



# SPRING NEWS 2023

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PO Box 196, Stratham, NH 03885 • 603-772-2921 • www.nhspca.org



Striker left a deep impression on our team.

## The lessons in Striker's story

By Sheila Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

*He looks so sad...*

*How could someone do this...*

*I didn't know animals were treated this way right here in New Hampshire...*

Striker was rescued on January 25<sup>th</sup> from neglect and appeared nearly starved. He had been with the same family his whole life but in recent times, he wasn't receiving the care he needed. By the time someone called us to report a 'skinny dog,' Striker was not much more than skin and bone. Weighing in at only 36 pounds with a body condition of 1 on a scale of 1-8, Striker was suffering. Thankfully, someone did call and we were able to investigate and intervene for this sweet old boy. We are so grateful to that person who alerted us to Striker's plight.

The brutal discovery was, unfortunately, yet to come. Striker was not just severely underfed. Striker was suffering from untreated lymphoma. After he'd been here a short time, and was eating but not gaining weight, we knew something had to be underlying his condition. With no veterinary records from his owner, we had to begin diagnostics. Soon we learned that Striker was a very sick boy and would not be the recovery success that

See **STRIKER**, Page 19

## Freeze your tail off for the animals!

It's not too late to join in on the shenanigans this Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>!

at Great Island Common in New Castle, NH



Register in-person at 11:00 a.m.  
We Plunge at noon!

If you'd like to register online, you can until Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> to get a jump on fundraising so you can earn awesome prizes. **Bonus: Bragging rights!**

By Julie Halama

Manager of Special Events & Sponsorship

Looking for an outrageous activity to beat the winter blues? You're in luck because the **Doggie Paddle Plunge** is back! Join the shenanigans on Saturday, March 18, and dive into the icy Atlantic Ocean in support of homeless animals.



After a two-year hiatus during the pandemic, the Plunge will return to New Castle's Great Island Common. This event is a party like no other, where spirited animal lovers of all ages brave the elements for a worthy cause. From swim trunks to superhero costumes, anything goes on the beach. We'll make a splash and then head inside for even more festivities, including a hot lunch, prizes, and more!

The Plunge has been a huge success for eleven years now thanks to dedicated people like you, who fundraise through their network of family, friends, and coworkers

See **PLUNGE**, Page 20



**PAW WALK**

Join us for a tail-waggin' day of fun on **June 4<sup>th</sup> at Stratham Hill Park!**

Visit [nhspca.org/paws-walk](http://nhspca.org/paws-walk) to learn more!



150 YEARS OF LIFESAVING WORK

2022 IMPACT REPORT

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### Advertise in the New Hampshire SPCA Newsletter!

You can reach a highly targeted audience of 22,000 animal lovers with our quarterly distribution throughout the Greater Seacoast area by placing your advertisement in the New Hampshire SPCA's quarterly newsletter. The NHSPCA reaches over 150 communities in Rockingham and Strafford counties in New Hampshire as well as Southern Maine and Northern Massachusetts. Along with reaching our unique audience of animal lovers, your advertising helps make a difference in the lives of thousands of animals by supporting the NHSPCA. For advertising rates and information please contact Melissa Mower at [mmower@nhspca.org](mailto:mmower@nhspca.org).

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

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

Last year was like awakening again. The excitement of opening our doors and welcoming clients, visitors, and guests back inside our facilities was palpable. There was such joy seeing a crowd at our events and having the ability to share these experiences together, and in person! Hosting workshops and programs that not only educated but at times simply nurtured the love and joy we share with the animals among us was reinvigorating. It was a year of dreams realized, new spaces that were no longer being constructed but rather beautiful, comfortable, and safe. The improved housing for the animals, especially after long trips from other regions, both functional and flexible, created the efficiencies we anticipated and are benefiting from now. The impact of change truly has been transformative for so many animals. It is wonderful to share some of the initial impact seen through the following pages with you.

Truly astounding is the growth in our farm and equine programs — a direct result of the campus expansion. With our Equine Center for Transformative Care now complete, we were able to create a new partnership with the MSSPA of Maine and while continuing to partner with the MSPCA. These collaborations created opportunities to relocate horses from our neighbor states, providing successful outcomes for each of them. One, who had been residing up north for 15 years, perhaps lost in the mix of larger numbers, came to us and found his forever home in weeks. We provided help on the ground that supported an emergency rescue involving many horses and when we needed support and asked, others stepped in to help us without question.

Partnerships matter. As an animal welfare community, working together truly creates better outcomes. Take the transport program. Hundreds of cats and dogs journey north in hopes of finding forever families. The shelters they come from work hard to prepare each of them for travel to other states, all with varying laws that must be adhered to. New Hampshire



is no different with health and quarantine requirements to keep all our communities' animals safe.

As we look forward to this next year, the new spaces will continue to evolve expanding our ability to care for the animals on-site and for our communities' pets as well. The recent delivery of diagnostic medical equipment immediately proved beneficial confirming both a pregnancy and identifying orthopedic concerns. Having both the facilities and the tools to address the litany of issues we see ensures both quality and efficiency of care — something we continue to strive for.

Each day, we are grateful for the ability to provide a safety net for animals arriving in need of shelter and care, those in need in our community and those from other regions dreaming of families to welcome them home. You continue to make all this possible — care, compassion, transformation.

On behalf of the animals, thank you~

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lisa Dennison'.

Lisa Dennison  
Executive Director

**New Hampshire Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

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# Joanne Lamprey, forever in our hearts

**By Sheila Ryan**

Director of Development & Marketing

As many of you have already learned, our dear friend, Joanne Lamprey, passed away on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. As we seek to find an appropriate way to honor this most incredible woman, we wanted to share a little of the Jo we knew.

Jo was an amazing woman, philanthropist, and advocate for animals. She began her relationship with the NHSPCA in 1990 as a donor and in 33 years, never missed an opportunity to support the animals. She once told me that she had loved animals since she was a small child, when one day she rescued four stray kittens from an abandoned house. One of them, Quixie, became part of her family for the next 24 years. She was dedicated to the abolition of animal cruelty and to the rescue of animals in crisis. She believed in the human-animal bond and that one brings out the best in the other.

As a philanthropist, Joanne loved this organization and saved so many animals through her generosity. But that was only the beginning. She became a board member in 1999 and served for more than ten years, including four as board president. Immediately after her board tenure, Jo, wanting to stay involved, became a trustee, and served in that role for 15 years! She was our campaign chair for not one, but two, amazing capital campaigns that resulted in the expansion and construction of our campus as we know it today.



**We're heartbroken by the loss of Joanne Lamprey, a dear friend and fierce advocate for the animals.**

Jo shared her passion for animals and the NHSPCA with others who have become pivotal donors as well. In 2010, Jo became known as our "September Match" offering to match do-

nations 1:1. People that had never met Jo knew that she made this same offer every year and that their donation would mean twice as much to the animals. We always received notes of gratitude directed to Joanne from grateful donors who loved to help and appreciated her generosity as much as we did.

In addition to her passion for animals, Joanne was an agent of change. Jo had a brilliant intellect and a wonderful sense of humor. She was highly educated and had been a practicing nurse before becoming the entrepreneur that we all came to know and love. She was a stickler for grammar and always sought ways to improve, well, everything. She could always see the best in people and recognized their potential often before even they did. Joanne was passionate about many causes beyond her love of animals, there was the environment and ending dependence on fossil fuels, education, music and the arts, young people, and so many others. She taught non-profit leaders how to effectively run their non-profit and how to become strong leaders themselves. Her commitment and contribution to the not-for-profit community was felt around the state. She will be missed for her dedication, love of a good laugh, business sense, and the beaming smile that made her so very lovable.

Jo was a woman who walked her talk and was instrumental in making us who we are today.

Our deepest condolences go out to her family, friends, and those who knew her.



## 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/](https://nhspca.org/commemorative-gifts/) to view our new listing.

Thank you for all you do for the animals.



## The NHSPCA welcomes new investigator

Tona McCarthy recently joined the New Hampshire SPCA as our Cruelty Investigator after many years as a first responder in a variety of positions.



**Tona McCarthy**

Tona has been a police officer, a firefighter and an EMT. Most recently, Tona worked for six years as a full-time animal cruelty investigator here in NH. He brings his many years of law enforcement along with his incredible passion for the welfare of animals here to the New Hampshire SPCA and we have already seen his incredible teamwork and experience going toward helping animals.

In addition to his many police merit awards, Tona is an avid martial artist, having reached 7<sup>th</sup> degree Black Belt in Tang So Do and 5<sup>th</sup> degree blackbelt in Kenpo-Karate. Tona has been teaching Martial arts since 1983. He has also been a youth football coach for more than a dozen years.

Tona also worked as a part time cruelty investigator right here at the NHSPCA a few years before taking a full-time position. We are delighted to have Tona back and grateful for all the work he has already done, and all that he will do in the future to help create brighter days for animals in need.

Welcome, Tona!

## A love for animals that runs deep

By **Tona McCarthy**  
Animal Cruelty Investigator

When I was growing up, my family always had pets. I remember watching our dogs and cats express their love towards each other by cuddling together, especially if they had a litter of kittens or puppies. All types of animals show love for us as well, and part of that is indeed built on trust and care.

When I was 12 years old, my mother gave me a black Cockapoo as a Christmas gift. Ziggy was my best friend for 19 years. He was a great companion and taught me many life lessons, such as commitment, compassion and the responsibilities of pet ownership. Ziggy was a great teacher of how to treat an animal with care, providing food and water and making sure he was warm in the winter and cool during the hot summer months. He was such a great dog and really started me on a path of caring for animals in a larger way.

If animals can express their love, it's our responsibility to give back the same treatment. Sometimes, pet owners lose their way. Sometimes it's a financial burden that makes it difficult to maintain proper care. Sometimes it's the lack of knowledge to provide care correctly.

Sadly, sometimes it's simply a lack of interest in providing the necessary care.

As a Humane Agent/Animal Cruelty Investigator at the New Hampshire SPCA, I respond to many types of calls including neglect, abandonment or suffering due to inhumane treatment. Certain calls stay with me. One from the past few months was responding to a complaint involving an emaciated dog. The owner had owned the dog since it was a puppy and according to the veterinary records had



### What is a Humane Agent?

Humane Agents investigate animal cruelty complaints, assist law enforcement with investigations and removal of animals, as well as serve the public through recovering lost pets and education of animal care and welfare laws.

Not only do NHSPCA Humane Agents investigate animal cruelty, but they also provide disaster relief to animals and their owners through the Disaster Response Team (DRT); work with our Humane Education Department speaking to students during our summer camp programs and in other forums; work with other Law Enforcement and humane organizations to reduce illegal transportation of under-aged or sick animals, combating animal fighting on the NH Animal Fighting Taskforce, and much more.

provided the dog with appropriate care, until their finances were depleted. The owner agreed to surrender the dog knowing we could provide for his needs.

I am happy to be here at the NHSPCA. I look forward to working hard with our team to continue our work providing safe and loving homes for every animal.

### Spring cleaning?

Did you know you can donate your unwanted vehicle to support the animals of the NHSPCA?

Call (603) 772-2921 ext. 102 for additional information



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## Planned Gifts Received

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

September 30, 2022 - January 1, 2023

### From the Estates of:

**Seth and Nancy Ames**  
Kittery Point, ME

**Constance Huckaday Bosen**  
Hampton, NH

**William G. Denhard**  
Peabody, MA

**Michael A. Falzone**  
North Hampton, NH

**Walker M. and Margaret V. Sowers**  
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 **Jody Crotty**  
Animal Communicator



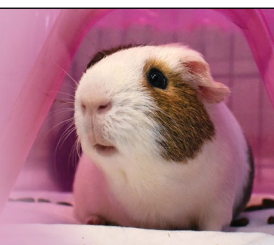
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available animals



## Notes From The Barn

# Answering the call

By Michelle Murch

Equine & Farm Program Manager

It was the end of a dark Friday afternoon in December when we were contacted by the MSPCA regarding a large seizure of equines, many with a contagious respiratory illness. This

### Adoptable Farm Animals

Please click [here](#) to view all available farm animals!

is how so many rescues happen, last minute, late in the day, going into the weekend, short staffed and involving many animals. This is where we shine. These situations are where we feel the

immediate and intense importance of what we do and why we do it.

In the days that followed, we assisted the MSPCA to prepare for this large rescue. We transferred four of their horses into our care, delivered round pen panels to be used as temporary stalls to house the sickest of the incoming and transported horses to an adoptive home. Then we waited. Waited for word that we were needed again when the horses arrived.

Just after returning to the NHSPCA from delivering the adopted horses, we received that call. Could we come back to Massachusetts and help catch, halter, and sort the incoming equines. Of course, we said yes. So, the farm team headed out to assist where we were needed.

You may wonder what about the NHSPCA farm animals? How could we just leave? Who was left to care for our own animals? Fortunately, at the NHSPCA we are a team. While the farm team was away, any staff with farm animal experience jumped in to help. Staff members from our Adoption Center, our Volunteer Coordinator and our Accounting Coordinator all stepped up to insure the NHSPCA farm animals had the care they needed, giving us this flexibility to help. When the call comes, we do whatever it takes for the animals.

Almost immediately after we arrived at the MSPCA the equines arrived. The horses and mules, a range of colors and sizes begin frantically exiting the trailer. The frightened group spilled into the round pen. This is when we knew just how important it was that we came to help. The



Equine & Farm Program Manager Michelle shares a snack with Taza, a Welsh Pony we took in from the MSPCA to help them make room for their large-scale rescue in late December.

horses were all in one small pen. The animals were trotting and cantering in different directions kicking and jumping trying to jockey for a safe position. We had to wear large plastic boot covers and rubber gloves due to the potential infectious disease the horses may have had. Have you even seen frightened horses and plastic? Well, it's not an ideal situation. It certainly doesn't calm the scene or make us any less scary for the herd.

Three of us entered the herd and tried strategically to catch one specific animal together which was only somewhat successful. Targeting horses proved to be far more challenging than just catching the ones closest and most willing first. It was utter chaos and rewarding all at the same time. We are so passionate about horses and helping them, it's the kind of situation where we do whatever is needed. All the horses were moved successfully and just in time for the second trailer load to arrive. The second group had more sick animals and a couple that had never been handled as well. In time, we managed to safely get all 18 horses into separate, temporary stalls for rehab and evaluations.

By the time we returned to the NHSPCA it was late, dark and we were exhausted, but we loved it, it's what we do. We help save animals.

## A fresh cut gives a fresh perspective

By Ashley Conte  
Adoption Counselor

Ollie's owner could no longer afford to care for him and so he found himself homeless and sad. To make matters worse, Ollie didn't have the best kennel presence. He cowered in his kennel and



Ollie was all smiles after being groomed!

we realized that part of the problem was that he was uncomfortable in his own skin...literally. We knew that being groomed wasn't his favorite thing and had a very low tolerance for it. Ollie was in desperate need of a good make-over so he could feel his most confident self and put his best paw forward.

Grooming plays an important role in the health of an animal. We were sure that after Ollie got cleaned up, he was going to feel better. One of the biggest challenges was working around his triggers. He wasn't a fan of having his feet touched or receiving a sanitary clip. We didn't want to push him too hard, as he was an older boy, so working with him in small increments of time really helped to keep him calm. We would work on him for 10 minutes, then give him a break which included lots of treats. Praise for when he was a good boy went a long way too. It took 2 days for us to complete Ollie's groom, but it was more important to us that we listened and paid attention to his needs and made sure he was comfortable.

Once Ollie was all cleaned up, it took no time for people to start noticing him. They would come into the Pavilion, look at him and say things like, "Look how he's smiling!" or "He's so cute!" He was a completely different dog. The relief Ollie felt was immense and it started showing in his confidence. All he needed was someone to take the time with him to make him feel fresh and new. Within less than 48 hours, Ollie finally had his moment, and got adopted. He gets to live his golden years with people who are going to love him unconditionally. I am always thankful whenever we can change a life. For me, helping Ollie get to a point of comfort was just a part of what I do, but to Ollie I'm sure it was much more.

## Eyeless kitten finds his forever

By Amanda Wellman  
Transport Coordinator

Toby the blind kitten was found lost and alone in the summer of 2022 on a rooftop in Macon, Georgia. He now lives happily in a New England

### Looking for a purr-fect friend?

Please click [here](#) to view all of our available cats and kittens!

home with a family who adores him and a sister cat who is starting to agree that he's pretty OK.

How did a sightless kitten make his way from Macon,

GA to New England? As part of the NHSPCA's Transport Program!

During the fall of 2022, our Georgia rescue partner reached out to ask us if we could try finding a home for a blind, 6-month-old kitten named Toby. Toby was described as the type of cat who wins hearts wherever he goes, and he was so confident in his foster home that his rescue was ready to find him a home of his very own. As soon as we heard Toby's story, we knew we had to have him join us in New Hampshire!

When Toby was found on that apartment rooftop, his rescuers noticed that his eyes were covered in some type of unknown substance. They rushed him to a veterinarian's office, where the vet team cleaned off his eyes and started him on antibiotics. His foster mom medicated him faithfully, but his eyes kept getting infected despite everyone's best efforts, and it was soon apparent that Toby was completely unable to see. After consulting with multiple veterinarians, it was finally decided that it was in Toby's best interest to remove his eyes in a surgical procedure known as an enucleation.

Throughout his entire ordeal, Toby remained sweet, loving, and cuddly. He was always purring and looking for a snuggle! Toby made a full recovery with the loving care of his foster mom in Georgia. He was confident, even in unknown surroundings, and able to navigate his environment easily after a brief exploration. It was decided that Toby was an excellent candidate for transport North, where he would have a better chance of getting adopted.



**Toby has been through more than your average cat... and he's still just a baby! We're honored to have helped this little guy find his family, more than 1k miles from where he was originally found!**

I'll admit that I fell madly in love with Toby during his time at the NHSPCA. It's impossible not to — he is the sweetest, most loving little fellow and watching him navigate the world is nothing short of awe-inspiring. Toby is able to find his way around new settings, jump onto and down from couches and beds, play with toys, and evaluate distances with seeming ease. I never once saw him bump into anything!

I was so grateful when the woman who would become Toby's mom arrived to meet him. She had done a lot of research on blind cats and made it easily apparent that she appreciated Toby's magnificence. I felt extremely confident that she was the right person for this special boy. She is kind enough to send me updates on Toby — aka Toby Macaroni, Toby Baloney, and Honey Honey. I am happy to report that Toby loves small boxes, beef gravy lovers canned food, his water fountain, and jazz music. As you can imagine, he is being properly spoiled, just as he deserves!

This week we brought in another group of transfer cats from Toby's original rescue in Georgia. This group includes a four-year-old blind cat named Helen, who has a purr-sonality very similar to Toby's. We are able to happily accept cats like Helen and Toby because we know that our amazing community of supporters will help us find the very best home possible for another special animal!



Leash up your best friend and join us for a tail-waggin' fun day!

Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Stratham Hill Park | [nhspca.org/paws-walk](https://nhspca.org/paws-walk)

# 150 YEARS OF LIFESAVING WORK

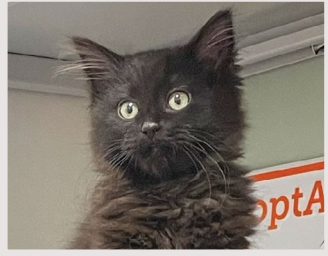
2022 IMPACT  
REPORT



2022

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## TAILS FROM AROUND THE SHELTER



### JANUARY

Clarice came to us with 80 other black kitties from one home. The owner had been hospitalized with COVID. Most of the cats and kittens found homes quickly. Little Clarice was just 10 weeks old when we discovered she was suffering from Bladder Stones, an unusual condition for such a young girl. Thankfully, Clarice's symptoms were discovered early and she received treatment. Today this sweet little kitty has a home of her own.



### FEBRUARY

Our Behavior Department started 2022 off strong. With dozens of dog training classes and workshops to choose from, we had 166 participants and their dogs bonding over new skills and tricks.



### MARCH

Five horses, three Arabians, one Paint and a Chestnut Quarter horse were rescued by our team. They had no food or water and appeared thin and neglected. They were lacking appropriate confinement and living in unsanitary conditions. "The Fab Five" as they came to be known were in protective custody for eleven months.



### APRIL

April was a month of starting or restarting community programs. After COVID and construction it was great to see our community returning. Alzheimer's Café and rabies clinics returned full steam, joined by our first ever Pet Loss Support group. We are thrilled that these programs have continued to thrive.



### MAY

May was made even more beautiful by the return of our full complement of volunteers! It was challenging to create new SOP's for our newly remodeled spaces and retrain returning volunteers, but we were so excited to see those smiling faces again. Adding to that joy was the overwhelming number of new folks who wanted to sign up to become volunteers. We are so grateful and lucky to have such a great group to work alongside of!



### JUNE

Paws Walk returned to Stratham Hill Park in full glory! The first 'normal' Paws Walk in three years, it seemed more like a family reunion than a critically important fundraiser. There were so many returning walkers, teams, vendors, sponsors, and of course, volunteers, that all made the day complete. The day was also record breaking in terms of the funds raised to care for homeless animals. We could not have been happier!

**Save the date for Paws Walk 2023: Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Stratham Hill Park!**



### JULY

Sweet Maya arrived in July on a transport from an overcrowded shelter. Upon arrival, we found that Maya was suffering from heartworm and skin infections. Fortunately for Maya, heartworm can be treated successfully under the right conditions. We called upon one of our amazing foster moms to care for Maya during the four-month healing process. She readily agreed and Maya recovered with the help of medical treatment and love from NM. Just before Thanksgiving, Maya found her forever home where she will be forever loved.





## AUGUST

August was a busy month! HSUS had 4,000 beagles from an animal testing lab that they were able to shut down. They needed to rehome the beagles ASAP and were in the process of spreading them all over the US. We were happy to help by taking seven of the Envigo Beagles and finding them forever homes. Meanwhile, we were experiencing a huge influx of small animals, especially bunnies and guinea pigs. The care these animals need is surprisingly labor intensive. Volunteers and staff worked hard at providing everything they needed and eventually they all found new homes.



## SEPTEMBER

In September we had four transfers from overcrowded shelters, of both cats and dogs. Running on all cylinders, the Adoption Center took in over 140 animals and found homes for 105. Programs were busy with presentations at Langdon Place, private tours, Humane Education programs being planned, Alzheimer's Café, an amazing Equine Chiropractic Workshop, plus animals in protective care in our Safe Pet program. All of these programs wouldn't be possible without our community's help. Thank you!



## OCTOBER

Our creative team in Humane Education hosted our very first Halloween Paw-rade on the beautiful grounds of the NHSPCA. Behind our buildings is a splendid (and very large) rain garden that was created during our capital expansion as part of an ecological water mitigation system. The rain gardens are bounded by our ring trail that served as a perfect parade route. Families with costumed children and pups arrived to paw-rade and then celebrate the fun of the holiday with snacks and well deserved best costume awards.



## NOVEMBER

Marge and Homer. No, not the Simpsons, Homer is an Australian mini-horse and Marge is a Merino sheep. They were surrendered to the NHSPCA after the police in their town expressed concern over their condition. Homer's hooves were so overgrown that they turned up in a long curl at the ends. He appeared extremely uncomfortable, and we were deeply concerned about his recovery. Similarly Marge had wool so thickly overgrown that she could hardly move and was covered in filth. We went about liberating them from their neglectful home and then treating their health concerns. What was adorable, was that they were a clearly bonded pair. Marge would not leave Homer's side, and vice-versa. It was such a relief to see them with trimmed hooves and shorn wool, begin to move with freedom and recovered joy. Marge and Home were placed with a beautiful forever family, where we know they will never be neglected again.



## DECEMBER

Rounding out 2022, it became apparent that this was a year of incredible horse stories. With our new barn and arena, we are seeing more incoming and outgoing horses than ever, never mind the sheep, goats and farm fowl numbers. We found homes for a record number of 42 horses in 2022, as compared to 3 just 10 years ago. One of those horse was Merlin who came to us via the MSPCA when they needed to move some of their adoptable horses to respond to an incoming rescue. We were happy to help and took several horses for them. Merlin was 34 years old, a senior horse by anyone's definition. We weren't sure at first what would become of Merlin? Could we find him a home? Well, not even three weeks after becoming a NH resident, Merlin was adopted by a kind woman who wanted to give him the retirement barn that he deserved. New Hampshire is truly a humane state and we are so happy for Merlin. Thank you.



# 150 YEARS OF LIFESAVING WORK

2022 IMPACT REPORT

## 1,200 OUTGOING ANIMALS



100%

placement rate of healthy animals



100%

placement rate of treatable/rehabilitatable animals



96%

live release rate

## AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

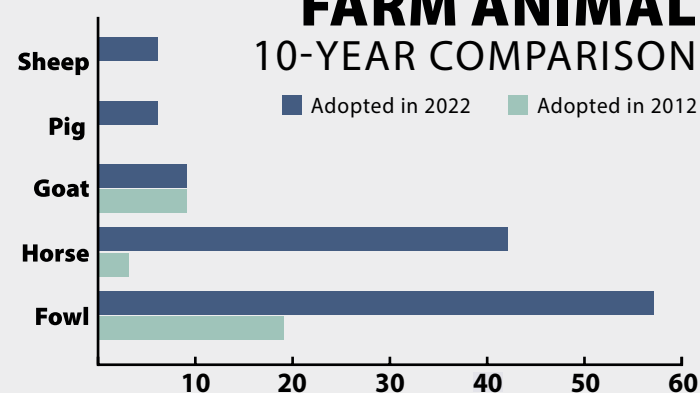
The **average length of stay** is the time animals spend at the shelter from the moment they are brought in until they are adopted. The **median length of stay** represents how many days animals spend at the shelter from the time they are made available for adoption until they are adopted.

Animal type	Total Incoming	Adopted	Return to owner	Average LOS	Median LOS
Cat	304	260	30	19.2	12
Kitten	254	248	2	15.6	10.1
Dog	210	131	69	14.6	9.1
Puppy	122	117	2	11.9	10.2
Farm Animal	82	78	0	54.4	45.4
Guinea Pig	61	61	0	57	43
Rabbit	58	53	4	70.7	22.6
Horse	53	42	0	79	36
Bird/Other	29	27	1	18.5	12
Rodent	19	16	1	226.9	8
<b>TOTAL*</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>109</b>		

\*These numbers do not include the 82 animals still in our care at end of day on 12/31/2021.



## FARM ANIMAL 10-YEAR COMPARISON





449 VOLUNTEERS  
GAVE 17,335 HOURS



18 ANIMALS  
ENROLLED IN OUR SAFE PET  
PROGRAM FOR A TOTAL OF  
321 DAYS



TOP THREE REASONS FOR USE OF THIS PROGRAM:

LOSS OF  
HOUSING

MENTAL  
HEALTH

DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE

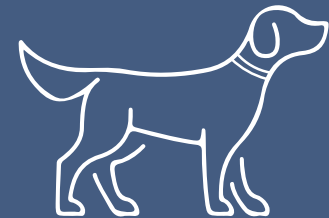


19,400 POUNDS  
OF PET FOOD DISTRIBUTED  
THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY  
EQUALING AN ESTIMATED  
97,000 MEALS



1,631

CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN OUR IN-PERSON  
HUMANE EDUCATION PROGRAMMING



659 DOGS  
PARTICIPATED IN ONE OF OUR  
125 TRAINING  
CLASSES



421 DOGS

PARTICIPATED IN PLAYGROUPS  
(SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE, PUPPY)

\*Other: Scout Badge Opportunities, Afterschool Clubs, Pet Loss Support, Animal Pen Pals



# 1872 Society

*The 1872 Society was developed as a way of recognizing and thanking our incredibly generous 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.*

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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.*

# Resilient Riley's patience pays off

After 347 days in the shelter, this sweet girl finds her forever family

By Melissa Mower

Marketing & Graphic Design Associate

It's always such a pleasure to see a homeless animal get a second chance at a loving home, regardless of breed, species or age. In fact, seeing animals going home is the very best part of the job.

As we watched Riley jump into her new family's car after waiting so patiently for 347 days, it felt a bit different. It genuinely felt like we won the lottery.

The real winners, of course, were the three that rode off in that car: Riley and her new mom and dad.

\* \* \*

They say good things come to those who wait, and boy, did Riley wait. Day after day, week after week, and month after month, this brindle beauty sat in her kennel begging for someone — anyone — to just give her a chance. Behind those big brown eyes was a soul that so badly wanted to go home.

We didn't understand why it was proving to be so difficult to find that perfect match. Riley, after all, was an absolute gem of a dog with five ounces of personality to match every ounce of beauty. With every day that passed, we were so very thankful that she was with us — an unlimited stay facility — so she didn't have to worry about her time running out.

As Riley was waiting at the NHSPCA, her eventual adopters (Ashley and Bryan) were mourning the loss of their beloved senior dog, Eleanor — the third dog they had lost over the course of their marriage. After Eleanor passed, Ashley and Bryan agreed they couldn't possibly endure the heartache of losing another dog and decided that she would therefore be their last.

However, in the coming months, Ashley and Bryan started to realize just how much of their daily routine had been dedicated to caring for Eleanor. In typical senior fashion, she had required more care and time than an average dog. All the idle time started to pile up.

"I was home alone, my work was caught up,



**We knew Riley's eventual family would be absolutely smitten with her and we're happy to report that it couldn't be more true! We got used to seeing her beautiful face every day and while we miss her silly antics, it's so nice knowing she's finally home for good and that it's a perfect fit for all.**

and I didn't have any projects to work on," recalls Ashley. "The sun was shining, so I sat in the backyard and watched the world go by for a moment. As I sat there, I remembered endless late-night conversations my husband and I would have about wanting to adopt all the overlooked dogs that need homes. With that thought, I reached for my phone and pulled up the NHSPCA website to see if there was someone that needed a home."

To Ashley's surprise, the cutest dog popped up on her screen. She learned Riley had been homeless for 335 days at that point and had severe allergies, which would require more care and time than an average dog. She immediately texted Bryan and come to find out, she didn't have to work too hard to get him to change his mind on the no-more-dogs thing, either.

"We were that home," said Ashley. "I knew instantly that she had been waiting for us to find her."

\* \* \*

Ashley and Bryan came in to meet Riley and it was no surprise to any of us, it was love at first sight.

We were curious how the transition into her forever home would go because she had been in a loving foster home for a few months leading up to her adoption. Thankfully, Riley's transition went smoothly, and she got right to work showing her new family how appreciative she was to be given a chance.

Riley has been home for five months now and really could not have asked for a better family. When she isn't playing, chewing on a toy, or going on a walk with her family, she can almost always be found wrapped up a warm blanket on the couch. She loves making friends and gently backs her behind into every new person she meets to request butt scratches in exchange for her friendship.

After waiting 347 days, this sweetheart has the life we dream of for every animal that turns to us.

"Every day, she opens her gigantic heart a little wider exposing the boundless resiliency that lives beneath her soulful brown eyes," writes Ashley. "Riley has brought so much love and life back into our home, I'm so grateful she waited all this time for us to find her."

# Make this summer one to remember!



Visiting with Freckles the horse!



Humphrey the guinea pig is a fan favorite!



Elliot the rabbit enjoyed lots of snacks!



Peach the rat loves kids!



We're still smiling over Daisy the Italian Greyhound!



Moxie the cat loved snuggling campers!



Showing Abby the pig some love!



Between meeting furry friends, campers enjoy crafts and games!



## DOES YOUR CHILD LOVE ANIMALS?

Register them for Summer Camp at the NHSPCA! We strive to provide a mixture of fun and educational animal-themed activities to all our campers. Campers will meet ambassador animals in our Humane Education classroom, as well as play games, make crafts, and help out around our campus whenever possible!

Camp runs from the week of June 26<sup>th</sup> through the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>. We offer three different camp age-ranges (6-7, 8-10, 11-12) to ensure that the experience is developmentally appropriate for each child.

Visit [nhspca.org/summer-camp](http://nhspca.org/summer-camp) for more information!

# Sending a big thank you to our volunteers!

By Juli Tyson  
Volunteer Coordinator

Our volunteers have accomplished some amazing work and we are so grateful for each and every one of you!

Orientations have been full, cat care shifts are full, and the barn is seeing a steady flow of help.

## Interested in volunteering?

Click [here](#) for our volunteering app!

Our volunteers are instrumental in animal care and making sure the animals feel safe and loved. No matter what kind of schedule you are on for volunteering, we thank you for the time you are able to give to us and the animals. Even on snow days, some of you make it in to help our staff. Our volunteers made holiday animal care brighter, and they helped keep winter a little warmer.

Dog walkers made it through another wet, icy, snowy New England winter with us. Thank you for always making sure our dogs get their full walk, no matter the conditions. To the barn volunteers that battled frozen manure and slippery ramps while keeping the paddocks clean and water buckets full, thank you. Volunteers that specialize in cats, small animals, laundry and office work continued to make their way to the shelter no matter the chill and made sure all our animals were cared for, that the laundry room stayed organized and fresh, and that our thank you letters made it out with a personal touch.

It's apparent that the work the NHSPCA does simply would not be possible without our volunteers.

We were able to increase our transport numbers in 2022, continuing to save more lives, because we have had experienced volunteers returning after the pandemic. At the same time, we have been nurturing an amazing force of new volunteers.

Recently, we started welcoming volunteers back for afternoon shifts to help with socialization and enrichment for our animals. Since we are an unlimited stay facility and have some animals that are with us for longer stretches, it's important to mix things up to enrich their days and keep them happy and healthy. Our dedicated cat and small animal volunteers feel strongly about the socialization of those harder to place critters, and their efforts, consistency and love help those animals blossom as they wait.

This spring, we look forward to welcoming back volunteer groups for the yearly clean-up and

landscaping projects. Cathy Scuto and the team from CAES will help us once again, as well as Liberty Mutual, to make sure our campus looks beautiful once it thaws. Brad Solomon and his company SC Digital will also be helping us out in May and June for Paws Walk! Mark your calendars now for June 4<sup>th</sup>! We will need 100 volunteers to make the event a success, so plan early and get in touch with me if you are interested in helping.

We look forward to seeing what 2023 will bring for us and what our fabulous volunteers accomplish. NHSPCA volunteers are unique people who never waiver. They're always ready to learn something new and want to go above and beyond for the animals. There are not enough words to express the gratitude each and every staff member feels for our volunteers. Staff express on a regular basis how much they adore their volunteers and appreciate the time and care they put into our animals. A big thank you to every single one of you! We appreciate you more than you will ever know and are grateful to have you with us in 2023.



Our volunteers brighten every room! Christine, pictured here with Eclipse and Dawn, is one of our wonderful animal care volunteer.

## Adopt a best friend!





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# What's a nice girl like me doing in a place like this?

By **Kim Billings**  
Volunteer

I never planned to haul horse manure every weekend, no matter the weather. I also did not plan to organize my weekends around my barn shift at the SPCA. I never planned to own a pair of insulated knee-high Bogs. I never in my wildest dreams thought I'd bake molasses-coated horse treats. And I certainly never planned to fall in love with horses. But here I am, doing all those things and falling in love with horses (and ponies, and mules, and donkeys, and goats, and sheep, and pigs, and chickens).

Michelle, Amanda and Jordan, are the three women who oversee the NHSPCA farm operations. They are, first and foremost, fierce advocates for farm animals. They also are hard workers and incredible mentors. They have taught me so much — not just about the fine art of picking up manure in a muddy field — but about different horse breeds, their personalities (red mares can be grumpy, for example), the special diets some horses or ponies need, various equine diseases and treatment. The barn volunteers also share a strong

bond and many of us have become friends.

As much as I have always loved horses, I knew next to nothing about them except I was afraid of them. The farm team, along with Linda, a volunteer mentor, quickly showed me the ropes. Before long, I could push a horse (or two!) away from the gate and wheel the cart through all by myself! Then, horses began to follow me around. When I first started, I didn't know one brown horse from another. Now, when I arrive, I call their names and they trot to the fence to greet me.

When I started almost a year ago, I met five horses in protective custody. Theirs is a sad story of long neglect. They weren't in the best shape and while they had those amazingly soft liquid horse eyes that can melt a heart, they had blank stares. Through the care and love they've received from the staff and volunteers, the Fab Five as we now call them, are

happy and healthy horses. They each have their own personalities. Because they are in Protective Custody, I can't tell you their names or show you pictures,

but they are the most wonderful and grateful animals I've ever met. I made sure I could work Christmas Eve so I could spend extra time with each of them and give them one (or several) homemade horse cookies.

Some days when I'm getting ready to leave, I am the only one in the barn. I stand there and listen to those barn sounds: Someone drinks water. Someone else eats hay. Someone nickers, someone else nickers back.

What's a nice girl like me doing in a place like this? Relishing the complete and utter

happiness I feel being with these animals.

Please join us — we always need help! Email Michelle Murch at [mmurch@nhspca.org](mailto:mmurch@nhspca.org) for more information.



Volunteers Kim (left) and Linda spend time with Izzy the Appaloosa horse!



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# Looking forward to 2023!

By Casey Morrison

Manager of Behavior & Training

Are you and your pup looking to start 2023 off on the right (or left) paw? The Behavior &

## Let's learn!

Click [here](#) to view all upcoming courses!

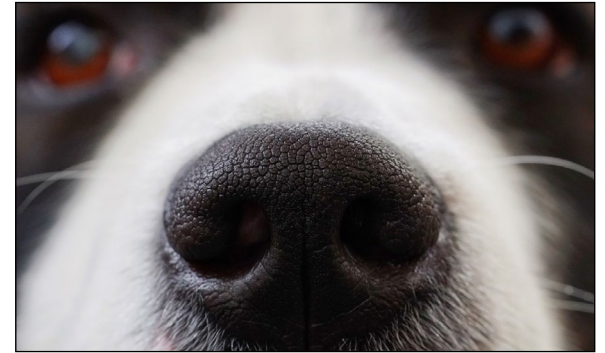
Training Department had such a great 2022 and 2023 will be even better with more classes, more workshops, and more playgroups!

In 2022, we regularly held our core classes: Manners 1, Puppy 101, Puppy 102, Reactive Dog classes and Agility classes. We also hosted some fun holiday workshops and mini-series to keep your pup busy and happy throughout the holiday season. We offered a Polite Greeting Workshop to help exuberant pups learn how to greet people politely and a fun Enrichment Games Workshop to introduce games and activities to play inside to keep bored dogs' minds and bodies busy. We also released two new Playgroups in 2022 — Medium and Large dog Playgroups — and they have been so much fun!

These workshops, mini-series and playgroups will certainly continue in 2023.

If you're looking to further your pup's manners in 2023, we will be offering Manners 2. Manners 2 will build on the skills learned in Manners 1 or Puppy 102 by raising criteria and building distance, distraction, and duration to known behaviors such as sit, down, stay, come and more! Manners 2 will help you build reliability, consistency, and polish responses to basic cues. The class will provide you with the skills to help shape new important and fun behaviors!

Maybe your pup has all the manners they need and you're looking for some fun? Well, we have that, too! If you have a pup that glues their nose to the ground the minute you walk outside, check out our Nose Work class. This class introduces you and your pup to K9 Nose Work, how to build your dog's drive, how to successfully set up your search area, identify what motivates your dog (food, toy, etc.) and learn how to encourage your dog to search for those goodies among containers in the environment. Then you



Put your dog's nose and brain to the test during our Nose Work Class! Visit our website to see all of our upcoming offerings.

can move onto the Intro to Odor class, which takes Nose Work to the next level by teaching your dog to search for odor instead of just food. You will learn how to read your dog even better, improve their problem-solving ability and just have fun!

In 2023, we will be rolling out a Reactive Dog Seminar, a Control Unleashed Workshop, a Muzzle Training Seminar and so much more!

If any of these sound fun to you and your pup, you can check out all the [training offerings](#) on our website. New classes are added regularly, so check back often!

Wentworth by the Sea is a  
Proud Supporter of the  
NHSPCA



WENTWORTH BY THE SEA

## STRIKER...

Continued from Page 1

we all had prayed for. We looked into his big brown soulful eyes and knew that we loved him enough, even in such a short time, to relieve his suffering and let him go.

As for the quotes above, they are just a few of the impassioned responses we received through social media when we shared Striker's story. They really made me think. How could someone do this? How often does this really happen in NH? These are big questions. The answers are not easy ones, but I have some thoughts on the subject.

Animal abuse happens in every corner of NH. From tiny towns to cities and possibly even in your own neighborhood. Our cruelty investigator receives between 10 and 20 calls on average per week of suspected neglect or abuse. There are several agencies across NH that have full or part-time cruelty investigators that likely receive a similar number of calls, plus animal control officers and police officers that also receive reports.

Thankfully, many of the calls turn out to be misunderstandings. For example, the report of a skinny horse that turns out to be a beloved and cared for animal that is sick and receiving all the veterinary care that it should. We are truly relieved when we discover that a situation has been misunderstood and an animal is not in jeopardy. We encourage the community to please call if you suspect an animal is being mistreated, so that no animal falls through the cracks.

The other question that I saw on social media a lot, was "How could someone do that to animal?". This answer can be very complex as things are not always as they may seem. First, there is a difference between abuse and neglect, although one could argue that in some cases the neglect meets the standard of abuse. Typically, neglect is defined by not providing care that is needed while abuse is willfully inflicting harm. There is also a factor of malicious intent. When we see an animal that is in terrible pain or danger at the hands of their owner, as animal lovers and caregivers, we react viscerally. We want the "perp" to go to jail or to suffer the way the animal suffered. This is such a common reaction, seen time and again



Striker soaked up every ounce of love.

on social media. And, believe me, we can feel that way, too. However, there are often circumstances that can't come to light. Circumstances that we are unable to share or may not even know ourselves. Sometimes we find that the people responsible are themselves suffering. And while we want someone to 'pay' for what has been perpetrated against an innocent animal, often the people involved are also victims in some ways.

There is little empathy for people who intentionally hurt animals, of that I'm certain we all agree. But what about the people who are not acting intentionally but end up hurting animals anyway? What of those who can no longer care for their animals due to suffering with mental illness, or disability, dementia, financial destitution, or are truly unable to care for themselves, never mind their pet? What if they are completely alone in the world and unable to access the safety net programs that we and other organizations offer? This is a much more difficult situation and must be handled with empathy and care for all living creatures, even humans. This is not to say that we turn a blind eye, or that those who hurt animals should be given a pass. Definitely not. It's simply to say that sometimes people find themselves in situations that they don't know their way out of, and as a humane community, we want to protect animals, and hope that there are human services provided for the people who need them.

Animals teach us this lesson best. Once removed from a bad situation, an animal appears genuinely grateful and begins to embrace their new lives. They have no capacity to look back with anger or regret. They just love unconditionally and forgive and move on.

A great lesson, for sure!

# Can you help?

Have you ever said something like this before?

**"All pets deserve love. If I could, I'd adopt them all!"**

Here at the New Hampshire SPCA, we hear that all the time. It's easy to look into an animal's eyes and wish you could do more to help them.

Of course, you can't adopt them all ... but there is something you can do that's just as important. **You can make a donation ... and save another pet's life today.**

Every day, we meet animals that are homeless through no fault of their own. Some come from loving families that just couldn't keep them anymore. Others arrive injured or needing special care. Whatever their story, your generosity gives them the chance to live and love.



It only takes a moment to save an animal's life.

Like Luna. This adorable 12-year-old pug, pictured left, was the constant companion of her owner. They were inseparable. So often pet owners outlive their pets, but for some, it is the other way around. Luna lost her friend and the source of her love and comfort. When she lost her person, she lost everything she'd ever known. Luna found herself like so many animals — without a home.

**Will you make a gift today to comfort, heal and save another animal?**

It's thanks to gifts from people like you that Luna could find a second chance. She came to the New Hampshire SPCA.

First, Luna went into foster care to rest and recover. In time, her energy and her confidence returned. **You're the reason we can give animals the second chance they deserve.** That's why I'm writing this now. Not just to tell you about Luna — who found a new family and a fresh start — but to ask for your support.

You may have a long list of important things to do today.

But I think you'll agree: **Saving an animal's life could be one of the BEST things you do.**

It only takes a few moments to send your generous donation. When you do, you will know your gift gave a homeless or vulnerable animal food, care, and a second chance.

Your gift will make a real difference in New Hampshire and it will mean everything to an animal that gets to live — and be loved — because of you.

Please send your contribution in the enclosed envelope or click [here](#) to give online. And accept our gratitude for opening your heart to another animal in need.

# Celebrating an incredible past and an even brighter future

By Julie Halama

Special Events & Sponsorship Manager

This past November, over 250 of our community's most distinguished animal-lovers gathered to celebrate the New Hampshire SPCA's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the *Auction for the Animals*.

It was an especially poignant night, as we returned to the legendary Wentworth by the Sea for the first time in three years. This annual gala is one of the Seacoast's most respected fundraising events and helps save the lives of thousands of homeless animals year after year.

The ballrooms of the Wentworth by the Sea were abuzz with excitement throughout the evening. NHSPCA alumni dogs mingled with the crowd, while guests were treated to an array of delicious hors d'oeuvres, champagne and more.

Generosity was free flowing throughout the Silent and Live Auctions, with stunning items including a vintage Rolex wristwatch, getaways to Tuscany, Las Vegas, and San Francisco, designer jewelry and handbags, and an array of gifts to pamper every person or pet.

As always, the most heartwarming part of the evening was the Fund-A-Need, a touching call for guests to raise their paddle in support of a special NHSPCA cause.

This year, we asked our community to help convert our facility to solar power.

By harnessing the power of the sun, we can ensure our resources go to where they are needed most — helping the animals — rather than the ever-increasing cost of utilities.

Our generous friends at Port City Veterinary Referral Hospital kicked off the generosity, providing a \$5,000 matching gift that inspired many who were not in attendance to donate online, ensuring a bright future for the animals.

These past 150 years have been possible because of the generous support of so many people, including you!

Through the *Auction for the Animals* and many other events and initiatives, you have helped the New Hampshire SPCA save the lives of countless animals. We cannot thank you enough and hope you'll join us at the Wentworth by the Sea for our next *Auction for the Animals* on Saturday, November 11, 2023.

## Thank you so much, Auction sponsors!

### TOP DOG

Ocean Properties  
Veterinary Emergency & Surgery Hospital of Brentwood

### ANIMAL ANGEL

Port City Veterinary Referral Hospital  
Seascape Capital Management  
Three Bearings Fiduciary Advisors

### PACK LEADER

McGovern Subaru • Murphy, Powers, and Wilson

### FURBALL FRIEND

Accurate Instrument Services • Bangor Savings Bank  
Cummings Lamont & McNamee, PLLC  
Newburyport Bank • R.M. Davis, Inc.  
Stateline Pet Supply  
Stifel Financial and Christopher Moran  
VCA Concord Area Veterinary Emergency and Specialty  
Vogel Veterinary Dermatology

### ADOPTION ADVOCATE

Colliers International • Cornerstone Financial Planning  
Josef and Kim Gazzola • Kimberly Sara Photography  
Proulx Oil and Propane • ReVision Energy  
Tobey & Merrill Insurance

### MATCH & IN KIND DONORS

Malloy Events • Port City Veterinary Referral Hospital  
CherylAnne Williams



Join the shenanigans  
**this Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**  
at **Great Island Common!**

Register in-person at 11:00 a.m.  
Adult: \$40 | Youth: \$25 | Virtual: \$15



Register in advance and fundraise to  
earn fun prizes like this long sleeve!



## PLUNGE...

*Continued from Page 1*

to help the NHSPCA provide a warm bed, loving care, and a second chance for animals in-need.

Registration is now open (click [here!](#)) and sponsorship opportunities are also available. By plunging, you can make a world of difference for homeless pets this winter.



Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Stratham Hill Park  
Register today at [nhspca.org/paws-walk](http://nhspca.org/paws-walk)