



Cat rescue puts new space to immediate use

By Kelly Marinel
Manager of Animal Care

One thing you can always count on at the New Hampshire SPCA is that you never know what the day will bring.

It was not even a week after we welcomed our community to come celebrate the completion of construction at our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. We had just been granted use of our new quarantine area, and boy, were we going to put it to use!

It was a typical Wednesday morning just a few weeks before Christmas. We received a call about 25 cats that we needed to go remove from a house. Now, that's a lot of cats! However, we had access to our new space and we were excited to help.

We have learned over the years when there is a large number of cats said to be in a house, to always prepare for more than what is originally estimated. But we never imagined the number we ended up with!



On December 8, the New Hampshire SPCA assisted the Kensington Police Department in the removal of 81 cats from a single home.

The team sprang into action. The staff members that were heading over to the house and those that were staying behind to prepare for the arrival worked together immediately. Our sprinter van was loaded with carriers and boxes,



full PPE was packed, towels, nets and gloves were ready.

When we arrived at the house, it was clear there were more than 25 cats. Okay, we were

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Unveiling our expanded campus

By Melissa Mower
Marketing & Graphic Design Associate

On December 4, 2021, we were delighted to welcome our beloved community on site to show them what their support and generosity toward [the Campaign for Changing Times](#) helped us create. During the public Ribbon Cutting, guests were invited to walk our campus and learn how the expansion

will help the New Hampshire SPCA better serve animals and the people who care for them.

Construction had been a big part of our staff's every day over the past 18 months. Day by day, they were able to see the



It was a joy to show our community what their support has helped us create during our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

transformation slowly taking place; but we knew it would be a lot to take in for those who hadn't witnessed the daily grind.

It was such a treat to see our guests' eyes

See **RIBBON CUTTING**, Page 9



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Join us to help homeless animals!

- Date:** Sunday, June 5, 2022
Location: Stratham Hill Park
Time: Festival at 10:00 a.m.; We walk at noon!
Tickets: Adult: \$35; Youth: \$25
 Teams of 5: \$150 (\$25 savings!)
 Teams of 10: \$250 (\$100 savings!)

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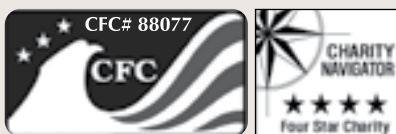
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Editor: Sheila Ryan | **Graphic Designer:** Melissa Mower

Dear Friends and Supporters,

There is so much to celebrate ~ Our Ribbon Cutting officially took place in December after 18 months of construction and many more years of planning and preparing. On that same day, we began to celebrate an incredible milestone, the 150th Anniversary of our founding in 1872! Could our founders ever have imagined such a day — board, staff, supporters, volunteers, and the community coming together to witness the unveiling of an expanded campus ready to serve many more people and animals for years to come?

It is humbling to be a part of such a legacy. We have such pride as we witness the incredible ongoing dedication and commitment that envelopes the agency. We have been able to expand our impact over the years thanks to tremendous support by so many. Your passion and dedication give us the ability to protect, care for and teach. We are truly grateful.

This is a moment to stop and reflect on our past, present and future. The hundreds of thousands of animals who have been tended to, the children whose suffering was ended, and lives saved during the years that we were also the New Hampshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to *Children*. So many lives changed for the better.

As a member of the animal welfare community, we have evolved through the years meeting the needs of the times. Originally, we traveled all over the state protecting work animals, and later companion animals. Exotics and wildlife have also been in our care. Sheltering became the norm in the 1970s and 80s, and addressing overpopulation a priority after that. Now, as we continue to progress, we welcome seniors and children for both education and enrichment. We have delivered services out in the community and will be ready to do so again when needed. We will continue to expand programs to both protect



and care for animals — including owned and beloved pets who require support.

We celebrate today and each day ahead, as we expand our programming and witness the benefits of these new spaces. It was a joy, recently, seeing seniors taking part in our Alzheimer's Café in our new Community Meeting Room designed with them in mind. As transports are reestablished, we are seeing the benefits of new quarantine and housing now.

For your belief and support through the years, for the generations that came before us, those with us in the here and now and those who will follow in our footsteps, thank you. One hundred and fifty years of caring for and protecting animals would not have been possible without each and every one you. Your talents and support, dedication and passion have made the New Hampshire SPCA who we are and will continue to be.

On behalf of the animals and people we serve, thank you.

Lisa Dennison
 Executive Director

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Looking back on 20 years with the NHSPCA

By Steven Sprowl
 Humane Agent, Field Services Manager

It's hard for me to believe, but on January 2, I passed my 20-year employment anniversary as the Humane Agent for the NHSPCA. I was asked to reflect on the past 20 years for this article.

I am somewhat apprehensive about bringing up the past as there are a lot of bad memories for me in handling cruelty investigations around the state.

I joined the NHSPCA as a retired Police Detective with 25 years of experience. I knew very little about animal cruelty laws and I was fortunate to be able to go through training by the National Animal Control Association Academy. I completed level 1, 2 and 3 to become nationally certified as an investigator for animal cruelty. I also completed Code Three Equine Investigator's school and once my training was completed, I was ready to handle cruelty cases professionally.

Before I was trained, my first assignment was to go through the past investigator's records. One case especially caught my eye. As I read through the reports, I was able to locate an individual by phone who was willing to go to the police department to give a formal statement. This case pertained to a dog fighting ring in Newton, NH. The statement was enough to get a search warrant, to seize the dogs and charge the owner, Christopher DeVito.

Eight days on the job, and I found myself alongside a state police unit, a large group of animal control officers and NHSPCA staff as we rescued 50 Pitbull dogs used in a fighting ring, right in Newton. To this day, it is the largest dog fighting case ever to be brought in New England. I was elated to be sitting in the courtroom to hear the judge sentence DeVito to five years in State Prison.

There are so many cases I would like to share as I walk down memory lane, most are sad and shocking. To this day I am still mystified by the cruelty some people put their animals through.

The weekly calls I receive during this time of year about horses and dogs without shelter in cold weather still top the list.

There have been hoarding cases so bad that the level of ammonia in the home exceeds the safe levels for people and pets to live there. Animals as well as residents are quarantined from the homes and animals are brought to the NHSPCA, usually surrendered to avoid costly fees to care for them and restore their health.

Just recently, we found ourselves removing over



LEFT: Just eight days into his job at the New Hampshire SPCA, Steve helped rescue 50 Pit Bulls as part of the largest dog fighting case in New England. Pictured is one of the dogs rescued.

RIGHT: Sam the Golden Ghost relaxes at home after being on the lam for two years! Steve was able to help reunite this boy with his family, which became a story that was told all around the nation.

70 cats from a home where they were living in filth, their own feces and urine, along with the owners. I don't understand how anyone can live like that, animal or human.

Just this past week, I was called in by a police department to remove two puppies from a camper where there was no heat, no food, and no water for the dogs. It was 34° in the camper and the pups were freezing. The owner was arrested and the two pups were surrendered to the NHSPCA.

They have since been rehomed with people who will care for them.

My biggest most rewarding adventure to date was Sam the Golden Ghost.

Has anyone not heard this story about Sam, the Golden Retriever who got away from his owners and was on the lam for two years? I can't tell you how many nights my wife, Sharon, who volunteers at the NHSPCA, and I were out late into the night chasing down leads of sightings of Sam, joined by Sam's owners.

After two years and a lot of late-night escapades, Sam was finally caught in a drop net and brought to the NHSPCA. Thankfully, Raymond Animal Control Officer Tona McCarthy, who saw Sam under the net, was in the right place at the right time and pushed the button to capture Sam.

Sam remained at the NHSPCA for ten days so our veterinarian could keep an eye on him for any medical issues after being on the run for so long.

Sam was news all around the country. Sam, Dennis (Sam's owner) and I were even featured on *Good Morning America*. Their team traveled to the NHSPCA to conduct the interview.

People said that Sam being on the run for two

years was going to make him a wild dog...not so. I was able to pet and handle Sam right away. Sharon and I were even able to give him a nice bath at the NHSPCA to wash off all the ticks he had on him after his two-year trek through the woods.

Sam lived out the remainder of his years a happy pup in a nice home with two of the nicest people I have had the pleasure to meet.

I remember the week I spent in Alexandria, NH with the police and another humane agent closing an illegal wolf rescue operation. We had to enter these big fenced in areas to chemically capture (dart) the wolves to safely move them to a sanctuary in NH. At times, it was a little scary entering the pens with the wolves, but within the week, we were able to capture over 40 wolf-hybrids for the sanctuary.

During my travels around the state of NH, I have had the pleasure of working with many local and state police officers as well as sheriffs on cruelty cases and made some good contacts.

It's been an up and down experience for me for sure. Seeing firsthand the cruelty some animals endured, some dying from their injuries and mistreatment.

On the other hand, it's been a great feeling of accomplishment to rescue animals, watch the staff and veterinarians bring them back to good health and watch them go on to a good home with an adoptive family.

It's something I will never forget the rest of my life.

It's been an honor to hold this position of Humane Agent for the past 20 years and I hope to continue this work as long as I am able.

Notes From The Barn



Three of the 21 peafowl rescued in January perch to overlook the rest of their flock.

Plenty of peafowl!

By Jordan Sims

Animal Care Technician

Rescuing 21 peafowl, along with 12 chickens, was one of the more challenging but exciting rescues I have been on! We carefully loaded each bird into a crate. Then, they made their journey back to the New Hampshire SPCA where staff and volunteers constructed a cozy sanctuary for them. They are all very unique and surely stunning. Caring for peafowl is a new concept for me and I am still learning! They seem to either stay in groups or mingle one-on-one with each other. They all love to perch and watch any activity from above! They fly from perch to perch, and it really shows just how strong and alluring these birds are. Our peafowl are not super talkative. They chirp here and there as if they are just checking in on one another. Their favorite snack is dry cat food! They are omnivores, so they can eat fruits, vegetables, insects, reptiles and small mammals. Some of our peafowl were nervous when they first arrived and they wouldn't eat much. Now that they have settled in, they have no problem feasting all hours of the day! I would say that caring for these birds has given me an abundance of respect for them. I feel very fortunate to help provide hands on care for our peacocks and peahens and watch them blossom into the compelling creatures that they are!

Update: All our beautiful peafowl have been adopted into fabulous homes and we are so grateful.

Mr. Pickles the therapy horse

By Michelle Murch

Equine & Farm Program Manager

A colleague reached out to me this past Fall and asked if I would consider bringing one of my horses to an assisted living facility to visit with the residents. I knew immediately which horse I would bring: Mr. Pickles.

Pickles was adopted by my family in April 2021, shortly after his rescue by the NHSPCA. I knew he would be perfect for this job as he had come so far from being that terrified mini in a herd of six equines. Pickles was the smallest of the herd, a chestnut miniature gelding standing all of 32 inches tall. His coat was matted, and his mane tangled and wild, his halter far too small and far too tight, leaving him with permanent damage to his tiny face.

The rescue team was told we would struggle to catch this miniature horse. He was left unexamined by the vet previously because he wouldn't be caught.

We arrived prepared. By prepared, I mean bearing peppermint candies individually wrapped to make the crinkling noise, irresistible to most horses. Even a miniature horse, unhandled and potentially abused, couldn't resist the sound of a crinkling candy wrapper and the promise of a brighter future.

Pickles was rescued along with his herd and was terrified of human contact. Miraculously, it didn't take long for this tiny horse to learn how to trust and accept humans once again. He now happily trots up to anyone, seeking treats and affection.

It was September when Pickles and I headed over to our visit. The residents were waiting in the parking lot, some seated in their wheelchairs and others standing with walkers, anticipating the special arrival.

Many of the residents have dementia, including the resident we were there to specifically visit. She had a fondness for horses, raising and breeding them in her past. She had become nonverbal and withdrawn for the past several weeks. We wanted to see if Pickles could work some of his magic.

We spent some time visiting with each resident and they graciously fed Pickles lots of baby carrots. Some of the residents would call him back



When Mr. Pickles was rescued by the NHSPCA in April 2021, he was terrified of human contact. Our Equine & Farm Program Manager adopted him and has since been giving him the life he has always deserved. Mr. Pickles, now a confident and content little horse, recently visited an assisted living facility to bring comfort to the residents.

to where they were sitting for more pats and love. His charm was infectious.

The woman we were called to visit grabbed ahold of Pickles' halter during her time with him and began speaking horse lingo. The smile on her face while visiting with this tiny horse brought tears to my eyes. Although her words were jumbled, Pickles had obviously sparked memories from her past. It was priceless. After our visit, I was told by staff that this woman who had been so withdrawn looked into her caretaker's eyes and said, "Thank you."

Pickles also got to ride the elevator that day to bring a smile to a family member of a resident. Her husband lay in his hospice bed and Pickles' presence was enough to bring her a moment of happiness during a time filled with grief.

Horses are not concerned with diagnosis, titles, or roles. I have had the privilege to witness horses impact humans in profound ways. I am forever grateful to be part of these emotional moments and to be Pickles' Mom.

Winston Churchill once said, "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man."



Thank you to all who donated to the NHSPCA in honor of the late Betty White on January 17!

Thank you for being a friend!

By Melissa Mower

Marketing & Graphic Design Associate

January 17 was a day for the books!

In honor of what would have been the late Betty White's 100th birthday, fans from all over the country rallied to celebrate the lifelong animal welfare advocate in the best way they knew how: by donating to their favorite animal charities in her name.

The animals of the New Hampshire SPCA were fortunate beneficiaries of this day of kindness, receiving the support of 802 donors in the span of 24 hours! Even in mid-February, we were continuing to see Betty's name attached to incoming donations — truly incredible!

So often, we hear our wonderful donors say they wish they could have given more. Of course, we at the NHSPCA know that every single donation — no matter the dollar amount — is a lifesaving transaction.

Of the 977 total donations given, 25% of them were \$10 or less!

Those donations add up very quickly, and we are so grateful for each person that took the time to contribute to that day however they could!

We would like to give a very special thank you to two supporters who helped generate some excitement during the day: Pam Bailey of RE/MAX on the Move, who matched the first \$5,000 worth of donations, and Service Credit Union, who also pitched in \$5,000 for the animals!

Thank you, thank you, thank you for being a friend.

A special kind of love

By Erica Newton

Animal Care Technician

Unfortunately, Blueberry's story is one we have seen before, too often.

In September 2021, Blueberry was found at a bus stop by a Good Samaritan and arrived at the New Hampshire SPCA in rough shape. She was matted, down to the skin, had an upper respiratory infection, and a severe, untreated ear infection. She was weak and so skinny.

Our medical team diagnosed her with hyperthyroidism, chronic ear infections, Cerebellar Hypoplasia (a neurological disorder), dental disease, cataracts and stage two kidney disease. On top of that, she was malnourished, weighing in at just 4.4 pounds. She was also found to be completely deaf and was estimated to be 12 years old.

Because of the severe nature of her medical issues, a hospice adoption would be the best possible outcome for tiny Blueberry.

Despite her intense medical needs and obvious signs of aging, I fell in love with Blueberry the second I saw her. I just knew she was mine. I currently have another rescued hospice cat and I can't imagine life without him. He has enhanced my life so much just by existing.

I wasn't planning on getting another medical mess, but what's one more?

I watched out for and visited Blueberry every day while she was at the NHSPCA. She wasn't thriving in the shelter environment. The stress was so much for her, and she was declining — medically, physically, and emotionally. I knew that if I didn't take her, there was a good chance that she was going to pass away before she could find a loving home. I also understood the intense medical care that goes into adopting a senior hospice animal.

So, when she was made available for adoption in December 2021, I took her home to live out the rest of her days with me.

Blueberry has adjusted well to living in a home and is a sassy diva! This wobbly little creature who was so close to death makes me laugh daily and I cannot imagine my furry family without her. Unfortunately, my vet believes that she is much older than 12 and that she doesn't have much longer. She needs bloodwork every four months, has a long list of medications, and is on a special diet.

So, why do I spend all this time and money on an animal who won't make it much longer? I'm not going to say it's easy. It's hard. You fall in love with them knowing that they are not going to be



It warms our heart to know we have a community that refuses to overlook sick and senior animals like Blueberry. Little did we know, though, that this sweet girl's forever person was someone who helped care for her right here at the shelter.

by your side for much longer. You feel sad that you weren't able to be there from the beginning of their life. You're heartbroken that their previous home failed them during the time that they needed them most.

Despite all these things, the tears, sadness, and heartbreak are so worth it.

You are with them at the most vulnerable time of their lives, and you can be with them until the very end. It's such a rewarding and beautiful experience. These animals who were hurt so badly by humans trust you — a person they have not known their whole life — to care for them. They rely on you to love them and give them what they deserve. They are grateful for you.

Then, when it comes time for them to pass, they can go knowing they're loved. You can cherish the memories you had with them, no matter how long or short, and your heart will be full knowing you gave them the best end of life care.

Hospice and senior animals are diamonds in a rhinestone world. Blueberry and so many others are so worth it.

Reflecting on a year gone by and looking forward to the future

By Erin Burger

Manager of Humane Education Programs

After months of patiently waiting, our Humane Education classroom pets were thrilled to slowly start welcoming children back to the Learning Center for Pets and People throughout 2021!

Join us!

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

Beginning with an exciting return of in-person campers during our April vacation camp and summer camp, by the fall we were opening our classroom doors again for things like [Story Time with the Animals](#), a new Homework Club, [birthday parties](#), and [Reading with the Animals](#). Of course, our NHSPCA Humane Education Canine Ambassador, Ruby, made several appearances throughout the year, including visiting over 100 children (and adults) at local libraries throughout the summer!

We also hosted some fun special events, like an Enchanted Story Time (where children from surrounding communities were able to interact with mini horses), two nights of Deck the Howls (an event bringing children and adoptable animals together to celebrate love and compassion during the holiday season), and a special evening with some students from UNH (who



It has been so nice to see kids back on campus! We have been able to host some of our favorite events, like Deck the Howls (above) and add some new programs like Enchanted Story Time (right).

wanted to cuddle some animals for a boost of positivity during finals week)! While COVID closures and construction around our campus continued to challenge us, we managed to safely offer in-person educational experiences to nearly 500 children!

Looking ahead, we are excited to keep the momentum going! We resumed our much-awaited [Junior Volunteer program](#) in January 2022 and are looking forward to the return of warmer weather and reestablishing our beautiful Children's Garden, where we will harvest herbs and



vegetables for many of the animals who call the NHSPCA home.

We're also further expanding our Humane Education programming by developing Animal Ethics and Welfare groups for children, teens, and adults. Our hope is to help provide educational experiences for individuals of all ages through discussions on current topics related to animal rights and advocacy. After all, there is no better way to practice kindness and respect for all living things than by continuing to learn, grow and make better choices as an individual.

Introducing... Betty and Nancy!

By Elizabeth Segeberg
Humane Educator

The Humane Education staff is thrilled to announce that we recently added two new classroom ambassador animals. The first new classroom pets in two years! Can you tell from the photographs what kind of pocket pets they are?

Here are some hints. They live in a large, covered aquarium filled with six inches of Carefresh bedding. They have cardboard and wooden toys to gnaw, a wheel to run on for exercise and two small hidey boxes. Of course, they have fresh water daily and food just perfect for them.

They are two sister gerbils! They were born in

Providence, Rhode Island in a litter of five and came to New Hampshire through foster care. Gerbils are happiest living in pairs. They get sad and lonely if they do not have company.

The gerbils came to the classroom when actress Betty White passed away. In honor of Betty, we named the gerbil with the long tail Betty. Her sister is named Nancy after a dedicated NHSPCA volunteer.

Betty and Nancy are most active and inquisitive at dawn and dusk, which means they are "crepuscular." Gerbils can jump a foot into the air! We have to keep a very close watch on Betty and Nancy when they come out to play. Did you know that a gerbil's teeth never stop growing? That's why they have lots of items to gnaw on.



Betty and Nancy are intelligent and complex rodents. There is a lot to learn about them.

Betty and Nancy are anxiously waiting for you to visit them in the NHSPCA Humane Education classroom. You can join Betty, Nancy and all of the classroom pets for [Story Time](#), [Reading with the Animals](#), at [an afterschool club](#) or even let us host your [birthday party](#). Our classroom pets love to play and you can learn more fun gerbil facts. Hope to see you soon!

Meet our new Volunteer Coordinator!

We are very excited to introduce Juli Tyson, our new Volunteer Coordinator. We're thrilled to have her join our team and know you will love her!

Juli enjoys talking about her reactive dog journey, trail riding, identifying what birds are at her backyard feeders, and trying out local eats. She moved back to the Seacoast after living in Vermont for eight years where she studied Environmental Studies at the University of Vermont. Juli's background is in natural resources and education. She has worked for park districts, ran her own after school program and summer camps, and knows a lot about birds and wildlife. She has served on multiple conservation boards and led committees for them, and just recently joined her

local conservation commission in Newmarket, New Hampshire.

Juli loves engaging with her local community around things she's passionate about like conservation and stewardship, wildlife, and animal rescue. Juli is a lifelong animal lover and has owned cats, rats, fish, and she currently owns a dog named Rosie, a ball python named Abu, and two horses named Goji and Wyatt.

She is beyond excited for this new position as she has always valued the work of non-profits and the power of volunteers. When you see Juli around, ask her who her favorite bird is!

Juli can be reached at jtyson@nhspca.org or 603-772-2921 ext. 104.

Calling all volunteers!

If you have volunteered with us in the past and have not heard from us, please reach out to Juli at jtyson@nhspca.org

Alternatively, if you have not volunteered with us before and are interested in becoming a volunteer, keep an eye on our social media pages! We will announce when new volunteer applications are being accepted and when our new volunteer orientations will start back up again.



CAT RESCUE...

Continued from Page 1

expecting that — we got this! As the number crept towards 40, we were communicating with staff at the shelter. Change of plans: we are going to need more housing set up for the cats! The Dog Quarantine kennels were outfitted like cat community rooms as the Cat Quarantine and Cat Isolation rooms were prepped.

I was in the sprinter, playing Tetris with cat carriers. Michelle and Emily were bringing me carrier after carrier. Michelle kept telling me, "Just four more!"

But the cats were hiding and anytime a piece of furniture was moved or a cabinet was opened, four more would pop out!

We needed reinforcements! Our Executive Director, Lisa, brought us additional carriers and we were able to safely pack about 30 cats in her car to be taken back to the shelter. My Tetris game got a little easier. And "Just four more!" was being said less and less. The number finally landed at 67. We were ready to head back. The Animal Control Officer would keep an eye on the house in case more cats were hiding.

Back at the shelter, our new quarantine areas (for both dogs and cats) were filled with black



Just four days after our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, we were called to remove 81 cats from a home in Kensington, NH. The timing really couldn't have been much better, as construction had just wrapped up, meaning our quarantine, holding and isolation spaces were available to house the cats.

and white cats. Our two new Cat Isolation rooms were filled, too, as was one of our back Cat Holding rooms. The cats were scared, but safe. Big eyes peered out at us from every cage. We talked to them, provided them with a good meal, fresh water, and comfy bedding.

The next few weeks were busy! Another 10 cats came in, putting the number at 77. Then, we got



We're excited to welcome Juli Tyson to our team as our new Volunteer Coordinator! Juli, pictured here with her horse Wyatt, is a lover of all animals!

a surprise from one of the female cats: she gave birth to... just four more!

We were now up to 81 cats.

The staff worked hard caring for them, attending to their medical and behavioral needs. We reached out to other shelters in New Hampshire to see if any of them would be able to take any cats. The response was amazing. Lakes Region Humane Society, Monadnock Humane Society, Pope Memorial Dover & Concord and New Hampshire Animal Rescue League in Bedford all offered to take some of the precious cats. We were so appreciative to our shelter community. Caring for that many cats over the Christmas and New Year Holidays would have been challenging!

When the cats and kittens were ready for adoption, the community responded! Many were adopted the same day they became available. Some went in pairs, and even a trio was adopted out together. It was so heartwarming watching these shy kitties come out of their shell and start to feel comfortable and show their true personalities.

And we got yet another surprise when Lakes Region reached out to let me know one of the females they took was pregnant. They did an ultrasound and found... you guessed it...

Just four more!



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS!

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our historical series in our next newsletter!

150 years of all kinds of animals

By Sheila E. Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

When you think of the New Hampshire SPCA, you probably think about dogs and cats, possibly bunnies and feathered friends. Maybe you know us so well that you know we care for horses, goats, farm fowl and pet pigs. But... would you ever think owls, emu, or a lion? Probably not, right? Well, in our 150 years of protecting animals, we've cared for thousands and thousands of them, and some may surprise you.

Although we were founded in 1872, as the Portsmouth Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animals, our name was changed when we incorporated in 1874 as the New Hampshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. For the first 100 years of our existence, the NHSPCA had no building, and our very first shelter opened in 1974 as animal sheltering became popularized. Before that time, our agent worked from a little office in Portsmouth and could be called out all over the state to assist or evaluate the condition of animals. Those animals included cattle and sheep among the myriad of animals that we still care for today. The first exotic animal noted in that very first building was, in fact, a lion!

Bumper, a 9-month-old, 200-pound male lion was surrendered to the NHSPCA on January 16, 1976. Bumper and his lioness friend were purchased from a wildlife exhibitor by a Maine couple intending to keep him as a house pet. When they purchased him, he was very young and small. By the time he was 9 months old, little Bumper had reached 200 pounds and was consuming 6+ pounds of fresh meat daily.

The couple was preparing to move away, and they realized that, astonishingly, Bumper was going to continue to grow and may not be the best of house pets.

They decided to surrender Bumper to the NHSPCA. We're not exactly sure how long Bumper was with us, but he was still in residence on February 22 when the *New Hampshire Sunday News* featured his story and the struggle to find him a safe place to go.

Bumper had been declawed, defanged, and neutered to make him an acceptable house pet, which made it impossible to place him in any



The New Hampshire SPCA sure has welcomed plenty of unique animals over the past 150 years! For example, Bumper, a 9-month-old lion, spent some time in our care after his family realized he was too big to be a house pet.

sort of zoo because he wouldn't be able to co-exist with other lions. He would likely grow to be approximately 900 pounds, so he definitely wasn't a fit for a home, either.

Jody Faria (Markey), the Executive Director at that time, took poor Bumper all the way to Pennsylvania to what she thought was a small zoo that would be a good fit, but due to the conditions she found upon arriving there, she returned to NH with Bumper in the back of her van.

It's an interesting story, I wish we knew where little Bumper ended up but our records don't provide the end of the story. If you are familiar with this amazing story and know the outcome for Bumper the lion, we would love to hear from you! Please contact me at sryan@nhspca.org.

Since the 1970's we have had a wonderful variety of exotic animals make their way here for

help. For many years in the '80s, '90s and even 2000s, the NHSPCA was the go-to place when wildlife was injured and needed help. Community members would bring us the sick, the injured and the abandoned.

Lisa Dennison has been Executive Director since 1994 and recalls times when she saw a kennel full of baby squirrels and an injured seagull, back when the NHSPCA operated out of one of the first buildings on our existing property. One day, she remembers, the staff was teasing whether she had seen what was in the back room. She peeked in and was amazed to see a beaver swimming around in a large washtub. Another day, it was a young fawn that had been injured by a car.

Over the years, all the wildlife has been assisted by the NHSPCA, whether we've provided stabilizing care and then transferred them to a specialist, healed them and set them free, or placed them appropriately.

Over the past 20 years, the exotic animals that we've seen have been a mixed bag of new kinds of pets, large birds, native wildlife, spiders, and more. Steve Sprowl, our Humane Agent and Manager of Field Services, remembers a few classic instances. Early in Steve's tenure, there was a call to assist the Portsmouth Animal Control Officer. Steve and that ACO visited an apartment where the residents were keeping an illegal alligator. The alligator was living in the bathtub and the owner had no permit. Steve hadn't realized that alligator wrangling was going to be part of the job, but he's always been up for a challenge!

Steve has been responsible for bringing an entire menagerie of animals into the loving protective care of the NHSPCA, including hundreds of dogs, cats, and horses. He has also brought in rescues of rabbits and guinea pigs, love birds, four tanks full of tarantulas, and an escaped emu (that ended up here twice)!

Our deepest thanks to 150 years of caring humane agents that made a second chance possible for thousands of animals in need of protection.

Other unusual animals? Of course, there were the four chameleons that arrived on a house plant, the tegu and savannah monitor lizard, the bearded dragon that was abandoned at our front door and left for dead. Fortunately for him, he was just cold and recovered nicely before being

MARKING A MILESTONE



We are very excited to share with you our new 150th Anniversary Logo, which you will be noticing as we continue to celebrate our founding in 1872.

placed in a home.

Speaking of lizards, we've had tons, including one that was as tall as an average human from nose to tail. There were loads of snakes, too, like the seven pythons brought into protective custody that were eventually able to go back to their loving owner. We've even had a stray python once! And then there were the degus and sugar gliders. Once, not considered pets in this area, they have become more popular for people who are looking for more unusual pets. Thus, more are surrendered now.

We've had our share (and more) of birds! Steve rescued a snowy owl that had been injured by a car. That owl was rehabilitated by the Center for Wildlife, and we believe he still helps with education programs there to this day. Then there were the 60 love birds, the injured sea gull, the flock of button quail, the rescue of 125 large parrots, and tanks and tanks of their froggie friends... which leads us, eventually, to our recent flock of peafowl.

To sum up 150 years of unusual animals is difficult. I can't say, "we've seen it all", after all there are roughly 8.7 million species of animals on the planet. But what I will say is that we are very proud of our 150 years of caring for and protecting animals in need. We trust that the next 150 years will continue that important tradition.



Check out the updated map of our campus! From the Ring Trail and Clover Fields to the Children's Garden and Dog Town... We are just so excited to have so much space to put to good use.

RIBBON CUTTING...

Continued from Page 1

light up as they entered our new Veterinary Center. Walls that had never been there before were now painted in calming Fear-Free colors. Doors lead into various rooms — Exam 1, 2 & 3, X-Ray, etc. — offering dedicated space for special procedure needs.

As guests rounded the corner, they came to perhaps the quietest spot on our campus — the Surgical Suite — and were greeted by our staff veterinarian, who fielded questions about this new space and what the upgrades mean for future care.

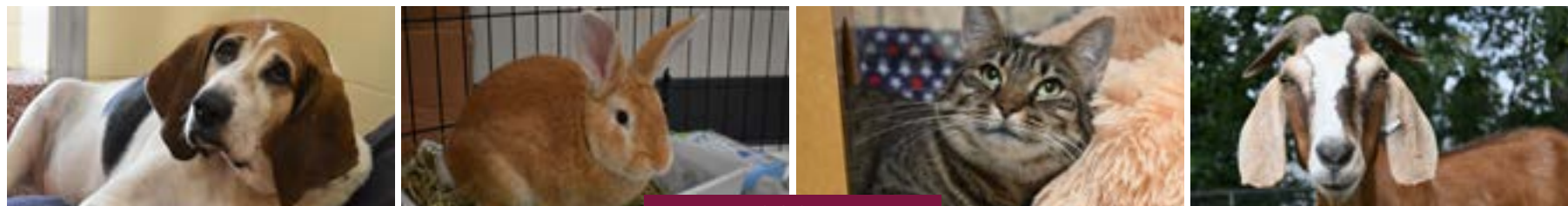
The back hallways filled quickly as folks stopped to learn about the new isolation, holding and quarantine spaces from Adoption Center staff. We saw so many smiles and knew our supporters were looking at all the new kennels, understanding how many more animals would benefit from the space... just as we had while we were dreaming up this project years ago.

Groups of people could be seen walking the Ring Trail at all points of the day, making their way over to the Equine Center for Transformative Care and Hope's Barn. The new farm space was the largest part of the expansion project, so we were very excited to show our guests how we were already utilizing it.

Tilly and Holly, two equine residents, welcomed guests to the arena and put on a little bit of a show — Tilly, under saddle (simply amazing!), and Holly, running wild and free in this safe, consistent space. Our Equine & Farm Program Manager spoke from Tilly's back about how the space helps evaluate incoming horses more effectively and creates a transformative environment that aids in adoptability.

These additions and upgrades were only made possible by each donor that believed in our vision and committed themselves to seeing it come to fruition. Thank you to all who helped make this dream become a reality.

We hope to have your next family member in one of our kennels very soon!



2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

TAILS FROM AROUND THE SHELTER



JANUARY

January 2021 opens with the growing concern in our community for folks facing financial hardships due to the pandemic and rising food and supply costs. Our [Food Share Program](#) helps anyone having difficulty feeding their pets. By offering food from our supply, we can help keep pets and people together through tough times.



FEBRUARY

Our [Behavior and Training Department](#) sees a sharp increase in inquiries for training help for puppies and dogs adopted during COVID quarantine. As owners return to work, and children go back to in-person learning, dogs are left alone and many exhibit separation anxiety and destructive behavior issues.



MARCH

A surge of pet ownership during a time when incomes were being reduced or even eliminated resulted in an unprecedented demand for low-cost services, with more than 1,000 calls received to the spay/neuter line. Our weekly [spay/neuter clinics](#) continue to fill quickly.



APRIL

Our [Field Services Division](#) assisted the Farmington, NH Police Department in removing rabbits from a home with an overwhelmed owner. The police estimated that 20 rabbits were living in the home. However, upon entry, it was uncovered that over 60 rabbits would need to be captured and brought to safety. Many were sick and required months of rehabilitation and care. As of January 2022, all 60+ rabbits have been placed in forever homes!



MAY

As phase one of our [Building Project](#) nears completion, we temporarily shift offices and animal spaces while work begins on the final construction phase. Adding Rain Gardens (wastewater catchment system) to our campus is critical in laying the foundation for an ecofriendly campus. The garden, appearing behind our main building, is made up of native plants and dogwood trees. Over 40 volunteers help us plant close to 8,000 native plants!



JUNE

We were thrilled to see our supporters and volunteers in person for a socially distanced, and very warm, Paws Walk: the Remix! It was an unseasonably hot day with temperatures in the high 90's. Despite the heat, Paws Walk was a fun and successful day, raising critical funds to help us care for homeless pets in the community. We hope to see you in person at this year's [Paws Walk](#) on June 5 at Stratham Hill Park.



JULY

Molly and Bella, two senior dogs, found a home thanks to the advocacy of one of our Summer Campers. This compassionate camper told her aunt about two sweet dogs she had met during camp who desperately needed a home where they could stay together. After reading Molly and Bella's story on [our Facebook page](#), she knew it was meant to be. She adopted them both the very next day!



AUGUST

Dom, the sweetest rescued donkey, finds his perfect forever home! Despite being horribly neglected, Dom's capacity for love and his resilience is incredible. Dom just loved to be loved. He was a favorite with all the summer campers and staff alike. The campers were lucky enough to spend time grooming and walking him during almost every session throughout the summer.



SEPTEMBER

Construction on our Equine Center for Transformative Care is complete, and we immediately begin using the arena and barn for training. This space has truly transformed our [Equine Program](#)! Now that we have a safe space to train and assess horses, adoption rates on horses have doubled, and we can help many more equines in need.



OCTOBER

Charlie, a beautiful brown Pitbull mix, finds a home after 10 months in our care. Thanks to our shelter enrichment program, Charlie's long wait for a home is filled with love, snuggles, treats, toys, car-rides, and long walks. It's only because of community support that animals like Charlie are given a safe shelter and exceptional care, no matter how long it takes for them to find a forever family.



NOVEMBER

With concerns rising again about large gatherings and COVID variants, we make the decision to cancel our in-person Auction for the Animals and host a virtual event and online auction instead! It was an extraordinary evening, with a behind the scenes tour of our newly expanded campus, incredible auction items, and heartwarming stories of the lifesaving work accomplished through such a challenging year!



DECEMBER

Construction is complete! We welcomed the community for our ribbon cutting on our expanded campus. Just four days later, we receive a call from Kensington, NH police to help with the removal of cats from a condemned home. More than 80 black and white cats were removed and brought to the safety of our shelter and immediately fill our newly expanded space.

1872 Society



The 1872 Society was developed as a way of recognizing and thanking our incredibly generous annual donors who are so important to the animals and our mission. The category names were chosen to further demonstrate that each plays a significant role. We sincerely appreciate each one of you for your commitment to our work.



HERO \$10,000+

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Although the 1872 Society recognizes our top donors, we would also like to express our gratitude to each and every person who contributes. Each gift has a positive impact and helps care for the animals. Thank you.

Walking your reactive dog

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



Is your dog's reactivity getting in the way of being able to enjoy your daily walks? Our trainer breaks down a few steps that could help your dog be less fearful and more relaxed around triggers.

Your dog should be able to see the other and be able to take food from you. If he cannot take food or begins to react, then you are too close. Increase your distance and start again.

Drop the treats in front of your dog onto the ground. Make sure he sees them. Changing his posture by having him eat off the ground can produce a slight relaxation response as opposed to feeding directly into his mouth.

Practice in short bursts, like 30 seconds to one minute and walk your dog away. Repeat these

Sign up for a training class!

The New Hampshire SPCA offers affordable dog and puppy training classes designed to help you develop the skills needed to make living with your dog more pleasurable and much easier. For class offerings, please click [here](#).

intervals for a total of 10 minutes. This type of training can be stressful for your dog, so keep it short and as fun as you can. Practice a few times each day.

When you are out walking, be aware of your environment and prepare for surprises. Look for escape routes like driveways or small clearings off roadways or paths where you can quickly redirect your dog away from the trigger. Practice redirecting your dog by using small bits of food just under his nose and lure him away. Try tossing the food in the direction you need him to go to give him something fun to chase.

Watch his body language so you can pick up on subtle cues that he is becoming more alert or initiating a fear response. Check out the Yellow Dog Project, which encourages the use of yellow ribbons or bandanas on your reactive dog to signify to others your dog needs space.

Need more help with your reactive dog? Sign up for the New Hampshire SPCA Reactive Dog class or call to schedule a [private consultation](#).

Do you dread walking your dog for fear of him barking, growling, and lunging toward other neighborhood dogs? Not only is it unpleasant and difficult to manage but it can range from being quite embarrassing to becoming outright dangerous. How can you teach your dog to chill out and enjoy the walk?

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!

Most reactivity is fear based. There is only a small percentage of dogs who are truly considered aggressive by nature. The aggressive-like behavior you are seeing is probably based on fear.

Punishing this type of behavior by yelling, jerking, or using pinch collars and electronic devices can make the behavior worse. Adding any aversive stimuli will reinforce your dog's idea that the trigger (the other dog) is something to be feared.

Instead, try using the concept of counter conditioning to change your dog's emotional response toward the trigger. Start by pairing a high value treat when the trigger is present. See dog, get food. Be sure there is enough distance between you and the trigger dog to not elicit a reactive response.

Charitable Gift Annuities remain great investments

Making a gift to help the animals makes good financial sense

By Sheila E. Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

With CD rates averaging less than 1%, Charitable Gift Annuities remain a wonderful investment and provide income you can't outlive. This stable stream of income is not subject to the ups and downs of the stock market and is a predictable income stream in your retirement years. When you gift a CGA, you receive guaranteed fixed income for life while also receiving a charitable income tax deduction.

Most importantly, a CGA allows you to fulfill your desire to help the animals in our care and also take care of your retirement income needs.

Following the American Council on Gift Annuities, current rates for donors aged 65 (single life)

is 4.2% and rates as high as 8.6 for someone age 90 or above. So, now is a great time to consider making a gift for the animals and prepare for your retirement by earning a consistent rate of income.

Current rates for a Single Life:	
65	4.2
70	4.7
75	5.4
80	6.5
85	7.6
90+	8.6

If you would like additional information, please click [here](#) or contact Lisa Dennison, Executive Director, at 603-772-2921 ext. 107.



Now is a great time to consider making a gift for the animals and prepare for your retirement!



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.



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.

September 30, 2021 — February 1, 2022

From the Estates of:

- Gail Oberlin Bates
Exeter, NH
- Carl & Patricia Beatrice
Greenland, NH
- Constance (Huckaday) Bosen
North Hampton, NH
- Genevieve R. Bumstead
Conway, NH
- Nancy Dodge
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Become a Faithful Friend!

We are so thankful for the special group of committed friends that have set up a gift to be automatically made each month. Becoming a Faithful Friend is an easy, cost efficient way to provide the NHSPCA with a reliable source of funding. Monthly donations are charged to a credit card automatically and can be changed or canceled at any time.

To learn more or sign up, please email lsberman@nhspca.org!



Rolling Meadows Pet Cemetery

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.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can donate that unused vehicle to support the animals of the NHSPCA?

nhspca.org | (603) 772-2921 ext. 102

HOMELESS ANIMALS NEED YOU!

By Julie Halama

Special Events & Sponsorship Manager

We have a lot to celebrate!

Paws Walk is back for its 30th year and promises to be bigger, better and more barktacular than ever!

Join us on Sunday, June 5, as we take Stratham Hill Park by storm and walk together to help homeless animals, step by step.

Paws Walk is a celebration of community and companionship and a lifesaving day of fun. The funds raised from this event are critically important to the animals we care for and the continuation of our work at the New Hampshire SPCA.

By helping the NHSPCA through Paws Walk, you will be making it possible for us to continue to give a second chance to so many animals in their time of need.

Come, Walk, Save Lives... and enjoy the festivities too! Shop our Vendor Village, watch doggie demos, enjoy playtime with your pup, and more!

Register and make a difference today by clicking [here!](#)



Join us to help homeless animals!

Date: Sunday, June 5, 2022
Location: Stratham Hill Park
Time: Festival at 10:00 a.m.; We walk at noon!
Tickets: Adult: \$35; Youth: \$25
 Teams of 5: \$150 (\$25 savings!)
 Teams of 10: \$250 (\$100 savings!)



Scan this code or [click here](#) to help save lives!

Here's how you can help:

1. Sign your business up as a **Sponsor** or **Vendor**.
2. **Register to walk** and start fundraising today.
3. Recruit family, friends and coworkers to **form a kickin' team** — and save on registration fees!

Our deepest thanks to John Holland and Koda!

By Julie Halama

Special Events & Sponsorship Manager

World-renowned psychic medium and spiritual teacher John Holland was back with the New Hampshire SPCA this January, hosting a virtual event to benefit the [Koda Fund](#). John has been a long-time friend and supporter of the animals since 2009, establishing this special fund for lifesaving medical treatment in honor of his dog and constant companion, Koda.

Over 275 guests from around the world came together on Zoom to experience the phenomenon that is psychic mediumship, with John offering readings and spiritual insights. It was a touching affair, bringing a welcome mix of laughter and tears.

The best part was it raised \$16,500 for the animals!

Since its inception, the Koda Fund has raised over \$180,000 to help give homeless animals a second chance, animals like Remi.

Remi is a gentle giant who's never met a lap he can't fit into. This lovable pup came to us desperately in need of help.

Remi was suffering from a medical condition called entropion that caused his eyelids to roll inwards, creating scratches and ulcers on his cornea.

His condition was extreme, and poor Remi could barely open his eyes due to the constant, agonizing pain.

Thanks to John and the Koda Fund, we were able to provide surgery to correct Remi's entropion and restore him back to health.

Remi is now seeing the world clearly through his bright, brown eyes that quickly captured the hearts of his forever family!



John Holland has been such a great friend to the animals over the years! Since its inception, the Koda Fund, which was established by John in honor of his dog, Koda, has raised over \$180,000! This money helps provide lifesaving medical care.