



YEAR END NEWS 2023

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Cruelty, neglect cases on the rise in 2023

By Sheila Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

This year the New Hampshire SPCA has sadly seen a marked increase in serious neglect cases. Some of them have been large scale cases with dozens of animals involved, others, just a few, but they are happening more frequently in New Hampshire and the region.

Some of the more difficult situations occurred in Bedford and Northwood and required us to step in and help the police departments and the NH Dept of Agriculture. The Bedford case required three separate visits to investigate and rescue all of the animals affected. During the first, we removed eight emaciated horses and 14 dogs, the second, seven more very weak horses and on the final visit, under a search warrant, an additional 19 terrified, filth-covered dogs were removed from inside the house.

The dogs were extremely under-socialized, having lived in crates stacked three high, or running loose for most of their lives.

Over time, the care they needed was provided, the personalities of dogs that were terribly shutdown be-

Know the law...

Every animal deserves to be cared for, receiving food, shelter, veterinary care, and love. While love cannot be legislated, appropriate care can be and is. Owners of animals are required by law to provide appropriate housing, shelter from the elements, food, water and care. The State of New Hampshire provides us with information to educate on the meaning of cruelty. Visit their website NH.Gov and search for **NH State Law 644:8**, cruelty to animals.

gan to emerge. Eventually, each of those animals was placed into a loving home.

Just a week after the Bedford case, came Northwood, another even more awful one. The conditions at the property were overwhelming. According to one NHSPCA staff member on site, the stench in the house was unbearable.

The animals taken in by the NHSPCA included five dogs, eight cats, ten rabbits, two turtles, an African Grey parrot, donkeys, mini-donkeys, goats, a sheep and a horse. Other animals taken in by partner

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Ted, 17, was one of 33 dogs removed from a single home in Bedford in August. After plenty of love, care and medical attention, he was cleared for adoption and went to his forever home in early September.

Keanu: from tethered to treasured



By Rich Hegarty

Annual Fund & Digital Marketing Manager

As the holiday season wraps us in its warm embrace, we are thrilled to share a heartwarming story that embodies the spirit of hope, resilience, and the transformative power of love. Meet Keanu, an adorable pup whose journey from abandonment to a loving home is sure to warm your heart.

Keanu was discovered in October abandoned and tied to a tree, with no food or water in sight, a silent plea for help emanating from his beautiful, sad eyes. It was a heartbreaking sight that might have been the end of the road for many, but not

See **KEANU**, Page 16



TRENDS IN ANIMAL WELFARE

Learn how the New Hampshire SPCA is responding to trends locally and nation-wide.

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

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we wind down the year, I stop and notice what an incredible year it has been here. The accomplishments of the past 12 months have been incredibly heartwarming.

Around the country, it's troubling that there has been an increase in animals surrendered to shelters, adoptions lagging, and animals lingering. Sadly, euthanasia in other regions is also on the rise. Having a commitment to help, an experienced transport team and deeply supportive medical personnel, the NHSPCA has been able to step up to help save more. We are partnering with even more agencies, finding wonderful homes in NH for many more large and small animals.

There has also been a rise in cruelty and neglect cases locally and nationally resulting in animals seized or surrendered in higher numbers. Cases like the one in Northwood take months to resolve. Today we are still holding in Protective Custody since August, 22 animals until the first court hearing scheduled in February 2024!

We helped taking in and caring for animals that were intended to be rescued by others but who at the last minute could not, assisted local and regional shelters where capacity was being tested and from individuals in emergency situations. Each time we have been able to assist, we tip our hats to you who make our response possible.

Our Community Wellness programs have begun anew and are ever evolving and wellness services will be opening up to a greater degree soon. In addition, our Humane Education department is thriving as new programs for children are being introduced and those that are most loved continue such as birthday parties with the animals. Keep an eye on our website for new programs!

So, there is much to celebrate as we come to the end of the year~

- Volunteers have always been critical to our success and those specially trained have begun taking shelter dogs to run at the beach or the park, or simply spending time in our play yards and outside of their kennel.
- Gentle hands and great patience have slowly allowed feral horses, cats and others to be gentled while building trust.
- More than 1800 animals have found new homes.



- Hundreds of dogs and their families learned new skills in our classes and children have developed knowledge and confidence as they interacted with vulnerable animals and knowledgeable staff.

In 2024, we will continue to look for ways to help more, to save more and expand our impact. We ask each day how can we help, how can we continue to make a difference in the lives of animals and give them the best possible future. Our goal is to step up and provide assistance whenever possible.

Individuals, families, and our community benefit as we work to keep beloved pets together with their people, or by bringing new loves into their lives. Having a pet is life changing surrounded by an unconditional bond, love that transforms lifting spirits, giving hope. Each of us deserve that~

The work of the NHSPCA is a partnership. This partnership with you, our community, is amazing and wonderful. We are forever grateful that together, we are making lasting differences to people and animals that get a second chance.

It was truly a great year...thanks to you!

On behalf of the animals,

Lisa Dennison
 Executive Director

New Hampshire Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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Internship Series Pt. III: Spending time with Sparrow

By Michelle Murch

Equine & Farm Program Manager

Since my internship in California, almost a year ago, not having a wild or feral equine to gentle in our barn would seem foreign to me now.

Want to adopt a farm animal?

Please click [here](#) to view available animals

I returned to New Hampshire in January 2023 and our first mustang, Charlie, was transferred to us a week later. There have been other mustangs and feral equines this year, too: Jessie, Raven, Chief, Mustang Charlie, Willie, Dickie and Danny. All of them have been adopted or are almost ready for a forever home.

The most challenging equine we have had so far has been Sparrow. Sparrow is a wild horse who has lived in captivity for 25 years.

We were finally able to read Sparrow's freeze-mark, the BLM's (Bureau of Land Management) method to mark a horse as a wild horse on Federally protected land. A freezing brand iron is used on the left side of the neck to mark the hide. This is a permanent mark done for identification. When we inquired of the BLM about Sparrow's history, based on her freeze-mark, the response from the BLM was, "That is a 26-year-old, pinto female. She was captured from the Seven Troughs HMA in Nevada, on August 11, 1998. She was adopted on February 26, 1999, and titled March 15, 2000."

I had hoped she had been captured in the past few years as an older mare and not lived her life wild and terrified in captivity. Sadly, that was not the situation. Sparrow had been living as an owned animal but had never been gentled. She had never become handleable, never loved or even touchable. She was truly still a wild horse.

Well-meaning people adopt wild horses for many reasons, most are trying to help. But unfortunately, many have no idea what they are taking on until they do. Gentling a wild or feral horse is a commitment and requires knowledge and training. Some are easier than others, but it still takes time, patience, and did I mention time? Daily. It's amazing and rewarding but it's also dangerous and much harder at times than it looks.

Sparrow has taken enormous steps towards being gentled. When she first arrived, we were



Our Equine & Farm Program team has worked wonders with eight feral equines since Michelle's internship with Monty Roberts! Sparrow, pictured, is one of the horses that have benefited.

unable to touch her, and she fled to the furthest point possible wherever a human entered her stall or run. She wouldn't even look our way. Now she stands quietly in a stall with humans curious about our business in her area. She can walk on a lead around the property and will even put her head down to graze when we take her out for walks. Grazing is a vulnerable position for a horse which means she feels a sense of safety in our presence now. This has been months of just being near her and causing her no harm. Yesterday, for the first time, Sparrow, on her own walked up and touched a human. Willingly, of her own choosing, she wanted to be with people. It was an amazing step for her! That is my favorite part of gentling, when they choose you.

My time spent interning with Monty Roberts has already proven incredibly valuable. In just this past year of rescuing and gentling equines. I feel as though we are better equipped to handle whatever comes our way and save even more lives, even ones that may have seemed unsavable in the past.

Farmyard Friends

Did you know the New Hampshire SPCA is one of the few animal shelters in the state equipped to provide care and adoption for homeless, abused or neglected farm animals? In addition to horses, we have had the pleasure of caring for some pretty fun farmyard friends this year, including:



← Mikey was one of **11 Donkeys** in our care this year

↘ Babe Ruth the **Guineafowl**



↘ Pee Bee and Jay the **Sheep** were in our care for 178 days



↘ Oscar came in with seven other **African Geese**



← Gordy the **Ram** is finally home after 88 days in our care!

Doing our part to help overcrowded Southern shelters

By Amanda Wellman
Transport Coordinator



Brothers Scottie and Wyatt traveled all the way from Texas to find their loving homes here in New Hampshire!

The sweet story of Scottie and Wyatt

In September, there was a Golden Retriever puppy in a severely overcrowded shelter in Texas. His name was Scottie. Scottie's brother, Wyatt, was slated to be transported to the NHSPCA. We asked about Scottie, but we were told that he wouldn't be transferred because he was diagnosed with Hip Dysplasia. At such an early age, he likely wouldn't be a candidate for adoption at all. We were devastated to think that we would be able to place his brother so easily but that Scottie would not get that chance. Our Transport Coordinator couldn't bear making that terrible decision and asked our Veterinarian, Dr. Carly LaGrandeur, if we could do anything to help. Dr. Carly took one look at the x-rays and then at Scottie's adorable face and said, "Bring that dog here. He'll have a great life." Even with Scottie's medical condition, he was adopted only three days after being made available to NH adopters. He's now living his best life and his new family is committed to providing any medical treatment he needs. Also living their best lives are brother Wyatt and so, so many other dogs, cats and horses that get to the NHSPCA.

Our country is currently suffering through a crisis in animal sheltering. The soaring cost of living, the crisis in affordable housing, the rising cost of veterinary care, and the lack of available workers has led to a record number of shelters and rescues constantly being at or over capacity with homeless animals. Animal surrenders are up, and animal adoptions are down.

Except here at the New Hampshire SPCA! We are lucky enough to be surrounded by an amazing community of animal lovers who go the distance for pets — not just for their own pets, but for homeless pets as well. While the NHSPCA has certainly increased the number of animals that we are caring for, we have also managed to increase adoptions! This means we can assist our local homeless pet population and we can continue to help our Southern rescue partners by bringing some of their adoptable animals North to find their fur-ever families at our facility!

With the addition of the compassionate and talented Dr. Carly LaGrandeur as our new staff veterinarian, the NHSPCA was able to begin increasing animal transports in September of 2023. We are currently running regularly scheduled cat and dog transports from rescue partners in states including Texas, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Louisiana. Most of our transports are ground-based, which means the animals are transported by van from the sending shelter to us. On two occasions we have even participated in air transport flights, where adoptable dogs and cats travel by airplane to get to the animal welfare organizations that are awaiting them.

On Friday, October 9, we had the pleasure of receiving nine adult dogs at the Manchester Airport. The dogs originated from the Fort Worth Animal Shelter in Texas; they are a wonderful rescue partner who works tirelessly to find homes for the hundreds of animals that they receive on a weekly basis. The dogs were flown to Manchester by an organization known as Dog is My CoPilot — a coalition of nine private pilots who donate their spare time and talents to fly at-risk adoptable animals to less-crowded shelters and rescues where they can be adopted.

The team at Fort Worth and Dog Is My CoPilot are highly organized — the flight was perfectly planned and went off without a hitch! It was a joy to join up with four other New England shelters and meet the dogs on the tarmac at Manchester. Even the dogs were happy to be there — there



Since Dakota arrived at the New Hampshire SPCA from Aiken County Animal Shelter in SC in early January 2023, we have welcomed more than 480 animals from overpopulated shelters in the South.

was a handsome black Doodle named Roo who wagged his tail so hard when I took him off the plane, I thought he was going to burst out of his airline crate right then and there! But of course, the crates are very thoroughly secured, so we were able to load Roo onto our van with his eight friends and make the trip back to the NHSPCA in time for nice long leg-stretching walks followed by a well-deserved dinner. Unsurprisingly, eight of the nine dogs were adopted less than seven days after the flight touched down in New Hampshire! The final dog required a little extra time, but is now happy at home.

The team at the NHSPCA is so incredibly grateful that we have the most caring community to support our mission. We will do whatever it takes to help as many animals as possible, but we would not be able to do so without the assistance that our community consistently provides us. Every animal that passes through our doorway gets a chance at a better life, and we have you to thank for that!

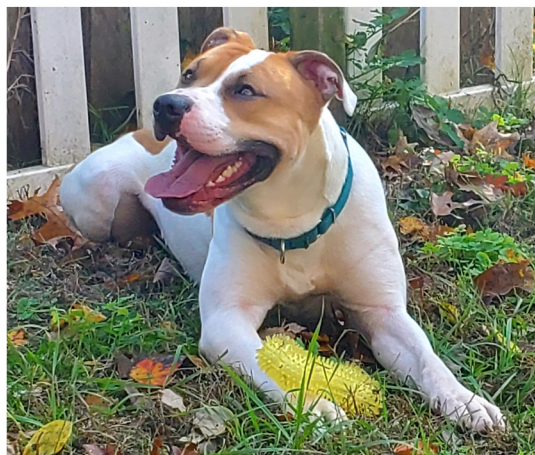


Morris

Morris is doing so well! He's extremely loving and sweet. He follows me around like a little shadow. He's also very chatty! If he can't find you he will let you know he's looking with a few loud meows. He's gentle and loving with our two children and sleeps at the foot of my daughter's bed every night.

We are truly so grateful to have Morris in our home! He gives endless cuddles and purrs!

— Sara



Carl

So far, Carl is loving his new home. He goes for plenty of walks and runs around the yard. Still looking for a toy he can't destroy, but we will get there!

Thank you for introducing us to our new puppy love.

— Natalia and Kevin



Diesel

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to bring another big Belgian into my life. Diesel (on the left) has made me super happy and made me look forward to being with them everyday. I'm excited to see what our spring has in store for us. Hoping he will be ready for riding by then. He's still a bit jumpy, but I'm okay with going slow. He takes the saddle perfectly fine, and the bridle. He's super forward (which is exciting for me as my other guy is very slow and steady!). Just building the courage to jump on him.

— Rebecca



Bronco

Just wanted to let you know that Bronco is doing amazing! He is settling into his new home quite nicely and getting used to his new routine. We feel beyond blessed to have been given the opportunity to adopt Bronco and love him to pieces. He is such a snuggle bug and more than enjoys his daily walks in the woods behind our home. Thank you so much!

— Melissa



Simon & River

Aquaman (now Simon) and Angel (now River) are acclimating well and getting used to their new home! They've been so sweet and we love them very much. They fit in so well with our family. Thank you to everyone that helped us.

— John, Christina, and Ari



Hagrid & Dumbledor

In August, I adopted Chip and Frosty (now renamed Hagrid and Dumbledor!) they are doing so well and have brought me so much joy! They have learned some tricks and love to explore.

Thank you for all your help!

— Claudia



Finally home: Meg's family worth waiting for

By Eden Zook

Enrichment Coordinator

Growing up in an overcrowded animal shelter in Texas as a young puppy is not an ideal start to life. Sadly, it was Meg's reality. At such a young age, this pint-sized Staffy-bull seemed to have the cards stacked against her.

That is until we put eyes on her and just knew her family could be found in New Hampshire.

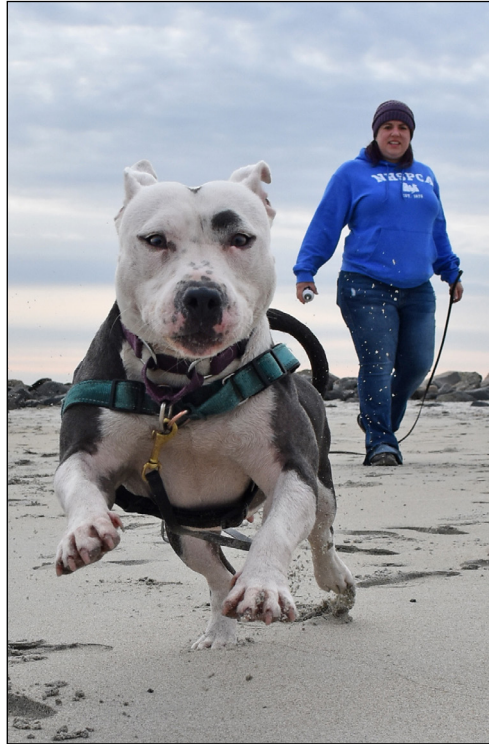
In August 2023, our Transport Coordinator arranged to transfer this little spitfire of a girl up north to broaden her horizons. She was a staff favorite in Texas, so they were beyond thrilled that we agreed to welcome her to New Hampshire. Between her house hippo stature, adorably silly ears, and trademark eyebrow patch, we anticipated she would fly right off the adoption floor. But, there she sat... day after day... week after week... with little to no interest from adopters.

This seemed so odd to all of us, as the Dog Pavilion would erupt in barking when adopters walked through, but there was Meg... sitting patiently with hopeful eyes at the front of her kennel in silence. Why wasn't anyone scooping her up? Two weeks after she became available, an adopter came in and our hearts were filled with hope as Meg went home. Sadly, it didn't last long and after just a couple of days, Meg was back in our care because the adopters determined she was too active for them.

As the weeks turned to months, the kennel life started to leave its mark on Meg, which is common. The amount of stimulation in any animal shelter is a lot for dogs to handle day in and day out. Most dogs in a shelter environment rarely get the required deep sleep they need to behaviorally remain stable.

Symptoms of over arousal and lack of good rest were indeed the behaviors Meg was starting to show. She became mouthy, was jumping up a lot, and overall just became a bit of a hot mess of erratic energy. Since Meg literally grew up in a shelter, she never really learned how to regulate her nervous system, how to rest, or how to simply relax. You'd think dogs naturally know how to do these seemingly "simple" things such as rest, but for many dogs, they need to be taught these life skills.

Thankfully, we have an excellent team of Enrichment volunteers and staff that was excited to step up for Meg in a very big way! I created a special behavior modification and enrichment plan for her for while in our care, as well as a separate one to accompany her as she transitioned into life at home.



Meg was a great reminder that some dogs just need a little extra time and care — and thank goodness she ended up at the New Hampshire SPCA where she could stay as long as it took. LEFT: Meg runs on the beach for the first time. RIGHT: One very happy (and now complete!) family.

Realizing how important consistency would be for Meg while attempting to help her, we opted to only have staff and select experienced volunteers handle her. I started taking her on offsite field trips to Stratham Hill Park and even my farm in Deerfield. We made sure the activities we involved Meg in were all geared toward settling her overstimulated brain and taught her to "do nothing" comfortably.

Meg was improving, but we knew we were fighting an uphill battle if she wasn't adopted quickly. She just needed out of the shelter environment. She just needed a home. She just needed someone who was patient, kind, and willing to work with her in a partnership to be the best version of herself.

At times, it felt like a tall order. I even donated a private in-home behavior/training session from my dog training business to whomever adopted this deserving girl. We so desperately wanted to set her up for success.

Then, Saturday, November 4 — 80 days after Meg arrived at the NHSPCA — came around and something wonderful happened.

It was my day off and my friend Melissa (also a staff member) and I decided to take Meg on a beach field trip. We were hoping to get some great photos and video to help show her off. She

had never been to a beach before, and we quickly realized she was totally in her element. She was able to run on a 30-foot line, chase the waves, sniff the salty air, and just be Meg... without any agenda.

To see her smile from ear to ear and frolic in the sand warmed my heart to no end. Then, a call came from the shelter: there was a "unicorn family" that had just driven 1.5 hours just to meet Meg! So, we gathered her up and drove back to the shelter with nothing but hope in our hearts for this sweet girl. What are the chances that these lovely people would come to meet her on a day I just happened to be with her? It was starting to feel like it was meant to be.

I spoke with the family as they spent time with Meg and chatted with them about her struggles, her achievements, and what I knew about her. They fell in love and the rest is history.

That morning, Meg went to the beach with some of her favorite humans and never had to go back in the kennel again. Instead, she now sleeps with her humans, is showered with toys, and struts her stuff in the neighborhood with a matching collar, harness, and leash combo. The best part? The pattern on her outfit is a bunch of princess crowns because in her new life, she is "the queen."

Trends in animal welfare

By Savannah Alcerro, MPA
Director of Animal Services

This year has presented a difficult year in animal welfare, with agencies throughout the country seeing a great strain in resources. Shelter Animals Count, a national organization that collects statistical information from shelters and rescues throughout the country, has reported an increase in intakes, more animals coming into organizations than leaving, and a decrease in animal transfers. This has left many organizations bursting at the seams with animals and quite literally nowhere to house them. Some of our partners have reported they have large dogs living in wire crates simply because there is nowhere else to house them. They desperately need our help.

With the continued support of our community, the New Hampshire SPCA has risen to meet the need for overcrowded partner shelters, while continuing to assist our local community. Through collaboration with other, usually southern partners, we take behaviorally-sound and medically healthy dogs and cats who are being

overlooked and are potentially at-risk for euthanasia and transport them to our facility.

These partners range from regional, all the way down to Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana and as far away as Texas. As of mid-October, we have been able to help 480 animals find their forever homes by simply moving them to another part of the country. In August alone, our agency took in 105 transfer animals and in September, 77 animals came to us through this route. While they may have waited for many weeks, months, or maybe would never have had a positive outcome in their home state, they were all adopted into loving families after arriving at the NHSPCA.

Local animals still make up most of the animals our agency has assisted with 709 animals coming in from the state. Animals who are homeless or in need locally come to the shelter through many different scenarios; including being abandoned, lost, or being surrendered because their families were no longer able to keep them. Many of the owners who must surrender their pets face difficult situations themselves and have limited, or no, other options other than surrender to our



Dexter and Dylan are just two of the more than 480 transport animals we've welcomed this year!

facility. We provide a safe and loving temporary home for those animals until a new family is found for them.

With both transfer animals and local animals, it is not a surprise to learn that intake numbers, up through the third quarter of 2023, have already exceeded total animal intake from 2022. August 2023 saw our highest monthly intake in the last five years with 308 animals coming into the NHSPCA. We hope to continue maximizing our resources and amplifying our passion to save more lives by taking in animals, both locally and nationally, who need loving homes. Thank you for the support that makes this work possible.

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Healthy and home for the holidays

By Melissa Mower

Marketing & Graphic Design Associate

We are so thankful to be able to be here for local, homeless animals that need a little bit of luck — and



Want to help animals like Teresa? See Page 16

medical care. Such was the case of sweet Teresa, a 3-year-old lovebug.

We welcomed and fell in love with Teresa

in early November. Her owner surrendered her after realizing that there was an overpopulation of cats in the home. The living conditions definitely took its toll on Teresa, who was obviously very sick.

Teresa looked at us with her big, beautiful yellow eyes as our medical team examined her and made note of her severe dehydration, low weight, and dry, matted coat — all likely due to the poor conditions she had been living in. Her Body Condition Score was a 2.5 out of 9 (for reference, 4-5 on the scale marks ideal weight). Also noted was a heart murmur.

Most pressing, though, was that this sweet little

girl, who already had what felt like all the cards stacked against her, was showing symptoms of having a severe upper respiratory infection. She needed help and she needed it quickly.

Our veterinary team wasted no time getting a plan together for little Teresa. In addition to fluids and a medication to help her eat and gain weight, this six-pound beauty was treated for her URI and slated for periodic checkups to track how she was progressing. Seven days after her intake exam, Teresa was noted to be much brighter, eating well, and only mildly dehydrated.

Five days later, we celebrated as Teresa got the stamp of approval from our vet and was moved to the adoption floor! Her URI was completely resolved, her heart murmur was determined to have been a side effect to her anemia/stress while severely sick (therefore, her heart was normal again), and she had gained a little bit of weight. All she needed now was a loving home that would help her stay on track and keep recovering — but since she was so easy to love, we knew it wouldn't take long at all.

Teresa was quickly scooped up and taken home along with the grey kitten she was neighbors with in



Teresa is healthy, safe and home for the holidays!

the Cat Pavilion! We really couldn't have dreamt up a better situation for her.

Your support is what helps us be here for animals like Teresa — animals that just need a little bit of love and a soft place to land while they recover from the unfair hand they were dealt. While taking some time this holiday season to reflect on all the good this year has brought, may we think of stories like Teresa's. This little grey cat was given the very best gift of all this year and is now home, safe and healthy, for the holidays — and it's all thanks to you.



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We're delighted to welcome Dr. Carly LaGrandeur!

My name is Carly LaGrandeur and I joined the New Hampshire SPCA as the Staff Veterinarian in early August. I have always had a passion for shelter medicine and did



Dr. Carly LaGrandeur

a shelter and community medicine focused internship after veterinary school. Coming to the NHSPCA is a dream come true for me. There are so many reasons why I love shelter medicine. It's a really interesting mix of herd medicine — where you need to focus on what is best for a group — combined with individualized care — where you have to navigate staff acting as a collective owner for each animal. It's

about setting animals up for medical and behavioral success when they go home no matter what they come in with.

I used to consider our homeless animal population to be those with the greatest need — I felt that they not only needed a voice but to be heard and represented. Within the last few years, we have started to shift our focus as we realize that animals in need are often in loving homes with owners that cannot afford or otherwise cannot access veterinary care. Shelter and community medicine are becoming one, and so we expand our goals to include not only placing animals in loving homes, but also keeping animals in their homes through community medicine.

The NHSPCA has offered community low-cost spay and neuter clinics pre-pandemic and have recently ramped those back up. Now with our

expanded medical facility we plan to increase our program to provide a wide variety of care. By helping the public with affordable care for their animals, we will reduce the number of animals that need to enter our shelters locally. Thus, we maximize the resources we have for the animals that need them most.

Shelter pets will always have my heart but having the opportunity to help build a community veterinary program is a large part of why I wanted this job. Building up this program will take time, but I know with such a phenomenal team we will do it the right way so that when we have a robust clinic up and running, we will know it was built with intention and care every step of the way. I feel honored to be in this role and can't wait to keep you all posted on where we go from here.

The return of low-cost spay and neuter clinics

By Kate Young

Veterinary Center Manager

According to a recent study, 70% of Americans own pets (cats and dogs). While a great many come from animal welfare groups and rescues, many people obtain their pets from friends, family, neighbors and co-workers.

Here at the New Hampshire SPCA and at most other animal welfare organizations, pets are

spayed and neutered, provided medical care, vaccines, flea preventative and a microchip before they are made available for adoption. This makes it relatively

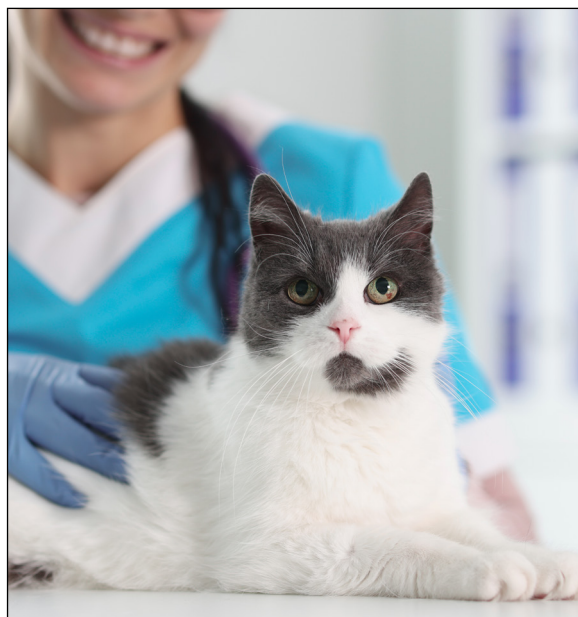
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Please click [here](#) to learn more about this service.

straightforward for an adopter to bring the animal home, begin a routine and establish a relationship with a veterinarian for ongoing care.

However, if a pet is brought home from a different source, in most cases, none of these things are handled, leaving it up to the new owner to organize.

The first few months of a new pet's time in a home can be very costly, with all the setup of supplies, beds, bowls, toys and the rest. Along with necessary vet care, it can be a lot to tackle for many in our community who are on fixed incomes or facing other forms of financial hardship. This shouldn't prevent them from enjoying the



We're thrilled to again be offering low-cost spay and neuter clinics for those in our community who are on fixed incomes or facing financial hardship.

many benefits of having a bond with a loving pet.

We are so happy to announce that we have re-started the low-cost spay and neuter program here at the NHSPCA. Our first clinic was September 26 and we have several dates scheduled through December. More dates will be added on a rolling basis in the new year.

At this time, we are offering clinics for cats only,

NHSPCA Spay/Neuter Clinics

Cat Surgery Fees

\$135.00 spay (female) | \$100.00 neuter (male)

Additional services available:

Rabies Vaccine — \$30.00

Feline Distemper Vaccine — \$30.00

Microchip — \$25.00

E-Collar Cone — \$10.00

Topical Flea/Tick Preventative — \$10.00-\$20.00
(price is weight dependent)

but will expand to offer services for some dogs in 2024. Clinics will likely take place mainly on Tuesdays. Appointments do need to be booked in advance.

In addition to spay or neuter surgery, we are able to provide basic vaccines, flea and tick preventative and microchipping — all at an affordable cost. This, along with the addition of our new Staff Veterinarian, Dr. Carly LaGrandeur, our Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Center Assistant allow us to provide services to our community who may otherwise have difficulty accessing essential services for their pets while we continue much needed care for the shelter population of animals.

As time goes by, we aim to offer additional services to our community to help ensure that pets can remain in their loving homes.

CRUELTY CASES...

Continued from Page 1

shelters included three additional dogs, dozens of farm fowl, a cow and a snake. Tona McCarthy, Humane Agent and Cruelty Investigator for the NHSPCA, said that the animals were found without food or water, rabbits were living in crates caked with waste, cat litter boxes were overflowing.

The situation was so horrific that DCYF was there and removed three children that day as well.

The owner of the animals has surrendered some of them, which is helpful as it allows us to heal them and find them homes more quickly. However, after multiple court dates, 22 of them remain in our care and the next court date is not even anticipated until February 2024. These 22 will remain in protective custody with us, essentially in limbo until the court decision is made for their outcome.

We have seen many more complaints involving smaller groups or individual animals as well. Investigator McCarthy travels all over the state



Butterscotch was one of ten rabbits removed from a home in Northwood. She has been adopted!

investigating reports by concerned citizens, following up with police departments and animal control officers, and educating owners. In September and October alone, he traveled from Stratham to Newfields to Derry, Belmont to Colebrook, Deerfield to Plaistow and many towns in between. To say he has been busy would be an understatement. In that same two-month period, 114 animals were involved in the complaints he investigated.

While the large cases receive a great deal of interest, there are many more smaller cases that sadly have just become part of our daily work. There were the five cats surrendered after we responded to a request from the police in a large southern NH town. An officer had received a complaint that the cats were malnourished. The owner admitted that the care was too much, and the cats came in flea infested, with untreated ear infections and in need of medical care.

Then there were two dogs that came in after an investigation in western NH, or the five small, long-haired dogs from Coos County that came in severely matted and ill.

There are always more in need of intervention. It is impossible to say what is causing this increase in neglect and cruelty. Some say it is the economy, or the lingering effects of the pandemic. To us, it seems to be those reasons as well as being overwhelmed, illness and other things we can't identify.

What we know for sure is that we will continue to be here to rescue them and care for them until the tide turns.

Be sure your animals have proper shelter this winter — it's the law!

HORSES

Horses in Barns

- Must be adequately vented and dry
- Stalls must be of sufficient size so the horses are able to lie down
- Horses must be provided suitable exercise in arenas, barn yards, paddocks or pastures

Horses in Paddocks or Pastures

- From November 1 through April 15, roofed shelter with at least three sides must be provided
- Horses must be able to move around freely and not be tied in the shelter
- Shelter must be large enough to accommodate the number of horses on the property

Food and Water

- All horses must have access to roughage in proportion to their size, age, temperament and amount of work they are required to perform
- Must be fed daily
- Food must be clean and free from excessive moisture
- Must have sufficient quantity of fresh water



DOGS

Shelter for dogs

- Must be provided a natural or artificial structurally-sound shelter
- Must allow the dog to remain clean and dry
- Dog must be able to stand up, turn around and lie down
- Shelter must be proportionate to size of dog and sufficient to retain body heat

If you see a horse or dog outside without adequate shelter, please call us — (603) 772-2921 ext. 111 — or your local police department immediately. The police are bound by law to make sure owners are following the state statutes.

Thank you for helping us keep the animals safe!

Children need Humane Education now more than ever

By Aliza Eliazarov

Manager of Humane Education

Our country is experiencing a pediatric mental health crisis. Three years post-pandemic, record

Programming for children

Please click [here](#) to view upcoming events and programs!

numbers of children are still struggling with anxiety and depression. Housing insecurity and increased cost of living has put a squeeze on most families. Humane

Education programs at animal shelters across the country are in a unique position to help children in a significant way.

Simply put, Humane Education teaches respect, compassion and empathy for animals, people and the natural world. It emphasizes the importance of kindness for all living things. Through daily care of our classroom ambassador animals by campers or enrichments for adoptable animals made by our Junior Volunteers, children learn about the responsibility, connection, and compassion necessary in caring for another living being.



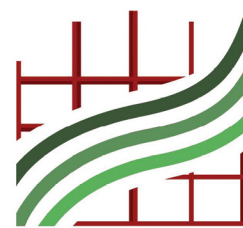
The NHSPCA is proud to support the wellbeing of children by facilitating animal-human connections.

Our programming at the New Hampshire SPCA is expansive with something for toddlers to teens. Armed with current and critical knowledge regarding our agency, adoption, population control, heartworm prevention and animal safety, children can be our most vocal and persuasive advocates.

Time spent with animals is proven to reduce anxiety. Time off from devices and social me-

dia is imperative for mental health and growing minds. A safe nonjudgmental space like our humane education classroom creates opportunities for new friendships to blossom. Being of service to animals in need gives children a sense of control and accomplishment in a world that can feel heavy and full of uncertainty. Volunteerism at any age has been proven to alleviate feelings of alienation and increase one's sense of purpose. The overall benefits are immeasurable and invaluable.

In 1876, the New Hampshire Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the New Hampshire SPCA was one organization, to help save both animals and children. That partnership continued through the 1960s. Today the Humane Education program at the NHSPCA continues to support the wellbeing of children by facilitating animal human connections. A circle is created where animals help children who help animals who help children. Our impact in the community is immediately doubled in this fashion. We will ultimately be rewarded one hundred-fold in the future by helping shape the next generation of change makers.



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Certified Public Accountants. P.C.

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Heather Walker, CPA

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Hampton, NH 03842

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www.mpandwcpa.com

There is so much to be thankful for this year

By Jordan Roberts
Volunteer Coordinator

'Tis the season at the New Hampshire SPCA! And my goodness, are we preparing for the holiday season ahead. Between the *Auction for the Animals* in November, Deck the Howls in December, and a whole lot of furry residents

thrown into the mix, we are definitely keeping busy around here!

Interested in helping?

Contact Jordan at jroberts@nhspca.org to learn more today!

This season, and really every season, we are deeply grateful for our dedicated volunteers and staff who take time, even

on the busiest of days, to come in and care for our animals. On Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve- you name it, we still have animals here that need attention and care. Nobody should be alone during the holidays! Thank you in advance to every volunteer who will take time out of their festivities to come and help make sure the animals in our care get the love they deserve. Just think, all these animals will be in a warm, loving home by next Christmas!

Our volunteer program has been expanding steadily as we add more and more fun and impactful opportunities for volunteers! Our newest volunteer shift, Pen Time, allows anyone trained in dog care to take dogs out of their kennels, bring them into one of our wonderful



Our volunteers are the best! We are so thankful for the love and time they give to help all our animals feel comforted during their time with us.

dog play yards, and just let them be dogs! Our Pen Time volunteers love taking dogs outside to run around, play fetch, or even simply bask in the sun. This shift has been a huge success- a win-win-win for our staff, volunteers, and dogs alike! Thank you to everyone who has helped trial-run Pen Time!

Another notable shift change has been the new combination of our Afternoon Cat Care and Small Animal Care shifts. Combining these shifts has been immensely helpful for our staff as they navigate our busiest open-hours between

2 and 4. Thank you so much to all our cat and small animal volunteers who have been open and jumped into new tasks as we've navigated this change!

We know how hard it is for folks to get here during this remarkably busy season. Holiday parties seem to be scheduled by the day, presents need to be wrapped, and what would be the most perfect gift is only on sale for 24 hours! The weather may be chilly, but may you find warmth in the community we've created here. We are so lucky to have such an amazing group of volunteers who we can count on to come in during this busy season and work on those cold, wintery days.

In sum, we are grateful. Grateful for everyone who has volunteered for one hour or one hundred hours. Grateful for those working outside and in. Grateful for those who can only be here part of the year or are here every day. Grateful for all who have love in their hearts for animals in need. No matter how much time you have given, whether as a dogwalker, a cat or small animal volunteer, in the barn, a foster family, an office volunteer, a maintenance volunteer, in humane education, Alzheimer's Café, a fundraising or event volunteer, or any of the myriad ways you help, we are immensely thankful for all of you during this season and every day. We could not do what we do without you. We wish you and your furry friends a safe and warm ending to your year. Cheers to all of you this holiday season!

THREE WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE ANIMALS



ADOPT

Give a homeless animal the very best gift of all: a loving and safe home.

Click [here](#) to view available animals!



VOLUNTEER

Have the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a difference in the lives of all animals.

Click [here](#) to learn about volunteering!



DONATE YOUR CAR

Have an old vehicle (working or not) taking up too much space? Donate it to benefit the animals!

Call (603) 772-2921 ext. 102 to learn more!

Our deepest thanks for an amazing evening!

By Sheila Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

On November 11, nearly 300 of our community's most generous animal-lovers gathered to celebrate the annual *Auction for the Animals* at the legendary Wentworth by the Sea. The Auction is one of New Hampshire's most well-loved fundraising events and this evening was particularly moving.

The ballrooms were buzzing with excitement throughout the evening while guests, decked out in black tie or dazzling gowns, mingled with NHSPCA alumni dogs. As always, the most heartwarming part of the evening was the Fund-A-Need, a call for guests to raise their paddle in support of a special NHSPCA cause. This year, our guests were incredibly generous raising their paddles to help increase the number of animals transferred to the NHSPCA from overcrowded and under resourced shelters around the country. To each and every person who lifted their paddle in support of the special fund, we express our deepest gratitude. You truly made a



Thank you for making this a magical night for the animals of the New Hampshire SPCA!

life-saving difference to countless animals! And to our two matching donors, Mr. Tom Haas and Ms. CherylAnne Williams, thank you for helping inspire our guests with your own generosity.

We invite you to join us again next year for the *Auction for the Animals* to be held on Saturday, November 23, 2024.

Thank you again to every guest or sponsor, every item donor or online bidder, donor or raffle ticket buyer. We could not continue expanding our impact of saving more lives of innocent animals without you!

Thank you to our sponsors!

RESCUE ROYALTY

Port City Veterinary Referral Hospital

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Offer valid for new clients only from 11/11/23 – 5/11/24. Limit one offer per new client.
No cash value. Some limitations may apply. See clinic for complete details.

Keep your pets safe throughout the holiday season



Need some tips to get through the bustling holiday season with your four-legged family members?

The holidays are a great time to show your four-legged friends how much you love them, but it can also be a bit stressful or even overwhelming for them. Here are a few strategies to get through the holiday season in a pet-friendly way!

Do...

- Let your animals be part of the festivities. Include them in after-dinner walks and fun and games.
- Introduce your dogs to your company and let everyone know what things bother them and what they can and cannot tolerate. This way there will be no injuries or accidents.
- Feed leftovers in a moderated amount (if you must at all) and include vegetables. Remember, no bones or turkey skin!
- Buy a present for your pets. They are part of the family, too. A new toy will keep them busy while you open your presents.
- Secure your tree, especially if you have cats. There is nothing that can dampen your Christmas spirits more than a toppled tree.

- Keep tinsel and glass ornaments on higher branches. Both can injure dogs and cats.
- Be mindful of harsh salts and ice-melting products. These can irritate your pet's feet, so look for ones that are pet friendly.

Don't...

- Lock your animals away. They want to be part of the fun, too! Use a baby gate to keep them in one room so they can see you and be included periodically for fun and games.
- Over do the treats. Chocolate is a definite no-no (especially bakers' chocolate) but even turkey, lamb or ham can cause GI upset in your pet. Remember, no bones and no fatty skin.
- Give a pet as a surprise gift. Think it through and ask parents and other family members if they are prepared for a new pet. The NHSPCA can provide gift certificates for adoption so that the recipient can pick their own new pet.

Ocean Properties proudly supports the NHSPCA's Auction for the Animals



Browse pet-friendly hotels & resorts at:
ophotels.com/hotels-resorts-portfolio





The Josephine A. Lamprey Veterinary Assistance Fund will contribute toward the work of our Community Veterinary Wellness Programs.

Announcing the Josephine A. Lamprey Veterinary Assistance Fund

By Sheila Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

As most of you know, Josephine “Joanne” Lamprey was a very committed friend of the animals.

Joanne had been a New Hampshire SPCA supporter for more than 30 years. She served as a board member, then Board President, and ultimately as a Trustee for 18 years. She championed and led not one, but two Capital Campaigns, the most recent resulting in the beautiful expansion and enhancement of our animal care areas, our Farm & Equine Program, and the construction of our Veterinary Center. She was truly a supporter who walked her talk and led by her example.

Joanne had long been a member of our legacy society, the Sarah J. Pickering Circle of Friends. She share with us her intention to leave a legacy gift, and she did.

Upon notification of her generous gift to our endowment, our board has established the Josephine A. Lamprey Veterinary Assistance Fund. This permanently restricted fund will contribute toward the work of our Community Veterinary Wellness Programs, and more. It will make non-emergent care available to families who have beloved pets but are unable to provide veterinary care. This fund will make the basics available — Spay/Neuter, vaccines and wellness care. In addition, the fund will help provide learning opportunities at the NHSPCA for those interested in Shelter Medicine.

We are forever grateful to Joanne for her support, leadership, philanthropy, her vision and friendship. She will be remembered always as she continues to care for vulnerable animals in our community, forever.

Thank you, Joanne!

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 - September 30, 2023

From the Estates of:

Charlotte Arena
Hampton, NH

Mary W. Battey
New London, NH

Betty Faye Benjamin
Hampton, NH

Constance Huckaday Bosen
Hampton, NH

Peter Burgess
Dover, NH

Roger P. Henry
Hamilton Township, NJ

Faye M. Iacono
York, ME

Sandra A. Jutras
Amesbury, MA

Josephine A. Lamprey
N. Hampton, NH

Arnold R. Lowrey
Unity, NH

Nancy M. Mathey
Exeter, NH

Linda C. Maxwell
Candia, NH

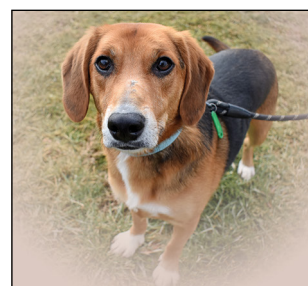
Doris M. Powell
Saint Johns, FL

Marie A. Robie
Hobe Sound, FL

Walter M. and Margaret V. Sowers
East Kingston, NH

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.



NHSPCA Commemoratives

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.

Click [here](#) for current listing.





HELP ANIMALS LIKE...

Meow Meow & Tigger

Meow Meow (left) and Tigger (right) were brought to the New Hampshire SPCA in early October because their beloved owner was moving into a care facility and could not bring them along. It was a heartbreaking decision, and certainly one that was not taken lightly, but we promised to take good care of this handsome duo and find them the very best home we could.

Right away, we realized just how heartbroken Meow Meow and Tigger were. Not only were they missing the comforting familiarity of their person, but they were in a new space with new sights, sounds and smells... oh, and lots of other cats! They both retreated to their hidey boxes for the majority of the day as they decompressed and watched as potential adopters walked by. With some time, though, they started to realize that there was a whole lot of love waiting for them outside their little enclosures. They started to come out to enjoy a tasty treat from one of the many friendly volunteers, or chase around the wand toy for as long as we'd let them. They were starting to show their personalities, which helped us understand just how loved they must have been in their previous home.

A little over a month after arriving, Meow Meow and Tigger were adopted. It made us so happy to see these two boys — who had been through so, so much together — would be safe and sound at their new home just in time for the holidays. What a gift that is to everyone involved... the new adopter, the two cats, and their previous owner alike.

Meow Meow and Tigger are just two of the thousands of homeless animals that have turned to the NHSPCA this year, desperate for a second chance and finding it here. To help us find more purr-fect matches, please consider donating to our [Home for the Holidays Campaign](#).

Thank you so much for your support!

KEANU...

Continued from Page 1

for Keanu. There was a bright future in store for this boy.

Despite his difficult circumstances, Keanu quickly became a favorite among our staff and volunteers. He was sweet, affectionate, and super friendly. No animal should ever experience being thrown away with such disregard, but Keanu's gentle demeanor and forgiving nature made his treatment even more difficult to understand. He captured our hearts immediately and we knew he deserved a second chance at a life filled with love and care.

It was clear right away that our boy needed more than just a temporary haven. His road to recovery involved not only physical healing but also mending the emotional scars left by his past. Our dedicated team poured their love into Keanu, providing the care and attention he needed to rebuild trust and rediscover the joy of life.

Day by day, Keanu's transformation was nothing short of miraculous. His once downcast eyes began to sparkle with newfound hope, and his hesitant tail wag turned into a joyful dance of gratitude. The resilience of this incredible dog became an inspiration to everyone who crossed his path.

Keanu's journey took a remarkable turn when a compassionate family opened their hearts and home to him. The connection between Keanu and his new family was instant. It was as if they were meant to find each other, completing a puzzle that had been missing a crucial piece.

Now, as we approach this very special season, we rejoice in the knowledge that Keanu will be celebrating in the warmth of a loving home. His days of loneliness and despair are behind him, replaced by the love and companionship he deserves. Keanu's tale is a testament to the transformative power of compassion and the incredible impact each one of us can have on the life of an animal in need.

As we gather with our loved ones this holiday season, let's take a moment to reflect on the small miracles that happen every day in the lives of animals like Keanu. Together, we can make a difference, providing care, love, and second chances



This holiday season, help homeless animals like **Keanu!**



Home for the Holidays

Supporters like you play such a critical role in these adoption stories. The fact is, we simply cannot continue our lifesaving work without the generosity of our community. This holiday season, you can help show suffering animals like Keanu kindness and love by contributing to our Holiday Fund Drive. Please click [here](#) to send the animals a holiday hug by making your generous gift today.

Thank you for caring!

to those who need it most.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season filled with warmth, compassion, and the spirit of giving.



GEAR THAT GIVES BACK

Click [here](#) to get some new gear and know that each and every purchase helps homeless animals!