



SUMMER NEWS 2023

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Liina, Leila and Lily huddle together in the corner of their stall after being rescued on March 28th.

Saving lives and restoring hope

The heartwarming rescue of neglected goats

By Rich Hegarty

Annual Fund & Digital Marketing Manager

When people think of the New Hampshire SPCA they most often think of stray or surrendered cats and dogs, adoptable bunnies or guinea pigs, or if they know us well, our thriving farm program. While all of that is true, there is another important aspect of our work...rescues. In fact, the NHSPCA was founded on rescuing animals from harm in 1872. Some rescues consist of removing a dog from a neglectful home or gathering sheep from a small family farm that can no longer effectively care for their animals. And sometimes rescues are more. Sometimes they are painful for the owners of the animals and for

the rescue team at the NHSPCA. Sometimes our team is faced with brutal images, tough realities, and difficult decisions. Some rescues are just simply harder than others... and they take their toll.

On March 28th we had one of those terribly difficult rescues. We were contacted by the Chief of Police of Alexandria, NH, about a case of neglect and cruelty in his small town. He was seeking our assistance to help investigate and remove animals from a property there, roughly 86 miles northwest of the NHSPCA. We pulled together our emergency response team of nine staffers and loaded two trucks with trailers and a transport vehicle. We were prepared to take as many animals as we could carry.

As a fairly new staff member, this was the first time I'd been on a rescue. I had no concept of how bad this would be and how deeply it would

See **ALEXANDRIA**, Page 7

Taking in a truly wild experience

Farm Program benefits from once-in-a-lifetime internship

By Michelle Murch

Equine & Farm Program Manager

In December 2022 the ASPCA Right Horse Program in conjunction with the Monty Roberts' Transition Horse Internship Program (MRTHP) offered the opportunity to apply for an internship at Monty Roberts' Flag is Up Farm to equine rescue industry trainers.

Monty Roberts is best known as "the Horse Whisperer". His philosophy is violence free training for horses.

MRTHP is designed to teach trainers at rescues Monty Roberts' concepts and methods. Interns learn how the concepts apply to working with horses in transition.

Lack of high-quality training for remedial issues and wild/feral horses is one of the most ongoing needs for horses that find themselves at a rescue or shelter.



Farm Program Manager Michelle works with a wild horse during her internship with "the Horse Whisperer" Monty Roberts.

A well-trained, safe, and pleasant horse has a higher adoption rate, lower length of stay in a shelter and higher likelihood of staying safe for life.

I applied to the program and was accept-

See **EQUINE INTERNSHIP**, Page 16



Saving lives is a walk in the park!

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am constantly amazed by the excellence and resilience of our staff here at the New Hampshire SPCA. Over the past few months, they have stepped up in incredible ways to help rescue and care for animals in need, including dogs, goats and sheep and so much more. Their dedication and can do attitude continue to humble me as they respond to difficult situations. I am filled with gratitude for their compassionate caring and wanted to share just a few instances with you.

As many of you know, our mission at the New Hampshire SPCA is to provide a safe and loving home for every animal that comes through our doors. This can be a daunting task, but it is one that our staff takes on with enthusiasm and a tireless work ethic. From the moment an animal arrives at our shelter, our team of compassionate caregivers is dedicated to providing the best possible care and attention.

Recently, we had the opportunity to put this dedication to the test when we were called upon to help rescue a group of goats and sheep who were living in a depressing and heart-wrenching situation. The photos that we reviewed in preparation for departure were harrowing and deflating. Having been forewarned and despite the challenging circumstances, our staff immediately sprang into action. Though we would only take the goats into our care; they did not hesitate to assist with removing the sheep, in a very difficult uphill challenge, into the vehicles that would take them off the property. They worked tirelessly to provide these animals with the care and attention they needed to thrive. Bottle feeding followed for many along with fostering one newborn rejected from her mother.

When one of our horses delivered a foal on a cold and dark evening, they did not hesitate to return to our campus to ensure the health of the mare and her newborn colt. For many hours, they observed the two and assisted when needed, to ensure they were off to a great start before heading home.

There are times however, that the stories can-



not be told until much later. When the [Envigo beagles](#) were being removed during an investigation, we shared our participation in the placement of some of the dogs. What I share now, was the immediate response of two staff who traveled many miles to provide a week of support during the investigation.

Each day is different — transports can arrive late in the night, animals escape and the entire team jumps to assist — medical crises often happen late on Friday afternoons...

It is an honor to work alongside such an incredible group of people, and I am continually inspired by their unwavering commitment to our mission.

Thank you for your continued support of our organization, and for helping us to provide a safe and loving home for every animal that comes our way.

On behalf of the animals,

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

Lisa Dennison
Executive Director

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Don't put your dog in harm's way this summer!

By Tona McCarthy

Animal Cruelty Investigator/Humane Agent

Summer is around the corner, and we all want to share fun summer experiences with our dogs, but we must be careful not to put our beloved pets in danger.

Even on days that may not seem "that hot", dogs should not be left in parked cars even for "just a minute" while we run an errand. Also, cracking a window or leaving the AC on while the car is running is not enough. Leaving the car running is actually a motor vehicle violation and is a truly unreliable way to keep your pup safe.

The truth is that cars get hot quickly, even on a day in the 70-degree range. And, dogs left in hot cars can suffer gravely or even die.

If you see a dog left alone in a hot car, write down the car's color, model, make, and license plate number and call the local police department immediately. Please stay on scene until they arrive.

When walking your dog, keep in mind that during hot days, the asphalt can be so hot it caus-



Dogs left in hot cars can suffer gravely or even die.

es unnecessary suffering to your pet's pads. Hot sidewalks, pavement, and parking lots can not only burn paws, but they also reflect heat onto dogs' bodies, increasing their risk of heatstroke. This is similar when you walk on hot sand at the beach.

It's best to walk early in the morning or late at night when it's cooler, carry water and take frequent breaks in shady spots and try to avoid making your dog wear muzzles that restrict

265:72 Unattended Vehicle

- I. No person driving or in charge of a vehicle shall permit it to stand unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the key, and effectively setting the brake thereon and, when standing upon any grade, turning the front wheels to the curb or side of the way, unless such vehicle has been started by remote control car starter. This paragraph does not prohibit a person in charge of a vehicle from idling the vehicle unattended on his or her own property.
- II. No person shall start a vehicle by remote control unless the doors of the vehicle are locked; the doors shall remain locked until the operator arrives at the vehicle.

their breathing.

With planning and forethought, your dog will be happy and healthy all summer long.



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The journey to NH kicks off a lifetime of adventure

By Amanda Wellman
Transport Coordinator

“Aurora is in danger due to her breed and length of stay. She’s a sweet girl with a fantastic personality — can you help?”

Aurora entered an underfunded, overcrowded shelter in Texas on January 23, 2023. This petite pittie princess was in danger from the moment she entered the shelter — with hundreds of dogs in residence and not enough kennels for the new dogs who are brought in every day, this shelter, like many others in Texas, has the heart-breaking job of euthanizing in-house animals to make room for new arrivals.

To move forward, they are forced to euthanize the less-adoptable dogs, which includes the dogs who have been there the longest and those who have a breed stigma attached to them.

Obviously pit bulls and other bully-mix dogs are at the highest risk in these situations, since many people erroneously believe that all pit bulls are as dangerous as the aggressive examples of the breed who often receive a ton of publicity when they hurt or endanger a human.

Those of us who know and love the breed, however, know that this breed bias only applies to a small fraction of the millions of pit bull-type dogs that exist in the world.

Sadly, we don’t hear a lot about the loyalty, love, and companionship that most of these dogs provide to their loving, responsible owners. Spend 15 minutes in the company of a big-hearted girl like Aurora, though, and most people will realize that just because a few pit bulls can be scary doesn’t mean that they’re all that way.

When it came time to choose dogs for our February transport, our rescue partner begged us to take Aurora. They couldn’t stand the idea



↖ The photo the overcrowded shelter in Texas sent us of Aurora.

↗ Aurora, now Indy, hit the jackpot and found the most perfect family!



that this sweet, social girl with an obvious zest for life would be continually overlooked and then likely euthanized in Texas due to her breed. And since we also hated that idea, Aurora arrived at the NHSPCA on February 22nd.

She handled the two-day van ride from Texas like a champion and settled into her kennel at the NHSPCA with ease. She loved going on twice-daily walks and getting special enrichment throughout the day, but we knew there was something even better out there for her.

Five days later, after completing her state-mandated travel quarantine and receiving a clean bill of health, Aurora was adopted by her fur-ever family.

Aurora’s name was changed to Indy, since her family wanted to give her a new name to go with her wonderful new life. She has her own human parents and even a human brother, who she loves dearly. She is a superstar at the dog park and enjoys giving kisses to everyone she meets, both humans and dogs. Her family takes her on three-mile hikes up mountains, snuggles with her on the couch, and makes sure she has everything she needs to live her best life.

We still tear up when we think about how happy and loved our girl Indy is, and we are always grateful to supporters like you who help us make stories like these possible!



HAPPY TAILS

Rhea

We absolutely adore Rhea! And we’ve kept her name.

She has settled in quite easy and was even purring on the ride home from the shelter.

The picture is her on the back of a chair after only an hour of being in her new home. She has been pretty easy, and she already knew how to

use a litter box. She is very curious and loves to play!

She brings our family a lot of joy and we couldn’t be happier.

Please extend our gratitude and thankfulness to everyone who helped her in her journey.

Kindly,
Deb, John & Alexander

A holistic approach to animal enrichment

By Edén Zook

Enrichment Coordinator

When I came back to work at the NHSPCA a few months ago as the Enrichment Coordinator, I knew I wanted to enhance our Enrichment Program with a more holistic approach.

In my professional opinion the most important part to the behavioral health and wellbeing of animals is space for them to practice species specific behaviors; as well as decompress and practice calm behavior. These are basic, fundamental needs for all animals; especially those in a shelter environment.

Simple things like allowing a shelter dog to have a space where they can explore various surfaces, spaces, scents, etc. can go an extremely long way in settling their nervous system and giving them an enriching experience where they can also decompress from the stress of a kennel.

In an effort to provide such an experience for the animals in our care, we have created a Sensory Space. The Sensory Space is set up with a comfortable chair and a variety of objects, surfaces, and scents for the animals to explore using their highly tuned in senses. Allowing the animals to investigate novel stimuli using smell, taste, touch, auditory, and visual senses help lessen over-arousal, anxiety, and calms the nervous system.

It's quite something to watch a dog who is struggling in a kennel environment be able to calm themselves and slowly walk through the sensory experience; often stopping to take in a good nap in the process. These slow, calm, and mentally stimulating activities really help the animals re-set their internal baseline and encourage a calm, confident state of being.

In addition to the Sensory Space, we have reestablished a collaboration with Michelle Lowry (Nikoe Natural Therapies) called the P.H.U.R Program (Providing Healing Using Reiki).

Both Michelle and I are Certified Animal Reiki practitioners. Once a week the two of us work together providing Reiki energy healing to the animals in our care.

Then once monthly, a larger group of practitioners join us and as a group we offer a Reiki healing circle.

In case you're not familiar with what Reiki is; Animal Reiki isn't something you "do" to animals, it's about learning how to focus your mind and heart in a compassionate way to help



We have created a Sensory Space on campus that allows animals to investigate novel stimuli using smell, taste, touch, auditory and visual senses, which calms the nervous system.

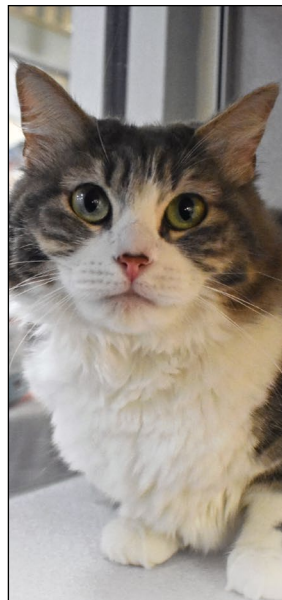
others. We use the most respectful and gentle approach that can help even the most sensitive

or traumatized animals. This unique perspective on healing helps humans support animals.

Reiki can be translated as "spiritual energy." In many spiritual traditions, one's energy is seen as the light of your innermost essence or soul. Animal Reiki is an alternative therapy with Reiki healing energy to help animals rebalance on physical, mental, emotional and energetic levels. Both pets and wildlife enjoy Reiki and benefit from it.

Animal Reiki has been such a blessing in my life. It has taught me so many things about myself, about life, about Reiki and the energy of all things. It goes beyond the loving intention to bring greater balance to any individual animal.

I'm looking forward to incorporating these two new experiences into our existing Enrichment Program. The more we can think about mixing traditional with non-traditional enrichment; the more we can help the individual animals in our care be the best versions of themselves; the better we will be at finding them their forever.



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Brownie had never known what a real home felt like until she was adopted in April after being transported here from Texas. Her family has been providing her the time she needs to decompress after all she's been through and she's settling in to her new, comfortable life!

For success, let them decompress

By Ashley Conte
Adoption Counselor

At some point in our lives, we have all been in a vulnerable or uncertain situation. Maybe it was starting a new school, new job, or moving. How did you feel? Were you scared? Even nervous? Now think about how you felt after having time to get used to your new situation. I'm sure it became more comfortable.

How you felt about that scenario is not far from how an animal feels after recently being adopted. Many animals here have never

Want to adopt?

Please click [here](#) to view all of our current available animals! Updated daily.

known what a true home is, while others have had the comfort of a home taken away. These animals are placed in new situations that are uncomfortable and while they figure it out, it is normal for them to need time. One of the best things you can do when adopting your new pet is to show them that they can figure it out on THEIR terms. We recommend what we call the 3,3,3 rule (or Decompress for Success).

The first "3" of this rule refers to the number of days it takes for your fur friend to decompress in their new environment after leaving the shelter setting. You may notice them eating very little or not interacting as much with the family just yet. This is normal as they are adjusting. It also means that it is

important you do not have any guests over for a little while. As exciting as it is to get a new family member, it is more important to give your animal the ability to feel safe with the main members of their family first.

The second "3" refers to weeks, this is the next step in the process of your pet decompressing. It takes them 3 weeks to start to learn their routine and take to it. It could be as simple as finding their spot in the yard where they go to the bathroom or as complicated as learning when their humans start coming home from their daily goings on. This is when you want to be consistent with them and SLOWLY start introducing them to new things that will become common in your home.

The last rule refers to 3 months. This is when things start to come together for your new companion. They have started to really settle in and may start to show some new behaviors that they didn't previously. They may start playing more with their people, get more excited about going to new places, and will even show you more of their personality.

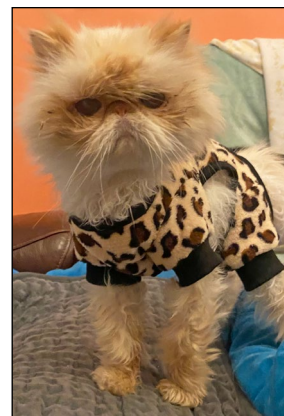
While this is a general rule of thumb, it is not a one-size-fits-all. It is imperative to note that all animals are individuals. Animals that tend to be on the shyer side can take longer to feel comfortable, while a more outgoing animal could warm up faster. However, the most important takeaway is that if you truly want your new companion to have success, you must allow them to decompress.

The joys of adopting and caring for hospice cats

By Erica Newton
Animal Care Technician

Much like people who are coming to the end of their life, animals also need hospice care. It's a topic that many shy away from, but it needn't be such a taboo subject. Instead, we should embrace hospice care and adopting hospice animal with open arms.

Hospice simply means that the animal is receiving care to keep them comfortable when they have a serious or terminal illness. This could mean that an animal could be considered hospice if they have many years to live or mere months. The fact is that their quality of life is still good, and they still have time to enjoy, even if it is limited.



Weird Al, a hospice cat.

Senior and medically challenged animals are surrendered to the NHSPCA nearly every day due to no fault of their own. Some are surrendered due to financial difficulties, moving or housing insecurity, or sometimes due to the owners physical or mental health. Many are strays, some may have been abandoned or never reclaimed due to their apparent medical conditions. With strays we just don't know.

Personally, I've had many hospice animals throughout my life. Some have lived eight years while others have lived two months. I adopted one of my current hospice cats, Weird Al, a little over two years ago. At the time, he was given less than a year to live. At over 20 years of age, he was diagnosed with stage three renal failure, cataracts, is completely deaf, has Cerebellar Hypoplasia, and some other issues.

Weird Al just passed his two-year adoption day, and his blood work is the same as it was when I adopted him. This ancient, five-pound creature brings me such a unique love that is unexplained and cannot be replicated in any other way; a love that can only be mirrored by other hospice animals that I have adopted.

I'm not going to tell you hospice adoption is easy. It's not. Every time one leaves this earth, they take a piece of your heart with them. It can be expensive, emotionally draining, and deeply sad. Despite this, it is so beyond worth it. Saving these animals, giving them a home they deserve at the end of their life is a feeling like no other.

I can assure you that hospice care is one of the most rewarding, amazing adventures one will ever embark on. You will feel as though you have known this animal their entire lives. Though you can't be there for the beginning or middle of their lives, you get to be there for the end, which, in my opinion, is the most important stage of all.

ALEXANDRIA...

Continued from Page 1

rattle my soul...

Our vehicles arrived to find an impassable driveway. Our team would be on foot trudging up the 100 or so yards of mud to the house. The farm was in horrible condition. Just the beginning were the piles of garbage, and a trailer overflowing with animal waste, nearly suffocating the adult pig buried up to its neck inside. We also spotted eight sheep in desperate need of shearing running behind a decrepit barn. Decomposing animals lay inside and outside of the barn. The odor was indescribable.

Inside another smaller barn was a mother goat and her newborn baby as well as two additional young kids, one had already passed and the other was in such severe condition there was only one option. Yet another barn held more goats and sheep. Inside the house, was a child's playpen with six baby goats that were about six weeks old and in relatively decent shape.

Our staff jumped into action to capture the sheep and goats as quickly as possible. But the terrain was tough, slipping and sliding down embankments, stepping over barbed wire and exposed nails on rotting wood all made for a huge challenge. It was also extremely difficult knowing that some of these animals would be leaving the property, not with us, but with a livestock agent. A hard pill to swallow, but part of the police negotiations that would get the baby goats to safety. Time stood still as we wrangled the larger animals and carried the fragile baby goats down the mucky driveway to our waiting trailers. We completed the rescue, exhausted, several hours later. It was time for the long ride back to the NHSPCA.

Together, the nine staff members needed a moment to process what we'd just been through. The crew was made up of our Farm Program Manager, four staff that care for animals every day, our Cruelty Investigator, the Volunteer Coordinator, the Accounting Manager and me, the Annual Fund Manager. With varying levels of animal care experience, we all felt drained. We took some breaths, drank some water, and talked about what we just witnessed. We do what we do because we love animals and because we recognize our role as good stewards of those who need our care and protection from cruel and neglectful experiences. But rescues like these remind us that there is more to be done. The animals that we were not able to save stay with us. The images stick in our minds. And as we packed up the vehicles and headed back to the NHSPCA the talk on the ride was whether justice for these helpless and beautiful creatures would come to fruition.



These goats have been through so much we don't know about, but what we do know is that the moment they loaded up into our sprinter was when the best part of their lives started. They will know nothing but kindness and respect moving forward and have showed us their appreciation every day.

Would the person who was responsible be held accountable? Only time would tell.

Meanwhile back at the agency, staff prepped the barns, spread the hay, brought out blankets, and waited to welcome our new guests, and welcome they did. We grabbed bottles and warmed milk and sat with nervous and shaking little babies needing nourishment and comfort. The baby goat needed help latching onto her mother to feed, so we supported her tiny body, pointed her in the right direction, started the process, and watched her find her way.

It would still be several days to see if the new arrivals would survive and much longer to see if justice would be served.

On April 7th, we learned that the person responsible was arrested and charged with six counts of neglect and cruelty. The legal outcome is still unsure, but the fact that an arrest was made was important. Meanwhile, we have a baby goat being fostered, a mama goat regaining her energy, and a barn full of kids jumping and exploring.

Large rescues with multiple sick animals create a financial strain and add layers of additional work on staff and volunteers. But this is when we truly shine. Our team comes together in a crisis, unified by the need to save lives. Difficult rescues require significant resources, time, and deployment of assets to insure a successful outcome.

Our [SOS Fund](#) for victims of cruelty or neglect



How you can help:

Our SOS Fund for victims of cruelty or neglect was established years ago to make sure that we are ready when any animal needs our help. If you would like to help us care for the goats from this case, or the dogs, cats, etc. from other cases, you can do so when you make a gift to the SOS Fund by clicking [here](#). Thank you so much!

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Please click [here](#) to give today.



HELP HOMELESS ANIMALS!

SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH AT STRATHAM HILL PARK

ADULTS: \$35 • YOUTH: \$25

NHSPCA.ORG/PAWS-WALK

Saving lives is a walk in the park!

By Julie Halama

Special Events & Sponsorship Manager

You're invited to the most pawesome day of the year. Put on your sneakers, grab your leash, bring your dog, and [join us](#) at Paws Walk! On Sunday, June 4th, animal lovers of all ages will help save lives with every step at this important fundraising event for the NHSPCA.

We'll be back once again at Stratham Hill Park for a day of companionship with plenty of cuteness, hosted by iHeartMedia's Kelly Brown. Come for the walk, but stay for the festivities including our Vendor Village, meet and greets with adoptable pups, friendly farm animals, doggie agility and trick demos, games, prizes, and more!

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this lifesaving extravaganza. Click [here](#) to register for Paws Walk today!

You can make all the difference!

Paws Walk is a celebration of community, companionship, and so much more. As the NHSPCA's largest grassroots fundraiser, it's directly responsible for thousands of second chances in an average year – all because of animal lovers like you! Fundraising done by generous and dedicated Paws Walkers is critical to our mission, helping provide rescue services, medical treatment, attentive care and much more to save as many lives as possible. When you register for Paws Walk, you are having an immediate impact for the good on homeless, neglected and abused animals like curiously cute **Chat** the cat, pictured here! →



← Larry found his family at Paws Walk in 2022!

Walk to help homeless and abused animals!

Click this code to register!



Date: Sunday, June 4, 2023
Location: Stratham Hill Park
Time: Festival opens at 10:00 a.m. We walk at noon!
Registration: Adult: \$35, Youth: \$25

Need more information? Click [here](#)!

THINGS TO SEE & DO AT PAWS WALK

Have a blast with your best furry friend, and check out some of the day's many attractions!



Hit the trails and save lives step by step on the approximately one-mile walk



See Dogs on the Cat Walk strut their stuff, then meet them (and maybe adopt one)!



Shop the Vendor Village with local goods for pets and people, plus food and drink



Watch Granite State Disc Dogs in action or try herding like the dogs at Heart Stone Farm



Get to know NHSPCA alumnus Mr. Pickles and other lovable farm friends

REGISTER TO JOIN THE FUN!



SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH AT STRATHAM HILL PARK

ADULTS: \$35 • YOUTH: \$25

NHSPCA.ORG/PAWS-WALK

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Register,
fundraise and
walk on June 4th



Form a team
with coworkers,
family or friends



Volunteer
on event
day!



Donate at
nhspca.org/
paws-walk

Teams save lives together

Paws Walk is a success all because of our dedicated participants and their fundraising efforts, but there's one way to make even more of an impact... form a team!

Team collaboration can inspire more donations, which means more animal lives saved. It's also a great way to build camaraderie and broaden professional and social skillsets amongst peers from the workplace, school and beyond.

We asked our Furball Friend sponsor **CoreMEDICALGROUP** about their experiences as a team. This will be their third Paws Walk, and together, they've fundraised over \$6,700 for the animals with donations still coming.

Q: Why do you participate in Paws Walk?

A: One of our company values is "Make a Difference" and as a company we find different charities to support throughout the year, every year. When we've polled our employees to find out what organizations are most near and dear to their hearts, supporting animals is always a top response! Paws Walk is a great way for us to support a cause that our employees believe in and gives us the opportunity to come together on walk day for team building.

Q: How has your team worked together?

A: The CoreMedical Group team really bands together to fundraise for the

NHSPCA and Paws Walk. In the office we set a goal for participation, highlight how we are doing to reach that goal, and encourage employees to share links to our team donation pages with their friends and family. At the event it's a great chance for our staff to all get together with their families and pets to support the cause even further.

Q: Has your team participation in Paws Walk benefited your work in the office?

A: Participating in Paws Walk gives us a great opportunity to really live our core values of "Make a Difference" and "We're a Family." While donating to a charity is always a great opportunity for our team to come together for a good cause, when we're able to pair it with an in-person event like the Paws Walk, it helps strengthen and develop relationships between team members. These stronger relationships lead to better work and a better company!

Q: What's the best thing you've experienced from making a Paws Walk team?

A: The best thing we've experienced is the camaraderie that [our Paws Walk team] brings to the office and the employees. Our staff love the chance to support animals, hang out at a great event, and meet all the fur babies of their colleagues!

Want to walk as a team? Use code TEAM to save \$5 on each [registration](#)!

Second chances start at Paws Walk

There are so many things to love about Paws Walk, but it should come as no surprise that the adorable, adoptable dogs from the NHSPCA steal the show. While the money raised from the event helps us save the lives of so many homeless animals throughout the year, these pups are the lucky few who literally get their second chance at Paws Walk.

At Paws Walk, the Adoption Center tent is home to some of the sweetest dogs around, all eagerly looking for their forever families. Last year, Dax, Butterfly, and Pancake won the hearts of so many.



Dax stole the show at Paws Walk in 2022!

a dime a dozen. These shelters do their best, but often, they have no choice but to euthanize animals simply because there's not enough room.

Luckily, Butterfly, Dax and Pancake all made it onto a transport van headed for the NHSPCA, and in a week's time were meeting potential adopters at Paws Walk. Thanks to the exposure from this event, they all got their happy ending – a family of their own.

You can help us give even more second chances at this year's Paws Walk. [Register](#) and start fundraising today.

Gearing up for Summer Camp!

By Aliza Eliazarov

Manager of Humane Education

Singing songs until you're hoarse, playing epic games of tag, licking melting popsicles under the hot summer sun, laughing until your belly hurts and best of all, making new friends.

Camp is singular. Camp is special. Add in the horses, goats, sheep, chickens, pigs, dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits and other animals here at the NHSPCA, and now camp is even more magical!

Does your child love animals?

We'd love to meet them! Check out our programs for kids today by clicking [here!](#)

As we gear up for the 2023 Summer Camp Season, we are taking our responsibility to create the most mem-

orable, positive and fun experiences for our amazing kiddos very seriously.

Always trying to improve our programming, we're making some exciting changes in 2023.

As always, our camp is animal focused. This summer, we will be spending more time outside playing animal-themed games, fun summer water relays, observing plants and wildlife in the rain garden, harvesting food for our animals from our vegetable garden and using the entire beautiful campus to its full potential.

We're offering our youngest campers (ages 6-7) half-day sessions to maximize engagement.

We've also shifted the older age groups to ensure the best age-appropriate activities for all our campers.



To say we're excited for Summer Camp is an understatement! Campers will have opportunities to learn about and connect with animals of all sizes — from parakeets to horses and everything in between!

Campers of every age will have daily meaningful hands-on opportunities to learn about and connect with many different animals.

Children will be an integral part of the NHSPCA as they help with animal care and learn to be advocates for all animals through direct observation and training demonstrations.

Craft activities will be focused on making wonderful and important enrichments for the animals. The arts — including song, move-

ment, drawing, and sculpture — will be woven throughout the camp experience. Campers will even collaborate with our in-house filmmaking team to write and direct creative and compelling videos to help animals get adopted!

The Humane Education team anxiously awaits what is sure to be the best summer yet. Now repeat after me campers: NHSPCA! We save animals every day! Hip! Hip! HURRAY! Hip! Hip! HURRAY!

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Yoga with Farm Animals!

Join us at the NHSPCA Farm & Equine Center for a vinyasa flow to benefit the animals. This class is appropriate for adult and teen students of all levels, ages 14+. *Neighmaste!*

Saturday, June 17 at 10:00 a.m.
at the New Hampshire SPCA
Registration fee: \$25.00

Please visit nhspca.org to register today!

NHSPCA celebrates ambassador animal retirees!

By Elizabeth Segeberg
Humane Educator

Have you recently visited the Humane Education classroom and seen some different animal faces? Yes, there are several new ambassador animals who will be working diligently to help you learn about them and understand empathy and compassion for all animals.

Want to meet our current ambassadors?

Take a look at our programs for kids by clicking [here!](#)

Now for the rest of the story. Some of our former classroom ambassador animals are enjoying a very well-earned retirement!

First on the list is **Payton**, our Ambassador Bunny, who for six years worked faithfully as a Humane Education ambassador animal. Payton taught countless number of children about animal care, attended offsites and celebrated birthday parties. Fantastic job, Payton!

I can tell you first hand, Payton is loving retirement. She lives with her cat, Holly, her dog, Ruby, and her ferret, Wolfie. All are friends she met in the classroom. Payton has her own room, custom made hidey box and a refrigerator drawer filled with her veggies.

The three brother guinea pigs, **Bruno**, **Mars** and **Humphrey** are also enjoying their retirement. The Adoption Center staff worked tirelessly to find the brothers a perfect retirement home.

A family of two young boys with one very lonely guinea pig were mourning the loss of their two guinea pigs. After reading and seeing Bruno, Mars and Humphrey's photos on the NHSPCA website, the family, including their remaining guinea pig, visited the Adoption Center.

An adoption counselor carefully orchestrated a



Payton the rabbit relaxes at home with Ruby the dog and Holly the cat.



Mars (left), Bruno (middle) and Humphrey (right).

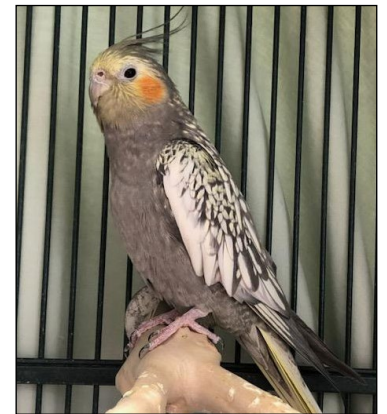
meet and greet which was a tremendous success. The lone guinea pig now has three new brothers and the two young boys are no longer sad. A perfect retirement home for Bruno, Mars, and Humphrey, indeed!

Finally, our two companion cockatiels, **Rebel** and **Fiji**! Rebel has served as an ambassador in the classroom for an astounding 10 years and Fiji just shy of four years. These two have been such a huge part of our education program. We are so happy that they are both soon to enjoy retirement

with Rebel's previous owner. For Rebel, it will be a "welcome back home", and even better that he will bring home his forever companion, Fiji.

We celebrate the great work and years of service of these ambassador animals. Payton, Bruno, Mars, Humphrey, Rebel and Fiji; thank you for the countless smiles you have brought, the lessons taught, and the patience endured.

From the entire team of the NHSPCA, and all that had the privilege to know them, we send our best wishes to you for a well-deserved retirement!



Rebel (top) and Fiji (bottom).

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Cheers to a great year!

By Juli Tyson
Volunteer Coordinator

Our volunteers get the job done! Thank you! So far this year we have seen cat care shifts continue to be full, we have over 80 trained dog walkers, and our small animal care crew is in full force. The farm care team sees all different kinds of animals from goats and sheep, to chickens and horses, and the help of the volunteers make it possible for the staff to work with these animals and get them more handleable and trained for their forever homes.

Interested in helping?

If you want to join our dedicated volunteer team, please click [here!](#)

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and on April 26th, we were delighted to share an evening to celebrate the care and commitment of our volunteers at our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The following individuals were recognized for their service in 2022. All of the staff at the NHSPCA wishes to extend a congratulations to each of them, and all of our volunteers, with our deepest gratitude for the hard work they show up for every single day.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Annette Sell & Rich Walker

DEVELOPMENT & OFFICE AWARDS

Development Rookie of the Year

Deb Kane

Development Angel

Tina Duffy

Event Extraordinaire

Kim Gazolla

ADOPTION CENTER AWARDS

Golden Harness

Tom Roy

Dog Whisperer

Bethany Constance

Canine Rookie of the Year

Philip Tucker

Golden Whiskers

Fran Leavitt

Cat Cuddler

Beth Matieu

Feline Rookie of the Year

Lucy Williams

Golden Critter

Patty Keck

Smalls Rookie of the Year

Nicholas Harter

Foster Family of the Year

Beth & JD Seale

Laundress of the Year

Mary Mahoney

Dynamic Duo

Daniel Desmond & Dan Vorosmarty

Golden Pitchfork

Brian Mullane

Little Bo Peep

Kim Billings

Farm Rookie of the year

Nate Bemis

INDIVIDUALS WHO REACHED 500 HOURS OF SERVICE IN 2022

Karen Dicey

Pat Patterson

Linda Golter

INDIVIDUALS WHO GAVE 50+ HOURS OF SERVICE IN 2022

Linda Allen

Tim Jones

Tom Roy

Joyce Austin

Deborah Kane

David Rumore

Nate Bemis

Patty Keck

Jill Rumore

Kim Billings

Elaine Kiriakoutsos

Joshua Scott

Carole Bilodeau

Michelle LaCount

Cathy Scuto

Angie Brintle

Fran Leavitt

Beth Seale

Louise Buckley

Barbara LeBeau

JD Seale

Marian Caisse

Terry Leist

Annette Sell

Bethany Constance

John MacGregor

Glen Sell

Karen Dicey

Dawn Mahoney

Linda Sheltry

Tina Duffy

Mary Mahoney

Harry Shields

Sharon Fontaine

Peggy Marchand

Sue Smulski

Kim Gazzola

Beth Mathieu

Crystal Span

Linda Golter

Linda Morrissette

Robert Span

Carol Greenan

Brian Mullane

Chris Sullivan

Sarah Grosvenor

Michael Murphy

Carla Tishler

Jessica Harrigan

Beth Olds

Philip Tucker

Nicholas Harter

Tom Oliver

Richard Walker

Denise Heffernan Stearns

Betsy Orlando

Andrew Warren

Scott Hodgdon

Patricia Patterson

Lucy Williams

Deb Holbrook

Jan Peters

Carol Howe

Morgan Robitaille

Thank you, volunteers!

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR!



Extra special recognition goes to our 2023 Volunteers of the year, Annette Sell and Rich Walker. These two dedicated and compassionate volunteers received the award seven years ago, too, and the New Hampshire SPCA staff is honored to recognize them again because nothing has stopped them since 2016.

Volunteering at the NHSPCA changed my life!

By Bethany Constance
Volunteer

I became a vegetarian at age 11 for one reason. I could not hurt animals. I've always wanted to work with animals. Save animals. Love animals!

When I got married our vows included "he must treat pets as true members of our family". That was almost 27 years ago!

I was afraid to volunteer at the NHSPCA as I thought I'd be too emotional. My family was sure I'd come home every day with a new pet! A friend (a Veterinarian) told me that the NHSPCA treats all animals with such care and devotion and that I would be ok. I signed up for the orientation.

I was going through the biggest heartbreak of my life after my mom suddenly passed away. I needed to do something for me that would bring me the love I was missing. Richard Maxfield, the Volunteer Coordinator at the time, welcomed us with inspirational direction and kindness. I left with hope and a full heart. I couldn't wait to be part of this amazing group.

That feeling has NEVER left me!

My journey began by walking dogs. The support and direction of the staff is impressive. I always learn a tremendous amount from watching and listening. The focus is always on what's best for each animal. I've never been in a situation which made me uncomfortable or feel at risk.



Volunteer Bethany Constance is truly loved by the dogs in our care... Rylie (pictured) included!

Then COVID hit. The Volunteer program was suspended. Then 30 bunnies were rescued and brought to the NHSPCA. And I was one of the few volunteers who got to help! During this time the main building was being renovated. I felt lucky to be part of the bunny recovery and the beginning stages of the "new" NHSPCA.

In August 2022, Bernie's Beach Bar in Hampton

Beach hosted a "Who Let the Dogs Out" event. Dogs were invited with their owners to listen to music and support the NHSPCA. I was the dog handler for Ryder representing the pups from the shelter. This was his first trip out and we had a blast. My son even came by to witness Mom in her Happy Place! My daughter had volunteered with me at the Paws Walk and shortly thereafter adopted a kitten! My volunteering had become a family affair.

My heart will always be full knowing I got to love and care for Riley, a dog who spent nearly a year with us until her forever parents arrived. I've never met a dog with such spirit and determination.

There's a place for everyone to volunteer at the NHSPCA. I had knee surgery and couldn't walk dogs but could hang out and give them an extra loving moment in their day.

I love being part of the conversations with people coming to see the animals. We share stories of love. There is such comfort in telling stories of our pets and watching lives change when someone makes the decision to bring a new member into their family.

There's a special bond being part of the NHSPCA. We all have a common purpose, to love and care for animals. My dream has become reality!

Every day ends with many "thank you's" from the staff. Truly, I THANK YOU!

Do you have a dog that needs a job?

By Casey Morrison

Manager of Behavior & Training

Did you imagine your dog dressed in a suit and tie, sitting at a desk, in front of a computer for a 9-to-5 job? While that is a funny thing to imagine, it's not exactly what I mean when I ask if your dog needs a job.

Many dogs were bred to work alongside people or to perform specific jobs. When these instincts are not utilized, some dogs can become bored. This is when behavioral problems occur. They are bored and looking for something to do so they may decide to dig in your couch, shred your favorite pair of shoes, or maybe show more severe behavioral issues.

If you have a high-energy dog, or a dog that would benefit from having a "job" you can keep them active by giving them "jobs" or "responsibilities" around the house.

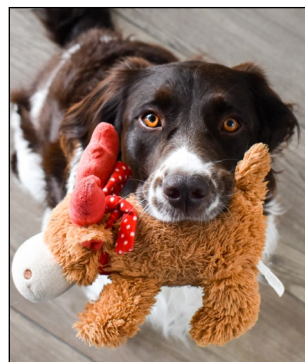
Close the Door Behind You

You can build from foundational skills to create jobs for your dog. Does your dog know how to

Let's learn!



For a complete list of classes, workshops and playgroups, please click [here!](#)



Give your dog a job, like putting their toys away!

do a nose target? Maybe you know the term as "touch" or "target." This is when your dog touches their nose to your hand or objects like a sticky note or yogurt lid. You can apply this behavior to doors. This means that you would teach them to target the door and push it closed behind you, just using their nose.

Clean Up Your Toys

Does your dog love playing with their toys? Do

they just leave them all over the place when they are finished playing? You can teach them to be responsible enough to pick up those toys when they are done playing. To start, you will trade putting toys away for treats. You can give your dog one of their toys over their toy bin and ask them to drop it, then they get a treat. The more you practice this, the more they will want to put their toys away for a reward.

Dog Sports

There are so many dog sports that can be a great outlet for your pup's physical and mental energy. The NHSPCA holds Agility classes and Nose Work classes that would be a great fit for your active pup who needs to burn some energy.

[Check out all of our classes](#) on our website! If you're not sure which class would be best for you and your pup, email behavior@nhspca.org so we can help you choose the right fit! Do you feel as though you have a very specific behavior you are concerned about? Let us help you by providing a [Private Training Consultation](#). We're here to help!



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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 - April 15, 2023

From the Estates of:

Seth and Nancy Ames

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Betty Faye Benjamin

Hampton, NH

Constance Huckaday Bosen

Hampton, NH

Peter Burgess

Dover, NH

William G. Denhard

Peabody, MA

Michael A. Falzone

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Linda C. Maxwell

Candia, NH

Doris M. Powell

Saint Johns, FL

Marie A. Robie

Hobe Sound, FL

Walker M. and Margaret V. Sowers

East Kingston, NH

.....
If you'd like information about leaving a gift in your estate plans, please click [here](https://www.nhspca.org/commemorative-gifts/), or contact Lisa Dennison at ldennison@nhspca.org.

Why your legacy matters

By Sheila Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

You may have heard that “leaving a legacy” is important to nonprofits like the New Hampshire SPCA.

But what makes [legacy giving](#) so different from writing a check or donating online?

1. Legacy gifts...Focus on the future.

The support we receive from annual gifts each year is critical. But a legacy gift is like a support system we can count on to help us continue our mission for generations to come.

Ask yourself: If you could live forever, would you continue to help the causes close to your heart? If the answer is yes, a legacy gift can immortalize your support.

2. Legacy gifts...Don't affect your current finances.

You can take care of your top priorities—yourself and your loved ones—now while providing for the NHSPCA in the future.

Two of the most popular gift types:

- A gift in your will: A few sentences is all it takes to include us in your will.
- A beneficiary designation gift: Name us as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, IRA, donor advised fund or life insurance policy.

3. Help you recognize the role of the NHSPCA in your life.

If the NHSPCA has had a significant impact on your life or the life of someone you love,

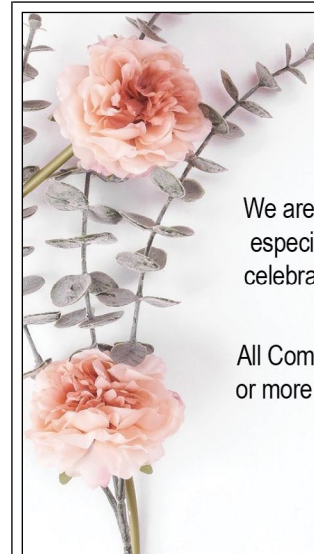


A legacy gift is like a support system the NHSPCA can count on to help us continue our mission.

a legacy gift is a heartfelt way to honor that relationship.

Through your legacy gift, you have a special chance to reflect the dedicated supporter you are today far into the future. And, if you tell us about this gift now, we can ensure it is used exactly as you intend.

We would be honored to discuss how your impact can last far into the future. Please contact Lisa Dennison at 603-772-2921 ext. 107 or ldennison@nhspca.org or Sheila Ryan at 603-773-5706 or sryan@nhspca.org.



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://www.nhspca.org/commemorative-gifts/) to view our new listing. Thank you for all you do for the animals!



Yippee! Yappy Hour is back!

By Ben Driscoll

Events & Digital Marketing Assistant

Picture this: It's a warm weekday evening in the summer, after a hard day of work you find yourself sitting in a local New Hampshire brewery enjoying a cold glass of beer with your canine friend sitting next to you.

Sounds pretty awesome right?

Now, what if you could experience all this while supporting animals in need? We are excited to announce that for the first time since 2019, our Yappy Hour brewery series is back this summer!

Yappy Hour is a fun opportunity for pet-loving individuals and their furry companions to spend an evening checking out a local brewery and enjoying a delicious pint for a great cause! Each month, a different Seacoast brewery will host Yappy Hour during a weekday evening.

A portion of the proceeds from each pint sold will be donated to the animals at the NHSPCA to help us ensure they are getting the care they need.

We have three Yappy Hours scheduled so far at North Country Cider in Dover (June 14th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.), Sawbelly Brewing in Exeter (July 19th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.), and Throwback Brewery in North Hampton (September 7th, 5:00-7:00 p.m.).

We are hoping to add a couple more Yappy Hours this summer at some other local breweries, so keep an eye out for new additions!

If you can't attend but would still like to support us, we are always looking for item donations for our raffle.

If you're planning to attend one (or all!) of our Yappy Hour events this summer, there are a few things to keep in mind. While dogs are more than welcome outside at the breweries, it's important to make sure your four-legged friend



We can't wait to see you at a Yappy Hour soon!

is leashed, comfortable around other dogs, up to date on vaccinations, and well behaved. It's also a good idea to bring along water and any other necessary supplies you know your dog might need, such as poop bags.

The Yappy Hour brewery series is a great way to have fun with your dog while supporting a great cause.

So, mark your calendars, spread the word, and get ready to raise a glass (or two) to our furry friends in need!

EQUINE INTERNSHIP...

Continued from Page 1

ed to intern beginning January 20, 2023.

It's difficult to choose what to share because all of it was important and there was so much that I learned. These are a few of the standout concepts.

Communication is key. We must learn to communicate in a language that horses understand. Equus, is the nonverbal language of the horse as Monty Roberts termed it. We must be clear when communicating so that there are no grey areas which lead to confusion and frustration. If we are giving mixed signals, it can create what is many times perceived as misbehavior but simply is misunderstanding. I spend time when evaluating new horses at the shelter by "having a conversation" with them in their language and establishing join up (creating a bond with the horse via trust) and follow-up (the horse trusts the handler and follows without fear). This sets the stage for a good relationship from the start.

Horses have a lot to teach us. You must keep stress out of your life when working with horses. "If adrenaline is up learning is down" as Monty said frequently. This was a reminder to focus on our breathing. Horses synchronize with each other in the wild. When a band of horses' graze there are horses that are tasked with protecting the herd and watching for predators. When danger arises the band protector's adrenaline rises and immediately all the herd's heart rates synchronize, they flee without delay. If your adrenaline is high, you will know immediately if you listen to



Working with wild horses in California was a lifechanging experience for our Farm Manager, Michelle. She has already started to implement techniques she learned during her internship with our horses!

the horse, they will synchronize with you and be anxious. JUST BREATHE!

Wild horses are humbling. Wild horses let you know exactly how you are doing while learning to speak their language. I will write everything about mustang gentling in the next newsletter. I will say it was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

We have already implemented the methods and concepts with the horses currently waiting for



their forever homes. We also immediately assisted several partnering rescues in New England by transferring horses to the NHSPCA for further training to give them the very best chance at successful adoption.

We are beyond grateful for the opportunity to increase our skills and abilities to improve the lives of horses in transition. Thank you so much to Monty Roberts for his generosity of spirit for sharing his lifetime of knowledge.