-stall barn was well underway before the end of 2020 and will accommodate our ever-growing farm/equine program. The



The walls have been painted and shelving is going up in our pharmacy hallway, which is part of the clinic space added to the front of our building.

building of our long-awaited indoor riding arena began in March and is coming along beautifully. Both will be complete by summer and the new paddocks that are aside them are simply beautiful.

The campus is now truly poised to care for, rehabilitate and rehome horses with greater success and speed.

There are a few projects that are essentially invisible to the public, but should be mentioned because although less glamorous, they are equally transformative.

First is our new HVAC system to replace the failing existing system. The new system will provide fresh air to flow through our buildings and reduce recycled air to keep our staff and animals healthy. The new rooves are complete as well, replacing failing and recalled roofing and a new sprinkler system will protect all occupants of our facility in case of a fire.

When you visit our campus next, be sure to take a peek out behind our buildings. There, you will see our improved storm water drainage system. Our campus is low lying and receives an incredible amount of run off. Our new rain gardens (read more about these on page 12) will make a beautiful addition while being environmentally effective.

You'll also see our newly-expanded outdoor fenced dog play areas, which will provide a safe and enriching environment for animals in our care, and those participating in training classes as well.

There is still so much left to complete. Phase 2 will be in process before you receive this newsletter and we will, hopefully, be well on our way to a ribbon cutting celebration.

When that time comes, we will be excited to show you in person all of the amazing progress that you have helped to make possible.