



A BIT OF LUCK



Kamaru came to us after having lived most of his life on the streets. Our hearts broke when we realized how much he craved human affection but likely had never experienced it. Black cats are often associated with bad luck, but we knew he would make one lucky person very happy. **Read Kamaru's story, page 8.**

BACK IN THE SADDLE

Horses blossoming in 'safe and consistent' arena space

By **Michelle Murch**

Equine & Farm Program Manager

The Equine Center for Transformative Care truly is a turning point for the Equine & Farm Program at the New Hampshire SPCA.

There is always a level of uncertainty when you work with horses. Riding a horse brings you 6 feet off the ground atop a 1000-pound flight animal that can run over 35 miles per hour.

More Inside

NHSPCA Equine & Farm Program hosts workshop to teach first responders how to rescue large animals

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You can't always know how a horse will behave in a particular situation or environment, especially while working with equines that have unknown backgrounds and levels of training or even

See **BACK IN THE SADDLE**, Page 7



We've enjoyed getting to know Sonny in the arena. The space offers a safe and consistent atmosphere with minimal chances of horses getting spooked.

You can give twice the love!

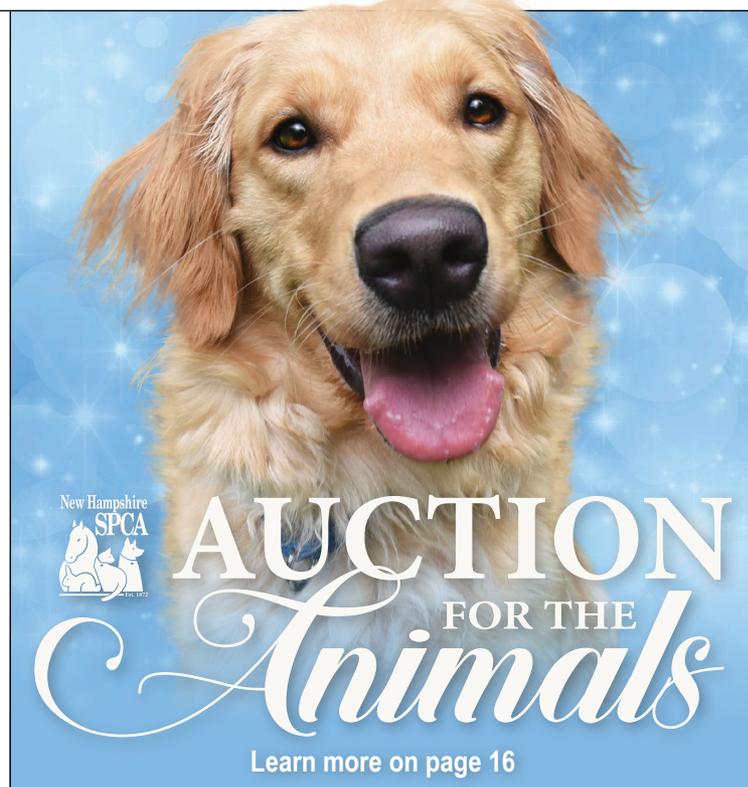
By **Courtney Vavra**

Annual Fund & Digital Marketing Manager

I've spoken to many supporters over the years, and a common refrain is, "I wish I could give more." These six words have been written on countless check memo lines, online comments, and said in-person when someone stops to put some spare change in one of our doggie banks.

Sometimes I feel sad that people don't believe that their gift is enough and don't see their act of giving as I do — an act of love. It's not *what you give*; it's *that you give* in the first place! There are plenty of people in the world that have the means but choose not to give anything at all. So, whether you can contribute \$1 or \$1,000, the fact that you choose to give has just as much impact on the animals as

See **GIVE TWICE THE LOVE**, Page 8



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

Dear Friends and Supporters,

There has been joy, laughter and learning this summer and it has brought such delight to our campus as we welcomed our young patrons back for camp. Watching the children of all ages, and abilities arrive each week and soak up our passion for and love of animals has been heartwarming. On the days I was lucky enough to engage with them with my own four-legged companion, it was easy to see their enthusiasm for learning how best to interact with and enhance the relationship between humans and animals.

From the paddocks to the classroom to the ring trail and woods, the children not only were enriched by the experience but enlivened our agency with their enthusiasm.

Learning also took place for our emergency responders who at times are called out to assist in ways few have had training. Fire fighters, officers and EMTs are at times requested to assist with downed animals perhaps trapped in trailers or spaces owners can't assist with. Our Farm and Equine team facilitated and welcomed almost two dozen agencies to learn to rescue horses and other animals that are trapped or injured. This unique training was the first that was enhanced by our expanded facilities, and it is our hope to continue to work in partnership as a resource for them.

It truly has been a wonderful summer and brings hope that our students will continue in our humane education programming on site!

As the summer comes to a close, we cross the anniversary of the groundbreaking to expand and enhance our campus. The completion of the new classroom couldn't have been timelier as we welcomed the campers for nine weeks of summer camp. In designing this new community meeting space, we had no idea the demand that would be placed on it due to the pandemic. Dividing our campers into two classrooms allowed all who enrolled to participate and maintain all COVID precautions.

The new Veterinary Center has been not only our medical space for the care of animals on site, but also our temporary Adoption Center while Phase II of construction continues. The grounds have continued to evolve with the completion of most of the paving and plantings. Our rain gardens have shown us not only



their function but also their beauty as birds, butterflies and bees have visited the pollinator gardens. Even Great Blue Herons stop by! Whether children are walking ponies or dogs are being walked across campus on the Ring Trail, the campus continues to evolve and show us the multitude of possibilities that we will be able to embrace moving forward.

Now what we long for, is to welcome you back in the coming months. Construction will be complete in late fall and we look forward to letting you walk trails through the woods as volunteer dog walkers or with potential new companions, explore the gardens when taking classes in the nearby dog pens, checking out our equine friends in our new barn or watching us expand care in the Veterinary Center, a new cornerstone of resources for the community.

All of this, programs, building, and care of homeless and vulnerable animals is because of your commitment, and we are grateful every day. Thank you for making all of this possible — care, learning and creating the next generation of compassionate and pet loving citizens.

On behalf of the animals,

Lisa Dennison
Executive Director

New Hampshire Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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Challenging times

By Steven Sprowl

Humane Agent, Field Services Manager

As the Humane Agent for the NHSPCA for nearly 20 years, I have to say I am deeply disappointed at the way some of the police agencies handle cases of cruelty to animals. I have worked on countless cases helping the police to seize animals from dire situations around the State of NH. But still, I encounter far too many police departments who will not even get involved in cruelty cases, especially if it would require a search warrant and/or removal of animals.

Let's take a case of a woman that was living in Newton, NH and had a severely neglected horse that the police called on me to assist. The horse was removed from the property and surrendered to the NHSPCA. The owner faced charges of neglect but because the woman agreed to surrender the animals, the misdemeanor was reduced to a violation offense. She was ordered to pay restitution for medical care for the horse to the NHSPCA. To this day, she still owes us over \$600.

She moved. Next stop, E. Kingston, NH. Once again, I was called by the police department to assist in a case involving this same owner. Again, she was neglecting her horses, and a pony. They were eventually surrendered to the NHSPCA due to medical issues. She claimed she could not afford to pay for the medical care for the pony, who had to have oral surgery for a large growth in its mouth. The growth was removed by TNT Vet.

Once again, she was not charged with a misdemeanor. This second case, by NH law, should have been a felony level offense since she was convicted of the first offense. Because she pled and the first



Charlie, a 16 year-old Standardbred, the day we welcomed him (left) and after 3 months in our care (right).

case was reduced to a violation, a felony could not be brought forward.

She moved again, this time to Brentwood, NH. Long story short, we received further complaints about her neglect of horses, conducted several visits to the house with an agent of the police department, and eventually, she was ordered to bring the horses up to date on medical care and provide them with clean stalls, feed and water. One horse was injured and was surrendered to the NHSPCA with a large wound to its underbelly, requiring medical attention. Brentwood police never brought charges against this woman. Two different ACO's handled this case but she was never arrested for neglect.

Sad story gets sadder... Next, she moved to Pittsfield, NH. Once again, my assistance was requested by the police department to remove horses from a neglectful owner, this same woman. I was informed a search warrant would be issued by the court and

she would be arrested and charged with cruelty to animals. Once again, we were there to help the animals. We responded with two trucks and trailers and removed a total of three horses and one mule. We were taking them on a search warrant, but I asked her if she wanted to surrender them so she would not be facing large bills for board and medical while in the custody of the Police. She agreed to surrender the horses to the NHSPCA.

At this point in the story, we are waiting for the trial of this woman as she has been arrested and is out on bail. I hope this time the animals receive the justice they deserve from the courts, and they finally put a stop to the neglect she has repeatedly been perpetrating on innocent horses for so many years.

Only time will tell. Unfortunately, stories and cases like this happen more often than you would imagine. Animal cruelty needs to be taken more seriously by our state's prosecutors and court system.



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Notes From The Barn

Workshop teaches first responders how to rescue large animals

By Michelle Murch

Equine & Farm Program Manager

Horses are majestic creatures who have a knack for finding trouble. If it's possible to get into mischief, they will.

We've heard stories of horses stuck in their stall, tangled in a hay feeder, or caught in the mud, a well, a foundation, or even a pool. Horses have tried to jump the stall half door or climb the stairs to the hayloft and end up trapped. That doesn't even cover those that get stuck or flee from a danger that isn't their fault, such as trailer accidents or barn fires.

Who does a horse owner call when they face these types of situations? They call the first responders, just like pet owners do when their cat gets stuck in a tree.

Horses, though, are different. Very different.

Horses are flight animals, so when they sense danger, behavior patterns based on ancient instincts emerge. On average, a horse weighs 1200lbs, and when that 1200lbs becomes terrified and wants to flee, it can be a dangerous situation for both horse and human.

Many first responders have never touched a horse, let alone helped a terrified one get out of a stressful scenario. As Aristotle once said, "For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them." So, to prepare first responders should they be called upon to help large animals in distress, our Equine & Farm Program hosted a full-day, specialized training workshop.

Kate Dwyer, EMT-P of [Patriot Equine Technical Rescue](#), taught first responders and NHSPCA Equine & Farm staff how to safely rescue large animals during emergencies. Patriot Equine Technical Rescue is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides and utilizes specialized training and equipment to assist veterinarians and public safety officials with the technical rescue of horses in distress due to entrapment, illness, or injury.

This hands-on workshop utilized a horse mannequin named Lucky that had articulated limbs, carried a realistic weight, and was approximately 15 hands tall (the height of an average horse).

Dwyer taught attendees how to assist horses in different scenarios. We learned how to place a horse on a rescue glide — both outside and in a stall — for transport, reposition a recumbent or



Teams work to reposition a down horse — well, a mannequin horse named Lucky — during a workshop at the NHSPCA where first responders learned how to rescue large animals in emergency situations.

cast (stuck on its back or side) horse, and help a down horse stand.

In the afternoons, attendees split into two groups for some hands-on learning. One team had to use the skills learned during the day to rescue Lucky from whatever situation the other team presented. Attendees went to work rescuing Lucky after he fell down an embankment onto rocks, was trapped in a foundation, and was

down in a stall unable to stand.

In two days, we hosted first responders from 12 agencies across New England and the knowledge gained during this course adds new tools to everyone's toolbox. As a retired first responder, I know how important it is to have even a little bit of knowledge in an unusual situation. It could make the difference between a positive or negative outcome.



Selma and Edna were rescued when they were only a few days old. The pair, adopted together in July, are adored by their new family.

Well on their way

By Sophie Rowell
Adoption Counselor

In early May, 35 rabbits were surrendered to the NHSPCA from a hoarding situation. These 35 were only a portion of the total number of bunnies, and thankfully the rest were divided between other shelters in the area.

With tremendous effort from animal care staff at our shelter, the rabbits were received and housed — but our work was far from done.

Thanks to our medical team, all rabbits were given exams and began treatment for illness, the most common among our group being fur mites and syphilis. This diagnosis meant our rabbits had to be under quarantine, with full personal protective equipment required.

Rabbit care became the first part of our day, and with no volunteers due to the pandemic, staff worked tirelessly to keep all our animals happy and healthy. Apart from the physical aspect of the job, shelter work can be very emotionally draining. Working with sick animals, day in and day out, is exhausting, but it makes the job worth it when you see a healthy animal go to a loving home.

After a lot of hard work, the bunnies were fully treated for their illness and were healthy enough to come out of quarantine, and some even began going into foster homes. The day our first bunny was adopted felt surreal, as if we hadn't expected the endless days of caring for this group to ever end. While they have been at the shelter, we have all fallen in love with these bunnies and their personalities.

It is so exciting to see them come from where they were to now. This is truly the purpose of our work here at the NHSPCA.

An a-bun-dance of activities!

By Danielle Fuchs, MSc, CPDT-KA
Training & Enrichment Coordinator

When the current cohort of 35 rabbits came to the New Hampshire SPCA, we knew they would be here longer than most. After arriving following their rescue they would require significant medical attention, and once healed they would all need spay/neuter surgery. Thanks to those who purchased items for them from our [Amazon Wishlist](#), we were able to immediately provide them with daily opportunities to perform natural behaviors — such as chewing and foraging — while they were examined and treated.

Many of the rabbits were very fearful of people and as their length of stay increased, so did their boredom and frustration. We knew we had to do more for this challenging population so that they could find loving homes more quickly.

With a few tweaks to our rabbit enrichment program, we were better able to fulfill their needs as long-term shelter residents. To keep things interesting for them, we had to get creative and use all resources at our disposal. Instead of feeding their pellets out of a bowl, staff brainstormed a rotation of options to encourage the rabbits to forage for their meals, a natural bunny behavior, in different ways each day.

Much to our surprise, many of our rabbits are experts at solving cat or dog food puzzle toys — they will throw, dig, push, and snuffle puzzle toys persistently just like a dog or a cat! We began re-purposing cardboard cat hiding boxes into digging boxes, which we filled with hay and sprinkled in rabbit food to encourage foraging.

To increase their confidence around people, we took extra time outside of feeding and cleaning shifts to engage in one-on-one activities. We worked to teach each of them to target their nose



Dried pine cones are wonderful for bunnies that love to chew and will work their brains for hours on end! Sweet Marge, pictured here, came to the shelter with a litter of babies, all of which have all grown. To keep Marge (and all the other rabbits) happy while she waited for her forever family, we provided her with daily enrichment.

to the end of a stick using a clicker and treats. Coming close to people predicts good things, like dried papaya! Over time, we have seen these previously fearful rabbits choose to climb into a person's lap.

By tracking what we do with the rabbits and the types of enrichment they each enjoy, we have been able to learn the details of their stellar personalities. I have been very happy to see these rabbits start to go to their forever homes, and it has been such a rewarding experience to learn more about these amazing animals and how to keep them happy. It has also reinforced for me how important enrichment supplies are, and we cannot thank those that purchased Amazon Wishlist items enough for your contribution!



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Seniors get their sweet second chances

By Melissa Mower

Marketing & Graphic Design Associate

Finding homes for seniors can be a challenge because most adopters believe younger animals are the safer bet — there's bound to be more time together and fewer vet bills — but in a community like ours, it's far from impossible.

We're part of a community that believes old age doesn't make any animal unworthy of love, and we are thankful for that every day.

Recently, a few frosted faces took the internet by storm and found their forever homes with the

help of thousands of supporters who shared their stories.

First up was Sleuie, a gentle 10-year-old hound who was surrendered when her beloved owner

passed away. She hadn't had the easiest start to life having been rescued from living outside tied up on a rope. It's easy to imagine just how bonded she became to her rescuer — he literally gave her a fighting chance at life — and just how deeply she was missing him after he passed and she waited at the shelter.

To add to an already-sad situation, our medical team quickly discovered this sweet girl had a mast cell tumor. These tumors can be tricky because they vary so much in behavior; therefore, a prognosis would be unknown without more extensive testing.

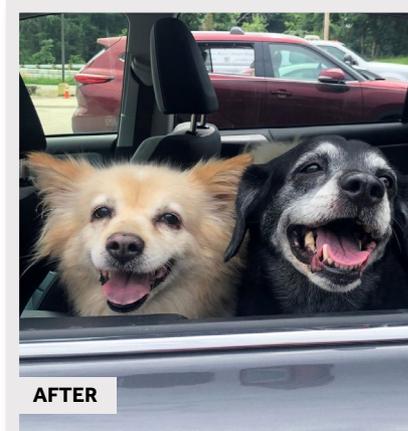
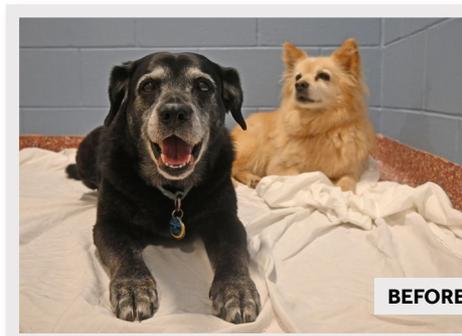
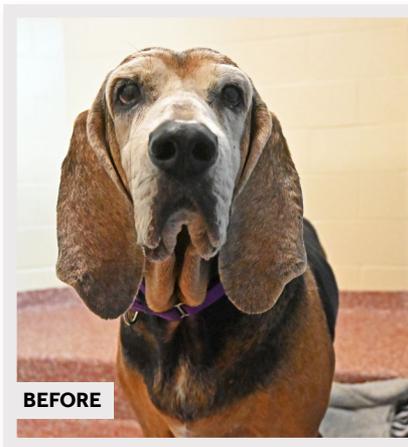
A senior dog with a mast cell tumor and an unknown prognosis. Our mission of finding a home for Sleuie just became that much more challenging.

But, as we have learned time and time again, our community is truly magical. We posted Sleuie's story and adorable face on social media and our supporters quickly went to work. The post was shared more than 1.3k times and it was popping up on the newsfeed of more than 106,500 people.

While she was busy stealing the hearts of thousands of people, one family in particular saw the post and just knew that she was their dog. Four days later, Sleuie jumped into the backseat of their car and went home.

Since that day, Sleuie's family has given her so much happiness, and vice versa. They have learned that she loves to go for car rides — so much so that they sometimes just drive around the neighborhood because they have no particular place to go. She snuggles up between her two favorite people

Sleuie, 10, has her own tempurpedic bed... but her preference is to sleep in between her two humans in their bed (and will steal the pillows as soon as either get out of bed).



Bella & Molly, 11, went home together with their new dog sister, Layla. The trio loves going on walks and will stop to get all the good sniffs along the way.

every night and is known to steal pillows if either of them gets out of bed in the middle of the night.

She's everything to someone, just like we knew she would be.

Shortly after Sleuie went home, we welcomed a bonded pair of senior dogs who were surrendered because their owner could no longer care for them. She made the heartbreaking decision to bring Molly and Bella to us knowing that they would be safe in our care. In return, we assured her that we'd find a family as devoted to them as they were to each other.

Finding a home for one senior animal can be difficult, let alone two. But, having just seen how well our community rallied for Sleuie, we felt pretty good about being able to spark up some magic for Bella and Molly, too.

These two girls were about as bonded of a pair as you could imagine. Being without the other for even a minute proved to be too much, as told by their anxious pacing, panting and barking. They had been together for 11 years, providing each other with a sense of security that no one else could.

1.1k shares later, Molly and Bella's story had reached over 108,500 people on social media. Within 24 hours, Bella and Molly were meeting the newest member of their pack, Layla, a 13-year-

old Bichon who recently lost her companion, Rhino. The three clicked immediately and have been inseparable since.

"In all honesty, I needed them more than they needed me," their new mom Jacqueline wrote to us. "They helped me and Layla with the loss of Rhino and while they are seniors, they bring such a great energy to my home and have so much love to give."

Safe, happy, and cherished — what we wish for every single animal that leaves through our doors.

Our community has always been what makes our work possible, but there are still moments when it surprises us just how special it is. No matter what challenges an animals may have, whether it's a senior dog with a tumor or a pair of senior dogs, there is always someone willing to see past the disadvantages and love with everything they have.

It's a poorly kept secret around here that the love of a senior rescue animal is one of the greatest gifts of all time. But maybe you haven't heard us talk about another poorly kept secret from the animal welfare industry: The people who step up and provide those senior animals with the second chance they so desperately deserve? They're one of the greatest gifts, too.

Thank you for helping us bring Sleuie, Molly and Bella home, and for giving hope to every senior animal that walks through our doors.



The arena has begun helping our staff get to know our horses a bit better. The ability to minimize distractions in this space allows even the easily spooked horses to show their true colors. Pictured is Charlie, left, who used the space to stretch his legs and Sonny, right, who showed us how great he is under saddle.

BACK IN THE SADDLE...

Continued from Page 1

worse, a history of abuse.

If a horse takes one bad step or spooks, an accident or injury could happen. The best way to prevent a horse from spooking is to have awareness of approaching dangers (animals, loud noises, people doing unusual things).

The Equine Center helps provide a space for both horse and human to focus.

Trainers, horses, and riders need to be ready to be exposed to the uncertainty of the outside world: people, vehicles, animals, trash bags, umbrellas, and all the other "scary" real world scenarios. The arena helps us eliminate so much

of the uncertainty and allows us to have a safe, consistent, and familiar space to evaluate the equines and begin their journey to wellness and total health.

We have been able to have successful first rides on several horses with unknown riding histories in the Equine Center. We have used the space for horses to seek shade from the relentless sun during the heatwave, and it has served as a space for new arrivals to get out and stretch their legs safely.

We have been able to invite campers to watch the horses playing and rolling in the sandy footing. We have welcomed potential adopters to this quiet, stress-free location so they can meet and bond with their new family member, ensuring

the right match.

The Equine Center will serve as our safe, comfortable, and consistent environment during extreme weather. No longer will we be stressing about not being able to train an equine because of the blazing hot summer sun, endless rainy days, or during the dangerously icy winter.

We can remain consistent with our training and riding which in turn helps us find our equines their forever homes in a timely manner.

The Equine & Farm Program is developing and growing here at the NHSPCA and the Equine Center for Transformative Care will provide opportunities to help serve more animals and members of our community for decades to come.

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All Commemorative Gifts are posted quarterly on our website and are honored there for a year or more.

Please visit our Commemorative page at nhspca.org/commemorative-gifts/ to view our new listing.

Thank you for all you do for the animals.





Our dear friend Jo Lamprey is offering to match donations, meaning your donation will double to help twice as many animals like Nialla and Dilly, pictured here. Your donation — no matter the amount — directly helps animals like this lovely pair. Simply visit nhspca.org/match to get started today. Thank you for your support!

GIVE TWICE THE LOVE...

Continued from Page 1

the amount you give!

It hurts my heart to envision how many animals would go unloved and unwanted if people turned away from helping at all.

I'm a lifelong animal lover, and I work every day to help as many animals as I can. And yet, even I have days where I find myself thinking, *I wish I could do more.*

That's why I love matching gift opportunities. Incredibly generous donors contact us and say they want to do even more with their donations. They know that offering to match contributions dollar-for-dollar will encourage others to give as much as they can. The giving potential is doubled, the impact amplified, and it feels twice as nice for everyone involved!

It's so inspiring when a community comes together and helps each other do more.

And right now, our dear friend Jo Lamprey is once again offering to match donations, up to \$20,000. I hope you take her up on her offer to match your generosity before it's too late! Click [here](#) to visit us online and together you can multiply your impact and help twice as many animals.

Thank you so much for your continued love and support.

It's time we talk about "luck"

Put the superstitions on the shelf: black cats can make wonderful companions

By Melissa Mower

Marketing & Graphic Design Associate

Sometimes the very best companions are found in animals that others have passed up due to their appearance or circumstance — animals that others have written off because of something as simple as the color of their coat.

What a blessing that is for those who end up bringing them home and watching as their house is transformed into a home.

Such was the case with handsome Kamaru, a 3-year-old black cat, who arrived as a stray in May. We could tell this handsome guy had lived most — if not all — of his life outside on his own. As we got to know him a bit more, we learned how much he craved affection, and it broke our hearts to know he had been out there taking on the world alone.

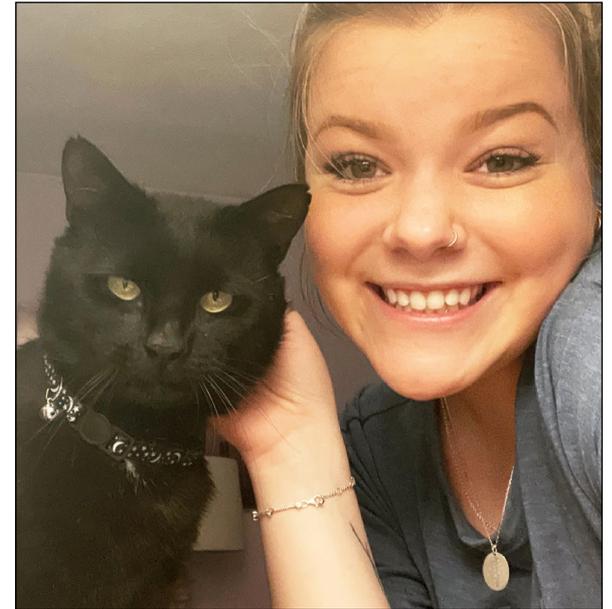
Black cats like Kamaru are often overlooked in shelters where cats with lighter, more colorful coats are available. Whether it's simply a visual preference or an allegiance to superstitions of bad luck, we have noticed it take place within our very own walls.

The only "bad luck" we could associate with Kamaru, though, was that he had spent his entire life without someone to care for him. We knew it was time for him to learn what unconditional love feels like.

He was so very deserving of that.

"He had these big green eyes that I could tell were just dying for an adventure and a lifelong companion to accompany him," his eventual adopter, Madi, wrote. "After learning he was a stray, I knew he needed a loving environment and home more than some. I was ready to give him that and much more for the rest of his years."

Since going home, Kamaru has shown his new mom just how loving, playful and well-behaved he is. He loves to snuggle in close, give kisses, and be



Black cats are often overlooked by potential adopters due to fear of "bad luck." However, the ones that see past those superstitions usually consider themselves luckiest of all for getting to experience a one-of-a-kind type of love.

included in whatever it is she's doing. In just a few months, he has completely flipped her world upside down, making it impossible for her to imagine life without him.

He's the perfect companion, providing her with a calming comfort during both her worst days and happiest moments.

So next time a black cat crosses your path — whether it be in person or online during your search for your new family member — focus less on the color of their coat and more on the warmth they harbor in their eyes and heart.

Black cats are not bad luck. In fact, those who adopt them usually consider themselves to be the luckiest of all.

2022 NEW HAMPSHIRE SPCA
PHOTO CALENDAR

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Expanding our reach and potential

Veterinary Center offers opportunity to better serve our community

By **Kate Young**

Community Programs Coordinator

One of the most exciting aspects of the New Hampshire SPCA's construction project is our Veterinary Center, which is a newly built addition adjacent to the Adoption Center.

The Veterinary Center is comprised of several exam rooms, offices and a newly updated surgical space. Our medical and animal care staff will be able to utilize this new space to offer the best possible care for our animals during their stay here.

This new construction is separate from the rest of the building's operations, creating a flexible and isolated area to provide a variety of medical treatments for the animals in care here.

Within the Veterinary Center, we have planned for and built for the future, constructing a room specifically for x-ray imaging. In a future phase, we hope to equip this room, which would be a key step forward in assessing, diagnosing, and treating the animals in our care entirely in-house.

In addition, the Veterinary Center positions the organization to work toward our ambition



We are so looking forward to being able to utilize our new Veterinary Center to help serve those in our community that need assistance caring for their beloved pets. This is a sneak peek at our surgical suite.

of offering basic vaccine and clinic-style services to the public. For many years, we have offered low-cost spay and neuter services for cats and travelling vaccine clinics to members of the public facing financial hardship.

We look forward to the opportunity the Veterinary Center will provide to expand our reach into the community to those underserved populations in need of assistance caring for their beloved pets.

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Tank

I really don't think you guys know how much of a gem Tank is... He is so full of life, energy, and love... I must tell you all, he is a blessing. In just two days, he has turned our entire house and lives upside down... all in a good way!

He plays so well with our children and dogs (Springsteen, who is 11, plays tug of war with him all day long and now acts like a young 2-year-old). He is awkward, clumsy, energetic, and so very happy.

Things you might not have known, he LOVES long walks (over the past two days, we have probably gone 10 miles if not more), meeting new dogs and neighbors, car rides, and going to the pet store. He is fully house trained he goes to the door and sits. If I am ignoring him (yeah right, like that's gonna happen) he lets out a little whine. When he sees the leash in my hand, he goes completely wild with excitement.

You should all be proud of what you do, finding the perfect family for the perfect dog. Mission completed!

Thank you all so very much.

— Jim

Pip

Pip has really come out of her shell and isn't hiding as much as she did when I first brought her home.

She loves to play with her toys, especially her toy mice and her fishing pole.

Pip is my little shadow. She is always right by my side!

She is such a sweetheart.

I can't thank you guys enough for taking care of her when she needed it most and for allowing me to give her a forever home.

She seems to be a happy girl these days.

— Madelinne



Sonny & Vern

I wanted to follow up and let you know how great Sonny and Vern (formally Tavern) are settling in.

We have had a lot of kids come see them and give them love and treats and they are gentle giants.

This morning, I saw them sleeping laying down outside as if they have grown up at my house.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making my lifelong dream of being a horse owner come true!

You all have gone over and beyond with answering my millions of questions and sending me pictures of Sonny and Vern. I am blessed to have made new friends.

You all are amazing!

— Candace

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Our friends at Timberland helped us bring our rain garden to life! Over a three-day period, 40 volunteers worked tirelessly to help us create this masterpiece. We are so thankful for their help!

Thank you, Timberland!

By Steve Jones
Volunteer Coordinator

When almost 3,000 individual plants, plugs, and trees were unloaded at the NHSPCA, it set in that we were about to begin the largest volunteer grounds project the agency had ever undertaken.

Once installed, the greenery would become our new rain gardens. Located behind the facility, they provide proper drainage, mitigate runoff pollution, and create an aesthetic area for people and pets to enjoy. Thanks to the help of our amazing community partner, Timberland, this project came together so well.

Service-work is built into the DNA of Timberland's corporate philosophy. They encourage their employees to give back and facilitate group projects like the rain gardens by providing the tools and the human effort necessary

to accomplish it.

The NHSPCA is so appreciative to have received their help. It would have been nearly impossible without them.

Not only did Timberland offer logistical support before the project, but they also donated a row of Dogwood trees that will provide shade for years to come. Over three days in May, almost 40 Timberland employees joined us to dig holes, plant grass and pollinator plugs, and water each plant as it went into the ground.

As the summer progressed, the plants have grown. The plugs have begun to take root, filling the water collection areas. The pollinator flowers have come into full bloom, attracting bees and butterflies to support the new area. The rain gardens are such a beautiful addition to the NHSPCA.

Thank you to the Timberland team for their support and generosity!

A year without volunteers

By Steve Jones
Volunteer Coordinator

In some respects, it feels like just yesterday... yet in others, it feels like a lifetime ago.

The New Hampshire SPCA closed its doors for two weeks following the governor's stay-at-home order in March 2020. This meant our volunteer program would need to be paused and decisions had to be made about what that would look like. Two weeks quickly turned into a month, which has now stretched to over a year.

While the support our volunteers continue to provide may look different, it has been equally as valuable.

Our foster volunteer network grew as folks took in dozens of animals. Volunteers drew hundreds of pet portraits, helping facilitate remote fundraisers. They organized voting campaigns to make sure the NHSPCA won local grants. They even became ambassadors in their communities, collecting sheets, towels, and other donations to decrease the number of people coming to drop needed items off at the agency.

These jobs are different from what many were used to, but the flexibility has been incredibly helpful.

I was excited when I learned we were ready to start bringing volunteers back for a limited return. While so many had expressed a desire to return, this was our first opportunity to make it happen.

We started in the Equine & Farm Program, as most of their tasks are done outdoors and socially distanced. We now have volunteers onsite every day, mucking stalls and feeding the animals. And with the current high demand on our farm program, this has been tremendously helpful.

Not only has it been fantastic support for the staff, but I know the positive impact it has had on the volunteers has also been significant.

After bringing in a rescue of over 30 rabbits, it became clear that small animal care help was also necessary. With precautions in place and the rabbits isolated, we welcomed our first group of indoor volunteers since suspending the program.

Like the Equine & Farm Program, this has been an amazing success.

It's so exciting to have volunteers back at the NHSPCA. I look forward to when we can invite everyone back and have dog walkers, cat care volunteers, and helpers in our Humane Education Classrooms... when volunteers can help with office support and the dozens of other ways volunteers fill vital roles.

Once operations return to normal, we will be ready to resume the Volunteer Program. More information and updates are available [here](#).

The re-working of summer camp

By **Brianne Wood**

Director of Programs & Administration

In early February, with the pandemic still heavily weighing on the minds of many and our construction project in full swing, the Humane Education staff was wondering what it would take to make in-person summer camp a reality this year. We had made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 summer camp, and while the Camp-in-a-Box option was a fun and creative way to keep campers engaged, it just wasn't the same as being in-person with the staff and animals.

Our staff, along with many parents, were so eager for us to find a way to host summer camp in a way that was safe for all involved.

We spent many hours deliberating the pros and cons and trying to predict all things that might come along with June's many unknowns. The biggest silver lining was that our new multipurpose community room was scheduled to be complete just prior to summer. That brand new, extra space turned out to be the release valve we needed to take our regular camp and break it into two separate classrooms so we could safely social distance.

Of course, this meant double the staffing and some very creative scheduling, but it would be worth it if we could pull it off.

With many questions unanswered, a space still under construction, and additional staff to hire, we decided to go for it. We launched our registration on April 1, hoping the April Fool's Day launch was not an omen. Remarkably, in less than one week, we had all nine weeks of camp sold out, with a waiting list!

Our campers and community were just as ready as we were to get back together.

With time ticking, we successfully hired a fantastic summer camp staff, put the finishing touches on our new (and existing) spaces, ironed out our COVID supplies and precautions, and established an interactive, agency-wide summer camp that was adaptive for ages 6-15.

Each week was filled with a variety of interactive (technology free) activities, all of which tied to



Campers provided much needed socialization and enrichment to the many bunnies in our care.

the mission of our organization. Throughout the week, the campers were able to spend time with a variety of different animals, including caring for and loving on our classroom pets, reading to the kitties, and grooming and walking several of our farm animals!

Some other highlights included taking a private campus tour, participating in animal pose yoga, engaging in positive reinforcement clicker training, helping grow and pick fresh vegetables and herbs to treat the animals in our care, baking delicious animal treats, learning animal related sign language, creating beautiful and thoughtful crafts, and so much more.

We made sure that campers had a nice mix of indoor, outdoor (mask-free) and combined class time.

We are now winding down the summer program and we can't help but reflect on what an absolute joy and morale booster it is has been to have the excitement and energy of children back inside our walls. This has not only been beneficial for the staff

and the children, but the animals as well.

The agency has been a bit overrun with bunnies for several months, many of which were under socialized, and we were uncertain how they would respond to children given their prior circumstances. We decided to try and house one bunny at a time in the multipurpose community classroom with the campers. The campers were so caring and respectful and were able to provide much needed socialization and enrichment for these animals. The bunnies thrived and this has led to adoptions for several of them.

All in all, we couldn't have done this year's camp without the incredible support from our community, our staff, and the opportunity to have the space we needed to make it happen. We thank you for your continued patience and support and we are excited to start bringing back some of our regular programming. Please keep watch on our communications and social media for more to come.

Wishing all of our campers and their families a safe and happy school year!

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Meeting the needs of all

By Wendi Lewis
Camp Director

This summer, we welcomed campers with various needs. Some had allergies to certain foods, sensitivity to cats, or seasonal allergies, while others had more extensive needs. Regardless of the situation, we wanted to be sure every child with a love of animals was given the opportunity to safely be part of our summer camp program.

At times, this made for some creative reimagination of activities.

At one point, we had a legally blind camper with a sun allergy. After some brainstorming and input from their family, we were able to make sure both the staff and camper had all the tools necessary to be safe and participate in all activities. Each day, this camper grew more comfortable and confident. They started engaging with new friends and jumping into the activities and beaming ear to ear by the end of the session.

We also welcomed a non-verbal child who needed help with her fine and gross motor accessibility. We recognized this camper would need a little extra accommodation and were happy to do what it took to make her comfortable. We met with her parents (who were planning to be her aids during camp) to walk the site and to review the schedule. We were anxious about how all of this would play out.

Well, the week came and thankfully all seemed to go without a hitch. Read the feedback we received from her parents below. We were so happy to have her join us!

Everyone is different in their own way. We wanted to make sure that no matter what challenges the children — or our staff — faced, we



A non-verbal child who needed help with her fine and gross motor accessibility participated in camp this summer and it was such a delight to have her! She met all sorts of animals such as Kenny the rooster, pictured here.

were determined to make sure that everyone had a great time here at our summer camp.

This was an amazing experience all around. I am so happy that regardless of all that has been going on over the past year, we were able to make this happen. I can't wait to see what next summer brings!

From their perspective...

*“The NHSPCA camp staff was so kind and helpful to us even before camp began. All the teachers were so kind and engaged our daughter. They made sure she was included and gave her all the tools that she might need to do what all the other kids were doing. They helped her reach and hold the animals, learn about the animals, and participate in animal care. Our daughter especially loved seeing all the bunnies and taking the tour of the farm animals and the extensive property at the NHSPCA. She got to feed the goats and pigs and the miniature horses! She got to brush the horses and take part in all the arts and crafts. She even made some new friends who took the time to learn about her and what she likes. **All this was made possible because of the amazing staff creating space for our daughter.**”*



Maddie's Match

Click [here](#) to read the story of how two Humane Ed. foster kittens (from separate litters) ended up in the same wonderful forever home with a special girl named Maddie.

FARM FRIENDS



A camper enjoys a hug from barnyard favorite, Dom the donkey. The farm program played a large role in summer camp this year, and the animals absolutely loved spending time with the kids.

‘Pandemic Pup’ learns how to play

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

Cedar is an 11-month-old long haired dachshund who has been a part of the NHSPCA Behavior & Training program since he was 15 weeks old. His parents, Kim Billings and Jen Murray of Portsmouth, heard about our programs through a neighbor who is a volunteer. They described

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Cedar as a ‘pandemic pup’ who didn’t have a lot of experience with other dogs and was therefore fearful of dogs and unfamiliar objects. After speaking with one of the behavioral staff, they decided to bring him to his first puppy play group earlier this year.

For many new pups, joining a playgroup can be intimidating. To help them with this new experience, we often start them behind a gate. This helps ease the new dog into the group

without becoming overwhelmed. Cedar’s reaction was typical for a pup who had not been around a lot of puppies. He barked, lunged and retreated when the pups came near. Using classical conditioning, we taught his parents to drop treats for Cedar when the other dogs approached. This taught Cedar that good things happen when a pup is near his gate.

Kim and Jen persevered, attending as many puppy playgroups as they could. With each week, Cedar became more comfortable and was able to venture outside his gated area. His parents were the gatekeepers and would allow Cedar to come



Cedar, left, was adopted during the pandemic and was fearful of dogs and unknown objects. His owners have been dedicated, bringing Cedar to our small dog play group (off-leash play time overseen by one of our trainers, pictured right) and private consultations to help him be the most confident dog he can be.

back into the gated area when he got scared. This gave him a feeling of having a safe space to retreat to when the playgroup became too stimulating.

They signed up for private training sessions to learn more about dog behavior and how to help Cedar feel more comfortable around dogs, strangers, and unfamiliar objects. They learned how to properly introduce people to Cedar, played the ‘Look at That’ game when a dog is near, played the name game, and practiced come when called and good heeling.

When Cedar aged out of puppy play, he attended the small dog play. With a new group of dogs, Cedar had to start behind the gate again but quickly adapted. Each week he became more comfortable, offering play bows to other dogs, spending more time outside of the gate and even

making some good dog friends.

Kim and Jen still bring Cedar to the small dog play and continue to grow and learn more about dogs and dog training through a positive approach. Their persistence has helped Cedar become a more confident and playful dog. Kim writes, “Our new friends in puppy playgroup and small dog playgroup have been wonderful... No one has judged Cedar’s barking and lunging. It was coaching and encouragement from Linda and Danielle that has made him the very good dog he has become.”

We would love to help you and your dog become more comfortable and confident.

Please contact the Behavior Department at lhaley@nhspca.org or [visit our website](#) for class offerings.

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By Sheila E. Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

At the New Hampshire SPCA, our vision is a safe and loving home for every animal, and that vision begins with you.

Our community is full of so many passionate animal lovers ready to open their hearts and homes, and we are so thankful for every step you take to strengthen the human-animal bond.

This year, the NHSPCA is excited to share with you another easy but concrete way you can make our vision a reality: by creating your will and including a gift to the NHSPCA. To help you get started, you can use FreeWill, a free, online will-writing tool, to create yours today.

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Why should I write my will?

No matter your age or circumstances, everyone needs a legal will as a way to plan for the future, as well as to make a lasting commitment to the people and causes that matter most to you. Making a will is a vital part of protecting your loved ones and taking responsibility for your assets.

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but many people avoid the task because they assume it will be. Instead, this will-writing tool makes the process easy, intuitive, and fast: in less than 20 minutes, you can make a will and a plan for the future. You won't need to submit any sensitive personal information — no social security number necessary, for example — and you'll finish with a PDF of your will that is legally valid in all 50 states.

Why should I include a legacy gift to the NHSPCA?

Creating a legacy with the NHSPCA is the most powerful way to save the lives of companion animals for generations to come, without costing you anything today. It's a simple, but powerful way to ensure our vision of a safe and loving home for animals can come true.

If an immediate cash gift isn't right for you, or if you want a more concrete, long-term investment in the next generation of the NHSPCA and the animals and people we serve, consider a legacy gift in your will today. Get started on your free will and legacy by clicking [here](#) today.

If you have any questions about FreeWill or Planned Giving at the NHSPCA, please contact Sheila Ryan at 603-773-5706 or sryan@nhspca.org today.

FREEWILL 

Planned Gifts Received

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

January 1, 2021 - August 1, 2021

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Be a VIP behind-the-scenes at the Auction for the Animals

By Julie Halama

Special Events & Sponsorship Manager

Join us for a special unveiling of the new NHSPCA campus at our annual *Auction for the Animals* on Saturday, November 13.

We care deeply about our community of supporters just as we do for each and every animal in our care.

To ensure the safety of all, our annual gala will be a virtual affair, featuring a VIP preview of our newly expanded facility complete with adorable pets awaiting their new home.

The *Auction for the Animals* is the NHSPCA's premier fundraising event, each year helping us save the lives of thousands of abused, neglected, and homeless animals and allowing us to run important community programs, like our low-cost spay and neuter clinics and summer camps for children.

This year will be no exception, as we invite you to take part in the festivities from the

Stand out and support the animals

Are you looking to make a difference while gaining valuable exposure for your business? Join us as a Sponsor of the *Auction for the Animals*. Opportunities include event, online, and media exposure depending on the selected sponsorship level.

Please contact Julie Halama, Special Events and Sponsorship Manager, at jhalama@nhspca.org or 603-773-5735 to learn more.

comfort and safety of your own home. Tune in for the VIP tour and live-streamed auction, enter for a chance to win our premium raffle, and bid online on incredible items, unforgettable experiences, and more. This evening will also begin the celebration of the NHSPCA's 150th Year, an incredible milestone. Every dollar raised at this unique and inspirational event makes a difference for in-need animals, giving them the second chance they so greatly deserve. You won't want to miss this important evening for the animals complete with some wonderful and fun surprises!

Donate today to attend by clicking [here](#).



Changing Times Are Here!

We wouldn't be here without you! On **Saturday, December 4**, join us for a community celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony as we unveil our new campus including our expanded Adoption and Learning Centers, and brand new Veterinary Center, Equine Center for Transformative Care, Rain Gardens and more.

A TAIL-WAGGING GOOD TIME!



Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate Paws Walk: the Remix and helped us save lives step by step. Animal lovers of all ages walked around the world – some participating in their own neighborhoods, including one family of three walking for the animals all the way from Germany, and others joining us for the festivities at Stratham Hill Park. Together, we raised critically needed funds that will help us care for the animals throughout the summer! We are so grateful for all who supported this lifesaving event!