



The courage to love

By Courtney Vavra

Annual Fund & Digital Marketing Manager

Mention the word Cancer and it probably immediately brings to mind someone in your life who has courageously battled the disease. I don't have to tell you how scary and devastating it is. It's a human tragedy that we are all connected by the shared experience of a terrifying cancer diagnoses. So when I heard about Robin, a beagle that was very likely dumped because of the large cancerous masses on her mammaries — my heart hurt for her. I instantly thought of my own mother who is a breast cancer survivor. I thought of her lengthy treatment, surgery and recovery and how throughout it all, she could count on the love and support of her family.

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mother who is a breast cancer survivor. I thought of her lengthy treatment, surgery and recovery and how throughout it all, she could count on the love and support of her family.

See **ROBIN**, Page 11



Robin was likely dumped because of the large masses on her mammaries. Our Veterinarian performed a radical double mastectomy and our staff cared for Robin during her long, painful recovery.

Days, Weeks, Months

By Sheila Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

It saddens me beyond words to tell you that the German Shepherd case continues. You may be thinking, "Wait, what? The case that I read about a year ago? How can that be?" Unfortunately, the answer is yes. The horrible case that began in December 2017, with 9 Shepherds, got worse on January 2, 2018 with the addition of 22 more dogs, and then the birth of 5 more in February 2018, is still continuing. It is mind boggling.

The New Hampshire SPCA, thanks to our supporters, has been providing loving protective custody to these dogs for 1 Year, 9 Months, 10 Days, and counting.

That is 93 weeks and weekends not hiking with their own family. It's 2 entire summers not going to the beach or lake to chase a ball and play. It's too long to expect a single dog to wait

See **SHEPHERDS**, Page 3

Our best kept secret

By Sheila Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

It's not good to keep secrets, right? Yes, but sometimes it makes sense. In the case of the New Hampshire SPCA, our best kept secret is a program that we are very proud of, our Safe Pet Program. For more than 25 years, the NHSPCA has been quietly providing a safe haven for animals in need of temporary emergency housing. This housing has traditionally been offered in the case of an individual or family in crisis due to domestic violence. We would receive a call from a woman, most often, seeking a safe place to house her pet while she flees her home in search of safety. Domestic Abuse Shelters also call to help facilitate housing for the pet(s), as the shelters themselves are unable to take in pets with woman and families.

Victims of domestic abuse often stay,

despite their terrifying, brutal home life, because they fear for the safety of their beloved pet. This program offers them the safety and peace of mind to be able to leave.

So why has it been under the radar all these years? It hasn't been a secret really, it's just that we have had limited space and resources to provide the service. Until now...

We recently received a grant from PetSmart Charities to help us expand this much needed service. We are so grateful for their support and for their acknowledgement that providing services to people and pets in crisis should be a major initiative. In addition, we now have additional space available in the property we recently acquired through our transformative "Campaign for Changing Times". By employing the space immediately, we can begin to serve more people in need of emergency temporary housing for their

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

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The year has been wonderful in so many ways yet challenging as well. We continue to hold the Shepherds in Protective Custody and that has been particularly difficult; from working to keep them happy and safe as well as creating work arounds as they fill kennels normally used to place homeless animals. Waiting is hard and as we look toward the fall, we also look toward repeating another season with them in our care

On the very bright side, we continue to move forward with our Capital Campaign and are so very grateful for all the support we have received. We are excited to improve the facilities and campus for the animals, both large and small, as well as establishing additional medical, education and training facilities. This will benefit animal owners and pet lovers and the next generation of animal guardians.

Some of the most hard-won changes coming in January 1, 2020 are legislative. We, along with many committed community members and legislators worked diligently to pass critical legislation this year. Many thanks to Senator Bradley for sponsoring and being the driving force behind SB 77 that ultimately passed as HB 459. Some highlights to new legislation includes:

Effective 8/24/2019

- No pet rabbit may be sold under eight weeks of age.

Effective 10/27/2019

- Possession of Animal Fighting Paraphernalia used in animal fighting is a Class B Felony.
- Anyone offering for sale or loan, dogs or birds for animal fighting can be charged with a Class B Felony.
- A person convicted of animal fighting is banned from owning animals for a minimum of 5 years.

Effective 1/1/2020

- In cases in which animals have been confiscated by an arresting officer, a status hearing shall be held by the court within 14 days.



- The court may prohibit any person convicted of a misdemeanor offense of animal cruelty from having future ownership, custody of or residing with animals.
- If a person convicted of animal cruelty appeals their conviction, the court may require the defendant to post a bond not exceeding \$2000 for each animal which must be posted within 30 days.

Had the final amended law pertaining to animals seized been in effect, the Shepherds would have been released from protective custody last fall — one year ago.

We are so grateful to everyone who worked so tirelessly to improve these laws that effect so many animals that linger, not having a home to call their own.

To everyone who has helped support our efforts through direct care of the animals, gifts to support them, kind words to support us, legislative calls or presence at hearings, thank you. There are not enough words to tell you how much it has meant to each of us.

On behalf of the Animals,

Lisa S. Dennison
Executive Director

New Hampshire Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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Community Wellness Clinics

By **Kate Young**

Community Programs Coordinator

As we all know, the companionship of a pet can be tremendously rewarding and supportive. This can be especially true for our most vulnerable community members. In many cases, a pet may be the only companion someone in our neighborhood regularly interacts with, but obtaining regular care can sometimes be a challenge.

To help with this, the New Hampshire SPCA coordinates with the staff of local housing authorities to offer Community Wellness Clinics at properties housing underserved individuals and families.

During the months of April, May and June, the NHSPCA conducted several Community Wellness Clinics at properties within the Portsmouth Housing Authority to assist residents in need with regular care for their dogs and cats. In the first part of 2019, we helped 29 pet owners, 19 cats and 11 dogs.

Community Wellness Clinics take place at the property and residents can bring their pets to receive a physical exam, vaccinations and basic treatments. Sometimes, all this requires is an elevator ride or a short walk down the hall, making it much easier and less stressful for the individual and their pet.



The NHSPCA coordinates with local housing authorities to offer Community Wellness Clinics to provide physical exams, vaccinations and basic treatments to pets in underserved families.

On the day of the clinic, four NHSPCA staff members, including a veterinarian, travel to the

property to set up a mobile clinic in an office or workspace. We also have a tent that we can use in larger rooms like gymnasiums so that pets can be safely seen in a smaller exam space.

We come prepared with rabies and distemper vaccines, flea and tick treatment and dewormer. We can trim nails, clean ears and help with other basic services and can advise on additional follow-up or treatment that a pet may need.

For people that have trouble moving about, those that don't have access to reliable transportation or are in a financial crunch and may just need a little help at the moment, this is a great resource.

We receive numerous comments from Clinic clients that without these NHSPCA Wellness Clinics, regular vaccines and checkups would be challenging or even unattainable. It is especially important to them that we can meet people and their pets right where they live.

Through our partnership with local housing associations, we are very happy that we can help individuals hold on to their beloved pets and get the basic care they need.

If you work with housing associations or another community service organization and are interested in learning more about our Community Wellness Clinics, please reach out to Kate at 603-772-2921 ext. 147.

SHEPHERDS...

Continued from Page 1

in a kennel, never mind 36 dogs. It's too much for them, and honestly, it's too much to expect of our staff and our volunteers. We are suffering compassion fatigue as individuals and as an agency. The trauma that has been endured over these 650 days of loving, worrying, and crying over these

dogs will stay with us all forever. We have some staff members that have been here 18 months and have never known anything different than holding this massive number of German Shepherds while holding our collective breath in hopes of the right outcome.

As the court case continues to drag on, we thank you for your emotional and financial support. We thank you for your patience as we work to do

everything that is possible to help the Shepherds, especially when that means we may not have room for the dog or cat of your dreams when you come in. We thank you for understanding that we are all doing our best and we thank you for speaking out in the past legislative year. Changes were made, laws are being strengthened as of January 1, 2020. With these new laws in place, there should never be another case like the German Shepherds.



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Notes From The Barn

NHSPCA horse shines at *Green to Great*

By Carrie Fyfe

Equine & Farm Program Manager

Despite the heat, the rain and more heat, we had a great summer here at the Equine & Farm Animal Program! We have been gearing up for the start of construction on our capital campaign and looking forward to next summer when our horses and farm animals will have a beautiful new facility all their own.

We kicked off what would be a very productive spring and summer with our first annual ***Green to Great: A 90 Day Equine Rescue Revamp program***, developed in collaboration with our friends at the MSPCA at Nevin's Farm. The *Green to Great* program was a big success!

After 90 days of professional training with local horse trainers in NH and MA, the four participating horses and their handlers had the opportunity to show off their newly honed riding skills at a showcase hosted by the MSPCA.

NHSPCA horse Demi was a crowd favorite! Demi arrived at the NHSPCA in the winter of 2018 after her owner was too sick to continue to care for her.

At 19 years young, Demi had never been exposed to any kind of structured training before moving to her foster farm to begin her training program. Demi has taken all these new adventures in stride, learning to work under saddle with a rider in just 90 days.



Demi and handler, Jenna, show off their ground-work skills at the Green to Great showcase.

In typical Demi fashion, this beautiful chestnut mare walked off the trailer and into a very busy showcase environment like she has done it all her life! Demi has made us all so proud with her grace and class.

Those big thoughtful eyes, gentle demeanor and exceptional ground manners make Demi an excellent companion or riding horse.

If you think you might be the special person one of our horses has been waiting for, please complete an equine adoption application and reach out to our Equine program staff at cfyfe@nhspca.org for more details!



Pookie and Bubbles recently finished treatment and were able to find their forever home!

Rehabilitating a sweet pair of guinea pigs

By Riann Hadley

Senior Adoption Center Manager

Some people are surprised to learn that we occasionally take in small animals that require medical care. Small animals can be diagnosed with the same ailments that larger animals can, such as respiratory disease and skin issues.

Such is the case of Pookie and Bubbles, a sweet pair of companion guinea pigs that were surrendered when their owners moved and decided they were unable to care for them any longer. Pookie and Bubbles' previous owner told us the pair had an allergy to bedding and that therefore, they must have towels and blankets in their cage.

However, what they thought was a bedding allergy was actually a severe upper respiratory infection for Bubbles and dermatitis for Pookie.

Bubbles had a long road of treatments ahead of her. She was sent to a local small animal vet hospital that specializes in exotics for x-rays to confirm the diagnosis of an upper respiratory infection and pneumonia. She went through multiple rounds of long term antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, nebulization and supplements. Pookie's dermatitis was resolved with antibiotics.

Finally, after two-and-a-half-months of treatment, Bubbles and Pookie were cleared for adoption — and they were quickly scooped up by a wonderful family.

It was a tough start for this amazing pair. Bubbles was originally from another shelter after being seized from her first owner. Pookie had been a stray and found comfort and companionship in Bubbles while at the same shelter. The pair was patiently waiting at the NHSPCA and deserved a family to love them unconditionally for the rest of their lives.

We always do our very best to provide treatment and find all animals — big or small — loving homes, which makes it all worth while.

Here's the scoop on pot belly pigs!

It sure does seem like we've been talking an awful lot about pigs these days! We are full to the brim with pot belly pigs looking for new homes with more added to our farm animal waitlist every week.

Have you ever considered adding a pot belly to your family? If not, maybe you should! Here are some fun facts about pot belly pigs and why we love them so much!

- Pot belly pigs respond well to clicker and target training — they love to learn new things and are always up for a challenge!
- Pigs have poor eyesight but an excellent sense of smell. Here at the NHSPCA, we often incorporate scent training into our pigs' training routines.
- Some pot belly pigs enjoy swimming! A kiddie pool can provide hours of entertainment on a hot day.
- Pot bellies love a good belly rub! Touch their flanks and many of them will flop right over for a tummy scratch!
- Pot belly pigs are very loyal and form strong bonds to their special people. These intelligent, sensitive critters can make wonderful, loving pets.

ASK THE TRAINER



Teach your dog not to jump on people

By Linda R. Haley, CPDT, KPA CTP
Behavior & Training Coordinator

Q: My dog has a bad habit of jumping up on people, how do I get them to stop?

Dogs that like to jump on people do so because they have been rewarded for that behavior in the past. As puppies or young dogs, they were allowed to jump on humans and received all kinds of affection and physical contact. They gave kisses, climbed in people's laps, danced around on their hind legs and generally had a lot of fun.

Have a question for our trainer?

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

As the pup gets bigger and stronger, the behavior is no longer cute and

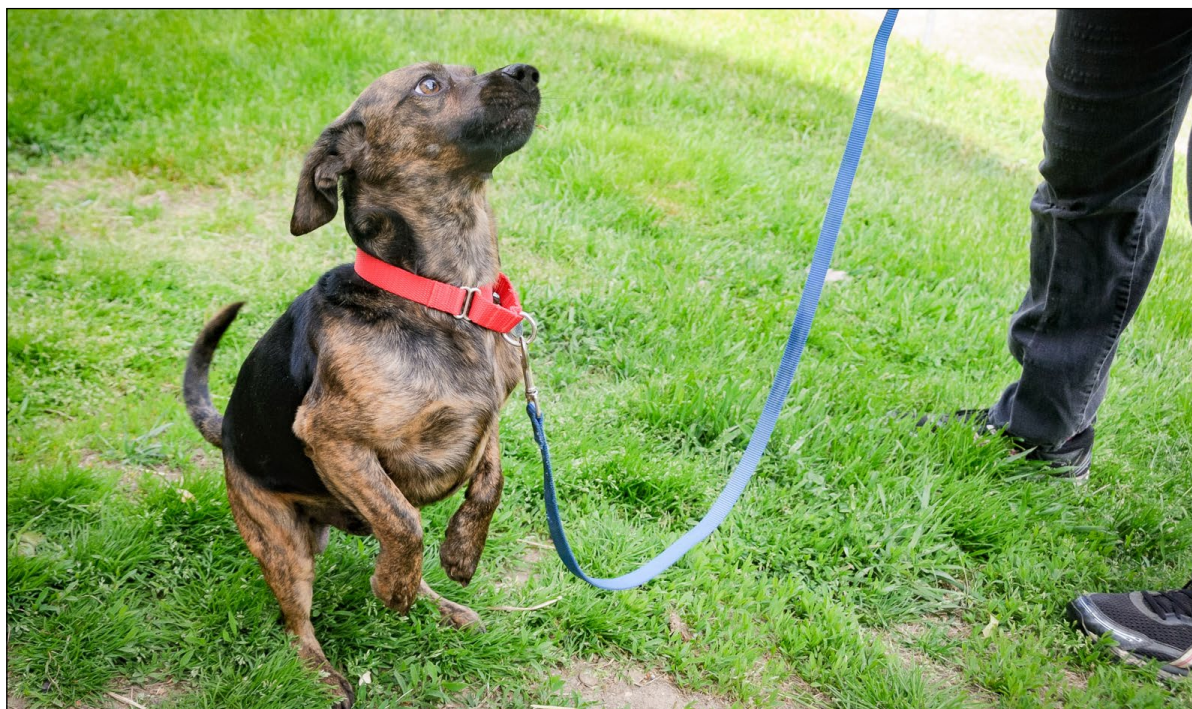
is often seen as a nuisance. Now, we have to undo a behavior that has become ingrained in the dog. This is certainly fixable, but does take some time and effort.

Start by putting the dog on leash and stand in one spot. Ask a helper to approach the dog. When the dog starts to jump on the helper, simply ask the helper to take a step back, out of reach from the dog. The instant the dog has all four paws on the ground direct the helper to quickly return and pet the dog.

If the dog jumps again, ask the helper to take a step back. Repeat this sequence until the dog learns that the only way he gets attention is to keep all four feet on the floor.

There is no need for either you or the helper to say or do anything else. Pushing him off is still rewarding to the dog physically. Saying "off", "down", or another command can be useless because most dogs have no idea what that means and it just adds to the commotion. In addition, you want your dog to always keep his feet on the floor, even when you aren't around to tell him what to do. Dogs are very good at figuring out what does and what doesn't work in order to get what they want. Learning this way helps maintain the behavior longer.

Practice with different friends and family members and remember to instruct strangers if they



Dogs jump on people because they have been rewarded for that behavior in the past. Teach your dog to be more respectful by rewarding him when all paws are on the floor and backing away when he jumps up.

want to pet your dog. Consistency is important. If your dog is allowed to jump on even one person, it could set his training back.

If your dog jumps on you when you come in the door, ignore him while you quickly walk through the house pretending to put things away. The instant he stops and has all four feet on the floor, quickly turn around and pet him. If he jumps again, quickly walk away. Repeat until he learns that the quickest way to get your attention when

you come home is by keeping his feet on the floor.

For over-the-top dogs, I recommend either putting an exercise pen around the door blocking the dog from the door or putting the dog in a room with a gate. This prevents the initial lunging and jumping and gives both of you a chance to take a breath. Have treats in your pocket and ask for several sits before opening the gate. Once the gate is open, practice the ignoring until he learns to keep his feet on the floor.

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The community impact of volunteering

By Steve Jones

Volunteer Coordinator

At the beginning of spring while on a property walk with the Executive Director and our Field Services Manager, I scribbled down notes as they identified projects they would like to see completed over the next couple of months.

There was weeding, raking, and vines needing to be cut back; flower beds waiting to be mulched and planted; and an old vegetable garden needing to be tilled so grass could grow again.

We had recently opened a few walking trails for the dogs to enjoy. However, they were rough cut and were needing to be leveled, the wilderness around them remaining untamed.

I wondered how it was all going to get done.

Being relatively new to the agency, this was my first spring cleanup. I was working with one outside group to plan a day of service; however, there was no way all of this would get accomplished in 5-6 hours.

But, as if by design, almost immediately after turning the list into something more cohesive, more organizations began contacting me. Over the month of June, we had three amazing groups spend time at New Hampshire SPCA, participating in individual days of service and tackling almost all of the items on our list.

The Facilities Department from Southern New Hampshire University kicked things off by replacing the old fence that surrounded Rolling Meadows Pet Cemetery. 72 posts were lifted from the ground, most with brute force. The holes were measured and new posts were cut to size so the perimeter fence would be level. The group then came back to the shelter and planted annuals, generously donated by Stratham Circle Nursery.

The corporate office of Planet Fitness was the next group to lend a hand. This group spent the majority of the day tackling the trail work. Together, they pulled over 1,000 pounds of twigs, branches, and even a few fallen trees out of the wooded area to clear the way for new trails and define existing ones.

Adrenaline LLC, an experienced design agency from Portsmouth, could not have been a better group to finish the spring cleanup.

Really living up to the name of their company, this group came prepared with chain saws and a desire to get to work. Adrenaline began the morning by cutting the old fence posts from the cemetery to firewood size and stacking them so that they could be removed. They also laid fresh



Photo by Alexander LaCasse

Planet Fitness volunteers spend time with one of the dogs that can now enjoy the trails they helped clear.



Volunteers from Adrenaline were excited to break out the power tools, cut old wooden posts into firewood size logs and stack them neatly.



Southern New Hampshire University's Facilities Department did an amazing job revitalizing the grounds around the shelter.

mulch around flower beds at the cemetery and finished the trail work started by Planet Fitness back at the shelter.

Together, Southern New Hampshire University, Planet Fitness, and Adrenaline LLC represent

60 of the 700+ volunteers that assist the NHSP-CA every year. Their combined effort represents 302 hours of service in conjunction with the tireless work of the rest of our volunteers. Thank you to everyone that makes a difference.

A visit with longtime volunteer Rod MacKay

By Steve Jones
Volunteer Coordinator

Q: You have been a volunteer for 15 years now and donated over 7000 hours to the agency. When you started in 2004, why did you want to volunteer at the New Hampshire SPCA?

A: Following a 23+ year Air Force career and 15 years in corporate America, I was still looking for something to occupy my time. My wife saw an ad in the newspaper saying; "Wanted: Dog care volunteer at the New Hampshire SPCA." Being a huge animal lover my entire life, this was right up my alley. I attended the orientation class on August 19, 2004 and went solo on my first shift the following afternoon. It has been a completely rewarding experience for me ever since.

Q: Whenever I mention your name, someone inadvertently pops their head up and says, "Oh, Rod, he trained me to be a walker!" After being a mentor for so long, can you impart any bits of wisdom on volunteers that may be interested in becoming mentors as well?

A: Conducting 1x1 field training for a new dog care volunteer has been a rewarding experience for me. Knowing that this training is the final step before someone starts walking dogs on their own gives me extra incentive to do a thorough job; our animals' safety as well as the volunteers' safety, is in my hands. I also get satisfaction when I see trainees come back on a regular basis with some having become MOD Squad and even Blue MOD Squad members.

Q: Through the years, I'm sure there have been countless stories that have stood out. Can you share one in particular that you are fond of?

A: You are absolutely right. There have been countless stories that have stood out; however, there is one in particular that will be forever in my heart. In November 2005, one male Great Pyrenees named Majestic, two females named Nadia and Angel, and Majestic's six 3-month-old puppies arrived at our shelter from a neglectful, abusive environment in a small New Hampshire town. All were rescued by Steve Sprowl, our Animal Cruelty Investigator, the town's Animal Control Officer, and local po-



Who is Rod MacKay?

Rod MacKay is a beloved figure at the NHSPCA. Rod has spent the last 15 years volunteering at the shelter. Now retired, Rod took great pride in his work here. Thanks, Rod!

lice. The agency's Animal Care Techs gave them all baths and shampoos, after which they looked like completely different dogs. Fast forward 40 days when the judge in their court case would not allow any of them to return to their former home and awarded all of them to the agency. My wife, Linda, and I adopted Majestic and we were fortunate enough to have him for 8+ years until cancer took him from us at just over 10 years old. He attended every Auction for the Animals with me as a greeter and ambassador. He passed away just three days after his 8th auction. All of the other eight Great Pyrenees found loving and forever homes as well.

Q: You have also been heavily involved with canine enrichment. In your words, what positive outcomes have you seen after providing a dog with enrichment activities?

A: Yes, I have been involved with the canine enrichment program, and recently, we have been establishing a more formal process that will be called "Enrichment Support". As I wind down my volunteer responsibilities and encourage anyone that is interested to contact Salomé Barrot, the NHSPCA Enrichment Coordinator. One enrichment activity that I enjoy is reading to the dogs. I do this after walking, feeding, and other duties are complete when I am at the shelter. I have just started my fourth book. It is amazing and so gratifying to witness their reaction. Even dogs who may literally bounce off their kennel walls settle down on either the floor or their beds to either sleep or listen. They seem to be interested and understand what you are saying. There is a lot of personal satisfaction that comes with this, too.

2019 Volunteer Recognition

With the leaves turning to bright reds and subtle browns, autumn is truly here. And even as the days become shorter, the tireless work of our volunteers continues. So far this year, 524 individuals have donated over 33,200 hours of service to New Hampshire SPCA.

Out of so many, the following individuals have reached incredible milestones for their service to the NHSPCA. We wish to extend our congratulations to each of them, with our deepest gratitude for their service.

500 HOURS OF SERVICE

Kimberly Caddle
Kam Damtoft
Sarah Linscott
Joanne Schwope

1,000 HOURS OF SERVICE

John McCole

2,000 HOURS OF SERVICE

Michaela Gerome
Emilie Pomeroy

6,000 HOURS OF SERVICE

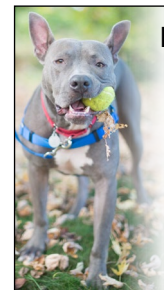
Nancy Winkley

9,000 HOURS OF SERVICE

Paul Verrette

15,000 HOURS OF SERVICE

Mary Jane Blunda



Interested in helping animals like me?

We are always looking for new volunteers to help care for the animals. We are also looking for volunteers to greet potential adopters, help plan fundraisers, and assist in a number of different ways. If you are interested in learning how you can get involved at the NHSPCA, please take a look at our website at nhspca.org/volunteering

Junior Volunteers who achieved perfect attendance this year

By Paula Parisi

Manager of Humane Education Programs

During the school-year Junior Volunteer program, our young volunteers are expected to make a commitment to attend every month on their specified date to help with our cats, small animals and with other tasks around the

Want to get involved?

Do you want to learn more about our Junior Volunteer program? [Visit us on the web by clicking here!](#)

shelter. Their help takes a significant load off of the staff's plate and allows them to pursue other projects.

Being in high school or middle

school isn't easy. These teens have studies, sports, Scouts, extracurriculars, and some even have jobs. Everyone gets sick once in a while, and transportation can be a factor.

We get that and we totally understand, but each year there's a small group of Junior Volunteers that manage to come to every single one of their assigned days!

This year we have a group of 22 volunteers with perfect attendance! They are: Meghan Grimes, Jacqueline Doane, John Forte, Annie Collins, Billy Wood, Aizha Castellano, Ava Bois, Lilly Sheerin, Ashley Young, Abby Boisvert, Annabel Crowley, Marisa Monahan, Ella Barlock, Ryan Guerrette, Nic Gagnon, Maia Cook, Grace Walker, Caroline Savage, Andrew Gray, Madison Small, Riley Beauchesne, and Alexis Paolini.

Thanks to all for your hard work and reliability!

Summer camp comes to a close

By Paula Parisi

Manager of Humane Education Programs

Another wonderful summer camp experience is in the books for 2019!

From June to August, 165 summer campers and Junior Camp Counselors came together at the New Hampshire SPCA to learn as much as they could about animals, animal sheltering, rescue and responsible pet care. And, most importantly, everyone managed to have fun doing it!

Our camp accommodates campers from ages 6 to 15 with different weeks designed for specific age groups. All of our campers are responsible for caring for our classroom pets with age-appropriate expectations. Our staff members are experienced teachers, so we know what we can expect of the campers and how much assistance they may need along the way.

Over the course of the summer, we worked with siblings, several sets of twins, neighbors, cousins and occasionally grandchildren who were staying with their grandparents for the week just so they could attend camp.

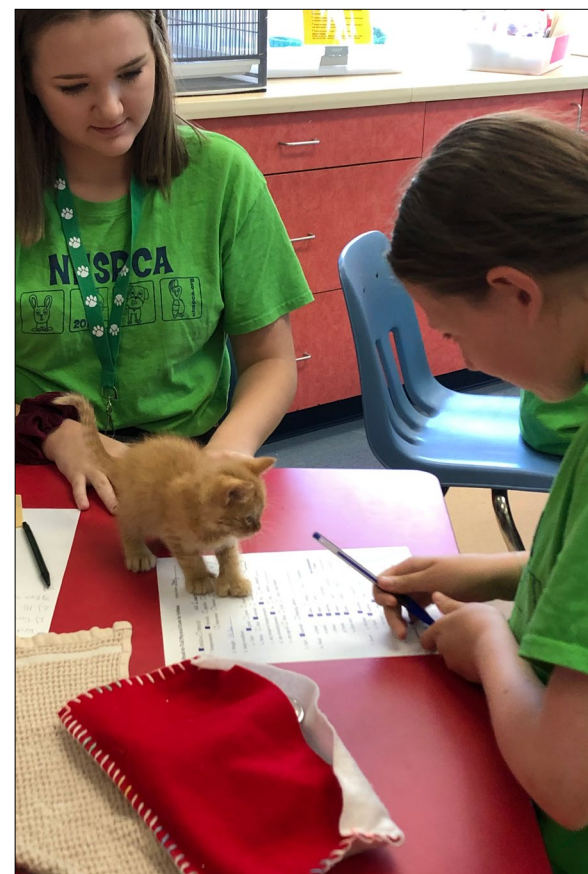
One of the highlights of the camp experience was watching kittens grow up! Our first-week campers were able to get the first look at three little orange double-pawed brothers who needed to be bottlefed.

Each week, the kittens got bigger and stronger and the campers charted their growth as time went by.

These sweet little kittens were loved, snuggled and played with by all the campers for the whole nine weeks. They all emerged from camp happy, healthy, extremely well-adjusted and ready to be adopted!

I'm sure the campers will remember the kitten-watching activities for many years to come.

Summer camp is certainly one of our busi-



One of the highlights of this year's summer camp was getting to record the progress of three very sweet kittens! One of those kittens is seen here visiting with the campers.

est times of the year. Between camp, birthday parties, traveling to off-sites and supervising 8 weeks of Junior Volunteers, there's plenty of steady activity in our Humane Education department! It's also one of the most fun and gratifying times of the year because we get to share resources and programs with young minds.

It's a joy and one that we look forward to every year!

Celebrate your child's birthday with us!



Parties are available Saturdays 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. or 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. or Sundays 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

- 🐾 Meet the animals and tour the New Hampshire SPCA
- 🐾 Participate in animal-themed activities
- 🐾 Enjoy the Humane Education Classroom for two hours
- 🐾 Invite friends to share your child's love for animals

Do you want more information? [Click here!](#)

Campaign Update: Expanding our campus footprint

By **Brianne Wood**
Capital Campaign Manager

One of the largest elements of this campaign is the expansion of our campus footprint and what that will allow us to do.

Our Executive Director, Lisa Dennison, had the vision and fortitude to approach all of the abutters many years ago asking them to consider giving the New Hampshire SPCA the right of first refusal should they ever decide to move.

Abutting land is a once in a generation opportuni-

ty you can't pass up when the opportunity arises. We felt like we struck gold when not one, but two, of our abutters decided it was time to move on and sell their properties. The timing aligned perfectly as we were in the process of establishing a capital campaign!

With the support of some incredible donors, we were able to purchase the properties to the left and to the right of our campus. This new footprint allows us to go from 6 to 15 acres!

With the vast increase of equine and farm animals at the shelter, we know how critical this new space

is. It is truly a blessing.

We are already just starting to settle in, and with the help of some fantastic volunteer groups, we have already begun clearing new dog walking trails that go through the woods and the dogs (and our dog walking volunteers) are *loving* it!

There is so much more to learn about what the opportunities this **Campaign For Changing Times** will provide and our dreams are not fulfilled yet.

We are closing the gap on the remaining portion needed to accomplish all that we hope and dream for the future of the animals and the community.

Meet the Architects!

When we began planning for our campaign over five years ago, we knew we needed architects who understood animal sheltering and the nuances of a working with animals. We also wanted to work with a company that was local to the Seacoast that would be intimately involved in the process and would factor in the challenges of living in New England.



Lucy Schlaffer



Paul Bonacci

We were delighted to engage Lucy Schlaffer and Paul Bonacci, owners of ARQ Architects located in Kittery. ARQ has worked on several large, animal related projects throughout the United States, and received the first LEED ratings (Silver and Gold) for community-based animal welfare organizations.

They have worked tirelessly on developing a plan to take our unique building and campus layout and re-envision it to include all our needs for now and the future.

With creative and thoughtful design work we anticipate our expanded campus will become a broader community resource than ever before and will offer the perfect blend of animal and human service programming.



From left: **Ed Rimm**, North Branch Project Manager/Estimator, **John Kellar**, Owners Rep, **David Choate**, NHSPCA Board Member and Properties Committee Chair, **Lisa Dennison**, NHSPCA Executive Director, **Joseph Campbell**, North Branch President, **James Schwartzkopf**, North Branch Vice President/Director of Project Management & Estimating, and **Lucy Schlaffer** of ARQ Architects.

NHSPCA selects North Branch Construction

We are proud to say we have selected North Branch Construction to carry out our *Campaign for Changing Times* expansion and enhancement alterations. It is our hope to break ground this November, and we are getting so close to this all becoming real!

We began with a competitive bid process, which had several remarkable companies competing. We ended up selecting North Branch Construction for a few reasons. North Branch Construction is an award-winning construction company serving New Hampshire and its bordering states, which was important for us as we serve those same communities.

North Branch Construction believes strongly in giving back to our communities. They offer a commitment to assist non-profit organizations like the NHSPCA through contributing monetary donations, purchasing tax credits from the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA), providing labor and material for special functions, and sponsoring events and fundraisers. As a non-profit that relies

largely on donations we need to ensure we stretch and leverage every dollar, and we appreciate working with a company that respects and acknowledges the same.

In addition to their commitment to supporting non-profit organizations, they have an impressive dedication to jobsite safety (which is so important when we have scared and vulnerable animals on our property). They began a Safety Fine Program on all of their projects that was developed with the intent to increase hazard recognition, reduce risk of injury, and create an overall safer working environment for jobsites. Their goal is to continuously raise the bar for construction jobsite safety. The cherry on that sundae is that at the end of each year, they donate all proceeds from the Safety Fine Program to the non-profit charities and organizations that they work with.

They are a remarkable company and we are so excited to work with them and have them bring our vision into a reality!

Sununu signs off on two policies to protect animals

Animal advocates in New Hampshire recently celebrated two victories for animal protection legislation. Governor Chris Sununu signed into law two crucial policies to address animal cruelty: House Bill 459 and House Bill 605. Championed by Senator Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro) and Representative Katherine Rogers (D-Concord). Collectively these laws help address the enormous costs to care for animals who are rescued from neglect, prevent someone convicted of felony cruelty from owning or living with an animal for a minimum of five years, and ban the paraphernalia used in animal fighting. This is a huge victory for animals in New Hampshire. Thanks to incredible advocacy by YOU, and the support of many wonderful legislators, the laws that protect the animal victims of cruelty and neglect have been strengthened!



Governor Chris Sununu recently signed two crucial policies to address animal cruelty into law. This is a huge win for the victims of cruelty and neglect in New Hampshire!

SAFE PET...

Continued from Page 1

pets. In the past few years, we have been asked by people facing homelessness due to eviction if they could qualify under 'Safe Pet'. We have done everything within our resources to accommodate them. But it has been difficult. Now with the extra space and the PetSmart Charities grant, we can more systematically offer emergency housing as an alternative to surrender.

We believe that the unconditional love of and by a pet is a gift that everyone deserves. Finances don't determine how much a person loves their pet. But finances and harsh realities can be major limiting factors in being able to keep a pet. Often when people are going through difficult, life changing circumstances, it is their pet that gives them some sense of purpose and reason to hold on. By being able to help people to keep their pet safe while they sort through their difficult circumstances, we are able to avoid surrender and reunite pets with the family that already loves them. "Safe Pet" saves families and we are honored to be a part of that.

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ROBIN...

Continued from Page 1

It made me furious to realize that since Robin's family abandoned her, she would have to rely on strangers to help her through it. Thankfully, dogs are way more forgiving than humans. Robin seemed happy to have a warm place to sleep, food for her belly and lots of love from our staff and volunteers. And when I saw her little tail thumping with happiness, my anger was replaced by gratitude. I'm so thankful that animals like Robin have a safe place to turn to for help.

Matching Gift Opportunity!

Your gift to help save animals in need like Robin **doubles** until Oct. 31 up to \$25,000!

Please send your gift today or [donate by clicking here!](#)

Testing confirmed that Robin had breast cancer and it would require intensive surgery to save her life. Our Veterinarian performed a radical double mastectomy and our staff lovingly cared

for Robin during her long and painful recovery. We were relieved when additional testing revealed that her cancer had not yet spread to her other organs. Even though we did everything we could for Robin medically, there was no guarantee that her cancer wouldn't recur. After all she endured;



Robin snuggles with her foster mom and former staff member moments before her forever family picked her up. This sweet dog's recovery was made possible by our amazing supporters!

she now faced the challenge of finding a family that would accept the uncertainty of her medical issues. Once again, I found myself worrying about Robin and her future. It was a lot to ask ... who would willingly take on that risk, both financially and emotionally?

Luckily, dogs have an amazing ability to live in

the present moment. And for Robin, every day is the best day of her life. She loves with her whole heart, without fear. All it took was one look in her "hound dog eyes", and her new family fell hard for her. And while they know it may be difficult because they love her more and more each day, they also know the love they share is worth the risk of heartache. They simply choose to appreciate every moment they have with her and remain hopeful that she'll stay happy and healthy for a long, long time.

I enjoy sharing stories like Robin's because it highlights the important role that supporters like you play in transforming lives. Because of your support, the New Hampshire SPCA remains a safe haven for animals. And more than just offering a place to stay, these animals can find healing, love and a second chance for a better life. All thanks to you!

You can help make more happy endings like Robin's. So many cats, dogs and other animals are in need, and the costs to care for them are great. For a limited time, your donation can be doubled to help twice as many animals. Our former board president and current trustee, Jo Lamprey, has once again offered to match dollar-for-dollar any gift you send by October 31, 2019, up to \$25,000! [Please send your gift today or donate online here.](#)

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12 Commemoratives

FALL 2019

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Rocky Balboa & Fern

Starting off to say I couldn't be more grateful! I walked through your doors in Stratham on Saturday with one mission in mind: to take home an old grumpy or hard to love cat. Or maybe one feral kitty that no one else would love! Well, I left with Rocky Balboa and Fern! I wasn't looking for two, but in my heart I knew that a 12 week old kitty might just be what would help Rocky blossom. And I'm so happy I did. They are the most amazing of cats. Rocky is actually beyond loveable, he just needs time to adjust. He truly loves attention but requires slow and quiet. He hasn't shown any aggression in the slightest. He's just scared. And.... I can hold him! He melts into my arms and buries his head in. I know this will be a stretch to allow him to adjust and blossom into his full potential. But he has been eating and drinking and he just loves Fern! So a great start to a better life for him. With supervision, we opened a window to allow both to enjoy some much needed fresh air and to listen to the peepers outside! They both lay in windowsill for probably 2 hours. One purring and the other just soaking it all up! I'm very appreciative for the chance to have these two special furballs in our lives and cannot wait to see how Rocky blossoms in his new life.

— Sarah

Rocky Balboa and Fern were a featured story leading into our annual **Clear the Shelters** event, which took place on Saturday, August 17!

Nearly 1k people were invested in this duo's story and were anxiously awaiting updates. Are you interested in keeping up with the happenings at our shelter? Like us on Facebook today to stay in the loop! [facebook.com/NewHampshireSPCA](https://www.facebook.com/NewHampshireSPCA)



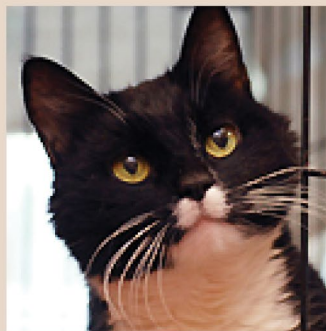
Murphy

We adopted Murphy last June — we knew he would be a challenge because he was very timid and would run from us. He spent hours cowering in the corner afraid of every noise and movement we made. By the second week, his bossy personality started to unfold and before we knew it, he would run up to greet us. He has been having a lot of fun and he is very content. We still have

challenges when we are out in public with a lot of strangers around, but eventually we believe he will overcome that anxiety too. His big brother Moose (Golden Retriever) is very patient with him and they enjoy playtime together. Please extend our gratitude to the many volunteers who make it all possible. We truly appreciate them!

— Kim

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT
10

ALZHEIMER'S CAFÉ

The New Hampshire SPCA, Stratham, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

An Alzheimer's Café offers a community setting where people living with Alzheimer's disease, dementia or other memory issues and their caregivers gather, socialize and enjoy conversation. Our location offers the fun and unique opportunity to see our classroom animals and have possible visits from owned or adoptable animals as well.

DEC
12

ALZHEIMER'S CAFÉ

The New Hampshire SPCA, Stratham, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The NHSPCA offers a welcoming place for people with forgetfulness or other changes in their thinking and for family and friends who help with care. Our Alzheimer's Café is a comfortable gathering where people can socialize, connect with others, enjoy some snacks and interact with our classroom animals.

OCT
12

ADOPT A PET EVENT

The Mall at Fox Run in Newington, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join us at the Mall at Fox Run in Newington for a special adoption event. Meet homeless animals available for adoption and go home with your new best friend!

NOV
8-10

PETSMART NATIONAL ADOPTION EVENT

Petsmart, Seabrook, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Looking for a new furry friend? Stop in to Petsmart in Seabrook this weekend to meet your match! The NHSPCA will be onsite with many available animals for adoption!

NOV
14

ALZHEIMER'S CAFÉ

The New Hampshire SPCA, Stratham, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The New Hampshire SPCA proudly welcomes members of our community living with memory issues and their caregivers to our facility for an afternoon of fun! Guests can engage in conversation and enjoy the unique opportunity to visit with select animals.

NOV
16

25TH ANNUAL AUCTION FOR THE ANIMALS

Wentworth by the Sea, New Castle, 5:00 - 10:00 p.m.
The Auction for the Animals is the Seacoast's most highly anticipated event of the season and the most important evening of the year for homeless animals. 300 dazzling and passionate animal lovers will enjoy a night of fine dining and scrumptious cocktails, while they find the perfect trip, stunning jewelry, rare collectibles, and so much more in an unmatched assortment of live and silent auction items.

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Did you know you can donate old vehicles to support the animals of the NHSPCA? Visit us at nhspca.org to learn more!

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Want to get involved with the NHSPCA?

By Ali Lynch

Outreach & Events Coordinator

Since 1872, the New Hampshire SPCA has depended on teamwork and collaboration to save the lives of thousands of animals. Our volunteer program has thrived and grown year after year and without it, we would not be able to continue the work we do.

Currently, the NHSPCA has over 700 volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to not only caring for the animals, but also working our major fundraisers and benefit events.

The compassion and support volunteers demon-

strate is nothing short of inspiring as they show up on early mornings, late nights, during snowstorms, on holidays; whenever they are needed.

But we always are looking for new, excited folks to join our team.

Besides the numerous animal care opportunities that are available, we have many events that we need help with. The Outreach Events crew is a group of devoted, enthusiastic people that represent the shelter at a variety of events.

Everything from fairs, restaurant benefits to networking events, each event is a wonderful opportunity to create a presence in our community and build relationships with potential adopters,

donors and supporters.

It can also be a great way to educate the community on all the programs we offer at the NHSPCA. These events are important to remind people that we are a resource for them when in need.

By assisting with the many events that support the NHSPCA, you are supporting thousands of homeless animals that turn to us for life saving medical care, nutritious meals, a warm bed and a second chance at life.

If you're interested in spreading the mission of the NHSPCA, please contact Ali at 603-772-2921 ext. 127.



25TH ANNUAL AUCTION FOR THE *Animals*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019 • WENTWORTH BY THE SEA HOTEL

The Auction for the Animals brings hundreds of the Seacoast's most influential animal lovers together for a night celebrating compassion and generosity.

This year will mark a very special milestone: Our 25th anniversary Auction benefiting homeless animals.

Please join us and other animal lovers for a beautiful evening en blanc to bid on magnificent items and enjoy delicious food and beverages, and although optional, we encourage you to dress in your chicest white attire!

Purchase tickets by visiting nhspca.org/auction-for-the-animals

Want your business to reach dedicated and generous animal lovers?

Become a sponsor! Your business will be showcased in front of 300 of the Seacoast's most prominent business, social, and philanthropic leaders. We are also accepting Auction items to help us raise critical funds for the animals. Contact Brianne Wood at (603) 772-2921 ext. 150 or bwood@nhspca.org to learn more!