



New cat space uplevels care

By Kelly Marinel
Manager of Animal Care

We tend to see an uptick in surrendered animals beginning around the end of summer, back-to-school time. This year, amid construction and COVID, proved to be no different. Our intake numbers for August and September nearly doubled those of June and July.

While the back half of the shelter is being rebuilt and renovated, we have had to rearrange our animal housing areas and get creative. We have cats, birds, and small animals living in offices and bunny enclosures set up in our Community Meeting Room, (which definitely makes meetings more fun)! But the truth is, we are eagerly

See **NEW SPACE**, Page 7



Washburn felt safest in his cat tree. Our expanded space allowed us to put him and his companion, Franky, in one of our quiet rooms so they could enjoy the comfort of a tree without having to interact with unfamiliar cats in our free-roaming rooms.



You are invited!

We are so excited to invite you, our incredibly supportive community members, to join us in celebrating our ribbon cutting and open house. Be among the first to visit our newly enhanced and expanded campus.

DATE: Saturday, December 4, 2021

TIME: Welcome & Ribbon Cutting at 1:30 p.m.
Tours from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Tours will include visits to our new Equine and Veterinary Centers, learning about the Rain Garden project and its importance, viewing the newly enhanced animal areas, and, of course, visiting the animals!

We hope you will join us for this exciting look at the future of the New Hampshire SPCA!

If you are interested in joining us for this exciting event, please let us know by providing your RSVP [here today!](#)



Holiday Fund Drive

GIVE HOPE TO HOMELESS
AND ABUSED ANIMALS

Heart of the Holidays

By Courtney Vavra
Annual Fund & Digital Marketing Manager

The holidays are a time of year filled with love, sharing, and most importantly, family. Thanks to the support of animal lovers like you, Molly and Bella, two 11-year-old senior dogs, found a loving home just in time for the holidays.

A few months ago, Molly and Bella were rescued from an abusive situation and brought to the safety of the New Hampshire SPCA. It was heart-wrenching to see them both trembling in fear from the trauma

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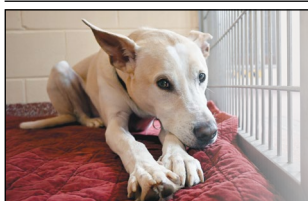


Our Online/Silent Auction is Live!

Click [here](#) to check out our best Online/Silent Auction yet! All items will be available for pickup prior to Christmas.

Happy bidding!

Each and every bid makes a difference to the animals!



GIVING TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 30

Read more about this special day on [Page 7](#)

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

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Today is the day and I'm grinning from ear to ear! I'm taking in the sights of the New Hampshire SPCA as we prepare to cut the ribbon at the end of an incredible renovation and expansion. I'm smiling so brightly as I walk around taking in the incredible sights. Hope's Barn standing brightly in the sunshine as the doors open and the horses are turned out to new pastures. As I stroll through the Equine Center, I watch transfixed while staff is on horseback, working one of our resident horses. It brings me such joy to know that both the horse and rider are safe and protected in the new space while helping to transform this beautiful animal and prepare her for a new home.

I continue walking around the Ring Trail admiring the beautiful new rain gardens. I'm in awe of how the grounds have been transformed and these working gardens are both practical and beautiful. As I come up alongside the Lamprey Barn and round the corner, the new Veterinary Center stands ready to serve both the animals in our care and those in our community for years to come.

When I open the doors of the newly renovated Adoption Center with freshly painted offices, we are getting ready to welcome you back. Traveling deeper into the building, the refreshed animal spaces with new housing and exam areas humble me, for I know what it took to upgrade and improve these spaces. I know what it will mean for every animal that for a day, a month or sometimes longer, will reside with us. These new spaces with such subtleties as Fear Free Colors, larger housing, and fresh air will make any animals' stay less stressful and at lower risk for stress-related illnesses. For them, I am so grateful. There is even a new laundry room that is now twice the size as it had formally been. No more dirty laundry pouring out into the hallways.

The changes that we've seen over the last 14 months are visible and invisible and none of it could have taken place without the incredible support of so many in our community who believed in preparing for today, tomorrow and for generations to come. We are grateful for everything you've done to make this vision a reality.

We're so proud of all that we've accomplished



and thank the board members who had the vision and commitment to this project. The staff helped in a thousand ways and tolerated working in the middle of a renovation while caring for the animals protecting them all the while. Thank you to our volunteers who continued to help us through all these challenging times. We are truly grateful to our architects, ARQ and North Branch Construction, the town of Stratham and everyone who's helped us to realize this fabulous vision; to expand, enhance and endow through [the Campaign for Changing Times](#), the reality of this incredible project.

On December 4, exactly 150 years later, to the day of our founding, we will welcome you to our ribbon cutting of this beautiful campus. We are here as a community resource assisting individuals, families, and the animals they love.

Thank you for all that you've done to help realize this dream. We are truly proud and excited for the next 150 years to unfold.

On behalf of the animals,

Lisa Dennison
Executive Director

New Hampshire Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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Wintertime is coming... are you prepared?

By Steven Sprowl

Humane Agent, Field Services Manager

Yes... it's that time of year again....everyone is looking forward to the holidays.

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

For me, this time of year is when I like to remind

How to report cruelty

If you know or suspect an animal is being neglected or abused, please call 603-773-5739 or click [here](#).

everyone that we need to take care of our furry friends. Most people are already aware of and follow the rules about caring for animals in winter weather, but unfortunately, some are not. Whether by choice or by lack of awareness, those that don't follow the animal protection laws of our state

are likely to get into problems with the police departments in their area.

Following is a brief summary of the rules for care of animals in winter months.

First, a couple of definitions that I think will help regarding Cruelty to Animals.

Animal definition: a domestic animal, a household pet or a wild animal held in captivity.

Cruelty is defined in part as not supplying proper provisions for an animal's care, sustenance, protection or shelter.

Horses

Let's talk about horses first because there tend to be many more instances and complaints about care for them during the winter months.

Shelter is required for all equines. They must be provided with an adequately vented, dry barn with stalls of sufficient size so the horses are able to lie down. They must be provided suitable exercise in arenas, barn yards, paddocks or pastures.

A roofed shelter with at least three sides shall be provided from November 1 through April 15 for horses kept in paddocks or pastures and the horses



There are specific requirements for animals that are outside during the winter. If you witness an animal that is not well equipped for the cold temperatures, please contact us immediately.

must be able to move around freely and not be tied in the shelter. The shelters shall be large enough to accommodate the number of horses on the property.

This type of roofed shelter is frequently an issue. We receive a lot of calls every winter that there are horses outdoors in freezing rain or snow. We ask if there is a shelter in the paddock and if there is one present, it's up to the horse to decide if it wants to go into that shelter, or not. If there is a shelter, the owners are within the State Law.

Feeding is an important factor in winter months as there is no availability for them to graze. All horses shall receive roughage in proportion to their size, age, temperament and the amount of work they are required to perform. Horses shall be fed on a regular daily schedule and food shall be clean and free from excessive moisture. Horses are required to have a sufficient quantity of fresh

water to maintain hydration. This can be another frequent problem when temperatures cause water buckets to freeze over. I usually suggest purchasing a water trough with a heater to keep the water from freezing. Horses can't have sufficient hydration if they can't get to the water.

Dogs

Another very common call in the winter is about the welfare of dogs. Reports of suspected neglect of dogs goes up in the winter due to lack of proper shelter. Shelter is described in the State Statute as any natural or artificial area which provides protection from the direct sunlight (in the summer) and have adequate air circulation to disperse the heat in summer. Shelter from the weather shall allow the dog to remain clean and dry. Shelter shall be structurally sound and have an area within to afford the dog the ability to stand up, turn around, and lie down. The shelter must be proportionate in size to allow the natural body heat of the dog to be retained. There is nothing in the law that says you must supply straw or blankets in the shelter. We receive many calls that a dog is outside 24/7 in the winter. Under state law, that's ok as long as it has proper shelter as described above. Please note, if the owner supplies a doghouse and the dog wants to lay outdoors in a snowstorm, that's up to the dog. When he/she gets cold they will use the shelter.

If you see a dog tied out in a storm and there is no shelter, you should immediately call on your local police department. The police are bound by law to make sure owners are following the state statutes.

Let's hope most of us have room in our warm houses for the company of our dog as part of the family and that they only go outside in the winter for a quick break or to romp in the snow.

I hope this article helps everyone to understand the laws protecting animals during winter months.



Rolling
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.

Notes From The Barn

An amazing little donkey named Dom

By Michelle Murch

Equine & Farm Program Manager

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from a difficult life experience. Dom the Donkey is the definition of resilience.

Dom was rescued in June of 2021 with two emaciated mares, River and Kansas. Personally, not having much hands-on donkey experience, I prepared for the worst: stubborn, and difficult to work around. I have never been so wrong. Dom let us take care of him easily.

He trusted us even after being betrayed, so severely, by those who were supposed to care.

Incredibly, so many animals can continue to be loving after experiencing neglect in its rawest form. Dom and his herd experienced horrific neglect. Lack of food for months, mud and manure covering legs and bodies, unattended medical needs or routine care, and hooves so neglected and overgrown it was causing leg deformities and made walking incredibly painful.

Yet, after all this, the herd of three was willing to walk onto a scary trailer in the pouring rain with strange humans standing all around and travel quietly to an unfamiliar barn and behave with such trust. The scene speaks volumes for one little Donkey named Dom and his herd.

Dom's extremely overgrown hooves had been so neglected that he was having obvious pain and difficulty just walking. His hoofs looked like Aladdin's Slippers when we rescued him. Because he was in pain, Dom laid down much more than his herd mates, causing his long coat to become matted covering his entire belly and parts of his legs.

It was a painful transformation back to relative normalcy, but through it all Dom maintained his loving demeanor. He immediately started to put his head on the shoulder of any human who would allow it. (It became his signature move.) He just wanted to hug everyone. Initially, the staff was a bit skeptical of these hugs, but quickly embraced the beautiful outward display of appreciation from an animal.

Dom LOVED to be loved, even after the people who were supposed to take care of him had failed him. He was a favorite with ALL the summer campers and staff alike. The campers were lucky enough to spend time grooming and walking



LEFT: Members from our barn staff work on shaving Dom upon his arrival because his coat was incredibly matted. Dom's heavily overgrown hooves made it difficult to walk, so he was laying down much more often than his herdmates; therefore, the matting on his legs and belly was extensive. RIGHT: Dom snuggles in with his "forever Grampa" after being adopted by the perfect family.



him during almost every session throughout the summer.

Once Dom was vaccinated and microchipped, clipped, hooves trimmed, dental done, and management for his Cushing's disease had begun, it was time to find him his forever home. Dom deserved a place where he would never ever have to worry about being neglected again.

We knew with his charming, snuggly personality, he would have many amazing offers for homes. We, of course, wanted that perfect match.

The perfect match came in the form of an email from his now forever mom, Betty. The email I received described their love and heartbreak over their late donkey. They had experience managing Cushing's previously and had a perfect paddock to keep him.

Betty sent a picture of her and her husband, Jarrod, with their late donkey. All I can say is

"goosebumps".

I knew they needed to meet Dom. I warned them if they met him, they would love him... and I was right. THEY DID!

References and barn checks were completed and all that was left was to send him to his forever home. Dom's new parents agreed to let him stay through the last week of camp so that no campers missed out on experiencing our sweet donkey. Then he went home. Home to his perfect little forever herd and family.

Dom has equine herd mates, goat neighbors, a dog brother, a Mom and a Dad, and grandparents who adore him. He is one lucky donkey, and we are better for having been able to care for him when he needed us most.

We could all learn a little from Dom's story. Live for what today has to offer, not for what yesterday has taken away.

HOPE BEGINS HERE...



The first two horses took comfort in Hope's Barn on September 16! Pictured in the new 8-stall barn is Freckles, a 31-year-old Paint/Pinto mix. Freckles and her best friend Aurora, a 26-year-old Paint/Pinto mix, have also been enjoying the new paddocks located behind the barn, which offer a quieter place to graze.

Our wish came true

Our birds finally have a space to call their own

By Michaela Gerome
Adoption Counselor

When we first started talking about our construction project, our staff was asked to contribute ideas about how we could better meet the needs of the animals in our care. What could we add that would make this a better space for an animal?

We have always wanted a dedicated space just for birds — one that's not in the middle of the Adoption Center lobby but that is still in a location that can be seen easily by the potential adopters. We wanted a room where the birds could come out of their cages and visitors could watch them in their environment, happily enjoying some enrichment.

In the past, when a bird arrived, they would get shuffled around a little bit because we didn't have a true bird-designated area. Many times, we would even place birds in offices in the Learning Center. While they received lots of love and attention from staff and visitors there, it unfortunately meant that they weren't being seen by potential adopters.

So, as we were thinking of this expansion, one of the first ideas we began dreaming of was an aviary!

Just like our sweet dogs, caring cats, rambunctious rabbits, and barn family, it is crucial for birds to have a space designed just for them. We knew our birds deserved a space where they feel protected and can safely enjoy enrichment like all the other animals.

Birds are extremely sensitive to and curious



We've never had a special space reserved just for the birds we welcome throughout the year... well, until now! Our new aviary will provide our featured friends like Milo and Peaches, pictured here, with a safe, comfortable space to enjoy while they wait for their forever homes.

about everything around them, so we wanted a spot where they could look out and we could look in. And now, we have one! With our new Aviary, we can keep an eye on our bird friends and make sure they are doing well. We will also be able to use this space in case a bird has developed a respiratory issue. We will now be able to isolate the room without potentially exposing other animals (if the disease is transferable).

The aviary is one of my favorite parts of the expansion project. I know we will have many birds in the future that will benefit from this exciting addition. These lovely, fun, adventurous animals will be healthier and happier as they await their new homes, and we are so grateful.



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Helping the lost find their way home

By Felicia LeBlanc
Adoption Counselor

Many pet owners have a fear of their beloved animal companions going missing. If that ever does happen, one hopes they will be reunited quickly, but some animals need a little help making their way back home.

With the transition to virtual communication

during the pandemic, it has been easier than ever for staff at New Hampshire SPCA to communicate with individuals who have either lost, or found, an animal. We are eager to lend a helping hand to comfort stressed families, and aid in the

Lost pet?

Please click [here](#) to learn what to do if your pet goes missing!

reunification process for both animals and their humans.

Super Nacho the cat went missing from his North Hampton home in August, and his family was anxious to have him return home. Super Nacho's family contacted us right away to see if a cat that matched his description had been brought into our care and to complete a lost report. Sadly, at that time, we did not have a male brown tabby brought in as a stray, but we would contact the family if a cat was brought in that may look like Super Nacho, or if we received any leads from the community.

Weeks went by, and Super Nacho had yet to return home. Over a month passed before we received a found animal report that was submitted by a good Samaritan, that was a possible match to Super Nacho's description.

The good Samaritan had noted a brown tabby had been looking for food and shelter in her neighborhood and knew the cat must have had a family looking for him. She contacted us to see if there was anything she could do for the cat before bringing him into the shelter. She followed our suggestion of contacting the local police department to file a found animal report and sent us a photo to share with Super Nacho's family.

Thankfully, it was a match, and Super Nacho was able to be reunited with his family!



Super Nacho was missing for 35 days before being spotted in North Hampton. His finder sent us a photo (left) and we were able to match it with his lost report. Thankfully, Super Nacho had no trouble settling back in at home after being reunited (right).

Super Nacho spent 35 days on his own and was able to return home because of the swift action of his finder.

Many animals become lost every year. Although it can be a very stressful experience for the animal owner, there are a few steps that can be taken to help a speedy reunification.

When an animal goes missing, the owner should contact their local animal adoption organization and their local Animal Control Officer or police department to share their lost animal's information.

Social media is also a wonderful tool in helping lost animals return home. Many towns and cities have social media pages where a lost animal flyer can be posted, as well as many lost/found animal groups.

Of course, one of the very best steps you can take must happen before an animal ever goes missing. We highly recommend that your pet be micro-chipped and that you keep the microchip company up to date on how to reach you in an emergency. Also, make sure your pet has a collar with proper identification tags on it. The chances of your pet being reunited with your family is much better if they are found with easy to read identification.

As hard as it may be, we also recommend owners stay optimistic, because it can take days or even weeks for their animal to return home. Many animals, like Super Nacho, find their way home with the help of kindhearted neighbors.



Molly and Bella share a bed and cuddle with their new canine sibling, Layla. Your support of our Holiday Fund directly helps homeless and abused animals like this adorably sweet senior duo get the second chance they deserve.

HOLIDAYS...

Continued from Page 1

they endured. I will never understand how some humans can be so cruel to an innocent animal.

When you have a soft spot for animals, it's often because you've known a special pet that has touched your life in a way that changes you forever. What a gift it is to be able to recognize that love in every other animal! That's the sharp tug you feel in your heart when you think of animals being mistreated. It's a reminder that you can help make sure every animal has the same chance to feel safe and loved — especially around the holidays.

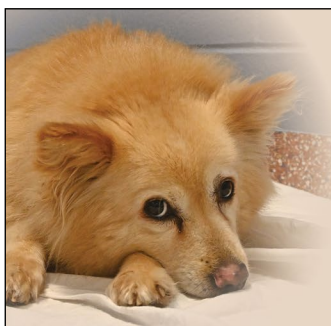
We can't stop humans from being cruel, but we can help the victims by offering love, kindness and support. We can help make sure that animals like Molly and Bella never suffer at the hands of humans again.

Things began to change for Molly and Bella the second they arrived at our Adoption Center. There, they were surrounded by soft-hearted humans who could see their own beloved pets reflected in their eyes. They received the comfort, treatment, and unconditional love all animals deserve. But it's only with your help that we can continue to take in the unwanted and unloved and care for them as if they were our own.

This holiday season, with your support, every animal in our shelter can feel safe and loved.

Please, listen to your heart and help give more cats, dogs, horses and other animals in our community a second chance at happiness this holiday season. Your donation to our Holiday Fund Drive will be used as efficiently as possible to ensure the homeless and abused animals in our community get the care they need.

Please click [here](#) to make a gift to our Holiday Fund Drive. Thank you for your love and support!



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 visit our Commemorative page at nhspca.org/commemorative-gifts/ to view our new listing.

Thank you for all you do for the animals.

Giving Tuesday is November 30!



Join us on Giving Tuesday to help homeless and abused animals like Shinobe, pictured above.

By Courtney Vavra

Annual Fund & Digital Marketing Manager

Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past nine years, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

And in the past year, with the effects of the pandemic still casting uncertainty over our lives, one thing remains clear: Animals help make us better humans.

A shared love of animals is a heartstring that keeps us all together — even in times of discon-

nect. Animals have shown us how to cope, providing comfort and joy during stressful times. They live in the moment and love unconditionally.

Giving Tuesday is the perfect day to give your heart out — just like our pets do every day.

If you pledge to give back on Tuesday, November 30, not only will you help the homeless animals of the NHSPCA, but you'll also inspire others with your generosity!

So, whether you choose to give your time, your voice, or your money, please join other like-minded animal lovers and give to honor and celebrate the special connection between pets and people.

For more information on how you can help this Giving Tuesday, please click [here](#).

NEW SPACE...

Continued from Page 1

awaiting the completion of the renovation and having the animals enjoy their new spaces.

The new housing areas are more aligned with best practices for size and appearance: they are

bigger, the walls have all been painted with calming, fear-free colors, and there are specially designed areas for isolation and quarantine for when we have transferred or sick animals.

We have already begun to use one of my favorite

spaces... our front cat rooms. Previously, our Cat Pavilion was lacking private “homeroom” type enclosures for cats that needed to be housed loose and not in a cage. Our only option for that before was the large community rooms with other cats.

But sometimes, the cats that needed more space didn't do well with other cats or were shy and afraid of people; therefore, being housed with other cats in rooms where people are in and out constantly was not an option. Our new, smaller Get Acquainted rooms provide more options for these cats to be comfortable and give them the privacy they may need.

One cat that has already benefited from our new space is Chameleon, who enjoyed one of these new spaces while she was here. In a cage, she felt threatened and would lash out at us when we had to reach in to clean. Unfortunately, she did not get along well with other cats, so she was unable to be in the free-roaming community room.

In her private space, she thrived.

We were able to give her space so she could



avoid us when we cleaned, meanwhile we could also do some training with her so she could learn that interacting with people could be really positive.

Stormy, another success story, was so scared when she arrived that she wouldn't eat.

Our team spent many days sitting with Stormy, playing purring cat sounds and finding her favorite toy to help her feel more secure. Stormy was housed in one of our new larger cat rooms where she had plenty of space to explore, and privacy so she could settle in comfortably.

She was most comfortable in her cat tower (which would not fit in the cat cages), and if she was loose in the community room, we would have been unable to monitor her eating. The new space was a perfect set-up for her.

Shortly after Stormy started eating again, she was adopted by a wonderful family!

Another new feature I am especially excited



LEFT: Chameleon felt threatened in a kennel and didn't get along with other cats, so she could not be in a free-roam room. In a private room, she was able to settle in.

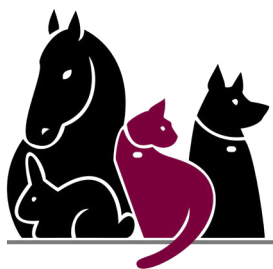
RIGHT: Installing a guillotine door in one dog kennel that leads directly outside will be great for dogs that aren't leash trained like Bonnie, who was rescued in 2020 from a neglectful situation.

about is the dog kennels that have direct access to the outdoors without having to come out of the kennel. One kennel in each dog area will have a guillotine door that leads to a fenced-in yard.

This will be especially helpful for dogs that have not been leash trained or are fearful of people. We have seen this in some of our hoarding/cruelty cases.

If they are in the kennel and we want to get them to go outside, it can be scary for the dog, and they can feel trapped in the kennel. If we can give them space and access to outdoors on their own, we can sit outside with them and let them come to us when they are ready. This will help us build a positive relationship with the dog and ultimately give them a better shot at a great home quickly.

Luckily, thanks to our wonderful community, our adoption numbers are up as well! We are still operating adoptions under our virtual model and are so appreciative to all our adopters and supporters!



CELEBRATING

By Sheila E. Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

On December 4, 2021, the NHSPCA will begin the celebration of our 150th year. How incredible to think about what animals were facing in 1872 and the many transitions and transformations animal welfare has and continues to experience since then. Our Founder, Sarah J. Pickering, was so disturbed by the mistreatment of horses and other work animals, that she was determined to bring NH into the fledgling animal welfare movement. That movement was begun in our country by Henry Burgh in 1866 when he founded the first animal welfare organization in NYC and called it the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Just six years later, Mrs. Pickering signed the documents to create one of the first 10 such organizations in the US, right here in Portsmouth, NH.

For the first 100 years of the NHSPCA's existence, we were an unsheltered organization with simply a cruelty investigator and a small office in Portsmouth. The investigator would respond to cruelty reports all around the state, and in those days may have to spend an entire day simply getting to where the animals were in jeopardy. In addition to animals, for many years beginning in 1876, this organization was also the New Hampshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, presuming that children should be protected at least as much as animals. The two organizations separated when the state of New Hampshire took responsibility for the protection of children in the early 1950s.

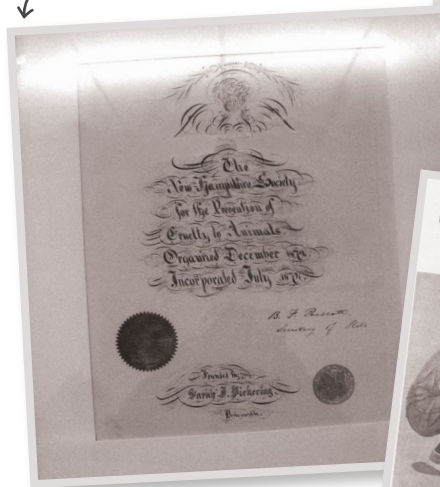
The Agent's report of 1939 summarizes that there were 556 reports of animal cruelty in the year and 16,009 miles traveled by the agent. Amazing!

In 1974, two years after celebrating our 100th year, the NHSPCA opened its first animal shelter. Its *first* animal shelter. For over 100 years, the NHSPCA was not sheltering animals, we were caring for animals in the community, protecting them from mistreatment and reuniting stray animals with their owners.

That first shelter was a rented garage located at the Stratham traffic circle, but just two years later, in 1976, the first shelter on our existing property opened.

In that first year, the NHSPCA took in 6,500 animals!

1872: Sarah J. Pickering founded the Portsmouth Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animals.



1957: Quote from Annual Agents report, "No healthy puppy is ever put to sleep".



1974: The NHSPCA opens its original shelter in a rented garage at the intersection of route 101 and route 108 in Stratham.



1976: The permanent shelter opens on current property. Takes in 6,500 animals in its first year.

In 1984, the first barn was built on our property with just four stalls. This small barn returned us to earlier roots of protecting horses and providing them second chances. We remain one of only two organizations that take in homeless, abused and neglected horses in New Hampshire.

By the late 1990's, the NHSPCA was bursting at the seams, and animal welfare had evolved considerably. Our forward-looking board of that time decided that we needed to modernize and expand to better care for the animals that needed us.

In 2001, the existing Adoption Center opened with modern animal housing and space for medical care for in-house animals, followed in 2003 by the Morris D. Lamprey Barn with incredible space for the adoptable horse population. By 2004, the new Learning Center for Pets and People opened to house Behavior and Training Classes and what would become our award-winning Humane Education Department.

As they say, "If you build it, they will come," and boy, did they ever!

Our dog training classes and workshops have been in high demand ever since, and our summer camp sells out every summer. New offerings came along in each department, specialized classes for challenging dogs, after-school clubs and volunteer opportunities for children, holiday celebrations and birthday parties all had a new place in the Learning Center for Pets and People.

The Adoption Center, meanwhile, was con-

tinuing to find homes for thousands of animals, once just dogs and cats, now horses, goats, pigs, bunnies, birds, mice, rats and so many more. The Adoption Center and Barn truly became the safety net for all creatures great and small.

Evolution continues. In 2013, a new group of forward-thinking board members created a new strategic plan for the NHSPCA. Among the many goals of the plan was to expand our footprint to be able to care for even more animals in need and to continue to offer the best possible care. Our new mission statement was adopted: To save the lives of companion animals through rescue, rehabilitation, and adoption; to promote learning, eliminate animal cruelty and be a leader in advancing the highest standards of animal welfare.

At the same time, there were changes happening in the animal welfare movement. Spay/Neuter in NH had become customary for all adopted dogs and cats, transporting from overcrowded shelters was becoming expected, animal behaviorists were learning that the size, shape, color of animal housing could help predict a positive outcome of an animal's adoption, and enrichment activities became critical for animals as "unlimited stay" became the norm and animals often remained in shelters longer until an adopter came for them.

In order to be a leader in advancing the highest standards of animal welfare, it was time for the NHSPCA to grow again.

The aptly named *Campaign for Changing Times*

150 YEARS!

Want to learn more?

Keep an eye out for the first column of our historical series, debuting in our next newsletter!

2021: The Campaign for Changing Times expansion is completed!



2021: The first horse goes under saddle in the new Equine Center for Transformative Care.

2021: Hope's Barn and the Equine Center for Transformative Care welcome the first group of horses.

quietly moved forward in 2017, 2018, 2019 and concluded in early 2020, just as the pandemic began. Plans were already underway, architect's renderings already complete.

On August 18, 2020, in the height of a global pandemic, the NHSPCA broke ground on a project that would expand our facilities, enhance our ability to serve animals in the kennels and in

the community, care for more equine and farm animals, providing horses training that would help them go home healthier and more quickly than we ever dreamed possible.

And this project would bring to life our dream of a Veterinary Center that would provide care for the animals awaiting adoption, but also animals in our community whose families were

struggling to afford routine medical care, vaccinations and spay/neuter. This project will up level every aspect of our mission execution.

On December 4, we will cut the ribbon on this newly expanded campus and welcome our community to come and celebrate both the past 150 years and the next.

We hope to see you there!

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Once again saying hello to familiar faces

By Steve Jones
Volunteer Coordinator

When the pandemic forced us to put a pause on the New Hampshire SPCA's Volunteer Program, we could never have imagined that a year and a half would pass before we again welcomed volun-

Interested in volunteering?

Please click [here](#) to learn more about how you can get involved with the animals!

unteers as a regular part of our work. As Volunteer Coordinator, I have enjoyed interacting with people in new ways. We have been able to expand our virtual and remote volunteer opportunities and even held zoom

get-togethers for our wonderful volunteers. Keeping everyone informed about the changes at the agency was essential while we continued forward with the campus expansion project. We value the support of our volunteers and community so much, and now that the project is nearing completion, we will need them with us again. Seeing familiar faces through a screen was OK, but it does not replace the feeling of meeting in person, and I have greatly missed connecting with people one on one.

As time progressed and we learned more about COVID, we were able to have small groups on-site to help with projects like bulk mailings and getting ready for Paws Walk. Having a few volunteers back provided a small sense of normalcy. But, with construction altering animal areas and a lot of the building being an active hard hat area, it was still necessary to limit the number of people on site. Some staff continued to work from home to allow more space for those required to be in the building. Animals were placed into foster care whenever possible to benefit from a quieter environment.

When the expansion project officially entered phase two and construction began to settle down a bit, we were so excited to offer volunteers a regular opportunity to help. In July, almost fifteen volunteers became "construction greeters," interacting with the public most days of the week. They offer information about the changes to our campus and let visitors know about the programs and services we offer. Having greeters available also allowed us to begin accepting limited donations again, which has benefited the animals so much.

Through all of this, the question has always been, when can our regular Volunteer Program resume? Before the pause, we were in the process of implementing a new piece of software that would allow the volunteers better access to training; the ability



Animals like Opal, pictured here enjoying a snuggle session with one of our lovely volunteers, are so happy to have more people to spend time with during their stay at the New Hampshire SPCA. We are equally excited to be welcoming our volunteers back after being without them for what felt like forever!

to sign up for volunteer shifts themselves; and to interact with staff and each other through a secure portal. I am overjoyed to say that we will be rolling that program out shortly and inviting our existing volunteer group back to resume volunteer activities. Our Equine and Farm Volunteer Program has already resumed. And it has been wonderful to have more familiar faces around campus again. "The extra help has been so beneficial," says Michelle Murch, Equine and Farm Program Manager at the NHSPCA. "Now that we have additional paddocks, a new eight-stall barn, and The Equine Center for Transformative Care, an indoor arena for rehabilitation and training, the volunteer assistance has been invaluable."

After so long away, we anticipate a few learning curves and will hold training opportunities for volunteers to make sure everyone is familiar with the new spaces and has received a refresher on care procedures. This will give us the ability to gauge where our volunteer needs still are and then we will be able to invite the public to join our Volunteer Program again as well.

If you're interested in learning more about the volunteer program at the NHSPCA, information is available [here](#). Our website will be updated once we are ready to resume orientations for new volunteers.

Looking so forward to seeing each volunteer back and caring for the animals that we all love!

SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER & HELP THE ANIMALS!

New Hampshire SPCA gear is sure to bring a smile to someone's face this holiday season! The best part? **You're also giving the gift of second chances to homeless animals!**

Visit nhspca.org to shop today!



Volunteer groups help us plant the future!

By Steve Jones
Volunteer Coordinator

On a gorgeous Fall day when the leaves were turning burnt orange and bright red and the morning air was crisp, we welcomed 20 volunteers to our campus. These volunteers came to help us with Phase II of a series of planting projects many months in the making.

The rain and pollinator gardens around our campus serve multiple purposes beyond just aesthetics. Our two extensive rain gardens, which fill the back portion of campus, are designed to mitigate rainwater runoff from the road and ease the flooding and erosion that previously happened every year. The pollinator gardens consist of local flowers specifically chosen to attract bees, butterflies, and insects, promoting a more natural environment. The aroma will also provide enrichment opportunities for our dogs as they enjoy their walks around the campus.

Thanks to our Friends at Timberland, we had already started planting the thousands of grass plugs, bushes, and plants that would shape the gardens during Phase I. For Phase II, we welcomed a group of New Hampshire Master Gardeners from UNH's Cooperative Extension, Boy Scouts from Kingston's Troop 93, and NHSPCA volunteers who put another 1500 plants into the ground.

The Master Gardeners were invaluable, sharing their wealth of knowledge and ability to tackle



LEFT: Master Gardeners from UNH's Cooperative Extension worked alongside NHSPCA volunteers to put hundreds of bushes and plants into the ground. RIGHT: Boy Scouts from Troop 93 in Kingston spent time with Copper, who was adopted just a few days after this photo, during their volunteer day.



the large project efficiently.

The Boy Scouts held true to the organization's motto of "Be Prepared" and came equipped with shovels, rakes, and post hole diggers, ready to drop hundreds of plants into the ground around the perimeter of the rain gardens.

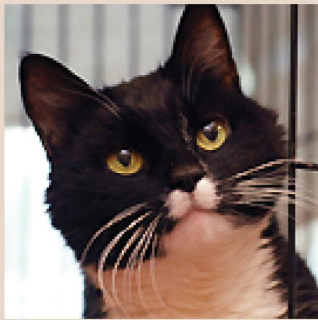
And as is usually the case, the NHSPCA volunteers came willing to do whatever was asked to support the cause, steadily helping throughout

the day.

It was exciting to see such a large group of faces on campus again! We truly could not have finished this project without the help of so many individuals, and for that, I am grateful.

If you are a gardener interested in helping us maintain these spaces, which also support the thousands of animals we care for every year, please click [here!](#)

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Looking forward to days to come in Humane Ed!

By Erin Burger

Manager of Humane Education Programs

The last 16 months have been full of changes everywhere, and the NHSPCA has been no exception!

To add another transition to the mix, I am excited to introduce myself as the new Manager of Humane Education Programs!

Join us!

Does your child love animals? Please click [here](#) to learn how they can get involved with the NHSPCA!

I know I have some big shoes to fill after Paula Parisi's many years of passion and dedication in this position, but I'm ready to hit the ground running!

I've spent nearly a decade working with children of all ages in public education, have a background in educational psychology, and am a dedicated animal-lover. I'm delighted to be able to incorporate an additional social-emotional lens in the department!

I am fortunate to be joining the NHSPCA while the expansion of our campus is in progress because it's also a great time to be thinking of ways to expand the reach of our department! Our new Community Meeting Room served as a second classroom during summer camp this year, allowing us to include as many kids as possible while maintaining safe physical distances.

With this additional indoor space, our updated Adoption Center and new Veterinary Center, and all the new outdoor spaces, the possibilities for our Humane Education Department seem endless!

In the days ahead, we will be working hard to reintroduce after-school programming for kids and teens. While we will maintain some of the



We are so excited to officially be able to introduce you to our new Manager of Humane Education Programs, Erin Burger! Erin comes to us with plenty of public education experience and we are excited to see her plan for the department unfold!



existing programs, we will also introduce some new ones, like homework clubs, book clubs, and art and photography clubs.

Who knows, with our beautiful new Rain Gardens and the Children's Garden, some outdoor clubs may also be coming soon!

Each program will allow kids to learn about humane and responsible ways to interact with animals, while exploring and building upon their own interests and passions.

I also wish to offer more community outreach opportunities, such as lessons for adults and families on pet ownership and how to get involved in foster care, as well as using our growing space to host events. As always, we will continue to spread our message and mission of

compassion, kindness, and respect for all living things!

While we are all looking forward to (hopefully) leaving the pandemic behind us someday soon, we can't forget some of the new ideas that came from having to get creative while our doors were closed... like the activity boxes we created and mailed home to children, opportunities for Zoom visits with our classroom pets, and setting up Animal Pen Pals!

We plan to continue to offer ways for children and families to learn about kindness and compassion toward animals despite distance or safety concerns.

Keep your eyes on the [website](#) and our weekly newsletter for new developments coming soon!

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Ruby can't wait to see kids in person again!



If you have participated in any Humane Education programs at the NHSPCA, you've likely met sweet Ruby, a great ambassador for our organization.

By Elizabeth Segeberg
Humane Educator

Hi! Woof! My name is Ruby!

I am a 9½-year-old Shepherd/Pointer mix born in Medora, IN and now live in Epping, NH. I made a very important stop at the NHSPCA in Stratham, where I received the kindest care. After my health check, I was quickly adopted and now live with two cats, a ferret and my human parents.

The best part of my story is that one of my parents is a Humane Educator at the NHSPCA. I accompany her frequently to off-site visits, proudly representing the NHSPCA.

I love to be an ambassador for the NHSPCA because I know I'll receive a lot of attention and help children learn compassion and care for all animals.

During the last eight years, we have visited libraries, schools, daycares, and nursing homes. I have even attended NHSPCA classroom [birthday parties](#)! They were always fun, and all the children were so happy. For five years, I was an NHSPCA ambassador at the *Auction for the Animals* at

Wentworth by the Sea. That was an important assignment.

Do you know the NHSPCA offers dog [classes](#)? I do! I have taken four and I enjoyed each one. They were "Oh, behave," "Nose Work," "Introduction to Agility," and "Canine Good Citizen." The "Canine Good Citizen" was the most challenging. I had to pass a 10-part test in 15 minutes. I did and now I am a certified Canine Good Citizen dog!

2020 was not much fun because I didn't get to be with any children nor share the mission of the NHSPCA with the public. This summer was much better. I visited many libraries and visited the NHSPCA summer camp! It was so much fun, but I take my NHSPCA ambassadorship very seriously!

I helped teach lessons on dog etiquette, bite prevention, animal care, and pet ownership responsibility. My human told my personal NHSPCA adoption story, which everyone loves to hear. I have a beautiful life all because of the NHSPCA.

I hope to see you soon. Maybe you can read an animal story to me.

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At the NHSPCA, we only use reward-based training both in our classes and with our in-house animals. So, what is reward-based training and why is it our go-to? Our Manager of Behavior & Training dives into that topic in the article below!

What is reward-based training?

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

Reward-based training is a scientifically based training method which involves rewarding the animal for offering desirable behaviors while managing the environment to minimize undesirable behaviors. Food is the most common reward, but other rewards such as toys, petting, and playtime can all be used. The reward must be something the animal really enjoys, otherwise he will not be motivated to perform.

This method can be used with any species including marine and zoo animals, birds, horses, dog, cats and even reptiles.

Behavior that is rewarded will continue while unrewarded behavior will, over time, extinguish. Capture moments your pet is offering desirable behavior and reward him with something he loves. Perhaps he is lying quietly while you are working. That's a great time to take a break and take him for a walk, offer a special treat or have a short play session. He'll learn that lying quietly gets your attention.

Set up his environment for success. If you leave food on the counter and he finds it, he will continue to look on the counter for food. It is much easier to pet-proof your house before your pet learns undesirable behaviors. These undesirable behaviors take longer to extinguish than not having learned them in the first place.

Teach your pet what to do, rather than telling

him what not to do. Before your dog jumps on you, ask him to sit. Ask him to sit before you put on his leash, feed him his meal, or open the door. These simple behaviors will pay off in the long term. He will look to you for instruction.

Animals who have been taught using reward-based training learn faster and retain the information longer. Studies show that they are more willing to try something new as there is no fear of being punished for offering the wrong behavior.

Punishment or aversive training can create or worsen problematic behaviors such as aggression, anxiety or fear. Unfortunately, many will resort to these methods when they are frustrated or at a loss of how to redirect the behavior. An article published by the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior, states, "There is no evidence that aversive training is necessary for dog training or behavior modification."

If you are having more severe issues with your pet, contact a behaviorist or a behavior professional who is well versed in reward-based training. They will help you set up a management plan to help your pet, counsel you on how to teach alternative behaviors, help you understand how to redirect and counter condition your pet to feel more comfortable in situations he finds distressing.

At the NHSPCA, we only use reward-based training both in our classes and with our in-house animals. Sign up for a class or schedule a private session so you and your pet can learn how to be positive, too!

ASK THE TRAINER



Are my dogs playing too rough?

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

Q: I recently got a puppy and I have an adult dog. They seem to get along great, but someone suggested they play too rough. How do I know?

Learning to play with other dogs is an important part of your pup's socialization and development. Knowing what to look for can be key

Have a question for our trainer?

Email your question to askthetrainer@nhspca.org for a chance to have your question featured and answered by our trainer in the next newsletter!

in helping your pup develop good play and communication skills. These skills can help him throughout his doggy life.

Pups can learn skills from other dogs and puppies they interact with so be sure your pup's play partners

have good play skills. Finding a class or play group supervised by an experienced professional is a great way for both you and your pup to learn good play behavior.

Most pups will seek out a friend with a similar play style. Some like to chase, some like to wrestle, and others like to lazily and gently roll around. Active players should learn how to tone down their style to adapt to those that may be shy, nervous, or less rambunctious.

Play should alternate. That is, if one pup is on top, they should easily alternate to where the other is on top. If one is being chased, he should turn and be the chaser. Behaviors such as mounting, standing over, grabbing, holding, targeting, or ganging-up should always be interrupted.

Using a positive interrupt, like a squeaker you previously paired with a treat is a great way to control your players. When they hear the squeak they stop what they are doing and come get a treat.

You can direct active pups away from the shier ones using the squeaker. This helps shy pups gain confidence and feel safe in the play yard. When playing, both parties should have happy, relaxed, mouths, loose bodies and wagging tails.

Interested in learning more? Check out our playgroups for puppies and small dogs by clicking [here](#) today!

A few things to consider as we approach the end of the year

By Sheila E. Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

As the end of the year approaches, many of us are beginning to think about year-end giving and possibly the coming tax season. It's an important time to review documents and make gifts to our favorite charities. The New Hampshire SPCA staff and board are so incredibly grateful for each of you who count the animals among those that are an important part of your year-end planning.

But, did you know that some gifts bear greater tax benefits than others? Here are a few things to consider as the year winds to a close.

A special opportunity for those 70½ years old and older

If you have an IRA and are 70½ or older, you can make a gift of any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as the NHSPCA without having to pay income taxes on the money.

Gifts of any value \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and you can feel good knowing you are making a difference to the animals at the NHSPCA. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.

And, beginning in the year you turn 72, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).

You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.

Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help



Did you know some gifts bear greater tax benefits than others? We've compiled a list of a few things to consider as year end quickly approaches!

lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

An expansion of the universal charitable deduction for cash gifts

The universal charitable deduction has not only been extended, but given a well-deserved upgrade. The new deduction is \$300 for single filers and \$600 for married couples filing jointly. This deduction is available to taxpayers who take the standard deduction. This tax incentive is available for cash gifts to qualified charities (but not to supporting organizations or donor-advised funds).

In addition, there has been an extension of the cap on deductions for cash contributions. Contributions to public charities such as the NHSPCA are generally limited to a percentage of a taxpayer's adjusted gross income (AGI). The CARES Act lifted the cap on annual contributions for those who itemize, increasing it from 60% to 100% of AGI for 2020 (and now for 2021). Any excess contributions available can be carried over to the next five years. (For corporations, the law raised the annual limit from 10% to 25% of taxable income.)

Year-end is a good time to review your will and estate plan

This is particularly important if you have had any changes in your life since the last time a review was done. Perhaps you've added a child or grandchildren to your family, retired, or become involved with us or another charitable cause.

Or, like the majority of people, you don't have a will at all.

One easy way to get started creating your will is through our friends at FreeWill who will help you write a legally valid will — for free! In under 20 minutes, you can protect your loved ones and make a gift directly to the NHSPCA. And, if you'd prefer to finalize your will with an attorney, you can still use the tool to create a list of documented wishes. Get started on your free will today and end your year with greater peace of mind.

Click [here](#) to start your will. You can also click [here](#) for more information about IRA rollovers, Stock Gifts and other charitable giving tools.

Thank you for all you do for the animals. Here's to a wonderful end of 2021!

FREEWILL 

Planned Gifts Received

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

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Eliot, ME

Maurine B. Stard
Hampton Falls, NH

Marie E. Tallmadge
Belmont, NH

Raise your virtual paddle for the animals!

By Chris Klemmer

Community Outreach & Events Coordinator

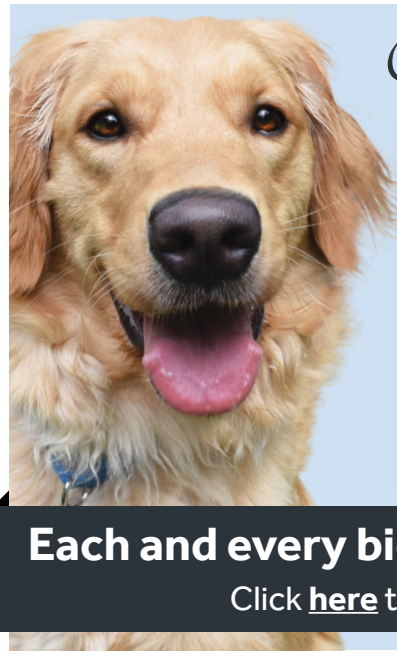
Are you looking for unique holiday gifts for friends or family but don't want to leave the couch? We've got you covered! Check out our [Online/Silent Auction](#), the online portion of our *Auction for the Animals* event which will be running right now and up until December 6.

Our live auction may have taken place already but that doesn't mean that you need to miss out!

We have many unique items that would make the perfect gift for that "hard to shop for" person in your life! How about an electric bike rental for four at Pedego Electric Bikes, a two-night stay at Sewall House Yoga Retreat, tickets to the Imagine: Van Gogh immersive exhibit in Boston, a Land Rover four-wheeling experience and so much more.

We also have many gift cards up for bid from great businesses all over New Hampshire like Portsmouth Gas Light, Sagamore Spring Golf Club, Red's Shoe Barn, Putnam's Ski & Snowboard Shop, Funspot, Sacred Touch Massage, and over 100 more!

And the best part is that every dollar raised from the online auction makes a difference for homeless animals, giving them the second chance that they



Our Online Silent Auction is Live!



**New items
are added daily!**

Keep checking
back so you don't
miss out on the
perfect item!



Each and every bid makes a difference to the animals!

Click [here](#) to browse items today. Happy bidding!

so greatly deserve! The *Auction for the Animals* is the largest and most important fund raiser we do all year. And it's not too late for you to jump in!

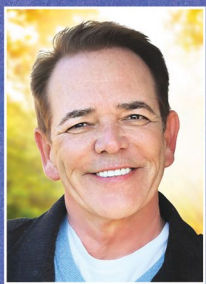
This is my first year with the NHSPCA and I've been blown away by the overwhelming generosity by both the local business owners who donate such great items and everyone who is able to bid

on them. It makes me feel so good to live in such a great community.

It's the rare win-win! You'll find a gift for your Uncle Ned (who is impossible to shop for) and you'll help local animals at the same time. Please click [here](#) to make your bid today!

Good luck!

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All proceeds benefit the Koda Fund of the New Hampshire SPCA

Win a private reading with John Holland!

By Melissa Mower

Marketing & Graphic Design Associate

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John is an internationally renowned psychic medium, author, radio host, and beloved friend of the animals who has fascinating insight into the world of mediumship.

We are thrilled to be teaming up with

John to give two lucky winners this experience of a lifetime. But that's not all! Each winner will also

receive a product bundle, which includes autographed copies of his five books and all four of his card decks.

During your private reading, John will connect you with your loved ones and deliver your messages, which he does with clarity, passion and the utmost integrity. This opportunity truly is priceless, as John no longer routinely conducts private readings.

The best part? It's all for the animals.

All proceeds from this raffle directly benefit the Koda Fund of the NHSPCA, which was established by John in honor of his own dog, Koda, and his dedication and love of animals. John is generously donating the readings and product bundles, which means that 100% of your purchase directly helps pay for lifesaving medical care when needed.

Tickets go on sale [here](#) on November 20 and the lucky winner will be drawn on January 20! Tickets are one for \$10, three for \$25 or ten for \$50. The full reading can take place either in-person or via Zoom, depending on the winner's location and COVID protocols.