



## 20 dogs, 1 bird rescued from squalor



Mason, a sweet tri-colored chihuahua, snuggles in with a staff member who welcomed him, 19 other dogs and a bird to the shelter. The 21 animals were rescued after being found living in squalor in Hampton, New Hampshire.

### NHSPCA remains a safe haven for animals during pandemic

By Sheila E. Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

Even though the sign at the top of our driveway has said 'closed' since March 17, the NHSPCA is anything but quiet. While we have not been able

#### Can you help?

Donate to the SOS Fund to help save the animal victims of cruelty and neglect like these 21 animals now by clicking here.

to invite our volunteers or community members into the shelter in what feels like forever, our staff has continued caring for animals and finding new ways to accomplish our mission.

Who would have thought that the word virtual would combine with adoption? Or surrender? But it has and what an amazing experience. Since our closure, we have continued adopting animals (60+ so far) and taking them in when they had

no other alternative.

But a large rescue in a pandemic? Could we do that?

Of course we could, and we did. On May 13, we were contacted by the Hampton, NH Police to assist in removing dogs from a home there. When we arrived, we found 20 small dogs and one bird left on their own and living in squalor. They were severely matted and suffering from the results of living in unsanitary conditions. Their poor little feet were crusted and their fur stained from waste.

They needed our help, even in a pandemic.

So, our Cruelty Investigator and two other staff members did what we do. They kindly and quickly moved the 20 dogs and the bird to our vehicle and brought them to the safety of our Adoption Center.

They were examined by our veterinarian, provided with a clean, warm bed, healthy food and fresh water. The basics that they had been deprived of.

We removed the painful mats, cleaned their

See **RESCUE**, Page 14

## Lending a helping hand

NHSPCA serves as statewide food bank during COVID-19

By Dianna Currier

Manager of Adoption Programs

A heartfelt "Thank You" to GreaterGood.org for their generous donation of 6,000 pounds of

pet food. This generous donation was given in response to the COVID-19 crisis so that the NHSPCA could become the statewide community response for pet food

#### More inside!

Learn about the NHSPCA's emergency assistance programs for in-need horse and livestock owners.

Page 5

for those in need. We have been humbled to be able to reach so many organizations and the

See **FOOD SHARE**, Page 12



Representatives from Rockingham Community Action, which services 11 towns in NH, receive a food donation to help those who need it most.



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## Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are here, we have been here, and we will continue to be here.

Since March 17, the manner in which we have been here to support the animals and the members of our community has changed, but as a safety net we continue to provide support both in the shelter and in our community.

Even as the stop sign was being placed at the top of our driveway, we were continuing to shelter homeless animals and provide them with the best of care. Our work, deemed essential, allowed us to continue daily care of the animals, provide critical medical care as needed and further develop our enrichment programs enhancing the experience these animals have while awaiting their forever homes. We have continued to respond to complaints of animal cruelty or neglect and provide investigations by our Field Services Department.

But as you can imagine, almost everything has changed.

Adoptions once a required in-person experience, have become virtual. Now that we have moved beyond emergency surrender only, it too is virtual. What does this mean and how is it accomplished? Primarily online but still very personal. Photographs and videos are shared of the animals awaiting homes. Through electronic or faxed applications, phone or virtual interviews, outside visits by appointment and then the physical transfer through our vestibule. Personal, informative, and successful! Over 60 animals have been adopted since we closed our doors including birds, rabbits, cats, dogs, pigs, and horses (those had already been in the works)!

Our food support program has distributed thousands of pounds of both cat and dog food to individuals as well as food pantries in more than 20 communities and two states. Other programs such as Humane Education continue with Story Hour taking place on Facebook along with some educational clips about animals in the classroom. Behavior consultations and training classes have both returned in a modified online



experience. We've discovered that this method allows more flexibility for some owners and has the ability to provide even better behavioral support "witnessing" issues in the home.

Paws Walk, traditionally a beloved day in the park with more than 1500 people and hundreds of their dogs, has been "Reimagined". Now, this too has evolved into a different and exciting event. Though we will all walk in our own neighborhoods, we will share the experience together united in our mission to help homeless animals. If you have yet to sign up and join the fun on June 14, please learn more on our web site and continue to be a part of the largest signature event of the year. It is sure to be something we talk about for years to come!

Know that we continue to be as committed as ever to helping animals on our campus and in our community. We think of you and your beloved pets often and hope that you are in good health during these difficult times.

Until we meet again and on behalf of the animals,

Lisa S. Dennison  
Executive Director

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# Taking advantage of the lull: Projects around the NHSPCA

By Steve Sprowl

Humane Agent, Field Services Manager

COVID-19 certainly has caused alarm across the United States and is something we may never forget in our lifetime.

I was surprised when this pandemic hit and shocked at the same time. I remember back to my early years, there was a movie titled *The Day the Earth Stood Still*... but that was science fiction.

Soon there may be a new movie out called *The Year the Earth Stood Still* based on this pandemic.

This won't be science fiction, unfortunately, this is a true story.

As the Humane Agent for the NHSPCA, I receive 45-60 calls a month reporting animal neglect or cruelty. For 19 years, this has been the shocking reality: there are just so many cases of neglect and cruelty in New Hampshire.

However, during this crisis with stay-at-home orders in place, that number has drastically dropped to only 15-20 calls a month.

I hope that this drop means that while everyone is staying home, they are caring for their animals properly.

On the other hand, I look at the drop in calls and wonder if it is because the stay-at-home order is keeping people in and no one is traveling



The Lamprey Barn recently reaped the benefits of some much-needed TLC! As one of the first steps of the Campaign for Changing Times plans, new roofing was installed on the barn in early March. Since then, the Learning Center roof has been replaced and new fencing has begun to go up for our expanded Equine Program.

around and witnessing the suffering.

I certainly hope this is not the case.

I worry about the animals not receiving the care and treatment they deserve.

So, while I am at work, I am not idle. The NHSPCA has many projects on going. Presently, I am keeping busy running pet food to the food pantries and towns that are in need. We were given over 6,000 pounds of donated food (thanks to GreaterGood.org) to share with the residents of New Hampshire.

One of my other job titles is Facilities Manager,

and keeping up with the routine maintenance of this building takes up a lot of time. Our facilities person is working to build new horse fencing for our expanded Equine Program and building a secured area for our records room. Since we are closed and running with short staff to care for the animals, this is a great opportunity to catch up on some needed maintenance.

I look forward to the day we return to full staff and I can get back to assisting animals in need and assisting our police agencies across the state in preventing cruelty to animals.

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## Notes From The Barn

# Lovey welcomes new friends during quarantine!

By Carrie Fyfe

Equine & Farm Animal Program Manager

With the world at a bit of a standstill, it has certainly been an interesting time to work in animal welfare. Despite the challenges posed by the spread of COVID-19 and the shelter's temporary closure, our on-site animal care staff is navigating this new normal with grace under pressure.

Every day, we are learning new methods of efficiency, enrichment and collaboration. As a manager, it has been a pleasure to watch our dedicated "skeleton crew" adapt to this new normal and I am endlessly proud of their commitment and determination!

While our horses certainly miss the comings and goings of their favorite volunteers and the daily excitement of approaching visitors, the lull in activity has enabled us to do a few things outside the norm:

1. Observe their natural behaviors and routines more closely
2. Incorporate many of our existing animal care staff into barn training!

Because we still do not know what this quarantine period will have in store for us, we are taking advantage of the opportunity to get many



**Lovey, front, has enjoyed spending time with Red, back, and new extra members during the pandemic!**

of our animal care staff cross-trained in the farm program. This training has been a fun chance to promote unity within our small team and to get staff members more comfortable working around large animals — those of us in the horse world surely know what a process that can be!

One of the horses who has enjoyed this cross-training experience the most is one of our longest horses in continuous residence. When it comes to meeting new people, [Lovey](#) is a true professional — patient, curious and affectionate,

and clear with her body language. But we didn't know that Lovey was capable of all this until after her arrival and rehabilitation at our shelter a year and a half ago.

One of four horses seized from a large-scale neglect situation, Lovey's history is virtually unknown to us. She arrived in our care significantly underweight with severely matted fur and a fractured shoulder blade. We spent many months rehabilitating Lovey and in doing so, came to see all those wonderful qualities that give this mare her name.

It feels like a lifetime ago that Lovey gingerly stepped onto our horse trailer to make the two-hour trek back to the shelter, but here she is today — happy, healthy, full of love for anyone with a tasty treat and a brush in hand!

Amid the quarantine, Lovey has forged a new friendship with another long-term resident, [Red](#) the thoroughbred. Both Red and Lovey have histories of neglect, mistreatment and trauma. It has been a small joy during these troublesome times to see these animals thriving alongside one another.

Both Lovey and Red are available for adoption as companion-only horses to loving homes where they can enjoy plenty of turnout, pleasant grooming sessions and bath time in the warmer months!

## Enrichment proves to be beneficial for barnyard animals, too

By Haley Turmel

Adoption Counselor/Barn Technician

Farm animals at the NHSPCA are a really big part of our essence. Beyond the horses, these animals range from goats to roosters and alpaca to pot-bellied pigs, and everything in between! These animals tend to be our longest shelter residents, so we really get to know them and connect with them on a deeper level.

I only started working at the NHSPCA about five months ago. I underestimated how much I would learn about pig behavior and how their minds work in that short period of time.

Just like dogs and cats, the farm animals need lots of enrichment to keep shelter life exciting and to keep their minds sharp. One of the NHSPCA farm programs that we are truly proud of is our pig program, using enrichment

to keep our pigs happy and healthy.

Pigs are incredibly smart, and most people don't realize that owning a pig is very hard work. They are more than just pets. They need activities for their brain and their body. Keeping them thinking is key to their happiness.

Typically, a variety of equipment can be used for pig enrichment. A lot of it can be done with a clicker and things you find around the house. Changing up enrichment activities is important because doing the same thing over and over will cause your pig to lose interest.

Target training is a great training tool for teaching a pig to move away from your space. At the NHSPCA, we use what we call a target pole; a long wooden stick with a tennis ball on the end of it. You hold the stick away from your body and when the pig touches his nose to the tennis ball, you click and treat. Once they get

the hang of it, you can make it a fun game using toys. Throw a toy away from you and when the pig chases after it and touches it, you click and treat.

One of my favorites is hiding food in different toys so the pig must figure out how to get the food out. For example: a kong, a box filled with newspaper, or a milk jug with the cap on it. They view this as a fun game and watching them try to figure it out is very fun and amazing.

This is what is so great about the NHSPCA: it's not only about giving an animal a loving home, but about giving them an amazing life while they are in the shelter. What a lot of people don't think about is that while they are here, we are their owners, so it's about giving them the best life possible and keeping them happy and healthy until they find a loving home of their own!

# Emergency assistance programs for horse & livestock owners

By **Carrie Fyfe**

Equine & Farm Animal Program Manager

The costs of owning and caring for horses in the Northeast have risen steadily over the last twenty years.

With pasture at a premium and feed and hay supplies costly to source, horse owners in our neighboring communities may face a unique set of challenges while maintaining and feeding their equine companions.

The widely-felt effects of COVID-19 have only exacerbated these challenges — the virus hit New Hampshire at a time when the spring pasture had not yet developed, meaning that many horse and livestock owners have had to heavily supplement their animals' diets with expensive hay and concentrated feeds during a time of increased furloughs, lay-offs, illness and closures.

Here at the NHSPCA, we are all too familiar with the excessive costs of maintaining horses in good health as well as the sad outcomes that occur when owners are unable to do so.

In response to the hardships posed by the spread of COVID-19 throughout our state, we have developed several emergency assistance programs specifically for horse and livestock owners. These programs are directed at owners who are otherwise capable of providing good quality care for their horses but may need temporary assistance in providing feed, hay and medical care.

## Grain Voucher Program:

In collaboration with our local grain distributor, we are offering grain vouchers for applicants who qualify for temporary assistance. Prepaid vouchers enable owners to purchase the specific grain and feed materials needed to maintain their horses and livestock on a consistent feeding program.

## Hay Bank:

We maintain a hay surplus designed to provide owners with a temporary supply of first cut square bales. This service is available with approved application. Our hay bank is a critical

on-going resource that we offer for many different scenarios where horses and livestock are otherwise safe and loved in their current homes. To help maintain this supply, we welcome donations of horse quality first cut hay throughout the year!

## ASPCA's Vet Direct Program:

Through our collaboration with the ASPCA, we are able to offer moderate medical support to horse owners who qualify through the Vet Direct Program. This program provides financial support for horse owners whose horses may be in need of routine medical care, treatment for pre-existing conditions, dental work or euthanasia. We are able to offer this program to horse owners in the state of New Hampshire thanks to our working relationship with Dr. Roemer of Great Bay Equine.

For more information about our available horse owner and livestock assistance programs, please reach out to our equine & farm animal team at [cfyfe@nhspca.org](mailto:cfyfe@nhspca.org) for applications and details.



## Demi

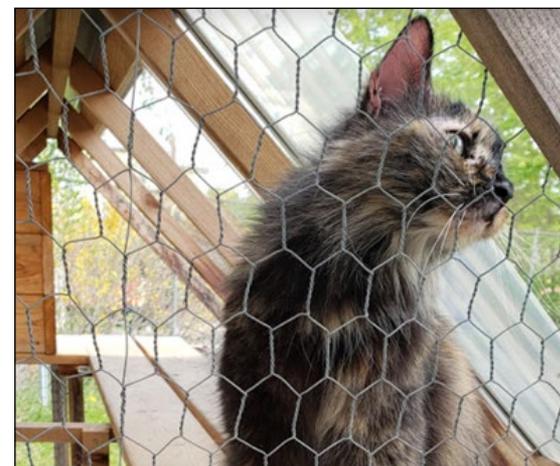
Hi, I'm Demi! I was adopted by my fun Forever Home in October 2019. I love my two mare friends, big stall and run-out, and grass field for frolicking! Most of all, I love my Great2Greater Training Program. My trainer is astonished at how smart I am. I have been learning to take queues from my human partner. My trainer says I'm such a quick learner that she thinks I'm reading her mind. Everyone says I'm a joy to be with. I am Demi the Great with lots of confidence in myself!



## Baxter

I'm so happy I was able to get Baxter before shut downs started. He's been doing great and loves having our attention. My boyfriend and I have been working from home so we've had LOTS of quality time with Baxter since I scooped him up. We've been back and forth between the seacoast and our condo in the mountains to mix things up during quarantine — he LOVES being outside. I think he'd be outside on walks all day if he could. We've brought him on a couple trails and he's done really well. Thank you again for leaving me with his bed, he sure does love it.

— Brenna



## Gizmo, Cassie, Tallulah

Just wanted to give you an update on the three senior ladies we adopted a couple of weeks ago. All three are doing really well. Especially Gizmo (pictured in her catio). Her hair is growing back nicely. She has really attached herself to my husband and is absolutely loving the outdoor catio we have. Cassie is still very cautious but is coming out of her shell more and more each day. Tallulah "Bella" is so comfortable in our house she claims she owns it now... Thanks for three great little ladies!

— Amy & Stan



Laika, a gorgeous husky mix, was found as a stray during the pandemic. She received lots of love and attention during her stay at the NHSPCA.

## A safety net in unsafe times

By Kacie Post  
Transport Coordinator

“Closed” reads the sign at the top of the driveway as you pull into the shelter. Yet, as I walk into the building and check the animal control emergency drop off kennel, there’s a new face, with a wagging tail, who wasn’t there the day before.

This has happened several times since the shelter closed to the public. Thankfully, most have been able to go home with worried but grateful parents shortly after arriving.

However, not all stories are the same. One morning, I walked into the shelter to find Laika, a husky mix, who was sweet, but very nervous of her new surroundings. Sadly, Laika was not reclaimed by her family.

After some time learning to trust us, Laika decided the shelter staff are her friends. She now loves attention, running in the pens, and play time with her canine friend, Alexa.

While Laika is having lots of excitement and quality time every day, a shelter is not a home.

As other strays come and go, Laika stayed. Fortunately, we knew that the shelter was not her permanent home, and she quickly stole the heart of her lucky adopter.

The point is, no matter if an animal needs a place to go for the night while their owner tries to find them, or for months, while we try to find them the perfect new family, our doors are never truly closed to the animals who need us.

# Adoptions gone virtual!

By Michaela Gerome  
Lead Adoption Counselor

Relationship is defined in the dictionary as “a connection, an association or involvement”

60, this is an exciting number for us, a large number. What does it mean you may be asking?

As I am writing this, we have facilitated 60 adoptions since we closed our doors to the public due to COVID-19, on March 17.

We believe in forming relationships. We enjoy creating a positive, loving environment for both pets and people. Things changed when we closed our doors. We felt as though we could not form that same bond we are used to forming with our adopters, and change? Change is scary! A lot of questions bubbled up, like how are we going to do this? How are we still going to get to send our beloved animals to their forever homes?

Well, look at that beautiful number: 60.

We put our thinking caps on and accepted this new, hopefully temporary, normal and tried to create bonds virtually... and we did! We were and still are surprised at the success to say the least.

During our first full day closed to the public, we had a mind-blowing number of voicemails and emails that it took all hands-on-deck to respond to them all. With each one, we were so happy and thankful.

We have sent home an FIV positive cat, and three senior sisters who get to live out their

golden years in a wonderful retirement home. We have watched numerous dogs walk out our shelter doors without looking back. We have adopted out barn cats and numerous shy cats who just need time to settle in... and their new people would respond by asking, “What better time than quarantine?”

As we were learning and thinking of new ways to find our animals homes, we were also learning new ways to make our relationships still solid with our amazing adopters. My coworkers and I enjoy creating memories and having our clients leave feeling like a part of our extended family, knowing we are always here. We were worried that we would not be able to have that same “safety net” type of feeling.

We have figured out how to give that same feeling of comfort to new adopters through email and phone calls. And we’re confident that we can still find appropriate homes through difficult times, and have found new ways to support people and our animals.

We are used to things changing every day, sometimes multiple times a day. This, though, was a different type of change that looking back, we didn’t think we were going to be ready for. Looking back, we didn’t think we would be doing so many successful adoptions! But sending so many of our animals home during a pandemic showed us that if there is a way to get creative and break down barriers we create in our minds, we can and will hit new heights.

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# Don't be a "Kit-napper"!

By Dr. Sonja Krygeris, DVM  
Staff Veterinarian

The sun is shining, flowers are beginning to bloom, the grass has turned green and birds are chirping. Spring has arrived! You are walking down the street when you hear a tiny "meow". Did you imagine it? A quick inspection of a nearby bush confirms your suspicion. You find a small kitten nestled in the bush and quickly swoop into action to rescue it.

**But wait!** Did you know that the majority of kittens found outside are not orphaned kittens? Most of these tiny felines are being meticulously cared for by their moms who are community cats.

Community cats are cats that live outside and often times are intentionally/unintentionally provided with resources, such as food and/or shelter, by members of the community. Community cats live in family groups called "colonies". Community cats may be categorized as tame or feral based on their behavior around humans. Tame community cats have been socialized and are comfortable with human interaction. Feral community cats have not been socialized and are uncomfortable with human interaction.

Regardless of the mother cat's socialization status, she is ALWAYS the most capable caregiver for her kittens. In fact, when we attempt to intervene in caring for kittens by removing them from the outdoors before they are weaned from their mother, we actually *decrease* their chance of survival. The animal shelter is a particularly difficult place to provide appropriate care for these tiny babies.

So how can we help these fragile kittens and ensure that they are cared for?

## First, assess their health status.

Well-cared-for kittens will be clean, warm, plump with full round tummies and alert.

Sick kittens may be cold, thin, dirty, have nasal/eye discharge, wounds, or other signs of illness/injury.

## Second, assess their age.

Kittens younger than 8 weeks old are not ready to be separated from their mother and siblings. Their appearance will vary depending on age, but these kittens weigh somewhere between just a quarter of a pound to 2 pounds, may still have their eyes/ears closed, may be in various stages of learning to walk/play, and may/may not be capable of eating solid foods.

Kittens between 8-12 weeks old are the perfect age to be socialized, receive routine veterinary ser-



**Did you know that the majority of kittens found outside are not orphaned kittens? Our Staff Veterinarian breaks down the steps to take to determine if a kitten you find needs your help or not.**

vices, and be adopted into a home. These kittens are alert/active, playful, fully weaned/eating solid food, and should weigh 2-3 pounds.

Kittens greater than 12 weeks old may be past the window of socialization to become an indoor pet but can still have a happy life as a community cat. These cats have an appearance that is closer to an adult cat.

## And lastly, assess if they are orphaned or being cared for by their mom.

If you have found a healthy kitten, chances are mom is nearby and may not be returning because you are present. Mom may have been off hunting for food or could be in the process of relocating her kittens.

In order to determine if mom is returning or not, you can leave the site and watch from a distance to see if she comes back. Resist the urge to continually check on them as this may deter mom from returning. If you are unable to monitor the site for a long period, you can leave a ring of flour around the kitten. If you see adult paw prints in the flour when you return, you know mom has been back to care for the kittens. If mom has not returned after 4-6 hours, the kittens may be orphaned.

Healthy kittens under the age of 8 weeks that are being cared for by their mom in a safe loca-

tion should always be left alone. Once they reach 8 weeks, we recommend that mom and all of the kittens be trapped so that they can all receive veterinary services for vaccinations, deworming, and spay/neuter. After that time, the kittens will be ready to be socialized and then adopted into their new homes. The mom may be placed in an adoptive home if she is tame, or returned to the community where she lives if she is feral. Providing veterinary care, particularly spay/neuter services, for all of the community cats in a colony is the best way to ensure that the population is controlled. Our ultimate goal is to prevent community cats from reproducing so that eventually all cats can be cared for in a home environment by their owners.

Sick, injured, or orphaned kittens should never be left outside and do require your help! Always remember to proceed with caution and use protective equipment, such as thick, bite-proof gloves, to handle any unfamiliar cat. Even as kittens, community cats may be un-socialized and prone to biting/scratching. If you are injured by a cat, always contact your doctor right away as emergency treatment may be indicated.

If you find kittens outside and are unsure about how to proceed, please contact the NHSPCA for assistance in determining if this kitten needs help and additional information on resources we provide.

# Classroom favorites head to foster care!

By Elizabeth Segeberg  
Humane Educator

In a quiet home in an old Epping neighborhood, there lives 11 NHSPCA shelter animals. "What!" you must think. Is that a hoarding or code violation situation? Hasn't someone called the NHSPCA Field Services Agent? This has to be investigated!

There are five NHSPCA rescue animals who are permanent residents: four cats — Holly, Milo, Mama Bear and Baby Bear — and a dog, Ruby. The remaining six are foster animals from the NHSPCA classroom.

That makes 11 animals who have been blessed by having their paths go through the NHSPCA.

The NHSPCA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic required that as many shelter animals as possible be placed into foster care. This included the classroom animals and almost all are in loving foster homes.

A few remain in the classroom where they receive care every day.

Those of you who know the classroom animals are likely wondering which six are living in Epping. Voted number one from summer campers, 2019, is Wolfie our beloved ferret. You'll find him leading the Epping fosters! Wolfie learned quick-



ly to climb stairs and run under any furniture he can find!

Voted number two from campers last summer were our three brother guinea pigs, Humphrey, Mars and Bruno. They currently reside close to the kitchen and refrigerator. They are very happy guinea pigs!

Surrendered with her babies (all adopted) is the next foster animal. She is Daisy our hamster who just celebrated her second birthday on May 1.

The sixth foster animal spending her spring in Epping is the sweetest rat, Willa. She came to the classroom as a baby and grew into the kindest

rat. Willa loves to be held and cuddled. Does this sound like a houseful of animals? No, it sounds perfect!

As soon as the COVID-19 is behind us and the NHSPCA begins to open again, these six cherished foster animals will return to the classroom. The classroom will again fill with children, animals and stories to tell. Although there will be a big, empty, quiet home in an old Epping neighborhood, there will be great happiness that the animals are back in the classroom.

Wolfie, Bruno, Mars, Humphrey, Willa and Daisy will be so happy to see everyone!

## My pick for best pet for children? Guinea pigs

By Paula Parisi  
Manager of Humane Education Programs

Parents often ask me what the best first pet is for a child. As a mom to four kids who had lots of small animal pets and having been a Humane Educator at the NHSPCA for the past twenty years, I have witnessed thousands of child and pet interactions!

### More online!

Please click here to visit our blog and read the more detailed analysis of guinea pigs as pets!

My suggestion for the best first pet for a family with kids is a pair of guinea pigs. These amazing little critters are so wonderful in so many ways.

Here's why I've made this choice:

- Guinea pigs are adorable.
- Guinea pigs love to be groomed with a soft brush made specifically for small mammals or human babies. Your guinea pig may never need to be bathed.



**Guinea pigs, a favorite in our classroom, are what our Manager of Humane Education Programs believes to be the very best pet for children!**

- Guinea pigs don't have tails so you don't have to worry about a child pulling the pet's tail and causing pain or injury.
- Guinea pigs are generally very healthy and

a veterinarian who treats them is usually easy to find.

- Guinea pig food pellets are relatively inexpensive and accessible.
- Guinea pigs don't use their teeth for defense and are not typically aggressive. A guinea pig that feels threatened will run away to escape danger.
- Though a guinea pig will run away to escape danger, they are not very fast.
- Guinea pigs enjoy being held and cuddled.
- They are large enough to be quite sturdy when held.
- In general, guinea pigs are quiet.
- With extremely close adult supervision, guinea pigs are willing to play dress-up!

I'm certain there will be many people who disagree with my opinion, but my experience seems to point towards guinea pigs as being the perfect first pet. A family pet can be such a joy. They can teach care, compassion and responsibility.

# An abundance of bunny breeds!

By Mary Clark  
Humane Educator

Ever wonder if that rabbit you see outside is related to our classroom bunny, Payton?

Turns out, pet rabbits are an entirely different species than the cottontail rabbits we see in our backyards, woods, fields or on the trails. New Hampshire is home to two species of rabbits, the New England cottontail and Eastern cottontail rabbits, and one species of hare, the snowshoe hare.

The New England cottontail is a true native and has been in this area for over one thousand years. Cottontails are small to medium in size, weighing 2-3 pounds, with a brown coat called an agouti pattern. The underside of their tails are white, this is the cottontail. They have wedged shaped faces and upright ears with long slender legs. They all look very similar to each other.

In contrast, there are at least 60 pet rabbit breeds, that range in size from the very large Flemish Giant rabbit (up to 22 pounds) to the smallest breed, the Netherlands dwarf, which weighs 2.2 pounds or less.

There are several different colors of hair coats in domestic rabbits that can be either long or short in length. Their ears also vary in size and shape, some are floppy and others are upright. The face is round and the eye color, usually dark brown, can include light blue.



**Did you know there are over 60 pet rabbit breeds, and that New Hampshire is home to two species of wild rabbits? While Payton, our beloved classroom rabbit, might look like some of the rabbits you see outside, they are not related!**

So, you can see the difference at first glance but there are other differences, too.

Rabbits in the wild live on average two years, while domestic pets can live 10-14 years with proper care. Rabbits are crepuscular, which means they are most active at dusk and dawn, however pet rabbits will become accustomed to

the owner's lifestyle and sleep an average of eight hours a day. Rabbits are herbivores and live on clover, grasses, wildflowers and bark. Pet rabbits will need 24-hour access to fresh hay and clean water, fresh vegetables and small amount of high-fiber pellets are added daily.

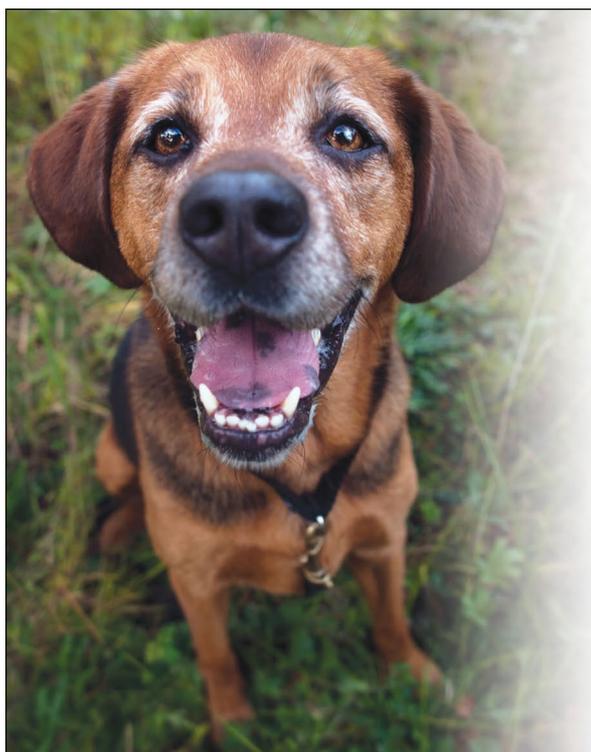
Cottontails are very skittish and will flee when they feel threatened reaching speeds of up to 45 miles per hour. A pet rabbit is more social and happier to just hang with you versus running away.

Housing a pet rabbit on a solid surface with proper bedding for comfort and cleanliness is recommended. Rabbits may be litter box trained and should receive at least one hour of playtime outside the cage daily.

In the wild, European rabbits live in a complex system of underground burrows, called warrens. Local cottontails rabbits live above ground and search for a safe, sheltered location to make their nests. If you come across a nest, be sure to leave it alone. In most cases, mom will return. If you have concerns, you should contact your local Wildlife agency.

It is also important to remember to never release a domestic rabbit into the wild. They do not possess the skills necessary to survive.

If you or someone you know needs to rehome a domestic rabbit, please contact a local rescue or the NHSPCA for advice.



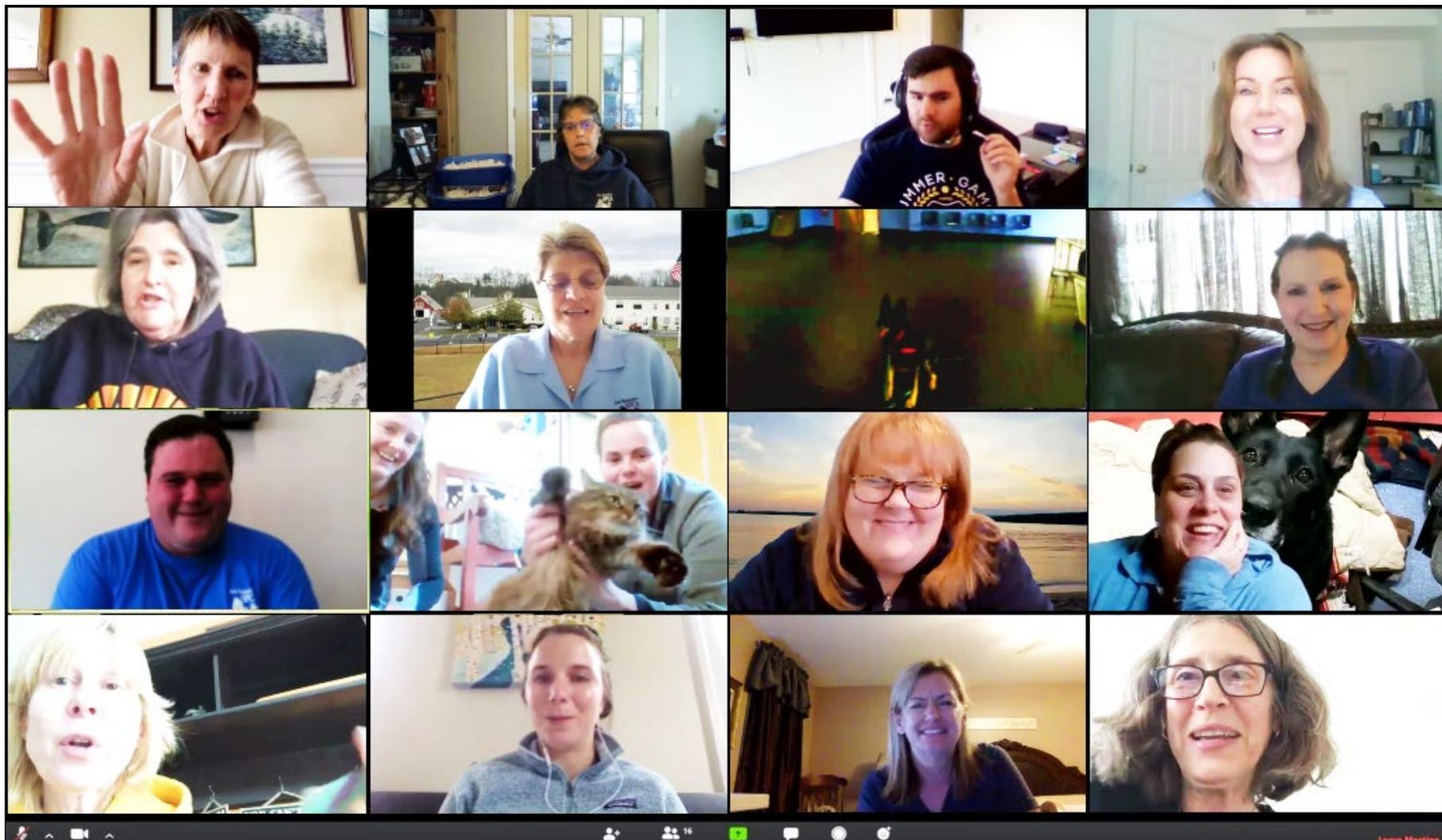
## Commemorative Gifts

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.

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, we wanted to find a more permanent way to list these special gifts. We believe we've found a perfect way. Starting with this issue and going forward, we will be listing all commemoratives on a quarterly basis on our website. Those listing will reside there for at least a year and can be referred to at any time.

Thank you for all you do for the animals.





We couldn't be together for Volunteer Appreciation Week this year, but we made sure we were able to catch up with our beloved volunteers as part of our virtual celebration for all their hard work over the past year. It was so nice to see so many familiar faces and was definitely a mood booster for the staff!

## We know we still have so much worth celebrating

By Steve Jones  
Volunteer Coordinator

April is always a wonderful time of year. The grasp of winter begins to ease as the spring days get longer and nature comes back to life.

At the shelter, April is also when corporate volunteer groups come help us clean up the grounds and work on larger day-long projects suited to a group. They rake, prune, and weed, prepping the gardens for a covering of fresh mulch and a color burst of reborn perennials.

We also get an influx of new volunteers, almost as though people have come out of hibernation looking for activities that allow them the chance to get outside while giving back to their community.

What I have begun to look forward to most

during this time of year is the fact that an entire week of April is set aside nationally to honor those who volunteer. It's an opportunity to thank our volunteers a few extra times and is an excuse to bring in cookies and brownies in return for all the cold days they endured over the winter.

And, most importantly, it gives us the chance to all come together as a group to share memories, experiences, and friendship.

This past April, our normal routine was, of course, uprooted. There was no way to pass along a hug or handshake to say "Thank you for all that you do!" to our volunteers. We could not even say hello while enjoying a piece of cake together. But, the board, staff and animals were no less thankful for all the work done by our more than 600 volunteers and it was a lot of fun to find creative ways to express that.

We sent out a digital thank you card to kick the week off and filled social media pages with posts

of recognition. The staff got together virtually to create a video so we could express our gratitude and say how much we missed everyone. We also took the opportunity to roll out our new volunteer management software, which will provide volunteers with new learning opportunities, a scheduling ability, and social features so that they can connect with their fellow volunteers. Finally to wrap up the week, there was a Zoom get together where over 50 volunteers and staff had the chance to pop on and say hello, learn about what has been happening at the shelter, and enjoy a surprise visit from Foxy the German Shepherd and Tigger the cat.

Like so many others, I'm missing the familiarity of the shelter and my routine. I miss checking in with the animal care staff, seeing the volunteers hard at work, and sneaking a few minutes to spend time with the animals. After celebrating Volunteer Appreciation week, I can be content for awhile having seen so many happy faces again.

### More online!

Please click here to view our volunteer recognition listings!

# The power of pet portraits

By Steve Jones  
Volunteer Coordinator

When someone is interested in volunteering for the New Hampshire SPCA, there's a good chance the shelter will be able to use their skills — even ones they didn't know would come in handy given what their volunteer role is!

Along with animal care, we have volunteers that help with data entry, filing, fostering, project management and even IT support. There are volunteers who bake things, others that sew pet beds and even a volunteer who maintains archival information about the shelter.

In total, there are over 600 volunteers that support the NHSPCA on an annual basis and each of them is needed to continue the shelter's mission.

The shelter engages with our volunteers in a number of ways, ranging from face-to-face communication and thank you notes to message boards and weekly emails. This is important to make sure everyone is aware of what is happening at the shelter.

After the decision to suspend volunteer services was made, it was immediately clear that the way the shelter engaged with our volunteers would change but keeping those lines of communication open would be more important than ever. Email

updates continued, but face-to-face meetings transformed into video calls and online chats.

When there are no longer any jobs for volunteers to do, it is tough to keep moral up.

That's why I was so excited when someone told me about a unique fundraising initiative that had taken place at a few shelters during February. Thanks to the wonderful creativity of BARCS Animal Shelter and the Wisconsin Humane Society, the fun was being put back into fundraising — and the NHSPCA now had a great new way to engage with not only its volunteers, but the public as well.

Supporters of the shelter were able to upload photographs of their pets for volunteers to recreate using an artistic medium of their choice. We had hundreds of submissions that the volunteers turned into masterpieces. Many chose traditional methods like colored pencil, crayon, or marker, but some used chalk, watercolor, or digital renderings.

It was truly inspiring to see the combination of efforts between public donations and volunteer support, all working to benefit the animals. The event only lasted three days, but people have continued to talk about it for months after.

Thank you so much to the volunteer artists and all those that contributed by submitting a photo!



This was just one of the wonderful drawings we sent back to a lucky donor during our super fun and engaging Pet Portrait fundraiser!

## Volunteers... What would we do without them?

By Beth Elliott  
Adoption Counselor

My appreciation for our amazing volunteer community has never been lacking, and I attempt to make that known to them on a daily basis.

Their contribution was never more evident, however, than during this time of our "new normal". When the Covid-19 crisis hit we had to release all our volunteers from duty. We no longer had our special volunteers working alongside us each day, and it was almost eerie. No longer did I see their smiling faces, and warm good mornings, the workload seemed quadrupled, and I was forced to think, how were we going to do this without them?

Thankfully, through an amazing team effort, and powering through, it happened, and the animals got the loving care and attention we always strive for. Of course, the animals always come first.

But, it was just not the same. The animals

missed their special friends, the extra woods walks, the warm hellos, the faces they were used to seeing every day. Meanwhile, the volunteers were stuck at home, "sheltering in place" and wishing they could be here. They wanted to help in any way they could, the calls and emails to our volunteer coordinator, Steve, were evidence of that.

They asked, we offered ways for them to help offsite, and they stepped up as they always do. They did so much... ordering much-needed items from our wish lists, sewing masks and surgical gowns, dropping off treats and goodies to the Animal Care staff, making calls from home and more. They found ways to provide offsite support in ways we could never have imagined, and every bit of it helped to bring a little light into the daily struggle.

I didn't realize how much I missed every individual person and face until we celebrated volunteer appreciation week with a group call on Zoom. As soon as the faces popped up on the screen,

50 in total, the tears flowed, and I so wished that it was possible to do more than virtual hugs (I actually touched the screen to acknowledge each and every one). It was a wonderful way to come together and it helped to bring joy to the sorrow of this necessary separation.

My hope is that every one of our volunteers recognize the value in their service whether in animal care, dog walking, or something as simple as doing laundry (Yay! Laundry volunteers... you rock!), and that we all remember, even after this is all a distant memory, how much they do and how missed they all were, and that we show our deepest appreciation every day.

We can't wait for the day when we are all together again, serving our purpose, living our passion of loving and caring for those who have no voice. From the bottom of my heart, to all our special and amazing volunteers, you are *my* heroes. I love you, I miss you, and I can't wait to see you again.

# Finding my quaran-teammate: A foster fail in the age of Coronavirus

By Julie Halama

Special Events and Sponsorship Manager

Monday, March 16 was anything but a typical day at the shelter. We sat at our desks and caught up on email as we would any other Monday morning in the office, but there was a noticeable tension in the air. Over the weekend, the Coronavirus concerns had grown to pandemic proportions. Schools were closed, and many businesses were following suit.

Around noon, we got word that the New Hampshire SPCA would be one of them.

As those of us in the Development office packed up our desks and planned to work from home indefinitely, the Adoption Center staff prepared for one last cat transfer. It had been already scheduled, at a time when no one would have predicted the nationwide shutdown to come.

During the week that followed, in this new normal, one thing became clear: With staff working limited hours on-site, we needed to get as many animals into foster care as possible. And that's how I wound up with my very own foster fur baby, Diddy.



**Diddy came to the NHSPCA on the last transfer before the shelter was shut down due to COVID-19. This sweet boy's foster mom watched him blossom and couldn't bear the thought of returning him!**

Diddy came to the NHSPCA on the last cat transfer, one of several kitties from an overcrowded shelter in Virginia. He was scared and shy after a long trip to yet another unknown place. When I brought him to my home two weeks later, he

immediately hid in the bathroom and refused to come out. I gave him his space, and slowly, he sensed that he was safe and loved. In time he ventured out, exploring closets and under furniture, eventually sitting on my lap and sleeping at the foot of my bed.

It didn't take Diddy long to settle into his new foster home. There were so many comfortable places for a cat to lounge. From the couch, to plush pillows, to a comfy linen duvet. Diddy was living large, the only cat in his new abode. He sat on my lap and followed me from room to room, affectionately rubbing against me, loving to be pet and cuddled.

As the days went by, the shelter started to do more and more virtual adoptions. The calls and emails poured in. Who wouldn't want a pet to liven up their self-isolation? I knew I couldn't give Diddy up – he had found his forever home! After a little more than a week, I adopted him, and we've been quaran-teammates ever since.

There's still so much uncertainty, but this crisis has a silver lining. I now have Diddy, my stay-at-home companion.

## FOOD SHARE...

Continued from Page 1

people and pets that they serve.

So far with GreaterGood.org's help, we have assisted three sister shelters in New Hampshire:

- **Pope Memorial Humane Society — Cocheco Valley**
- **Salem Animal Rescue League**
- **Lakes Region Humane Society**

Additionally, we have provided pet food support to local town food pantries. Many of the food pantries have indicated that they normally must purchase pet food to assist their clients. With these donations, they can redirect those funds to helping people even more profoundly.

- **Town of Newmarket**
- **Town of Milton**
- **Rockingham Community Action** — Raymond servicing the towns of Brentwood, Candia, Deerfield, East Kingston, Epping, Exeter, Fremont, Kingston, Newfield's, Northwood, Nottingham.
- **Rockingham Community Action** — Seabrook servicing the towns of Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, North Hampton, South Hampton, Stratham.
- **Wilkinson Food Pantry** — Serving Lee
- **Community Food Pantry** — Somersworth servicing the towns of Rollinsford, and



**GreaterGood.org donated 6,000 pounds of dog and cat food to allow the NHSPCA to serve as a statewide food bank for pet owners in need.**

Berwick Maine.

- **Gather Food Pantry** — Portsmouth, **Helping Hands Food Pantry** — Seabrook, and **Foot prints Pantry** — Kittery Maine are programs we have assisted in the past and we are grateful to still be able to help them with meeting their pet family needs.

It's a great honor that we are able to help more of our surrounding communities that may need these services for their residents.

If you or someone you know is in need of help caring for their pets, please contact us at [info@nhspca.org](mailto:info@nhspca.org). We are here, despite the shelter being closed, to help. We hope to provide necessary resources to help keep pets in their homes where they are loved and cared for.

Please spread the word!

# NHSPCA

## CAR DONATION PROGRAM

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
You can donate that unused vehicle to support the animals of the NHSPCA?  
[nhspca.org](http://nhspca.org) | (603) 772-2921 ext. 102

## Planned Gifts Received

The NHSPCA 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.

January 1, 2020 – May 1, 2020

### From the Estates of:

**Genevieve R. Bumstead**  
Conway, NH

**Carolyn R. Congdon**  
N. Hampton, NH

**John A. &  
Shirley E. Rosatone**  
Methuen, MA

**Janet L. Reynolds**  
Concord, NH

### New Hampshire SPCA

104 Portsmouth Ave,  
PO Box 196, Stratham, NH 03885  
(603) 772-2921, ext. 107 | nhspca.org

# The Kelly Rae Stallings Fund

*Occasionally someone comes along who is so committed to animals that they are destined to work with and help them forever. This is the case of Kelly Stallings. As you'll read below in a letter from Kelly's husband, Eric, Kelly was one in a million. During her time as an employee of the NHSPCA, animals and people seemed to gravitate to her. Her smile and laugh was infectious. And even though, her time with us was more than 20 years ago, staff and volunteers remember Kelly most fondly.*

*After Kelly passed away last year, Eric wanted to make sure that Kelly's love of animals continued to care for them in perpetuity. We were honored to accept his generous gift for our capital campaign and to establish the [Kelly Rae Stallings Fund](#) dedicated to improving the lives of animals through compassionate medical care and restoring them to health and preparing them for adoption.*

*This gift creates a wonderful and fitting legacy for Kelly.*

**M**y name is Eric, Kelly Rae (Lamere) Stallings' husband. Kelly and I met on August 31, 1989 at a party hosted by some of my engineering classmates the weekend before the start of our sophomore year at the University of Vermont (UVM). When Kelly entered the room, our eyes met, and it was love at first sight. She was radiant and had a wonderful smile that could light up a room.

She captured my heart that night we met and she has it forever. I believe that every animal that Kelly met felt the same way when they locked eyes and were in her presence.

Kelly was a kind, gentle and loving person who shared her entire life with animals and who put animals first. Joan and Richard (Skip) Lamere, Kelly's parents, supported Kelly's love for animals and made sure that animals were a significant part of their lives.

She had a very good understanding of animal anatomy and biological sciences thanks in large part to her father, a biology teacher, as well as to her Bachelor's degree from UVM.

She communicated and connected with animals on many levels — verbally, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Kelly contributed to improving animal lives as a veterinary technician, animal shelter adoption counselor and kennel technician, animal hospital technician, animal shelter employee and volunteer, foster parent to cats and dogs and a devoted and loving parent to cats, dogs, hamsters and rabbits.

She was an animal shelter volunteer and fostered animals while also running her own harp string making business, North Shore Strings. She had a strong



**Kelly Rae (Lamere) Stallings was a much-loved individual who wore many different hats during her tenure at the New Hampshire SPCA. Her husband recently established an endowment fund in her name so her legacy could live on and help animals for years to come.**

bond with the animals in her life, so much so, that she wrote a book to share her experiences and perspectives, *Never Say Goodbye: Reflections on a Lifetime of Loving Animals*, published posthumously January 22, 2020 and available on Amazon.

I loved and admired Kelly for her ability to love animals unconditionally. I am and will be forever grateful to Kelly for expanding my thinking and belief systems regarding animals and our connections with them. She was compassionate, empathic and cared deeply for animals. She was technically proficient and competent and had very good intuition when caring for animals.

The animals and we were lucky to have been part of Kelly's life, regardless of the length of time together with her.

In Kelly's memory, a contribution has been made to the New Hampshire SPCA for the cat isolation room. In addition, an endowment fund, the Kelly Rae Stallings Fund, has been established in her memory to provide medicine to animals preparing for adoption.

She will be forever missed, loved and remembered.



## Not sure how to get started?

Answer a few simple questions to get started making your planned gift.

Get started on your  
Planned Giving quiz



# Work with pets now to ease separation anxiety

By **Linda R. Haley, KPA CTP, CPDT-KA**  
Behavior and Training Coordinator

As we begin to return to our offices and places of work, you may find that Fido and Fluffy are unhappy about being left behind. The long daily walks, the mid-morning treats, the afternoon cuddle and the constant companionship will become a thing of the past.

This change in their daily lives may cause them to experience a myriad of stress symptoms and can even lead to separation anxiety.

Separation anxiety is defined as a feeling of stress or panic when left alone. The anxiety can range from mild to severe. Symptoms can include whining, howling, pacing, panting, attempts to escape, destructive chewing, and even urination or defecation from a previously housetrained pet. This unpleasant experience can be difficult to handle and very trying on those involved.

There are steps, however, that you can take now to help reduce or minimize this unwanted response.

Teach your pet that your absence can be safe, relaxing and even fun. If your pet has never been left alone, start with leaving her in a room for a brief time. Make sure she finds the room comfortable, maybe a sunny perch for a cat, or a comfy bed for a dog.

Give your pet something entertaining to do. A fun new toy for a cat, a chew stick for a dog or a food puzzle for either. Once engaged, quickly sneak out of the room. Return before your pet has noticed your absence or has had a chance to become upset. Repeat several times throughout the day. Slowly



**While many pets have enjoyed the extra time with their humans during the stay-at-home order, returning to your normal routine might be a stressful transition for them.**

increase the length of time you are gone. Be sure to always return when your pet is relaxed, quiet and happy. Try to avoid closing the door as that can be counterproductive. Simply leave the door open or use a pet gate if needed. Practice in different rooms. As your pet becomes comfortable, slowly build up time in each room.

Once your pet is comfortable being left in a different room, try leaving the house.

Start with short departures and slowly increase your time away as your pet feels more confident. You might begin by just walking out the door, turning around and coming back inside. Build to

walking around the yard, checking out the garden or walking to the mailbox. Practice several times a day, each day. Soon, you will be able to go for a walk or take a trip to the grocery store.

Remember to leave them with something fun to do, just like you did while conditioning them to be left alone in the rooms.

Since our pets respond to our emotions, it is important not to make a big deal about your departure or to be too excited upon your return. If I am sad when I leave, my pet may think surely something is wrong! If I am overly excited when I return, I am setting my pet up to anxiously await my return. This anticipation can build up energy which may then be diverted into racing around the house, knocking things over, barking or ripping up the couch.

Pets respond to triggers, such as putting on your shoes, jacket or hat all of which signal you are about to leave. Prevent establishing negative triggers by conditioning your pet that these events have no meaning. Dress up in your going outside gear and sit down and watch a movie. Carry your keys around the house so the jingling becomes an everyday sound with no particular meaning.

When the day comes to return to work, try to keep some of your established routines. Practice getting up and feeding on a regular schedule. Exercise your pet before work to help your pet more easily relax when you are gone. Some pets find comfort in a low playing radio or television. Consider a mid-day dog walker or pet sitter. Remember to leave out your food puzzles and toys.

Plan your strategy now so that you and your pet can be successful in your return to normal.

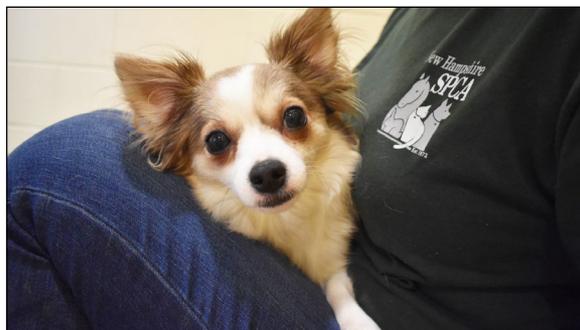
## RESCUE...

*Continued from Page 1*

filthy fur and provided them with the medical care they needed.

Of course, some were in better condition than others. Since 16 of them had been surrendered, we knew we could hope to find them homes quickly. Those that recovered quickly were spayed and neutered and placed for adoption. The rest would take longer.

Under normal circumstances, taking in 20 adult dogs in one day would be challenging. But in the era of COVID-19, our circumstances are anything but normal. We were, and still are, working without the assistance of any of our volunteers and with fewer staff members than normally available. Regardless, these dogs, now out of harm's way, were provided the highest



**Autumn is one of the 21 animals rescued from Hampton, NH on May 13. She arrived with 19 other dogs and one bird after living in squalor.**

standard of care and a lot of love.

We are also here for the towns that rely on us as their stray holding facility. Twenty towns regularly drop by to deliver a dog or cat that has been found running free, possibly lost. We welcome

them in and try to return them to the family that loves them.

Last year, we had nearly 200 animals that Animal Control or Police Officers were able to transport to the protection of our care. This work also must continue even during a pandemic.

There are so many new things happening here at the shelter and new ways of delivering our current programming in a virtual world. This truly has become a paradigm shift. But, when it comes to animals in need there is nothing virtual about it. When the police need our help to save animals from suffering, we will be there, PPE and all, to make sure that their suffering will be ended and they will find the loving family that each one deserves.

Thank you for all that you do to help make our work possible. We would not be able to be there for them without our amazing community!

# Campaign for Changing Times: Our progress and next steps

By **Brianne Wood**

Capital Campaign & Project Manager

The Campaign for Changing Times has been in progress since 2017. Last Spring, we announced publicly and to our community that this capital campaign was underway and that the NHSPCA had some Big Plans! Despite the current financial and medical climate, the NHSPCA has continued to move forward, ever so more carefully, to see our dreams through to completion.

As a reminder, the three key areas for the campaign are as follows:

- **Expansion:** Acquire and develop nine acres of adjoining land to expand equine and farm animal rescue and provide year-round training and rehabilitation.
- **Enhancement:** Upgrading current facilities to provide superior medical care, quarantine space, and community programming areas.
- **Endowment:** Ensuring financial stability for the future and to support current and developing new programs.

In our previous newsletter we announced our hope to break ground this Spring. Unfortunately, we have experienced several delays including, of course, the outbreak of COVID-19. These delays have resulted in the need to push back the groundbreaking and evaluate our safety plans as we execute this project. Despite this temporary delay, we have made some very important steps forward.



Our big groundbreaking may have been delayed due to some unforeseen circumstances, but we are so happy with the progress being made daily at the shelter. Along with new roofing on the Lamprey Barn and Learning Center, new paddocks have started to be installed on our new property! We can't wait to see this space being used!

Part of the Campaign for Changing Times was to replace or correct systems that had already failed. One of the first we tackled was the replacement of the septic system, reroofing of the Lamprey Barn and the Learning Center. Both rooves had failed several years ago (due to a manufacturer error) and were in desperate need of replacement. The roof work was being done in early March before the stay at home order was even a thought. We can't wait until we are able to be under this brand-new roof together!

Other important news to share is that in April, the NHSPCA received final approval from the

Town of Stratham for the entire project. We are grateful that the town was able to move forward with their meeting despite the challenging times. We are even more grateful that they support and encourage our vision for the future!

The final piece of exciting news is that we have begun the installation of several brand-new horse paddocks on our new property! These new paddocks will be dry, clean, and easily accessible to the anticipated arena and barn that we hope to have constructed soon.

While we don't have a date just yet for our official groundbreaking, we are working toward the next steps and remain eager to see this project come to fruition so that we can provide even more support to our animals and community.

## More online!

Please click here to learn more and see additional updates!

## NHSPCA Medical Wellness Clinic selected for UNH Capstone project

By **Kate Young**

Community Programs Coordinator

As part of the New Hampshire SPCA's Campaign for Changing Times, a new Medical Wellness Clinic will be soon be constructed. The clinic will serve members of the public offering affordable basic vaccinations, preventative, wellness treatments and spay and neuter surgeries.

This is an exciting new venture for the organization. For 25 years, we have offered drop-in style Rabies Vaccination Clinics to the public and for the past nine years, we have offered low-cost Spay and Neuter Clinics for cats. However, we continually receive feedback requesting additional and expanded services, all of which we hope to offer to the public through this new facility. This program requires a bold and insightful business plan to help with strategic decision making and planning for the future.

That is where the students from Peter T. Paul

College of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire stepped in this spring. Tanya Hart Newkirk, Director of Administration and Programming for the NHSPCA, became aware the College's MBA Capstone Course and submitted the business planning project for the Medical Wellness Clinic as a candidate for the students. Through this program, MBA students connect with real-world projects to expand experiential learning opportunities and help to better prepare students for their careers while connecting with the community to solve real-world business problems.

The NHSPCA Medical Wellness Clinic was chosen for the Capstone project and work commenced in February. Students Caitlin Rosenbaum, Laura Giuffrida, Andrew Breen and Alejandro Robles, guided by Faculty Advisor Peter Lane, set forth on an eight-week course to review the business needs relating to the new clinic and prepare a financial model that will be utilized for strategic planning re-

lating to all aspects of clinic services and operations.

Weekly meetings with NHSPCA staff, sharing data, ideas, answering questions and a lot of hard work by the students has yielded a remarkably complex and complete financial modeling tool to allow us to use real time costing and projections to make the best use of the clinic space, staff time and resources. This tool will enable the agency to utilize this new clinic effectively and efficiently, delivering much needed wellness and preventative services and spay and neuter surgery to pets in our region, enabling more families to keep happy and healthy pets in their homes.

The students worked diligently throughout, despite being sidelined by the COVID-19 closures, changing timelines, remote work and virtual connections instead of in person meetings.

We at the NHSPCA are so grateful for the hard work that these students put into the project and want to say a big thank you to them. Best wishes in your future academic studies and careers!



EVERY  
second chance  
STARTS WITH A first step!



# There's still time to make a difference!

**Paws Walk Reimagined goes virtual; don't wait to register!**

**By Julie Halama**

Special Events and Sponsorship Manager

Compassion isn't canceled. In fact, we need it now more than ever!

On Sunday, June 14, one of our community's most time-honored and beloved fundraising events goes virtual!

Paws Walk Reimagined will look a little different this year — you might even say it has been **Reimagined!** Participants will be tuning in online and walking in their own neighborhoods,

tagging #PawsWalk on social media — but the goal remains the same:

**Save animal lives with every step!**

The current pandemic has adversely impacted many of our programs, nearly stopping adoptions, shutting down humane education and training classes, and cancelling many fundraising efforts.

We're relying heavily on events like Paws Walk Reimagined to help us through these challenging times.

Register today and give homeless animals a second chance. Your support of Paws Walk

**REGISTER TODAY!**

The time to make a difference is now! Be a hero to the animals by clicking here and registering for the virtual event!

Reimagined helps us care for the animals at our shelter now and into the future.

Join us virtually on June 14. Online kickoff at 11:00 a.m. Walk at noon. Fun virtual animal features, raffle and contests throughout the day.

To register and learn more, visit [nhspca.org/paws-walk](http://nhspca.org/paws-walk) and follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/NewHampshireSPCA](https://facebook.com/NewHampshireSPCA).

## The reason we walk: Senior shelter dogs

**By Melissa Mower**

Marketing & Graphic Design Associate

I'll never forget the moment I met my best friend at the New Hampshire SPCA.

Over the past year, I had seen my fair share of scared, unwanted dogs sitting in their kennel, nervously watching as people walked by — people who would stop at the kennel, kneel down to get a better look, and unknowingly add a bit of stress to the dog's already-hectic day. I saw that just about every time I went into the Dog Pavilion.

More heartbreaking, though, are the dogs who just sit there waiting for someone — anyone — to notice them. The dogs that are just so uncertain about their situation that they just beg for a second chance. I see dogs get passed up on by people because they look too ordinary, their head is just a bit too blocky, or, they're just too old.

That was Jazzie.

My dog was available for adoption at the NHSPCA for exactly a month before I was able to adopt her. She sat in her kennel during the day, waiting for someone to fill out that paperwork and call her theirs. She was 12 and had been surrendered because her family decided they didn't have time for her anymore.

Those who visited saw an anxious dog who was brave enough to stay toward the front of the kennel but didn't stop shaking. They saw a dog



with the saddest eyes and a broken spirit. But, working at the NHSPCA allowed me to see behind the-scenes stuff visitors didn't.

I got to see a staff member, Denise, take Jazzie home at night so she

wouldn't have to sleep in her kennel alone. I got to see Jazzie's face light up and her body relax as her favorite volunteer, Barbara, approached her kennel and grabbed the leash in preparation for their afternoon walk.

I saw photos of Jazzie being read to by volunteers. I saw staff members pop by her kennel throughout the day just to make sure she was doing okay. I heard that she was an absolute champ during her checkups with our staff veterinarian, and that she was a much-loved dog by the med staff.

Being surrendered as a 12-year-old dog used to be a death sentence, and in some places in the country, it still is. But not at the NHSPCA. If Jazzie had to be surrendered anywhere, I'm so

thankful that it was to this shelter, because she has so much life left to live. Having spent the past year with her, I simply couldn't dream up a more perfect dog to be part of my family.

I'm grateful that she ended up at the NHSPCA, where we not only adopt out senior animals, but we do it so frequently that it's hardly considered a challenge. I'm thankful that she ended up at the NHSPCA, where staff and volunteers work together to make sure all dogs, regardless of age and breed, are cared for. We make sure all dogs, even the ones that feel so defeated and unlovable, are loved unconditionally.

During Paws Walk Reimagined, Jazzie and I are going to walk for all the senior dogs who will turn to the NHSPCA this year in search of a warm bed, a nutritious meal, and a second chance. We're going to walk for all the senior dogs who come in looking for love and leave having found just that.

The world can seem overwhelming and scary right now, but I know that participating in Paws Walk Reimagined is one way I can give back and make a difference right from my own home. While we will miss the event itself, I'm looking forward to taking Jazzie to her favorite trail and knowing that with every step we take, we're helping homeless senior animals.

There's really not much better than that.

**Will you join us?**