



A large amount of love for one mini horse



Theodore was rescued by our Field Services team in August. He has a long road ahead of him, but is improving under our Farm Program team's gentle care each and every day.

By **Melissa Mower**
Communications Manager

The funny thing about working in animal welfare is that sometimes you come upon an animal that both breaks your heart and puts it back together. Such has been the case of a mini horse named Theodore.

Upon learning of an underweight horse in a small town a little over an hour away, our Field Services team loaded up the truck and hit the road. What was waiting for them was a friendly mini horse named Theodore, and he was in exceptionally poor condition. Our team learned that his most basic needs were not being met by his current family — he was not receiving veterinary care or even access to hay or grain — and we knew that time was of the essence.

It was as if you could count every single bone in this little guy's body. His hip bones protruded, his skin stretched tight along every rib... and his soft,

bright eyes just *begged* for help. In addition to being about 100 pounds underweight, he had a runny nose and lingering cough.

Our Farm Manager knew that if we didn't intervene, Theodore's days were limited. After much discussion, his former owner surrendered him to us so that he could start receiving the care he deserved. While this was a great day for Theodore, who is now affectionately known as "Teddy" around here, we had no choice but to leave behind several other very thin horses that day as the investigation continues.

If the conditions for them don't improve, and we are given the green light, our team will be back to pick up those horses and bring them to safety.

When we took Teddy in on August 1, he became the 62nd horse we had welcomed to our paddocks since the start of the year. He was the 62nd horse we saw step out of a trailer and suddenly find himself in safe territory, welcomed by a committed and

See **TEDDY**, Page 9

Make more dreams a reality

By **Rich Hegarty**
Annual Fund Manager

Abandoned, scared, tired, and confused. That was Dreamboat, a tiny little terrier puppy that someone had tied to a post in the parking lot of the New Hampshire SPCA. I came across Dreamboat as I was parking my car and noticed his little head poking above a shrub. He was left behind with some paperwork and a single toy. He very cautiously approached me and as I knelt to reach out to him, his tail began to wag. Still very skittish and unsure, he allowed me lead him inside.

Like every animal that comes through our doors, little Dreamboat was greeted with a lot of love.

NHSPCA staff immediately went to work caring for this sad little guy. They arranged

See **SEPTEMBER MATCH**, Page 14

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

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It has been an incredible summer here at the New Hampshire SPCA and we have so much to celebrate.

A highlight of the summer months was the arrival of 24 summer campers, aged 9-12, each week gracing our campus, learning lessons of compassion, kindness, respect, responsibility and having a blast all the while. We also had summer interns in every department, learning medical care in our Veterinary Center, dog training, small animal and farm care, and so much more! Humane Education is one of our cornerstones, and this summer we were thrilled to have so many young people beginning their own educational journey to be the next generation of animal welfare advocates.

Meanwhile, we are saving even more lives than we could have imagined.

Through July of this year, we have saved twice as many animals as the same period last year, breaking 2000 in the first seven months of the year — incredible! And, as we moved through our days, working hard, facing all the highs and lows, we were presented with a unique challenge...

I received a text, "I have good news and bad news..." And I just shook my head and thought, what could this possibly be? Well, I can't remember the good news, but the bad news was that somehow, we had no water. You can imagine the immediate inventory in my head: 200 animals. 16 horses (who drink gallons every day), 50 staff and campers, visitors, clients, you name it, *and no water!* None! For drinking, for cleaning, restrooms, et cetera.

Thankfully, our amazing team didn't skip a beat as we were working to resolve this unexpected crisis. The Greenland Fire Department came to our aid one day. Volunteers stepped up to take soiled towels and bedding home to wash, fold, and return. We purchased water coolers, lots and lots of water bottles and jugs. Some staff worked remotely as we accessed additional resources in our outer buildings that have their own well, but the main campus was dry. And then a call turned into a remarkable and generous gift of support. Donna Buxton of Buxton Water arrived that afternoon with an 18-wheeler Water truck. It was like a gift from the heavens seeing the truck pull down our driveway. Potable water. Good for drinking, caring for the animals, etc. Our amazing volunteers did much appreciated work filling buckets all around our campus to aid our staff in their work.

In the subsequent days, the water truck was redirected to the side of our building (along with some



porta potties) and plumbed directly to our plumbing. The truck has been there for three weeks now...

Though a new well has now been drilled, it has yet to be tested and connected. It will be another couple of weeks before this will be resolved and I heard the sweetest, kindest words from Donna, "We're in it for the long haul with you, we've got you covered."

To Donna and Buxton Water, we cannot thank you enough. You have ensured the continuity of our work helping and saving animals in need.

We have been humbled and reminded of what we sometimes take for granted — clean water is a fundamental need of life.

To our staff, thank you for your patience and laughter. To our volunteers and community members, thank you for your help, aid, laundry, all the ways in which you have just smiled and continued on. To our community, who has come to our facility and seen signs regarding porta potties and been gracious. We are incredibly grateful for this and all the other ways in which you make our work so much easier every single day.

On behalf of the staff, volunteers, the animals, and everyone else at the New Hampshire SPCA, thank you so much for your amazing and incredible ongoing support.

Most sincerely,

Lisa Dennison
Executive Director

New Hampshire Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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A remarkably inspiring season in the barn



Sam stole the hearts of our staff and volunteers when she was born in our care in April. She and mom are doing great and should be ready for adoption soon!

Welcoming a darling donkey

Sam, AKA Sammy, is our adorable jenny foal. Sammy was born while in our care on April 15, 2024 and has grown up so nicely!

Sammy is incredibly social and loves to greet everyone who approaches her paddock. She especially loves our dedicated volunteer couple, Jill and Dave, who help us keep a watchful eye over her and the other farm animals.

She has recently learned how to “bray” and is not shy about letting you know!

Sammy likes to follow her people around and beg for scratches — not that she has to wait long!

As soon as Sammy was weaned from her mom, Daffy, she was adopted by an awesome family. We’re excited for Daffy to be adopted soon, too!

The story of 60 goats, plenty of equids, and a flock of fowl...

By Michelle Murch

Equine & Farm Program Manager

The Equine & Farm Program staff care for a variety of farm animals, with the majority typically being equids (i.e., horses, donkeys, hinnies, etc.).

During the month of May, the Farm Program had a bit of a crash course in goat herding, and the caring for said goats.

Interested in adopting?

Please click [here](#) to see what horses and farm animals are available!

Following an investigation in late May, we took in 60 goats with a variety of health concerns and extensive needs that had

to be met daily. There were bottle babies and nursing mothers as well as wethers and bucks.

When the goats arrived, it didn’t matter what department our staff worked in or what their knowledge of goats was... we just knew that the farm team needed help and everyone rose to the challenge.

Staff milked goats, bedded stalls, fed bottle babies, built enclosures, and even ran out at the end of the day and bought items necessary to care for them.

On the day after the arrival of this herd, our new Farm Care Tech, Jess, started her employment with us. Talk about hands-on training! Thankfully, she still came back despite that frenzied initiation week.

The volunteers of the NHSPCA were incredible. People who had never volunteered with the farm program wanted to help and offered to be cross-trained so they could do just that. We had new volunteers start with us and knowledgeable goat owners from outside offering support.

Our generous supporters answered our calls and fulfilled every item on our Farm Wish List without hesitation. We received donations of hay and shavings in large quantities, both from local farmers and previous adopters just wanting to offer a helping hand.

It’s moments like these we realize how much the work we do is truly appreciated.

Fast forward a few months and many members of this herd have found their forever homes with only ten still awaiting to be adopted. As they waited, the summer campers got to learn a bit about caring for goats and enjoyed their silly, social personalities.



We are so thankful to have been a safe landing place for 60 goats rescued from terrible conditions in late May. It was incredible to see our community rally for them and most of them have gone home.

Throughout this busy time with the goats, we also had our common population of equids and a flock of guinea fowl, chickens, and ducks to care for, making it a remarkably busy spring.

Then, in late June, we cared for a “famous” goat named Abner. Abner was part of the family of goats that you might remember hanging out with their owners in the Seacoast area. Binx and Izak (before Abner) would frequent concerts, parades and most certainly political rallies. When Abner’s mom passed away recently, we were asked to care for him and help him find a loving forever home. It didn’t take long before a previous adopter visited and immediately knew that it was a perfect match. She plans to walk Abner to the local brewery so he can keep up the social lifestyle he had in the past.

The best part of shelter work is being in such an incredible community that loves animals and supports the work we do. Each and every time any animal is adopted it is a new beginning for everyone and that makes the challenging days in rescue so much easier.

Your support stretches across the United States!

By Savannah Alcerro, MPA
Director of Animal Services

Many industries experienced change during and after COVID, with animal sheltering being no different. With record low numbers of animals in shelters during the global pandemic, to rapidly growing populations, especially of large dogs, and longer lengths of stay post pandemic, many animal welfare organizations have become strained.

In the last year, the New Hampshire SPCA has seen an over 100% increase in our animal population.

While some of this is due to local owner surrenders in the state of New Hampshire increasing, it can also be attributed to the massive need from overcrowded and under-resourced animal shelters and rescues in other parts of the country. It is common for us to receive weekly, or even daily, pleas from desperate employees, volunteers or supporters begging us to accept some animals from their facility.

As someone who spent several years working in a large, municipal shelter in South Florida, I understand the urgency and the desperation of these pleas. I frequently try to communicate how it felt walking into work daily seeing hundreds and hundreds of animals, knowing you and your fellow coworkers are unable to provide them with anything other than basic food and water. This means many dogs did not get out of their kennels on a daily basis to relieve themselves outside or even have a blanket to sleep on.

This work in shelters like that is defeating.

When trying to put it into words or offer a comparison of how heavy it felt in my chest, I compare it to drowning in an open, but choppy ocean, where you struggle to just catch your breath, always waiting for the next wave to wash over you.



Rigby is just one of the hundreds of transport animals we have placed in loving homes this year!

With open kennels, passionate staff, and a supportive community, the NHSPCA diligently works to provide a relief valve to other shelters when they are in need. So far this summer, we have been able to assist three other local New Hampshire shelters and a handful of southern partners as they navigate nationwide challenges with large dogs.

I am so proud one of those partners is Miami-Dade Animal Services. As they continue to struggle with over 650 dogs in-care, with some of those dogs living weeks or more in temporary kennels, we have been able to welcome and adopt out over 30 Miami dogs.

Many of the dogs who have come up from that shelter that have such rags to riches stories, but

the most recent one brought me to tears.

It was a two-year old, black, male, bully-breed mix. He was chosen to be on the transport by a former coworker and friend, her favorite dog. His name was Rigby. She would always tell me how amazing he was; the best fetch player, loving, great with other dogs, and happy, despite waiting for over six months to be adopted in South Florida. The decision was a no-brainer and he arrived in New Hampshire in July.

Words cannot do this dog justice. Not only was he sweet and happy, but Rigby was also the Tom Brady of dogs. He was so athletic and fun to play fetch with. My mind raced with the possibilities: he could do fly ball, agility, joring, scent work... he had endless potential.

The first time I had him outside playing fetch, I took a video to send back to the staff member who spoke so highly of him and truthfully was the reason he was selected. I wanted her to see how happy he was running around on New Hampshire grass.

She responded how it was nice to see him stretch his legs after living in a bank cage for months. This reality brought me to tears. I thought about all the memories I had made in the last six months — there were so many — while poor Rigby lived in a cage that we would only use to house a chihuahua or puppy, and only then temporarily.

Within ten days of his arrival, Rigby was adopted to a very excited adopter. In fact, the majority of dogs transported with Rigby from Miami were adopted within those first 10 days. Dogs that had waited for a family in the South Florida shelter for up to eight months finally had one within just ten days of being at the NHSPCA.

Thank you to each and every person who understands that by supporting the New Hampshire SPCA, you are also saving lives of deserving animals from far beyond New Hampshire!

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A win for the underdogs... or, undercats!

By Amanda Wellman
Transport Coordinator

As a supporter of the New Hampshire SPCA, you've probably noticed that we love the underdogs around here. Animals that need a little extra help to find that perfect home will have a place in our hearts and thoughts long after we get them to their happily-ever-afters. And, the term "underdogs" needs to be taken with a grain of salt, because sometimes, the animals in need are actually... underCATS.

Diamond and BeeBee were newborn kittens living in an outdoor cat colony near a prison in rural Louisiana when our rescue partners at Big Sky Ranch were called in to manage the colony in July of 2023.

It was Big Sky's job to trap all the cats, get them all spayed/neutered and vaccinated, and then find homes for those social enough to live indoors with people. Any cats that were deemed "true ferals" — meaning they could never happily live an indoor life with humans — were allowed to return to the colony under the watchful care of Big Sky Ranch.

Diamond and BeeBee were so tiny, they could both fit in the palm of one hand at the same time! Due to their age, they were part of the group who could be socialized and taught that living an indoor lifestyle is fun and safe for kitties. It seemed like life had taken a very positive turn for the sisters, until it was discovered that they, like many members of their colony, were suffering from a hereditary condition known as eyelid agenesis.

Eyelid agenesis causes a cat's eyelids to be formed improperly. All or part of the upper eyelid is missing, meaning that the cat cannot keep the eye properly hydrated by blinking. This leaves the eye vulnerable to damage that the lid would normally protect it from.



BeeBee (left) and Diamond received the second chance they so desperately deserved thanks to you.

Cats with eyelid agenesis often suffer damage to their eyes that can result in blindness. Both Diamond and BeeBee had some of the most severe cases of eyelid agenesis that the veterinarian at Big Sky Ranch had ever seen.

Multiple attempts were made to surgically repair their eyelids, but eventually it was determined that BeeBee would be more comfortable if both of her eyes were enucleated (removed) and that Diamond would be more comfortable with one eye enucleated.

The girls had been living with impaired vision their entire lives, so becoming fully blind like BeeBee or partially sighted, like Diamond, didn't make much difference to them. Both ladies were able to motor around their living quarters just fine, and they were both able to jump up on couches and chairs with no issue.

Diamond and BeeBee continued to be their sweet, social, loving little selves regardless of the number of eyes they had.

Our little warriors braved their way through eyelid agenesis, upper respiratory infections,

and a ringworm exposure during the first several months of their lives. When they were finally healthy enough for travel at 10 months old, we knew that they had to come to the NHSPCA for adoption.

Big Sky Ranch was unable to find a home willing to take on two blind sister cats, but supporters of the NHSPCA are a different breed. Like NHSPCA employees, our community of supporters also loves the underdogs — or undercats.

Diamond and BeeBee were adopted together exactly two weeks after they arrived here at the NHSPCA.

The tiny sisters who started life outside a rural Southern prison are now pampered ladies who are about to turn one year old in their forever home that they share with their loving family.

It is because of supporters like you, and your willingness to help animals in need, that Diamond and BeeBee live such happy lives despite their rough start. Thank you so much for helping us bring happily-ever-afters to the underdogs — and undercats — that come into our care!



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Thank you for making compassion possible.



Animals benefit greatly from local partnerships

By **Dianna Currier**

Manager of Adoption Programs

We are delighted to announce the full return of our offsite adoption events. We have excitedly expanded our Adoption events to include local businesses again after a multiple year hiatus.

Come see us!

For a list of our upcoming offsite events, please click [here](#).

We have had so much fun bringing adoptable animals, especially dogs, out to meet the public.

It has been very exciting holding these events

at such varied and interesting places. The dogs have enjoyed exploring new and different surroundings and meeting new people.

We are so grateful to the following businesses who have hosted us:

- **Aubuchon Hardware** (Newmarket, Allenstown)
- **The Black Dog** (Portsmouth)
- **Honda Stratham** (Stratham)
- **The Mall at Fox Run** (Newington)
- **McGovern Subaru** (Newington)
- **Pet Supplies Plus** (Stratham)
- **Pine Acres Campground** (Raymond)
- **Throwback Brewery** (North Hampton)
- **Tractor Supply Co.** (Plaistow, Seabrook)
- **603 Brewery** (Londonderry)

These amazing, community-minded businesses attract different audiences and showcase our adoptable animals in wonderful new ways. They invite us in, promote the animals in their business and storefronts, and share them on their social media pages.

We would like to thank them for their continued support and dedication to the animals.

The management teams leading these events have been incredibly generous, welcoming, and



Adorable CB wasted no time stealing hearts at our offsite adoption event at the Mall at Fox Run earlier this year... most notably, his adopter's!

helpful with our animals, staff, and volunteers. They have accommodated us with everything we need to do the adoptions successfully right at their businesses. Some have even generously “rounded up” donations and even sent our animals to their new homes with extra toys and goodie bags.

As a direct result of offsite events, we have been able to adopt dogs, puppies and hamsters to guests of businesses and made so many new friends! And, since most of the business events take place on Wednesdays when our Adoption Center is closed, they truly open up a new opportunity for animals to meet their forever families.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity. It has been a pleasure working with you. We couldn't do it without all your continued support.



We're so grateful for our good friends at Petco on Lafayette Road in Portsmouth for hosting some of our adoptable cats!

Portsmouth Petco helps us reach new adopters

We have some very exciting news to share! If you've been keeping an eye on our Adoptable Cats pages — waiting patiently for your next best friend to pop up — you may have noticed that it says some of our cats are available for adoption at Petco in Portsmouth. We're thrilled to be partnering with the team at Petco on Lafayette Road to get adoptable cats out into our community in hopes of reaching more potential families.

So, you've fallen in love with a cat that is at Petco... what should you do? Visit Petco during their open hours and their friendly, knowledgeable staff will be happy to assist you and introduce you to whichever cat(s) you'd like. If you decide you'd like to adopt, we offer virtual adoptions (apply and pay online) or you can come to the NHSPCA to do the adoption process in person.

Thank you to our friends at Petco for their help in finding loving homes for our feline friends.

We hope you'll stop by and see these cuties for yourself!

Want to help animals like Finn?

The New Hampshire SPCA relies on the generous members of our community to help keep supply shelves stocked and tummies full. It takes a village to support the high volume of animals who turn to us every year.

If you'd like help make a shelter animal feel comfortable, well-fed and loved, consider purchasing an item from or [Amazon](#) or [Chewy Wish List](#).

Please visit nhspca.org/wish-list to learn more! Thank you!



Visit our cats at Petco!

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Kitten season: the surge of feline friends

By Kayla Williams

Animal Care Technician/Adoption Counselor

As the days grow longer and the weather grows warmer, shelters brace themselves for the annual influx of kittens, commonly referred to as “kitten season”. This period, typically seen from late spring to early fall, sees a significant rise in the number of felines arriving at the shelter. June stands out as a peak month, significantly affecting shelter operation.

During kitten season, we typically see a notable increase in the number of kittens arriving, but data indicates that we have seen a drastic rise this year. In 2023, we took in 60 and this year we have already surpassed 170 kittens! While it started off slow, the summer has brought high numbers of kittens from local New Hampshire towns.

The rise in kitten intake during the summer can be attributed to many factors, including mating season among outdoor cats and the natural phenomenon of feline estrus being triggered by lengthening daylight hours. As the days get longer and temperatures rise, unspayed and unneutered cats begin to reproduce at higher rates, leading to the dramatic uptick in the number of unwanted litters.

The influx of kittens brings both challenges and opportunities for animal shelters. While the increased number of super adorable kittens can attract interest and potential adopters, it also strains shelter resources. Shelters face challenges in terms of space, food, medical care, and more. Kittens require special attention, including vaccinations, spaying or neutering, and socialization to prepare them for adoption.

To manage the numbers, many shelters implement strategies such as foster care programs,



We have seen a significant rise in kitten intake so far this year! Through the first seven months of this year, we had welcomed 170 kittens, a significant increase from last year's 60!

where community members temporarily care for litters until they are old enough for adoption. This alleviates space constraints, protects their naive immune systems, and also helps socialize the kittens, making them more adoptable in the end. In June 2023, the NHSPCA reported that over 50% of its kitten intake was placed in foster homes.

Kitten season in New Hampshire serves as both a celebration of new life and a reminder of the responsibilities that come with pet ownership.

Educating people on responsible pet ownership and the importance of spaying and neutering are vital in addressing the root causes of overpopulation. While the summer months mark a peak in kitten intakes, the NHSPCA is prepared to manage the challenges and work diligently to find loving homes for these furry companions. Through community involvement and proactive measures, we aim to ensure that every kitten has a chance at a bright future, and hope that every little one finds a forever home.

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What I learned at the HSUS Animal Care Expo

By Kelly Marinel
Manager of Animal Care

Back in May, I was fortunate enough to attend HSUS's Animal Care Expo. Being able to travel to San Antonio was pretty cool, but what I really loved was meeting so many fellow animal welfare advocates, attending learning sessions, presentations and participating in round table discussions. When I saw there was a talk about the care, management, and welfare of domestic rabbits, I knew I had to attend.

Want to adopt a bun?

Please click [here](#) to see what rabbits and small animals are currently available for adoption!

We are just over half-way through 2024 and through mid-July, we have taken in 62 rabbits since the start of the year. It has certainly felt like we've had more rabbits than I can remember having in previous years. I was curious, so I looked back and just as I expected, besides an outlier year in 2013, we are on par to take in more rabbits than any other year since 2011! I couldn't see this in the data, but anecdotally, it seems like we are taking in a larger volume of stray domesticated rabbits.

While I feel good that we provide our rabbits with proper space, food, water and care, I really wanted to learn more about these creatures and how to be sure they are living their best possible lives until they move on to their permanent homes.

Rabbits spend the majority of their day foraging, eating and chewing — which they need to do because their teeth are always growing. Our enclosures are strategically designed to provide them with adequate space and different varieties of objects to chew and investigate.



Our goal is always to provide the best care to all animals, like Marceline and all her rabbit friends!

Undoubtedly, their favorite part of the day is when they get afternoon salads. We mix up leafy greens, smaller amounts of other veggies, and a piece of fruit and toss everything into their pen. There is also no need to use food bowls because they love foraging for their food almost as much as the food itself. Similarly, we scatter their morning pellets to keep them busy and happy! This process satisfies their natural instincts.

Another interesting thing I learned was what we can give them as toys. They enjoy items to manipulate and toss, so objects such as baby stacking cups and toy keys work great. It's pretty adorable watching them toss the stacking cups around their pens. If you have any stacking cups your kids have outgrown, please feel free to donate them to our rabbits!

One thing I was especially curious about was bonded pairs. The ideal pair is male/female, as long as they are both altered! A pair of males requires more space between them than the male/female pair.

We get a fair amount of bonded pairs surrendered to us. Sometimes during the course of their stay (whether it's the stress of being here or of reuniting after spay/neuter surgeries), we were finding that they were unbonding and more likely to fight. Of course, the safety and well-being of our rabbits is most important, so if they are causing injuries to one another, we would separate them.

But, I was wondering how we could avoid this and give them the best chance to stay with their companions. Or, if we have two single rabbits, could we bond them, so they have companionship?

The short answer is "Yes!" and the long answer is... far longer. It can take a long time to bond and being in the shelter can be very stressful. Realistically, that process would be easier to do in a home setting where they can be housed next to one another and start the slow process. We were fortunate to have great success bonding our classroom rabbits, Coco and Toby, by taking time and doing it gradually.

If we have rabbits that are already bonded, I learned the importance of staying with their mate through everything. If we bring them to the lab to do exams, they both must go together, if they go for surgery, they should be together until the procedure and then put back together right away.

The information I was able to compile to bring back for our team is truly invaluable! We have so many resources to help us *and* the adopters give our rabbits the most fulfilling life possible!

I'm grateful to work alongside a group of dedicated staff and volunteers and have opportunities for continued learning.

If you have ever thought about adopting a rabbit, now is a great time! We are happy to discuss and answer any questions you may have. We have many wonderful rabbits available for adoption today!

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TEDDY...*Continued from Page 1*

knowledgeable farm team that was ready to love and care for him as if he was their own.

Sweet Teddy, who had been living in an environment where he was treated like an afterthought, suddenly became a priority.

He was seen immediately by our veterinarian and put on a feeding plan. His body, already in shock from the horrible state he has been in, took some time to get used to having food. He didn't have a large appetite the first few days, but as he got more comfortable and learned that he could depend on us to feed him on a set schedule, he started taking advantage of it.

Thankfully, most of the horses we have welcomed this year did not come to us in as rough shape as our little friend here... but the sad reality is, a fair chunk of them did.

Our team has welcomed horses with souls so broken we wondered if they could ever trust humans again.

We've welcomed feral horses — horses who had never even experienced a positive interaction with a human before — and we watched as our farm team slowly, patiently worked with them day after day... celebrating with happy tears the moment their fingers were finally able to graze their mane, shoulder or flank for the very first time. In a few special cases,



Moonbeam, back, was very anxious when she arrived. Our farm team tried her in a few different stalls around campus to see where she felt most safe. Once she moved into her current stall in Hope's Barn, we finally saw her settle in... and we quickly realized it wasn't because of the location, but because of her neighbor: Teddy. This boy has given Moonbeam an incredible sense of comfort, and chances are, if you visit Teddy, you'll likely see a big, beautiful horse sticking her head into his stall to make sure he's safe in your company.

we've even been able to help them feel comfortable enough here to do one of the most vulnerable tasks

a feral horse can possibly do: give birth.

We've welcomed horses directly from kill pens, from neglectful situations, and even horses who are grieving the sudden loss of their person.

Regardless of where they come from and what baggage they may or may not be carrying, all horses can expect to experience the same thing once they arrive here at the New Hampshire SPCA: a substantial amount of patience, time and love.

During the first eight months of the year, our Equine & Farm Animal Program has sent 40 horses home to loving families and brighter futures. As they load up on the trailer, they leave behind this safe territory and the team that helped heal their wounds and restore their faith in humans... and they head to a new kind of safe territory where they are able to put all they've learned in our care to good use.

Happy, healthy, confident, and ready to live life the way it's meant to be lived with humans who deeply care. These horses are undoubtedly better for having known the love and compassion of our farm team — staff and volunteers alike.

Thank you for supporting our team's great work and making new beginnings possible for not only horses, but for *all* of our animals. It is only with your help that we can be the safe haven animals like Teddy can rely on during their desperate time of need, and we are endlessly grateful to be able to rely on you.

Walmart



Your local Walmart stores are proud supporters of the 2024 NHSPCA Paws Walk

Animal neglect on the rise

By Tona McCarthy
Humane Agent

In 2024, animals large and small will face challenges in New Hampshire including the lack of food, water, shelter or care. I find that some owners are trying to care for their pets, while others are simply neglecting them.

I often receive calls asking if a particular situation would qualify as neglect or abuse. I'd like to take this opportunity to give some framework on these concepts. I hope it is helpful information, but if there is ever a question about the condition of animals, we encourage you to reach out to us or your local police department.

Neglect

Neglect can be hard to identify at times, but it comes down to the owner not providing the necessary shelter, food, water and veterinary care for their pet. Some of the most visible signs of neglect include animals in undersized enclosures, outdoor housing with no shelter to protect them from the heat, cold or inclement weather, poor body condition, or filthy surroundings.

Hoarding Disorder

Hoarding Disorder is a diagnosable medical condition, and we are not medical professionals. However, one of the results of this disorder can be neglect and cruelty to animals. This occurs when the owner "collects" too many animals for them to properly care for, creating overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. Hoarding of animals can lead to unsafe shelter and health conditions for the pet or anyone living in the home. At its worst, the hoarding of animals may result in sickness, injury, starvation or even death.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is an intentional act that causes pain and suffering and, in some cases, death. Physical abuse can include kicking, punching, shaking, cutting, burning, beating, and mutilating. This includes companion animals, farm



Animal neglect is on the rise and we are doing our part to respond to the influx of calls. If you see an animal in need of intervention, please contact us.

animals and wildlife. Here are some signs of intentional cruelty:

- Tight collar or harness causing wounds
- Confining an animal on an extremely short leash, in a hot car, or in a crate where they cannot stand or turn around
- Cruel training methods
- Insufficient ventilation
- Lack of sanitation, soiled or moldy food, dirty water, urine/feces in the home or in the crate
- Not providing veterinary care when suffering injury, infections, respiratory dysfunction, or grooming causing matting of fur, dental care, overgrown toenails, allergies to fleas/flea dirt or any other medical needs
- Poor physical condition with sign of sores, foul smelling, or emaciated

Law Enforcement

New Hampshire State Police, Sheriff Departments, and Local Police Departments are

**Don't look the other way!
If you see it, report it**

Reporting animal cruelty is the way to prevent further unnecessary suffering or inhumane treatment. Reports can be done anonymously by phone or online. Having an eyewitness is particularly important and can make a difference in not only saving the lives of animals, but also in bringing charges and receiving a conviction that prevents the abuser from owning animals again.

Bear in mind that telling a friend about it who then tells us, is not enough. We need to hear from the witness directly to be able to take action.

If you see something concerning, please report it to your local police or the NHSPCA.



Please click [here](#) to learn more or file an anonymous complaint.

asking for help from the NHSPCA's Humane Agents because of our expertise with cruelty investigations and other animal-related legal actions.

The NHSPCA's Humane Agents are retired police officers with animal welfare experience who are familiar with the processes to investigate cruelty cases by collecting the elements to support probable cause.

We understand the difficulties understanding animal welfare laws and regulations and are willing to educate law enforcement either by Zoom or in-person sessions.

The NHSPCA also provides hands on education for law enforcement by enrolling in our Ride-Along program. For more information, please click [here](#).

The Governor's Commission on the Treatment of Animals has a variety of online educational materials.

Please visit click [here](#) to learn more today.



Interested in fostering?

We are always looking to expand our network of foster families! Visit us online to apply today!

nhspca.org/fostering-application



Second chances start with you.

Visit nhspca.org/adoptable-animals for a list of animals available for adoption.

Another successful Summer Camp season!

By Tracy Ritzo

Manager of Humane Education

Summer camp at the NHSPCA was filled to the brim with happy kids, lovable animals and sunshine! What's better than feeding goats, brushing bunnies, hugging dogs, cuddling kittens, and making new friends? That's right... there's nothing better than that!

This year, all nine weeks of summer camp for ages 6 – 12 were sold out before camp even began! As we all know, children are integral to animal welfare. Learning the importance of caring for animals through hands-on experience at a young age is essential to becoming an animal advocate for life.

One of the greatest aspects of summer camp at the NHSPCA is meeting so many of the fantastic shelter employees. They help create a wonderful real-world learning experience for every camper.

Every camper gets to tour our Veterinary Center and meet the medical Team while learning about and asking questions of our shelter Veterinarian. So many of our camper's plan to be veterinarians when they grow up. In the classroom we practice wrapping an injury on stuffed animals, filling a syringe and using a stethoscope to hear heartbeats.

Campers play guessing games to learn about current shelter statistics from the Director of Animal Services. Can you guess how many animals are currently housed at the shelter? How many goats? How many guinea pigs? How many lucky animals got adopted this week?

Campers separated into groups to role play common dog behavior scenarios while everyone guessed what behavior was being acted out. Behaviors such as, my dog jumps on me when she's excited, my dog growls if I go near him while he's eating, or my dog always begs for food. The shelter's Manager of Behavior and Training advised campers on best practices when training a dog that exhibits these behaviors.

They understand what fundraising is all about from the shelter's Annual Fund Manager while spearheading their own week-long shelter fundraising campaign. Every Friday during the pop-



We have had such an awesome time with our summer campers! From welcoming transport dogs to meeting horses, cats and small animals, campers enjoyed the hands-on experience!

sicle dance party the weekly "fundraising for the animals" tally is announced.

Campers comprehend the rewards of fostering while talking with our Foster Coordinator. She made sure to share a new adoptable animal with campers each week. They all went home with a foster application and plans to convince their families to foster in the future.

They learn about goats, horses, donkeys, and guinea hens and how to care for them while working alongside the Farm and Equine Team. Campers watched a horse get new shoes from the shelter's friendly farrier. They design and build a safe parachute structure for the weekly chicken egg drop challenge!

The shelter's Transfer Coordinator had campers name an adorable litter of puppies that were on their way to Stratham from the south. They got to



review a list of dogs, look at their picture, read about each, and then cast a vote for just one of the dogs to come on the next transport from Oklahoma, Mississippi, or Florida. To their delight, after casting their vote for just one dog, the Transport Coordinator revealed that all the dogs on the list were coming on the next transport!

They say it takes a village to raise a child and here at the NHSPCA we have a village of amazingly talented and devoted employees. Each one of them is more than happy to share their love of animals with all of our summer campers.

And what a fun and exciting summer it was!

Does your child love animals?

We have programs for kids of all ages and abilities! In addition to our featured programs listed to the right, we are pleased to offer group/student tours, scout badge opportunities, school classroom visits and more!

Visit nhspca.org/humane-education or scan the code for a complete list.

FEATURED PROGRAMS:

- Birthday Parties (5+ years)
- Junior Volunteers (12-15 years)
- Reading with the Animals (5+ years)
- Storytime (0-4 years)
- Pen Pals (Any age)



Our volunteers beat the heat this summer!

As the Summer sun sets and we transition into Fall, we want to take a moment to reflect on all the amazing work our volunteers have done over the past few months.

The heat was no joke, but thanks to the boundless dedication of our volunteers, we still had an amazing season here at the agency! As we have always said and will continue to say, our volunteers truly are the heartbeat of the NHSPCA, and so we thank them tremendously for helping to keep us afloat during this very busy adoption season!

Summertime is always filled with lots of happy adoption stories, which while amazing, can get pretty overwhelming for our staff. Rain or shine, our volunteers were always there to support us, and we could not be more grateful for them!

While many folks were checking items off their summer bucket lists; taking a beach stay-cation, sipping fresh-squeezed lemonade, and roasting marshmallows, our volunteers were out walking dogs, mucking paddocks, and doing everything they could to help the animals in our care.

Their dedication and willingness didn't waver in the face of scorching heat or long hours. Instead, they showed up day after day, driven by their love for these animals. In part because of our volunteers' efforts, many of our furry friends were able to check off the top item on their summer bucket lists: Finding their forever families.

We'd like to give a special shoutout to all our volunteers who stepped up and worked in the



Dakota the Miniature Horse and Shasta the Great Pyrenees were just two homeless animals who greatly benefited from our incredibly committed team of volunteers this summer. Even with all the tasks we throw at them, they still make time to just give the animals a little extra love, which means the world to us.

barn early on in the season.

In late May, our barn facility found itself overwhelmed by 60 goats we rescued from a local farm. This was an incredibly trying time for our barn staff, as many of the goats needed significant medical attention.

Our volunteers really stepped up in this time of need — many even volunteering to work in the barn for the very first time. They shoveled, swept,



and cleaned so that our staff had the time they needed to provide care for all those goats.

We are so grateful for all our barn volunteers, new and returning, for stepping up during that time!

Thank you again to all the amazing individuals that help keep this agency looking and feeling its best. We're wishing you a beautiful and relaxing Autumn season ahead!

THREE WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE ANIMALS



ADOPT

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

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



VOLUNTEER

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

Please click [here](#) to learn how you can get involved today!



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 make arrangements for us to pick it up.

How we can help our shy, fearful dogs build confidence

By **Kelley Corson, KPA-CTP, CPDT-KA**
Manager of Behavior & Training

Have you ever lived with or met a shy or fearful dog? I have met many through my time in animal welfare who have taught me many lessons. My biggest lesson actually came from my own fearful dog.

When I adopted my puppy Pepper, I thought I had to show her everything she feared so she could see that the world wasn't as scary as she thought.

Oh boy, was I wrong!

Instead of seeing my little fearful puppy turn fearless, she grew into an even-more-fearful adult dog. Since then, I have learned how important proper confidence building exercises are for a fearful dog.

Three beginner level confidence building techniques/exercises that can help our shy and fearful dogs navigate the big scary world are as follow:

#1: Respect their fear

I know that we as humans can find our dogs fear silly and frustrating at times. You might ask your dog: "Why are so scared of that person? That is so silly..." and then force them closer to said scary thing, thinking it will make it better.

The thing is, from your dog's perspective, the bad thing already happened. She was terrified, and her "trusted" human put her through that heart-pounding feeling again. So now she's scared of The Thing, and she learned she can't rely on you.

So, respect the fear you see. Take the pressure off from having to experience The Thing.

#2: Stick to a routine

Giving our fearful dogs a predictable routine to follow helps them lower their level of concern about daily life. If they are unsure of when they are going to eat, when they are to go to the bathroom, or when you will be home, it can increase how on edge they are.

To keep them calmer and more comfortable, keep to that routine as much as you can. This means you do the same things, the same way, at the same time, every day.



Kelley's fearful dog, Pepper.

#3: Build a bond with you

Before we even think about truly working on changing our dog's emotional response to scary things, we have to make sure that our dogs trust us.

Before you think "Oh, they love me; we're already there!", just take this little quiz:

- Do you ever "make" your dog do stuff because you're in a hurry? (For example, drag them from something they won't leave alone, or simply pick them up and carry them away when they are hesitant to come with you.)
- Do you ever keep hugging your dog when they turn their head and pull away?

These kinds of things may seem small to you, but day after day, interaction after interaction, they block the establishment of full trust. If you want to help your dog gain confidence, they must feel completely secure with you.

To get there, slow down. Respect your dog's body language and give them more say in their own life.

These techniques may seem silly at first, but try them out before completely writing them off. The more choices we give our fearful dogs, the more willingness we see from them to engage with their world.

Intrigued about how to help your fearful dog more? We are in the process of creating a fearful dog class all about confidence building.

For more information, reach out to us at behavior@nhspca.org.



Take a class with Kelley or one of our other trainers!

Are you looking to strengthen the bond with your beloved dog or puppy? Our wonderful trainers at the New Hampshire SPCA are here to help!

Whether you're dealing with basic obedience, advanced tricks, or specific behavior issues, we've got the perfect class for you.

A FEW OF OUR UPCOMING CLASSES:

- Manners 1 & 2
- Teenage Manners
- Introduction to Agility
- Puppy Preschool
- And many, many more!

WHY TRAIN WITH US?

- Experienced and certified trainers
- Positive reinforcement techniques
- Small class sizes for personalized attention
- Supportive and friendly community

Invest in your pet's happiness and well-being by signing up today and just wait until you see the difference training can make!



Click [here](#) to view our complete list of classes and workshops.

Questions? Please contact us at (603) 772-2921 ext. 112 or behavior@nhspca.org today!

We hope to see you and your dog in a class at the New Hampshire SPCA soon!



SEPTEMBER MATCH...

Continued from Page 1

for our vet staff to check him over, making sure he hadn't been harmed. They checked for a microchip to see if he could be identified. Once we knew he was physically OK, we gave him a comfy bed so he could rest... food, water and of course, a few more stuffies.

I don't know the circumstances that led to Dreamboat being abandoned in our parking lot, and we're not here to judge. We, of course, did our best to find out his back story in case he needed any special care. Ultimately, that back story won't change his new story. Dreamboat's new future would be one full of all the love he deserves.

Just like every animal that turns to the NHSPCA for help and a second chance, Dreamboat's new life is only possible thanks to you! Animal lovers that know the importance of supporting our work make new lives possible for animals in need. You, who support our mission and want to make a difference in the life of a homeless dog, cat, horse, goat, rabbit, chicken, mouse, guinea pig, and more! That support is the critical life-



Dreamboat was found tied to a post outside our shelter in May. Right now, your gift to the animals can be doubled to make 2x the impact for animals like this sweet little guy.

blood of our organization. It is what allows us to provide veterinary care, medicine, food, bedding, shelter, and even toys for the animals in our care.

This month, your generous support can be doubled! **Our longtime friend and animal lover,**

Helen Brosseau, has offered to double every donation up to \$25,000!

This means every dollar donated will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, doubling its impact! Twice as many bales of hay, twice as many cases of dog food, twice as many medical supplies, and twice as many rescue missions. Having the resources

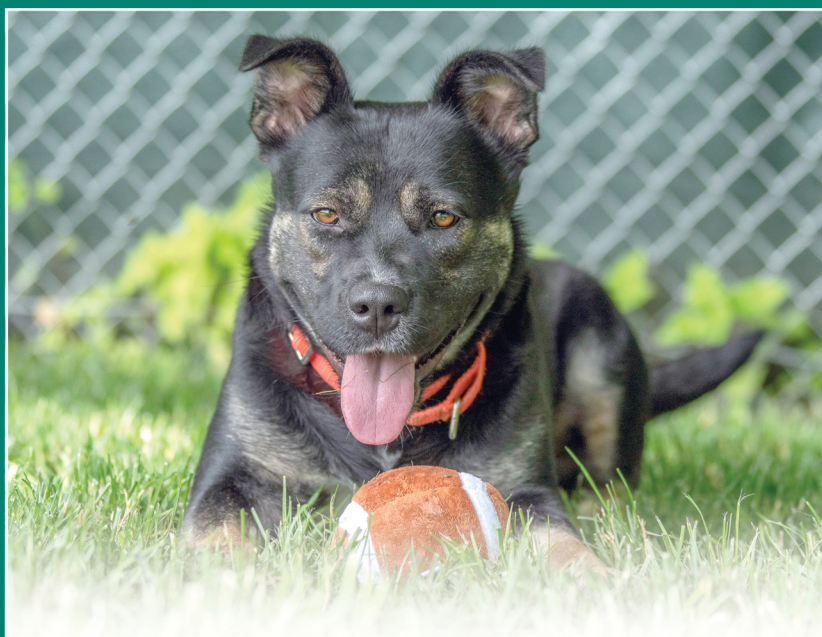
ready means we are always prepared to help any animal in need.

When I looked into Dreamboat's soft brown eyes that day in the parking lot, I could see the fear and the sadness. Today, Dreamboat is home with his wonderful family, being showered with love, belly rubs and runs in the lush summer grass. We hope you will consider [making your best gift](#) today and double your impact through this match and help us be ready when the next Dreamboat needs us.

MATCH YOUR GIFT NOW!



Please click [here](#) to have your gift **DOUBLED!**



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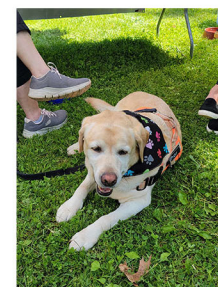
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Planned Gifts Received

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, 2024 – July 31, 2024

From the Estates of:

Christine K. Alderson
Eliot ME

Jean L. Adamson
Nashua, NH

Alphonse Gerrato Jr.
Portsmouth, NH

James Hurley III
Durham, NH

Donna Lee McCabe
Hancock, NH

Martha Meigs
Portsmouth, NH

Linda R. Morel
Winchester, NH

Evelin U. Sammel
Portsmouth, NH

Richard Sterry
Stratham, NH

Roberta Fay Stout
Portsmouth, NH

Marie E. Tallmadge
Belmont, NH

Patricia Tingley
Chester, 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.

Jean's lasting legacy

By Sheila Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

The New Hampshire SPCA is blessed to have donors who support our mission in a myriad of ways. We are deeply grateful for each of you that responds to the needs of animals through donations of every size — whether they are monetary, food and supplies, or your time. We couldn't continue to offer so many animals a second chance at happiness and a home of their own without your kindness and generosity.

Recently we received a gift that was a wonderful surprise. I wanted to share with you a little bit about it.

We were notified of a gift that was being made through a bequest. The donor's Executor called me to share that the NHSPCA would be sharing a tenth of the donor's estate. He told me that the donor's name was Jean, and she was a huge animal lover! In fact, she was such an animal lover, that her estate was being split evenly 10 ways, and 9 of the recipients were animal related charities. He also shared that Jean's total estate was significant and our share of would be in the range of \$400,000. I was dumbfounded at such a remarkable gift and amazed that I didn't even know her!

I immediately wanted to know more about this amazing person who would make transformative gifts to 10 separate charities upon her passing. The Executor, Jeff, let me know that Jean was a cat person, but loved all animals. She had never been married and had no children. He suggested that if I wanted to know more about Jean that I speak to his wife who was a longtime friend of hers.

When I spoke with Jean's friend, I learned that Jean was an avid hiker, a lover of cats and dogs, and even primates. Her passion for animals went deep and she wanted to help as many as possible. In the years that she and Jean had been friends, hiking buddies really, she had heard stories of how important Whisper, her cat or Lady, her dog, had been to her. I learned she loved to volunteer at a local animal welfare organization, and she really enjoyed taking shelter animals to visit nursing homes, sharing the joy and warmth of pups with the residents there. Jean was a true animal champion!

Her friend told me that Jean was known for two things being an outdoorsperson and an animal lover. I'm quite sure that I would have liked her a lot, as I consider myself somewhat the same. I wish that I could have known her, such a committed and generous soul. I looked to see if Jean



The incredible gift Jean left behind will help so many homeless animals like Samantha, pictured.

had been an ongoing supporter, adopter, or volunteer. What I discovered was that Jean had been a donor since 2016. She gave a few times a year in response to an appeal or a newsletter. She wasn't a flashy donor, but a wonderfully consistent one who was clearly interested in our work. According to her friend, Jean was also a private person, who would not have wanted me to share much more about her and I respect her wishes.

Gifts made through a will, as part of an 'estate plan' can seem mysterious and possibly only for those people, like Jean, who had more to give than most of us. However, here at the NHSPCA we see gifts coming from wills in all sizes, truly, from \$100 on up and we are grateful for every single one of them. In fact, our board decided several years ago that a percentage of every estate gift be invested in our endowment. The endowment is essentially a permanent savings account that ensures we are financially stable. This investment ensures that every planned giving donor is permanently associated with the NHSPCA in this way, which we hope honors their intentions.

Making a gift in your will can be easy. If you already have one, and everyone should, it's as simple as adding a short paragraph (called a codicil) to your existing will. If you don't have a will, (and not to be a nag, but everyone should!), we have partnered with Freewill.com to provide a free tool to complete your basic plan in about 30 minutes or less. You can choose whether to include a gift to a charity or not.

My hope is that if you choose to make a gift in your will and that you'll consider letting us know about it while we can thank you. Give us a call, let us learn about you and what you hope your gift will accomplish.

In the meantime, thank you for all that you do to support animals every day!

Bidding for hope for homeless animals

By Julie Halama

Special Events & Sponsorship Manager

Every November, 300 animal-lovers gather at the Wentworth by the Sea Hotel for the annual Auction for the Animals. It's an incredible and inspiring evening, full of stunning items, fine dining, and heartfelt generosity.

As the New Hampshire SPCA's largest fundraising event, the Auction is much more than an

exclusive gala. Critical medical care, lifesaving transports, vital rescue services — all of this and more is made possible by proceeds from the Auction. The generosity of this one night brings so much hope to the animals in our care.

It truly takes a village to make this event a financial success. Of course, there is the Auction itself, with unfor-

gettable trips, unique goods, top shelf liquor, and much more up for bid at the event and online.

Each year, the Auction for the Animals raises approximately \$300,000, thanks to the support of sponsors, guests, volunteers, and generous community members like you. Amazing!

One special part of the event touches the most lives: the Fund-A-Need.

During this inspirational segment, we invite bidders to raise their paddle and support a specific cause that is greatly needed at the NHSPCA. Over the years, we've raised an incredible amount of money for projects including solar energy to decrease our utility costs, x-ray and imaging

equipment for our veterinary center, and emergency relief to continue day-to-day operations during the pandemic — all helping us save more lives by putting our resources directly toward the animals.

Last year, we were able to make even more second chances possible by asking Auction guests to support our animal Transport Program. Across the country, both rural and urban areas have seen a dramatic resurgence of animal overpopulation, resulting in overcrowded shelters with limited resources, space and funding that can result in the euthanasia of healthy and adoptable pets.

Thanks to the generosity shown during our Auction, we've significantly increased transports, bringing 1,140 animals into our care this past year (July 2023-July 2024) and giving them the second chance they so desperately deserve.

Shasta, the face of this year's event, is just one of the many animals saved by the Auction for the Animals. This energetic, Great Pyrenees mix came to us from a shelter in South Carolina, where there are more available pets than loving homes.

Animals like Shasta who are subjected to long stays in overcrowded and under resourced shelters can often suffer from stress, illness and poor living conditions.

Thanks to the Auction, Shasta was transported to the NHSPCA and found his forever family within weeks.

You can help us save even more animal lives. This year's Auction for the Animals will take place on Saturday, November 23 at the Wentworth by the Sea Hotel.

To make a difference and participate in this event, please click [here](#) to reserve tickets, shop the Online Auction (launching November 7), and more.

**Don't miss
the Auction!**



Please click [here](#)
to learn more and
get tickets today!

New Hampshire
SPCA
AUCTION
FOR THE
Animals

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2024
AT WENTWORTH BY THE SEA HOTEL

You're invited to a celebration like no other!

This will be a dazzling night including fine dining, heartfelt generosity and plenty of joyful moments. Raise your paddle to bid on stunning items, unforgettable trips, and more. Every dollar will give a second chance to animals who so greatly deserve it.

Visit nhspca.org/auction-for-the-animals
to reserve your tickets today.



HAPPENING
SOON!



Make waves with the Seacoast Paddleboard Club!

Sunday, September 15 at 10:00 a.m. at Seven Rivers Paddling (Portsmouth)

Paddle solo, with your pup, or alongside friends and raise money to help the homeless animals of the NHSPCA. **All paddle crafts and day-of registration welcome.**

