



FALL NEWS 2023

Published by the New Hampshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
PO Box 196, Stratham, NH 03885 • 603-772-2921 • www.nhspca.org



The sky's the limit for these lucky cats!



When more than 160 cats and kittens from overcrowded shelters in Florida landed at the Manchester Airport in early August, our team was there to help unload our 21 lucky felines on the tarmac!

NHSPCA welcomes 21 cats at Manchester Airport

By Amanda Wellman
Transport Coordinator

On August 2nd, the New Hampshire SPCA joined eight other New England shelters to receive more than 160 cats and kittens from multiple overcrowded shelters in Florida. The cats were flown to New England as part of a Greater Good Charities airlift to kick off national Clear the Shelters month.

Receiving the animals from Greater Good Charities is so uplifting for our staff — we get to meet the airplane on the tarmac! The airport staff brings a conveyor belt to the door of the plane, and carriers of cats slowly make their way down. Each carrier is color coded so that the participating shelters know which cat is destined for their shelter; our color was green for this trip. When a carrier with green labels made it onto the conveyor belt, a NHSP-



Captain Hook, the one-eyed kitten, arrives safely at the New Hampshire SPCA!

CA staff member would take the carrier and bring it to our air-conditioned Sprinter van for transport back to Stratham. We received 21 wonderful cats and kittens on this trip, and we wish we had the room to accept even more because we certainly have the adopters for dozens more cats!

The community surrounding the NHSPCA is especially dedicated to their com-

See **GOOD FLIGHT**, Page 7

September Matching Gift Opportunity to help homeless animals like Leo

By Rich Hegarty

Annual Fund & Digital Marketing Manager

As the Annual Fund Manager at the New Hampshire SPCA, I have the unique privilege of sharing amazing stories of rescue and redemption, animals whose lives are forever improved or literally saved because of the work that we do here. The work that we do, thanks to you.

But there are also hard stories. Those moments when the outcome is uncertain and sometimes tragically sad. Every living creature has a story, and the animals we care for are no different. Often, our role comes in the middle of their story, occasionally at the



When Leo desperately needed help, it was your support that allowed us care for him.

beginning and sometimes at the end.

Leo's story is one that has stayed with me

See **SEPTEMBER MATCH**, Page 9



Check out how much our foals have grown!

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

For those of you who haven't stopped by the New Hampshire SPCA in a while, the transformation has been remarkable over the past few years.

It has been so joyful to see our campus bustling with activity. Everyone — staff, volunteers, visitors, participants — *everyone* engaging in some capacity and furthering our mission of helping animals.

This summer, both classrooms were humming with goings-on, as children engaged and learned about the operations of this agency and animal welfare initiatives. They had a chance to learn about so many of our program areas, such as training, feeding, enrichment and transports, which culminated in the opportunity to greet a van of newly-arriving animals as it pulled down our driveway! It had traveled all the way from Texas, bringing dogs here to the NHSPCA to find their new forever homes.

Our rescue team has been extremely active with an unfortunate uptick in cases and the number of animals needing our help. Fourteen dogs and 15 horses from one location, seven goats, a donkey and more than 20 fowl from another and many, many cats from a third. Each and every day fielding phone calls — prioritizing and going on the road to see whether concerns are valid and in extreme cases, if search warrants need to be procured and executed.

We also receive calls daily to assist other shelters in varying parts of the country that are seeing their intake numbers continue to rise. They hope that we can provide some relief by transferring animals to New Hampshire. We were so honored to partner with other local and regional agencies to greet two flights this summer from Florida with more than 100 animals on board. Each flight made a tremendous difference, providing brighter futures for each animal and allowing each sending agency to focus on those that remained in their care.

When we embarked on our recent capital campaign and campus renovations, we had a vision to help more. With the additional farm and equine housing, arena and paddocks, it has enabled us to care for the 21 horses, goats,



sheep, pigs and all the farm fowl currently here in a manner that makes us all proud. Now, we are able to safely evaluate and train the animals, truly living up to the term Equine Center for Transformative Care.

Our medical team, and the many generous veterinarians who have made time in their schedule to work in our shelter, has enabled us to help more. This fall, we're looking forward to building out our Community Wellness services even further, including low-cost spay/neuter and other necessary care for owned animals.

None of this could be done without your support or your generosity of time, talent and resources. None of this could be done without you.

Our heartfelt thanks to each of you who are a part of our compassionate and caring community.

On behalf of the animals, thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Lisa Dennison
Executive Director

New Hampshire Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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Catching up with our curious colts!



Cash is now 4 months old and over 11 hands tall! He is learning to be independent from mom and will be weaned soon. He loves to play with his toys and LOVES all his neighboring horses.



Sly is 10 weeks old and growing like a weed! He's all legs. Sly thinks he is a racehorse and is often found galloping around his paddock while his mom, Raven, munches on hay nearby. He is learning to lead but sometimes chooses napping over learning.

Internship Series Pt. II: Gentling wild mustangs

By Michelle Murch

Equine & Farm Program Manager

As I wrote in our summer newsletter, I was thrilled to be accepted for an internship offered through a partnership of the ASPCA Right Horse Program in conjunction with the Monty Roberts' Transition Horse Internship Program (MRTHP). Monty Roberts is known as the Horse Whisperer for his gentle, non-violent equine training methods. I spent three weeks at Flag is Up Farm in CA, home of Monty Roberts, learning his incredible techniques and knew that I was about to begin a journey that would leave me forever changed as a horsewoman.

As part of our internship, we had six wild mustangs brought in from the Bureau of Land Management to be "gentled". Gentling is a method of forming a bond with a horse that results in training without causing harm. Initially, the mustangs would see us and immediately flee, sometime violently, even crashing directly into the six-foot fencing surrounding their enclosure. Fear of humans (predators), fear of the unknown and fear of being alone in captivity, was all very apparent in their eyes. Each day we would spend about two hours, spread over the course of the day, working with the techniques that Monty taught us.

We learned things that make so much sense, but we never think of with "domesticated" horses. Here are just a few...

1. Horses do not understand our language so we must work to learn theirs.
2. We humans are predators. Plain and simple. If we are to make progress, we need to convince these animals, who have learned to survive in the wild, that although we are predators, we won't do them any harm.
3. Sudden movements terrify feral flight animals, move your body as if you're in heavy oil.
4. Human hands appear to wild horses as claws when they are open. Claws are deadly to horses in the wild. Using a closed fist was a tough one to remember.
5. Breathing, breathing breathing. Horses synchronize their breathing. In the wild there are horses that are band protectors that guard the herd from danger while the rest of the horse's graze. If danger appears the protector's heart rate rises followed almost instantly by the entire herds. Then, without any sounds, they all flee to safety. We need-



Michelle works to gentle a wild mustang during her internship with Monty Roberts in California.

ed to learn to control our own breathing so as not to alarm the horses while working with them. This is not always an easy task when you are approaching a wild horse who is extremely unpredictable. If you are nervous, then they believe they should be nervous, too!

6. Eye contact. When you look a horse in the eye you are telling the horse to go away. We learned to use eye contact only when we wanted the horses to move away.
7. Your body positioning and stance is very important when working with a horse. Many times, people do not understand that when they approach a horse to catch them, standing square and looking them in the eyes is really the opposite of what is desired, you are asking them to go away not inviting them to come to you simply by how you are using your body.

Gentling a wild horse is one of the greatest opportunities I have ever been given. These beautiful creatures are so raw and every moment of interaction with them teaches them about humans. We set the stage for their future. Horses do forgive but they rarely forget. Their minds are said to be a series of snapshots or images that are retrieved to decide if the situation is deserving of a flight response or not. I try to remind myself daily to make every snapshot a positive one.

Wild mustangs are rounded up from their natural homes in the wild. I believe we owe it to them to help make their lives fear free.

After three weeks working these six mustangs, they chose to be with us instead of fleeing. They chose to see us as their leader. It was a humbling experience. The work is hard, and you must be flexible and patient, but the result is so worth it.

Meet Savannah Alcerro, Director of Animal Services

Q: When did you join the agency?

A: I've been with the New Hampshire SPCA for less than four months. After accepting the position, I had to relocate from South Florida to New Hampshire. While I was down there, I was joining weekly Zoom calls with the Adoption Center managers. While unconventional, it was a great way to meet the team and organically transition into the role.

Q: What has been your work experience before coming to the NHSPCA?

A: I've been in animal welfare for over ten years. It has always been my passion and chosen career path. Most recently, I worked at Miami Dade Animal Services, a municipal shelter in South Florida whose annual intake was around 30,000 cats and dogs. I managed their kennel team, the population of animals, which averaged around 500-600 animals at any one time, and the enrichment and behavior team.

Q: What's your educational background and how did it prepare you for working in animal welfare?

A: I'm originally from New Hampshire, born and raised. I went to undergrad at the University of New Hampshire. I studied Sociology there and that field spends a lot of time looking at society from different lenses. I was particularly interested in marginalized communities. It provided me a deep understanding of the struggles some communities face, even in areas related to animal welfare such as adopting pets, accessing veterinary care, and finding available resources. After moving down to Miami, I worked full time



We're thrilled to introduce you to Savannah, our new Director of Animal Services!

while pursuing my master's degree from the University of Miami.

Q: What pets, if any, do you currently have?

A: I currently have a fourteen-year-old Australian Shepherd, Sushi; a ten-year-old Border Collie, Cob; a six-year-old cat, Ria; and last but certainly not least is my senior black cat, Limo.

Q: What pets are you most likely to adopt?

A: I have a bit of a soft-heart for senior pets and FIV positive cats. I've adopted four senior dogs, fostered senior cats and dogs, and have done so many hospice cases I've lost count. I also love the big-cheeked male cats with FIV and always have at least one. I like the

animals that are behaviorally sound but are overlooked because of age or appearance.

Q: What are you passionate about, both professionally and personally?

A: I'm passionate about all things animal welfare. Broadly, the human-animal bond is fascinating and powerful. Framing a lot of animal welfare related discussion through the human-animal bond allows us to remember the importance of including individual people and the community into decisions and solutions.

Q: What is your favorite place to visit?

A: In New Hampshire, I love the White Mountains. The Russel Colbath Historical House off the Kancamagus Highway has some great wooded trails. I usually hop off the trail, cross the Swift River, and follow it down with my dogs. Outside of New Hampshire, I loved Roanoke, Virginia and I love visiting Central and South America.

Q: What's a fun fact about yourself?

A: I love dog sports. Since I was 8 years old, I've been rollerblading with my dogs and recently discovered formal, dog-powered sports and joring. Additionally, my border collie, Cob, played in a frisbee league down south.

Q: What's your favorite part about the NHSPCA so far?

A: I'm so impressed by the staff. My first day, everyone made me feel so welcomed. As the weeks have passed, it is obvious how mission driven everyone is. I feel extremely lucky to be a part of this team and to continue to serve the animals and community.


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Operation Socialization: The story of the Mini Mals

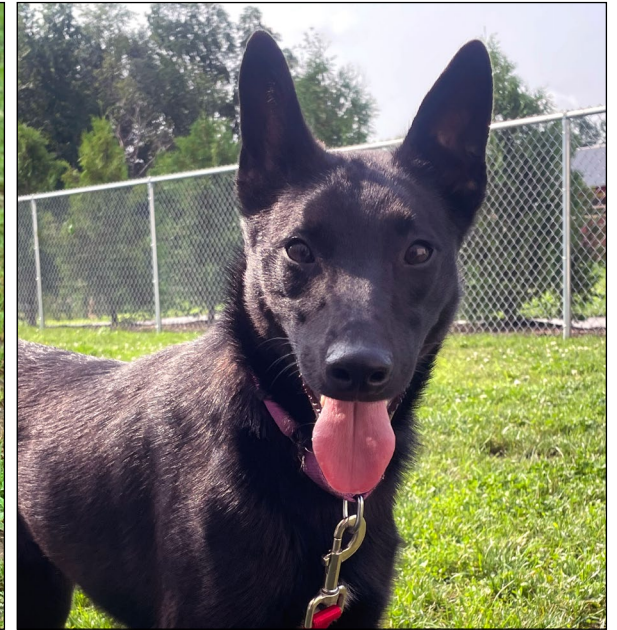
By **Eden Zook**
Enrichment Coordinator

In mid-June, a group of 14 Belgian Malinois/Jack Russell Terrier mix puppies were surrendered to the New Hampshire SPCA. Some were young puppies (roughly 12 weeks old), and the others were young adolescents (7 months old). These two groups present their own behavioral challenges inherent with their age. However, in this particular case, they were also very under socialized, to the point of having near-feral responses to all things in our “human world”, including humans.

These factors, coupled with the combination of breeds — both being high energy, high drive, and often very opinionated — we knew this crew might be a bit challenging to help adjust to shelter life and life in a home.

Luckily for them, we have an absolutely outstanding animal care team that work tirelessly to provide the best behavioral health care for the animals housed here. And so, our “Mini Mal” socialization project began.

The first step was just allowing these sweet pups some time to decompress and habituate to their new digs. When dogs experience stress, their cortisol levels shoot up just like ours, but it takes roughly three days for them to level back out again. This can become a vicious cycle in a shelter environment as there is a constant stream of stimulation. It is hard for the cortisol to level out when the animals are in a continuous state of arousal with lots of novel stimulation. In order to reduce stress, we chose to temporarily close the Dog Pavilion, normally open to the public. This gave these special canines a space that was all their own and provided them with consistency and gentle, slow exposure to new people, sounds, textures, routines, etc.



Ollie (left) and Yikes (right) are just two of the 14 undersocialized Belgian Malinois/Jack Russell Terrier mix pups that were surrendered to the NHSPCA in June. This group required a fair amount of patience and dedication from our animal care staff, but witnessing their progress made every second worth it.

After some time decompressing, our staff got right to work slowly introducing the dogs to the sights and sounds of our human world and helping create positive associations with these things using hot dogs and cheese to help seal the deal. Slowly but surely, these pups began to develop bonds with the staff members that cared for them and began to show a tremendous amount of resiliency. Once the “Mini Mals” began coming out of their shells and showing more social interest in other dogs and humans, the next step was teaching them what a leash was and what going for a walk would look like.

This took many very small positive associations — made with hot dogs and cheese, of course! We started with rewarding just the visual presence

of the leash before we could move onto clipping and unclipping it to their collars. Once there was some comfort with that, they were ready to drag the clipped leash around an enclosed pen. Next, they were introduced to repeated light pressure on the lead by a human hand. Finally, they were taken out of the pens on lead in group walks with other littermates or calm/confident shelter dogs.

With each day that passed, we saw more and more improvements. Eventually, they were ready to begin their transitions to their forever homes.

As of today, all of the pups have been adopted and are continuously improving on life skills in their new homes! We are so thrilled they are finally getting to experience the love and companionship of their forever.



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Relief veterinarians step up to help the animals!

NHSPCA to welcome full-time staff veterinarian in September

By **Kate Young**
Veterinary Center Manager

On any given day, we may have over 100 small animals in our care, including dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, gerbils, mice and more. As we all know, many of these animals are in need of some type of medical care. Sometimes, it is the basics, such as vaccines, preventatives or maybe a simple ear cleaning. Our Animal Care Staff are excellent at providing these much-needed core services as well as assessing what might need to happen for each animal that comes through our doors so that it can make its way to a forever home.

The next part of the process has been a little trickier these last eight months.

Since January 2023, the New Hampshire SPCA has not had a full-time veterinarian on staff.

After having had a full-time veterinarian for a number of years, the absence of this critical position was a little bit scary, but only for a very brief time.

We have been truly fortunate to have benefited from the diligent and tireless efforts of multiple relief veterinarians. These amazing doctors have swooped in regularly to provide much needed exams, vaccines, diagnoses, surgeries and treatments. This is no small feat since our animal population and related needs changes daily — sometimes hourly!

These veterinarians truly care about animal welfare. They usually come in on their days off, sometimes directly from their previous shift at their full-time job! We have a veterinarian



Dr. Michaella Abugov, DVM is one of eight relief veterinarians that stepped in to help us keep our animals healthy while we hired a new full-time vet. We are so appreciative of their time and expertise!

of record that oversees all elements of vet care and eight other relief veterinarians that come in when they are able.

Our team of full-time veterinary technicians and animal care staff reviews our population daily to determine which animal is likely to need medical care, based on standard operating procedures, NH state laws and experience. When a relief vet comes in, their time is spent working through a carefully curated list of

exams and surgeries that are constantly being re-prioritized as animal needs change.

Our veterinary technicians work closely with the veterinarian to examine each animal, prep and assist with surgery, draw up medications and create medical charts, complete necessary paperwork and implement treatment plans and next steps.

We are fortunate to have brand new x-ray, ultrasound, and some in-house lab capabilities as well as our new surgical suite which all help immensely in providing answers and delivering care quickly. When we have a case that requires immediate attention, but no relief veterinarian is available, we are grateful to the local partnerships with veterinary practitioners and other animal welfare agencies that step in and help ensure prompt medical care, treatments and spay/neuter surgeries are provided.

We are thrilled to know that as of September 2023, we will have a full-time staff veterinarian! Filling this vital role will allow us to streamline our daily operations again and provide a through line of care for the animals.

Importantly, we are building out additional veterinary capacity, with continued help from our wonderful group of relief veterinarians and look to the near future as a time when we will continue to provide the best care possible to our local population of animals in need, animals that are transported from crowded shelters and also deliver essential community services, such as low-cost spay and neuter surgeries, for publicly owned animals!

I would like to say **Thank You!** to the many relief veterinarians that have come in to help the animals in need these last several months. We are so grateful for the care you provided to each and every animal.



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In Memory Of:
Luke
The Clark Family
New Hampshire SPCA

GOOD FLIGHT...

Continued from Page 1

panion animals — we treat our pets like family, and we make a lifetime commitment to them. Unlike most areas of the country, we tend to have more adopters than we have available cats! This is why our transport program has become integral to our lifesaving work. We assist overcrowded shelters in other states by bringing some of their dogs and cats to the NHSPCA for adoption. This helps our rescue partners have more space to accept and care for more animals from their service area while providing the NHSPCA's pet-loving community with great animals to add to their loving families.

Among the cats on this Greater Good Charities airlift was Captain Hook, a 17-week-old kitten with one eye who was rescued on Miami Beach. This charming, cuddly fellow does not let his lack of an eye get him down — he is just as mischievous and fun as any kitten! We were also lucky enough to take in Keanu, a 5-year-old, 21-pound roly-poly fellow who adores getting neck and chin scratches from his favorite people. And Marmalade, a precious 10-month-old mama cat who raised her four kittens and is now ready to be someone's pampered princess here in New Hamp-



LEFT: NHSPCA Executive Director Lisa Dennison welcomed more than 160 cats/kittens from overcrowded shelters in Florida. RIGHT: Whiskers the kitten waits in our sprinter as the rest of our cats were loaded.

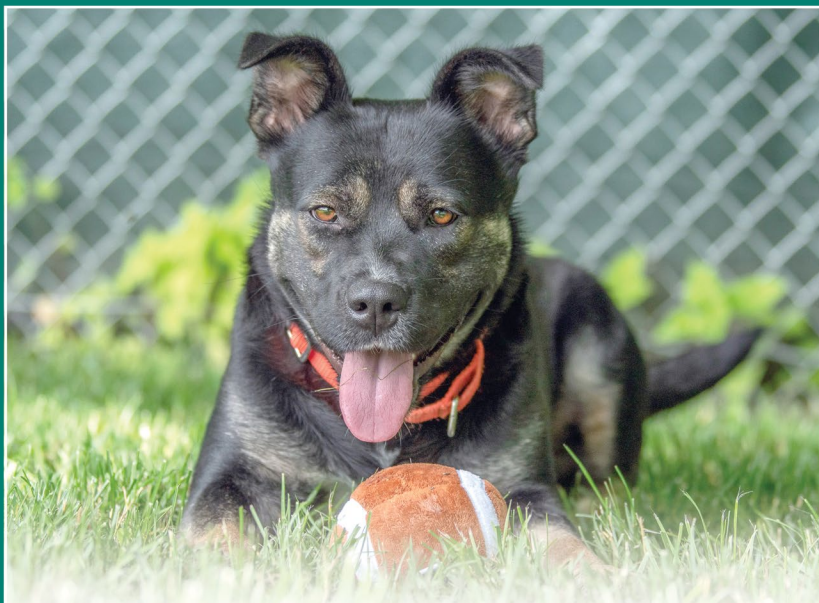


shire. The staff at the NHSPCA is looking forward to finding purrfect homes for these felines and more during August, which happens to be national Clear the Shelters month.

Clear the Shelters is a pet adoption and donation campaign that was launched in 2015 to help animal shelters and rescues acquire much needed shelter space, funds, and supplies. Hundreds of shelters across the country team up with sponsors NBC Universal, Hill's Pet Nutrition, and Greater Good Charities to promote adoptions and dona-

tions for animals in need. Since its inception, Clear the Shelters has helped more than 860,000 pets find new homes. Last year's event set a record with more than 161,000 adoptions and over \$540,000 in donations nationally. We hope to best those numbers this year, so stay tuned to find out how successful this year's Clear the Shelter campaign was. With a community like ours supporting us, the NHSPCA is sure to help set a few records!

Thank you so much for believing in our mission and making our work possible!



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Community events make a paw-sitive impact!

By Ben Driscoll

Events & Digital Marketing Assistant

One of the aspects I love most about being the Events Assistant at the New Hampshire SPCA is engaging with the local community and witnessing firsthand the tremendous support from animal lovers who support our mission.

Want to help?

If you're interested in hosting a fundraising event for the animals, please contact Ben at bdiscoll@nhspca.org

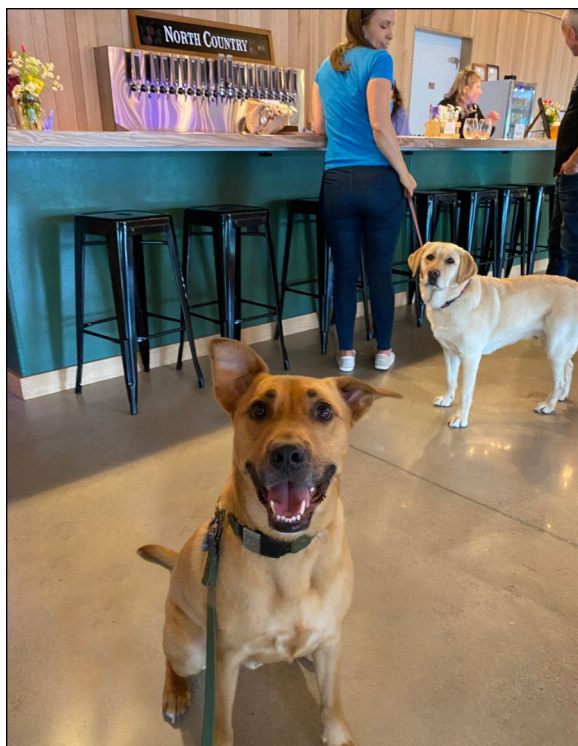
There are so many ways that our community can help support the homeless animals

in our care, one of which is shopping!

During Be Kind to Animals Week we collaborated with seven local businesses (the Community Oven, Inside Out, Trends Gift Gallery & The Wine Loft, Water Street Bookstore, Lunachics, Calef's Country Store, and Taste of the Seacoast) plus two online stores (PuppyLoveGifts.com and PurrsandWhiskers.com) for a fundraising event called ReTAIL for Animals! Each participating business pledged to donate a percentage of their sales from that day, week, or even the entire month to support our cause.

It was truly heartwarming to witness the generosity from both our event partners and our community members who chose to make their purchases during the event.

ReTAIL for Animals was not the only summer fundraising event we collaborated on with local businesses; we also teamed up with four local



NHSPCA alumnus Finn had a blast making friends and raising money for the animals at the shelter during Yappy Hour at North Country Cider in June!

breweries (North Country Cider, Sawbelly Brewing, SoME Brewing Company, and Throwback Brewery) to host our Yappy Hour event series!

We have held Yappy Hours in the past but haven't hosted any in a few years. We decided that Summer 2023 would be the perfect time to bring

this fun event back because breweries and dogs go together like hops and barley!

This year's Yappy Hour was held once a month on a weekday evening from June to September. It encouraged dog lovers to bring their four-legged friends along with them to enjoy a cold pint (or two) outdoors at a Seacoast brewery, with a portion of the sales being donated.

I had a blast attending these events and seeing everyone having so much fun with their dogs while supporting a good cause!

These fundraising events are not only *fun* (no pun intended) to support and attend, but also make a significant difference in the lives of homeless animals.

In early January, two little companion guinea pigs came into our care from a neglect situation. They were very shy and spent most of their time hiding from humans under blankets and boxes. Even by typical guinea pig behavior standards, they were extremely skittish.

Due to this, they didn't show well when potential adopters came to meet them and were sadly overlooked for more than five months. We just knew that one day their perfect match would find them and adopt them. Finally, after 154 days, a guinea pig lover stopped by and gave them the forever home they deserved so much!

Fundraising events like ReTAIL for Animals and Yappy Hour help raise critical funds that ensure we can care for homeless animals until they find a family to call their own, no matter how long that may take!

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SEPTEMBER MATCH...

Continued from Page 1

and probably always will. Leo was a terrified little dog that came to us in dire condition. I first met him when he arrived and I was asked to capture images of his condition, documenting the beginning of his story with us. He was incredibly emaciated, shaking, weak, and his eyes were big and full of fear. He was surrounded by people who wanted to help him, to save him, to make him whole, but the only way to get there was to poke, prod, pinch, take his weight, his blood, his temp, and his x-rays. Leo had a lot going against him, but he also had a lot of us going for him. The "us" I refer to is so many people including staff, volunteers, veterinary staff, and each and every supporter that believes in the work we do here. As for Leo, his story is still unfolding, but he has been remarkably resilient. He has gained weight and muscle, he has become vibrant, and his eyes are now filled with play and joy. He is currently being fostered and preparing for his happily ever after.

Stories like Leo's don't just happen. They happen because people care. You care. What an amazing feeling it is to know that so many people support the work that we do and love and care for animals as much as we do. And just when we think that support can't get any greater, an amazing opportuni-

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ty is presented by incredibly generous donors! Steve and Aviva List have generously offered to match every donation this September up to an incredible \$25,000!!! That means every gift contributed is doubled, \$25 becomes \$50, \$50 becomes \$100, \$250 becomes \$500! \$25,000 becomes \$50,000!!!!

We have a lot of stories to tell here at the NHSPCA, each one representing an animal in need of a second chance. Animals like Leo, who embark on another chapter, against all odds, thanks to generous donors like you and Steve and Aviva. Thank you for allowing us to keep telling those stories of animals that had lost hope and home and now find themselves surrounded by people determined to make their story a happy one.

We hope you will join us in by making a gift today to help us achieve this match and receive the \$25,000 gift from Steve and Aviva. Just [click here](#) to learn how.

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Here to help: Responding to 254 complaints and counting

The role of the Animal Cruelty Investigator at the New Hampshire SPCA is a vital and challenging one. Our investigator plays a crucial role in ensuring the welfare and safety of animals by investigating and addressing cases of suspected animal cruelty, neglect, abuse, and organized animal fighting.

By Tona McCarthy

Animal Cruelty Investigator/Humane Agent

I respond to every call and report that comes across my desk. My role is to help animals in need, and advocate for their well-being. I take that role very seriously. I receive reports from police departments, concerned citizens and animal control officers. If I receive a call from a concerned citizen in a town where there is an animal control officer, I contact that person as my first step. It is their jurisdiction to then investigate the complaint. I always follow-up with them to learn what was done and offer our help if needed. If there is no ACO in a town, I automatically go out to the town, visit the police department to keep them informed and visit the location of the complaint to check on the welfare of the animals involved. More frequently, I receive calls from ACOs or police departments requesting our assistance. In



Tona McCarthy is a great advocate for animals like Dorothy the baby goat, who he helped rescue from a horrific situation back in March.

those calls, we plan based on what is known by the police, whether there is a search warrant in place, and if we believe the case is severe enough to require us to transport animals.

Regardless of how I'm called in to a possible case, my goal is to have the best possible outcome

What you can do

If you witness a violent animal crime being committed, or another act you believe needs immediate intervention, contact your local police department or leave a message for me, **Tona McCarthy, at 603-772-2921 ext. 111.** You can also report your complaint by clicking [here](#).

for the animals. My hope is that all that is needed is to educate the people regarding the humane treatment of animals and that they will take that information and make a better life for their animals. However, when the severity of the case calls for it, animals can be placed into protective custody, or the owners may choose to surrender them, allowing us to restore their health if necessary, and find them a new home.

So far in 2023, I have responded to 254 complaints of suspected cruelty or neglect. These complaints included dogs, cats, horses, farm fowl, goats, cows, sheep, pigs, rats, mice, rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs and more! We believe in the welfare of all animals and so, it is my job and my privilege to be a champion for those who cannot speak for themselves.

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Your local Walmart stores are proud supporters of the 2023 NHSPCA PAWS WALK

Wrapping up an unforgettable summer!

By Aliza Eliazarov

Manager of Humane Education

Another successful summer season for the NHSPCA Camp is in the books! A full shelter meant even more fun for our animal-loving campers!

Week after week, campers fell in love with goats Ben and Jerry, Grungetta the rabbit, every cat lounging in the Catio and of course all the doggos. Mikey, the sweetest donkey, became an instant superstar. He basked in the glory of getting scratched, pet and kissed by adoring campers. The rescued mini-horses were so calm and gentle that campers were able to groom and lead them around the arena.

The young colts, Cash and Sly, backed up to the fence for adoring scratches from the kids. Older campers even helped mucking stalls. Hands-on-time with the equines was an extra treat for both campers and animals thanks to the impressive staff-duo Michelle Murch and Jordan Sims.

Behavior and Training programs are an important part of what we do here at the NHSPCA, and that was integrated into the camp experience too. Campers acted out different scenarios to learn best practices for dog introductions under the guidance of trainer Ashley Conte. Longtime agility expert Nadine Perry demonstrated agility training with her beloved dog Ember. Not only did campers get the chance to observe Ember run an agility course, but they were also given the opportunity to work directly with Ember and lead her through the course.

Daily animal care in the Humane Education classroom was led by Elizabeth Segeberg. She imbued every child who walked through the classroom doors about the level of care necessary for small animals. Elizabeth patiently guided each camper in how to care for rabbits, guinea pigs, gerbils, and hamsters. Dianna Currier and Beth Elliot taught the kiddos about the importance of enrichment for animals and led them in creating handmade treat foraging bags for the rabbits and guinea pigs. Our newest summer educator, Eliza Quill, lent her talents in theater and song that elevated the camp experience. Her



It was so exciting to see our summer campers become committed advocates for animal welfare and adoption throughout the weeks. We had such a blast and are already looking forward to next year!

The Five Freedoms

- Freedom from Hunger and Thirst
- Freedom from Discomfort
- Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease
- Freedom to Express Normal Behavior
- Freedom from Fear and Distress

positive playful energy and joy for summer camp was infectious and the camp greatly benefited from her presence.

Manager of Animal Care, Kelly Marinell, introduced a new camper favorite activity — the Mouse Mansion Challenge! The kids upcycled cardboard boxes and empty paper towel rolls to build amazing spaces for the mice to explore. We quietly observed, transfixed, as they moved through the Mousington Library, sailed aboard the Mouse Ship, and shopped in the mouse toy shop.

Somehow, we still found time for outdoor games, and arts and crafts that included needle felting with hand carded wool. Colorful hand painted rocks now line the path in Bella's Woods, each inscribed with the name of an animal adopted from the NHSPCA in the past year.

Most importantly, over the course of every week, campers became committed advocates for animal welfare and adoption. From fundraising to learning about the 5 freedoms to collaborating with Amanda Wellman to discuss transfers, their experience was robust.

We finished every session by taking the Kindness Pledge. I encourage you to take it too:

I do solemnly pledge to share the world with all humans and animals. I pledge to make sure animals are safe. I pledge to be kind to animals. I pledge to respect animals.

By the power vested in the NHSPCA by the state of New Hampshire, we hereby appoint you an official Kind Officer and Protector of Animals.

Volunteers continue to bring the sunshine!



Volunteer Coordinator Jordan and her cat Davis.

By Jordan Roberts
Volunteer Coordinator

We want to take a moment to recognize the continued hard work of all our volunteers! The summer heat came packing a punch this year, and despite the sun, our volunteers have been nothing but ready to jump in and help.

A special thank you to those who have responded promptly to all our last-minute calls for dog walkers. Our team is so fortunate to be able to rescue so many dogs with the reassurance of knowing they'll all get walked by such a supportive group. You guys are PAWesome!

We kicked off the summer, however, with a bit of colder weather at our annual Paws Walk event. And while the weather may have been a little sour, our volunteers most certainly were not!

Thank you so much to everybody who jumped in that day and kept spirits high. Despite the weather, we hosted a super successful event, with five out of six adoptable puppies finding homes that day and exceeding our fundraising goal for a grand total of \$135,000 raised!

The success of this event would not have been possible without the smiling faces of all our helpful volunteers.

Recently, the NHSPCA was so fortunate to host two Eagle Scout candidates and their teams to complete their Eagle Scout projects! In April, Anna Gunn of Troop 185, Stratham, installed all the new Dog Waste Stations you may have noticed around our campus, complete with waste depository and bags. Then in June, Grace Carroll of Troop 154, Durham, built a brand-new run-in shed for our horses, giving them some added protection from the harsh summer heat.

Both candidates were tasked with planning, fundraising, and executing these two projects all on their own, and they couldn't have done a more beautiful job! Thank you, Anna and Grace,



Check out one of our new Dog Waste Stations that was built and installed by Eagle Scout Anna Gunn of Troop 185 in Stratham.

for choosing to support the NHSPCA as a part of your Eagle Scout projects!

And finally, we want to take this time to thank a special group of dedicated volunteers who have recently stepped up and begun leading Small Animal and Cat trainings for our new volunteers.

Since joining our team in June, I have already been in touch with nearly 200 prospective volunteers, and we wouldn't be able to get everyone trained if it weren't for this lovely group! These trainers were specially chosen by our Adoption Center staff, as they have continuously shown great dedication and knowledge over their time volunteering.

A big thank you all around to Nick Harter, Denise Heffernan Stearns, Patty Keck, Fran Leavitt, Beth Mathieu, and Cathy Scuto — our new volunteers are learning from some of the best!

Thank you again, everyone!

Life-changing experiences await.

The New Hampshire SPCA depends greatly on over 700 volunteers who donate their time and talent to help the animals. **Without volunteers, we could not accomplish or advance our mission.** Improving the welfare of animals is a big job, but every little thing you do to help solve the problems of overpopulation, cruelty, neglect and irresponsible pet ownership counts. The NHSPCA Volunteer Program will give you the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a difference in the lives of all animals.

Want to join our volunteer team? Please click [here!](#)



An epic foster fail: the adventures of Otto

By Stephanie Lichtman

Volunteer

“Well, his name is Love Bucket if that tells you anything,” the Foster Care Coordinator at the

NHSPCA explained. “He just had eye surgery and needs fostering until he is healed.

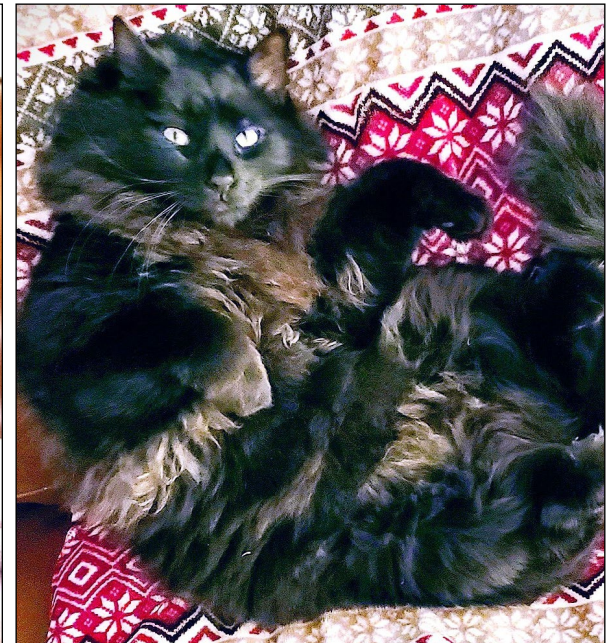
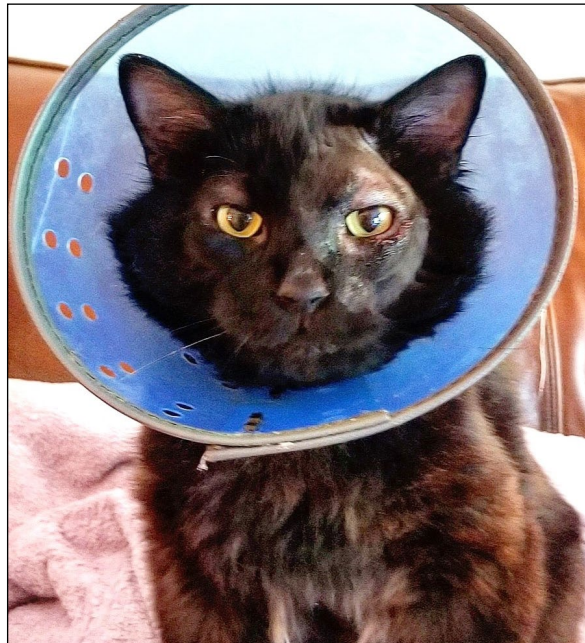
Then, we will move

him up for adoption. He will need eye medication twice a day, and a recheck with the vet in a couple of weeks.”

It did not take me long to reply. I needed to busy myself with a new project. My previous cat had died only a month ago, and while I was not up for adopting another cat, a distraction seemed a good idea. It was the middle of the pandemic. I missed having an animal in the house. For anyone that has ever had a pet, you know the emptiness when they are gone. Their furry presence, the warmth of their body as they lay next to you, the soft purrs and incessant meows or barks when it is dinner time. Familiarity is a comfort.

Love Bucket, a 4-year-old black Maine Coon mix, arrived at the NHSPCA a few weeks earlier from an overcrowded shelter in Virginia. The NHSPCA transport program regularly brings adoptable dogs and cats from overloaded facilities and adopts them to families throughout the region. When Love Bucket arrived, he needed eye surgery for entropion: a condition where the eyelid has grown inward causing the eyelashes and skin to rub on the eye surface causing pain and irritation.

I picked him up at the shelter the next day. He was silent on the drive home. I set up the downstairs bathroom near the living room with his



Sometimes life brings us exactly what we need when we least expect it... and such was the case for Otto (formerly named Love Bucket) and his lovely foster-turned-forever family.

food, litter box and bed and gated the door. This was my attempt to keep him in a designated area while he got used to the new place, sounds and smells, but near enough to us that he would get accustomed to our voices and faces and I could check on him frequently. To my surprise, as soon as I got him in the bathroom, he launched his big boned body over the gate in a powerful leap... e-collar and all. Since we no longer had any other pets in the house, I let him explore. When he was satisfied, he laid down on the couch and fell asleep. So much for the bathroom...

Love Bucket quickly made our place his. After a few days of mostly sleeping and eating, he became interested in playing. It warmed my heart to see him wanting to play with his toys. His pure

joy of batting around his cat nip mouse and chasing his feather wand just made me smile.

“He looks like an otter,” my husband, Harry commented one morning. Love Bucket was sleeping upside down, belly up, like a sea otter floating in the ocean. “We should rename him. Love Bucket is too long and cumbersome,” Harry continued. I agreed.

“Otto” I blurted out. It stuck.

Over the next few weeks, Otto’s eye began to heal. He gained weight and his coat began to grow...and grow...and grow. He was now turning into a real fluff ball. It was wonderful to watch. All his reserves had gone into healing after surgery, and now his “Maine Coon” was shining through, not only in his look, but his personality. He was my shadow; laundry, making the bed, unloading groceries, cooking, watching T.V... he was right there with me. Dog-like is often a description of Maine Coons and Otto was the perfect example. Usually, house chores morphed into play time. He was a skilled manipulator.

Right before his vet check up at the shelter, we realized having Otto around was just what we needed. We did not think we would be ready to adopt, but his zest for life and comical personality not only helped curb our grief, but he was a natural addition to our family.

Sometimes life brings us exactly what we need when we least expect it. Otto was that. This was the beginning of our adventures together.

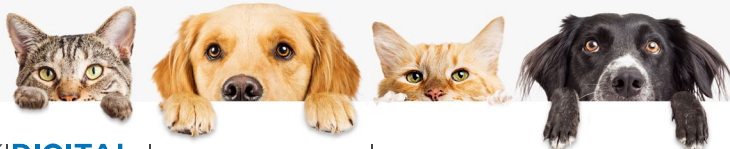
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Welcoming a familiar face to the Training Department

By Casey Morrison

Manager of Behavior & Training

The Behavior and Training Department has some exciting news and fun things happening!

First, we would like to welcome Ashley Conte to the Behavior and Training team as our part-time trainer. I am sure you will recognize her friendly face if you have peeked into our Adoption Center. You may have even worked with her to adopt your pup!



Ashley and her dog, Griz.

She has been working with and handling dogs for almost 11 years and has had a passion for animals since she was a

kid. She studied companion animals at her agricultural high school which sparked her passion further and she knew this was the path for her. Then she earned a degree as an Animal Care Specialist.

Her passion for training comes from wanting to help people build a bond and a good relationship with their dog, understanding that every dog is different and to use patience during the process. She hopes to continue her path to help rehabilitate behaviorally challenged dogs that truly need a second chance.

You will find Ashley teaching Manners 1, to help you and your pup build a foundation of training and develop the skills needed to live successfully in your home and in the world. Ashley will also be offering private training consultations to help you and your dog address specific behavioral concerns like settling in after adoption, jumping, leash pulling, or just some basic manners. Perhaps your pup would do best learning in a quiet setting, then a private consult is for you!



Small Dog Play Group is just one of the many great opportunities for dogs in our Training Department!

Ashley has a great foundation of experience with doggy playgroups and is currently running our Saturday Puppy Play Groups for puppies under six months old, as well as the Small Dog Play Groups on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, for the pint-sized pups under 25 pounds.

Upcoming offerings

You should keep a look out for upcoming fun workshops and mini-series that we will be offering to get you and your pup through the busy holiday season!

Some of these new offerings include a Holiday Manners Mini-Series which will teach you how to get your dog ready for all the events and extra people

in your home, touching on some basic manners like place, leave it, settle and patience in just three short weeks.

There will be workshops to help key in on some basic manners like recall and loose leash walking. If you have a puppy, we will have a Puppy Preschool Mini-Series to get your pup started out on the right (or left) paw! Lastly, with all that hard work, our pups need some fun too! So, we regularly offer fun classes like Agility, Control Unleashed, and Nose Work.

If you'd like to do something fun with your pup, please click [here](#) to check out all the training offerings. New classes are regularly added, so check back often!



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Planned Gifts Received

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

January 1, 2023 - July 31, 2023

From the Estates of:

Charlotte Arena
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Betty Faye Benjamin
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Peter Burgess
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Arnold R. Lowrey
Unity, NH

Linda C. Maxwell
Candia, NH

Doris M. Powell
Saint Johns, FL

Marie A. Robie
Hobe Sound, FL

Carla F. Tishler
Exeter, NH

.....
If you'd like information about leaving a gift in your estate plans, please visit nhspca.planmylegacy.org, or contact Lisa Dennison at ldennison@nhspca.org.

The legacy of a little white dog

By Sheila Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

If you're reading this newsletter, you're one of us, the animal lovers of the world. Whether the first animal you loved was a dog or horse, or a cat, fish, bird, or mouse, you learned to love animals at some point in your life. You may have been a tiny child, or perhaps your first animal love was as a teen, or when you first got married, or maybe your "soul" animal came to you a bit later in life. You're here now and you know that animals are family and we love them like family, and they love us right back.

I'd like to tell you a story about one little white dog who became family to one very caring man and together, they have created an incredible legacy of healing other animals in need. The dog is Koda and the man, John Holland.

Many may know that John is a world-renowned psychic medium who does fundraising events for the NHSPCA. What you may not know is that the reason we ever came to meet John was because he became a dog owner. Koda, the aforementioned little white dog, was the first dog John had ever owned. While he had always liked animals, becoming Koda's Dad was life-changing for John. John credits Koda for giving him the gift of unconditional love and opening his heart in new and wonderful ways.

John was moved to help other animals who weren't as fortunate to have such a loving home, because Koda inspired him. In 2010, John dropped into the NHSPCA and asked if there was a way that he could help. We, of course, said absolutely! Since that first meeting, John has raised nearly \$200,000 and established the Koda Fund at the NHSPCA. The Koda Fund provides support for lifesaving medical care for shelter animals of all kinds. Through the inspiration of Koda, we have provided lifesaving surgeries, provided major dental treatment for cats who could literally no longer eat, we've been able to save horses, provide rehabilitation and so much more. Thanks to Koda and the Fund that



We are deeply saddened by the passing of Koda, the namesake for the NHSPCA's Koda Fund.

was inspired by his big heart and tiny paws, countless animals have received all that they needed and moved on to loving homes, just like Koda's.

Koda passed away recently at the beautiful age of 16. He will be missed by all those that loved him, especially his Dad. The loss of a "soul" dog like Koda is a hard blow, but we hope John is comforted knowing the legacy Koda has left, the lives he's saved and that he will continue to help many more.

Leaving a legacy of providing for animals is something that we not only appreciate but that we honor here at the NHSPCA. We are blessed to receive gifts from estates and trusts throughout the year. These precious gifts come from people who have made a plan to create their own legacy — people just like you and me who want to make a difference for animals now, and in the future. We are the animal lovers of the world, inspired by our own experiences with our loving animal relationships, and we too can create our own legacy of saving animals lives, just like John and Koda.

For more information on estate planning and creating a legacy, please click [here](#) or contact Lisa Dennison at ldennison@nhspca.org or Sheila Ryan at sryan@nhspca.org. You can also make a gift to the Koda Fund [here](#).



Commemorative Gifts

We are so grateful for every gift received in support of the animals. Commemorative Gifts are especially touching. Gifts to remember or honor a beloved family member, friend or pet or in celebration of a special life event, a birthday, wedding or promotion, are all very special to us. We are honored to be a part of your lives in this way.

All Commemorative Gifts are posted quarterly on our website and are honored there for a year or more. To visit our Commemorative page and view our new listing, please click [here](#). Thank you for all you do for the animals!



AUCTION FOR THE Animals

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023
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Join us at the event or support the animals from home through our **Online Auction** and **Best of Live Raffle**.

Bid on incredible and unique gifts, experiences and more in our **Online Auction** from October 26th through November 27th. Beginning October 18th, purchase a **Best of Live Raffle** ticket for your chance to win one of our stunning Live Auction items.

This event raises critical funds for the homeless animals of the NHSPCA. Please help us make this our best year yet! Purchase tickets and learn more by clicking [here](#).

Thank you for a pawesome day!

By Julie Halama

Special Events & Sponsorship Manager

Animal lovers of all ages came out in full force on June 4th to celebrate Paws Walk.



Not even the rain could stop them. It was a great time in Stratham Hill Park with plenty of puppy love!

The best part... we surpassed our \$130,000 fundraising goal all thanks to the generosity of people like you.

A very special thank you to everyone who helped make this day possible including our dedicated walkers, vendors, Kelly Brown of iHeartMedia, and sponsors, listed here. ↪

We are looking forward to an even bigger and more exciting Paws Walk next June! Stay tuned for the date!

Thank you for all you do!

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