



## Providing the best medical care for our animals



Providing the animals at the NHSPCA with the very best care has always been top of mind... and lately that has included multiple hip surgeries!

By **Dr. Carly LaGrandeur, DVM**  
Staff Veterinarian

Since the end of January, the NHSPCA has had a whopping five animals enter the shelter requiring an FHO surgery. FHO stands for Femoral Head Ostectomy, or removal of the head of the femur. The hip joint is a ball and socket joint that requires good conformation of both the hip socket and the femur to work appropriately.

There are several reasons why some animals may not have normal confirmation of this joint — including congenital malformations, injuries (such as being hit by a car), or degenerative conditions, such as arthritis.

If you can imagine a misshapen ball trying to rotate in a misshapen socket, you can predict that this might cause pain, and wear of the bones over-time. Sometimes, the femur has been pushed out of the socket completely. These animals often present with abnormal gaits, reluctance to sit or rise, or reduced range of motion of the hip joints.

Severity of their signs can vary from being almost non-weight bearing on the limb, to using the leg

near perfectly. Even animals who are using the leg well despite these changes are at risk of increasing damage in that joint and experiencing pain and discomfort later in life.

An FHO is what is known as a salvage procedure, meaning it is not the perfect solution, but it will provide relief from the current pain and prevent pain in the future. A more functional replacement of the joint would be a total hip replacement — which must be done by a board-certified orthopedist and is out of the scope of what a shelter can perform. Instead, an FHO can be done by some general practitioners, allowing us to provide a solution for our shelter pets.

During surgery, the femoral head is removed from the femur, leaving behind a gap between the pelvis and the femur so that the previously painful rubbing completely stops and the two bones are no longer in contact at all.

If you're wondering how a joint works without having the bones in contact with one another, that is a good question! Animals are miraculous healers, and their extensive thigh and gluteal muscles

See **FHO SURGERIES**, Page 22

## AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT!



13 passionate animal lovers spent the night in the kennels alongside homeless animals while raising critical funds for the NHSPCA in early April! See Page 24 for more details.

## 2023 IMPACT REPORT



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## Dear Friends and Supporters,

In a world where kindness knows no bounds, the impact of our community and donors on the lives of animals in need cannot be overstated. As we reflect on the past year here at the New Hampshire SPCA, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the unwavering support that has enabled us to save more lives and provide brighter futures for countless animals.

One of the most significant accomplishments of this year has been the increase in lives saved through our expanded transport program. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we've been able to partner with more organizations in other parts of the country giving them hope and providing more than 800 animals a second chance they so deserve. Each journey embarked upon represents a testament to the power of community coming together to make a difference in the lives of animals.

Your continued support has also allowed us to provide vital assistance to many of our local community members. Whether it is offering resources such as food, emergency shelter for their beloved pets, or low-cost veterinary care, we have been able to be there for animals and families facing difficulties and providing relief and hope.

This past year has also seen numerous rescues, each one difficult but hopeful. So many animals rescued from extremely difficult and heartbreaking circumstances needed emergency care. This followed by weeks of treatments and rehabilitation. Ultimately, they were able to find new loving forever homes – all because of your unwavering support. Your compassion has truly changed lives for the better.

This is possible because of the dedication and hard work of our volunteers. They are the backbone of our organization, providing critical support every day on-site and in our expanded foster network. Their commitment



and passion reinforces our dedicated and skilled staff. We are endlessly grateful for their contributions.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the possibilities that the coming year holds. With your continued support, we aim to provide even more assistance to our community and their beloved pets, both on and off-site. This includes expanding our low-cost veterinary care offerings, educational initiatives, training programs, and more. Your belief in our mission fuels our determination to help more animals in need, and for that, we cannot thank you enough.

To our community and donors, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your support makes all the difference, and because of you, we know that together, we can continue to make our community a brighter and safer place for the animals we all care about so much.

With heartfelt appreciation,

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

Lisa Dennison

Executive Director

**New Hampshire Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

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# How much weight can a horse carry?

## Reflecting on an inspiring year in the Equine Center

By Michelle Murch

Equine & Farm Program Manager

How much weight can a horse carry? Horses carry us physically, mentally, and emotionally. If you let them, they will carry you through life and life is heavy. When a horse comes through our gates at the New Hampshire SPCA, it is our turn to carry them... even if only for a moment while they are with us.

In 2023, we saw so many horses that did the very best they could for their owners but due to financial issues, unexpected life changes, and sadly even neglect or abuse, they ended up needing us to carry them.

2023 was a record year for the NHSPCA Farm Program, adopting 56 horses to their forever families. Some equines were with us for only a few days, many more for weeks, and a few resided in the safety of our barns and paddocks for months before being adopted.

We had such a variety of equines this year, each having a story of their own: Horses, donkeys — so many donkeys — hinnies (offspring of a female donkey and male horse), minis, drafts, mares, geldings and many studs that needed gelding. We helped wild mustangs, feral domestic horses, neglected, abused and well-loved horses, too.

We couldn't have been here to carry them without the support of the staff, volunteers, our community, and our equine network.



We saw lots and lots of donkeys in our paddocks in 2023! Thank you for helping us care for them.

We were fortunate enough to receive generous donations to the Farm Program as well as a grant from the ASPCA Right Horse. This grant gave us the ability to help even more horses in 2023 than we could in 2022. The demand for our help was able to be met.

We are often asked how we can do this work. Most people tell us they could not handle the heartbreak. It can be difficult for certain, but every animal deserves to know comfort and safety, full bellies, and love. It didn't matter if we only had hours or days to provide this to them, we were able to give them what they needed, when they needed it most. We try to focus on the good. The lives that we saved and the forever families we helped create.

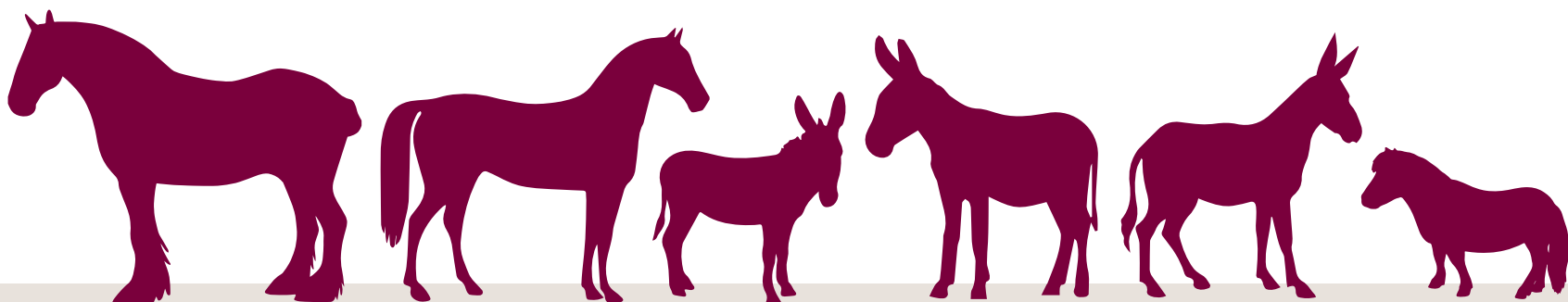
### Why we do what we do...

We wanted to share an update on a few of our longest 2023 residents. The feral mares and their foals: Jessie, Cash, Raven and Sly. These horses challenged us in ways we never knew possible. Watching the colts grow and seeing their mamas learn that it was safe to accept humans was emotional, challenging and so very rewarding. All four are now thriving in their forever homes!



Because of you, Jessie, Cash, Raven, Sly and the 52 other equines placed in 2023 have bright futures because we were here to carry them when they needed it most. **Thank you.**

## GET TO KNOW THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF EQUINES



**Draft Horse**

**Horse**

**Donkey**

**Mule**

Dad: Donkey  
Mom: Horse

**Hinnie**

Dad: Horse  
Mom: Donkey

**Mini Horse**

# A unique rescue: 80 sugar gliders living in squalor

## And... what's a sugar glider, anyway?

By Erica Newton  
Animal Care Technician

On a sunny day in December, the NHSPCA team assisted the Raymond Police Department in executing a very unique search warrant. The complaint: 80 sugar gliders living in squalor at the home of a 'rescue establishment'.

To truly understand this special situation, you need to know what a sugar glider is. A sugar glider is a marsupial native to Australia and, though these interesting creatures look cute and cuddly, they are extremely hard to care for in captivity. They require an immense amount of knowledge, work, socialization, vet care, and a complex diet. They can also be costly animals to properly maintain. These little guys get stressed very easily and are incredibly sensitive to any change in their environment. They need a large habitat and must live in a colony of two or more gliders.

So, when we received a complaint for such a large number of these bright-eyed little animals, we knew we had our work cut out for us.

What we found when we arrived at the scene was truly horrifying. Sugar gliders were living in overcrowded and filthy conditions. There was an unbelievably atrocious smell of rotting food, feces, and unkept animals. Cages were stacked to the ceiling with so many sugar gliders. Cages were coated with mounds of rotting food and feces piled at the bottom. Old food was cemented to the walls and floors in every direction.

Many of the cages containing live animals did not have water or food and were covered with a white film of mold. Exploring the house revealed more cages, scattered about. Anywhere a cage could fit, there were gliders. It seemed like a never-ending task to find all the cages; as soon as we rounded a corner, we would discover more.

While searching, sadly, we discovered 80 additional gliders already deceased and placed in a freezer.

We took about 80 live sugar gliders from the site. Many of them sick, including rotting teeth, deformities, open wounds, broken fingers, alopecia, metabolic bone disease, upper respiratory infections, etc. In addition, many of them were pregnant as part of the owners' breeding program, some were local "rescues" that were willingly given to the establishment by unsuspecting



**We knew our incredible community would rally for these fun little critters! Our team helped remove 80 sugar gliders from a home in December and it has been awesome sending them off to their new homes!**

people, with the promise that the gliders would be cared for and rehomed.

Though this case was truly nauseating and so overwhelming to our staff, our community is always there to lift us up, supporting us, when we need it most. Such a large number of gliders from one rescue meant we needed urgent supplies, especially since these are such rare animals. You, the members of our amazing community did not skip a beat.

We needed everything for these tiny creatures. We were met with an outpouring of toys, pouches, wheels, critter nation cages, gift cards to grocery stores to purchase them the special fruits, veggies, and unique diet to bring them back to health. So many volunteers reached out to me, desperately wanting to make a differ-

ence in some way. Many prepared sugar glider food, washing, chopping and mixing to free up time for shelter staff to care for such a large case along with all the other animals that were already in our care. Some reached out to foster these special gliders while others offered advice, having had their own glider pets. A few local shelters and rescue organizations assisted in helping us by taking in some of the gliders, lightening the load a little bit for the NHSPCA and helping them to have more options for homes.

It's truly amazing and inspiring how something that started out so bleak and grim can turn into a beautiful display of humanity, compassion, and empathy, especially for beings as small as a sugar glider.

# In it for the long haul...

By Kelly Marinel  
Manager of Animal Care

If you have been scrolling our social media or have wandered through our Dog Pavilion this year, you've probably seen Brownie. She's hard to miss. She's a big girl (hey, more to love!), and has the most stunning tan and white coat. Oh, and I can't forget to mention her adorable spotted left ear!

Brownie is one of the most unique looking dogs I have seen, which is ironic because she looks identical to my childhood dog! I'll never forget the first time I saw Brownie: I stopped in my tracks... literally stopped my car and just stared at her. My childhood dog, Cassidy, was so unique that I simply could not believe her doppelganger was here at the New Hampshire SPCA!

Brownie's looks weren't the only thing that reminded me of Cassidy. She also has the most loving personality: she wants nothing more than to be around people and even came up with the charming habit of not eating her food unless our volunteers hand fed her. I have to admit, she knows how to keep people coming!

That special moment when I first laid eyes on her in our parking lot was back in 2018. That was the first time she turned to us in need of a safe place to land when her family's circumstances changed. As we adopted her out soon after, we promised her we'd be here if she ever needed us again... and lo and behold, she did.

Late last year, Brownie's beloved family was forced to make the gut-wrenching decision to surrender her due to health issues (within the family). Her family knew they could no longer provide Brownie with the love and care she deserved, and while it was devastating to make that decision, it was also an incredible display of love... because we were able to step in and provide her with the care she needed and get her ready for what we hope will be her final family.

Upon intake, we learned Brownie was in dire need of an expensive and complicated surgery. Brownie was diagnosed with hip dysplasia, which is a deformity of the hip that occurs during growth. Brownie's hip dysplasia was causing her extreme discomfort, and very much affecting her quality of life. She was having trouble walking and it was so



There was much to celebrate when Brownie was adopted in late February — shaved hip and all!

hard to see her in pain.

Brownie lit up when she saw people coming to see her and take her out, but the poor girl was struggling at times to even hold her back leg up. Our veterinarians thoroughly examined her, took x-rays, and put a plan into action.

A hip surgery date was scheduled, and our Foster Coordinator got right to work finding the most perfect family to care for this sweet girl as she prepared and recovered from this extensive surgery. Getting Brownie out of the shelter environment and into a quiet, low-activity home allowed this girl to rest, rest, rest.

I have been at the NHSPCA for more than 15 years and am constantly blown away by our community of donors, the compassion of the public, and our ability to improve and save the lives of the animals in our care.

Brownie's hip surgery (FHO) was one of five that have been performed this year — and there have been countless other procedures that have been handled by our compassionate, talented and caring medical team.

Being in a shelter is hard for animals. It's confusing, stressful, and if they are in pain, I can't imagine how much more stress that can add. Our x-ray and ultrasound machines allow us to save time and money by performing these procedures right here at the NHSPCA. They allow us to get animals the surgical procedures they need as soon as possible.

We could not do the lifesaving work we do without our donors. Animals like Brownie — who desperately needed hip surgery to alleviate the pain and discomfort she had while walking — can get the critical care they need because of our supporters.

I am so proud and blessed to be part of an organization that continually seeks to not only save lives but also to provide the best quality of life for all of the animals in our care. Just looking into Brownie's soulful brown eyes, I can tell she's pretty happy about it, too.

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### Looking for your next best friend?

Click [here](#) to view all currently available animals



# A day with our feline friends in the Cat Pavilion

By Jill Rumore  
Volunteer

The folks are beginning to line up outside the New Hampshire SPCA's Adoption Center an hour before opening time. We will be busy today! And so much work has already taken place behind those closed doors, soon to open as we welcome all who enter.

Arriving to volunteer in the Cat Pavilion, we find our many and varied felines of all ages already fed their morning meal, now playing with their toys or napping after having been lovingly tended to earlier by dedicated staff and the first shift of volunteers.

## Interested in adopting?

Click [here](#) to see a full list of our currently available animals!

Their cages/condos and playrooms have all been cleaned and fresh laundry, including just the right sized cozy, now wraps them in comfort. Their foods, including any special diets, fresh water and clean litterboxes are in place and soothing music is playing in the background.

Our floors have been washed, prep kitchen tidied, dirty laundry removed to be washed and reused again.

We review the cat profiles, our paperwork at hand, as we get ready to greet the public and assist the passionate community members in adopting their new family member.

Last week, we received nearly 30 cats and kittens through our amazing Transport Program from two Southern partners. They were processed through our entry system, quarantined for 48 hours, checked and cleared by our veterinary staff and today, these very special cats will be available to the public for adoption! The cats have been spayed or neutered, microchipped and given the first set of vaccinations appropriate for their ages.

Our cardboard carriers, always available for those without their own cat carriers, have been assembled, as well as goodie bags with wet and dry food for the kitties to go home with.

We are ready... the excited adopters are ready too.

With applications approved, potential adopters are eager and are welcomed into the Cat Pavilion to begin their search for their forever friend. Today, a Thursday, at 11:00 a.m., there are 27 adopters at the front door.

Five of the available cats today are a litter of



**While we know a kennel is not a home, our animals get a whole lot of love from our staff and volunteers as they await their adoptions. If you've stopped by our Cat Pavilion, there's a very good chance you've been greeted by Jill (pictured here with Cheddar) and her husband, Dave, two incredible volunteers!**

beautiful grey medium haired, four-month-old babies.

Our first potential adopters were drawn to two of the brothers immediately and took them home. Just after that, another two siblings were chosen, also going to their forever home. And shortly thereafter, the last little grey kitty was adopted, all within an hour and a half of doors opening.

A very good start to the day indeed as it continued with many more cat adoptions throughout.

All the kittens and cats that have gone to their new loving homes have left an empty and "used" enclosure. We will disinfect all those enclosures, having emptied them of blankets, towels, toys, litterboxes, and water bowls, so that we can then reset the cage with fresh new furnishings for the next cat awaiting its new home.

The day will end with checking on those felines that continue to wait for their special family.

Their charts will be monitored, they'll be fed their evening meal, given fresh water, a refreshed litterbox, and enrichment toys to stimulate. We'll make sure enclosures are secure while we conduct a head count. Finally, we get to visit with

each of them, supplying essential belly rubs, gentle touches and a soft, reassuring voice letting them know that tomorrow could be their day to go home. Sleep well.

I have been afforded the most meaningful gift of all... to be able to care for and be loved by all these gentle, affectionate, patient felines who endured the journey with their bravery, entrusting us with their care. Our purpose is to love and protect, and repeat, over and over again for each one that needs us.

I've learned so much having been a cat volunteer at the NHSPCA for so many years. The animals teach us simply what is important: just look into their eyes, hear that unmistakable contented purr, hold them close, snuggle them, and know true unconditional love.

I've also learned that this community of animal lovers is so important to me. Sharing photos, heartfelt stories of joy and loss from folks adopting along with the promise of opening their hearts and homes again, completes us all.

Do you want to join me in making a big difference to these animals? Click [here](#) to learn how today!

# Arnie's long journey home

By **Amanda Wellman**  
Transport Coordinator

Once upon a time, there was a dog with no name, and he lived a life that was much worse than Cinderella's life with her evil stepmother. Despite his terrible living situation and frequent abuse, this dog kept going. He had been born into this life, and he had no idea that better things were possible.

One day, he and his companions were rescued by our partners at the Humane Society of the United States. They transferred him to a big building where there were lots of other dogs, but there were also wonderful things like clean bedding, housing that kept him out of the elements, and nutritious food. He was also finally gifted a name, and he became known as Arnold Palmer, or "Arnie" to his friends. He had never had friends before, and he discovered that he liked it when people spoke to him in kind voices and called him "Arnie."

Arnie liked the routine at HSUS much better than his previous routine. At HSUS, he got to eat full meals at the same time every day and he learned that he could count on people to provide him with food. He was given toys and treats and lots of affection, and he even enjoyed learning a few commands during what the people called "training" or "enrichment". And one magical day, someone introduced him to what would become his favorite thing in the world: A BALL. Arnie found out that playing ball with people was THE BEST — he could play fetch all day, every day and never get tired of it! And his people would tell him how smart and talented he was every time he brought the ball right back to them and dropped it at their feet.

After a few months, his friends at HSUS loaded him onto a van and drove him away from their facility. He was a bit nervous at first, probably because he was worried that he was headed back to his old life. But his friends assured him that he was going somewhere good, and he got to take his favorite red ball with him, so the situation didn't seem so bad. There was another dog on the van named Cary, and she was calm and unconcerned about the drive, which helped him feel better.

Arnie arrived at the New Hampshire SPCA and was welcomed like the king he is. He was a little sad to say goodbye to his old friends, but there were so many awesome friends at the NHSPCA that he wasn't worried for long. His new friends had so many balls waiting for him, he thought perhaps he had come to the best place in the world! His new friends visited him frequently and would take him out for extra play time in the fenced-in play yard, because helping Arnie enjoy the simple pleasure

of a game of fetch would bring everyone so much happiness. Arnie had a plush bed, regular food, a multitude of balls, and so many friends that he thought life had become the best it could possibly be. But he was wrong!

Because the Big Day finally came... the day when the people who would become Arnie's parents came in to inquire about him. They liked what they read in his online biography and thought he'd be the perfect addition to their family. Arnie thought these people were quite nice — they had plenty of snacks, the kindest of voices, and they knew how to play fetch! His friends told him that these were his people — his parents — and he was excited to find out what having parents meant to a dog. He happily headed off to his new home, leaving his friends to laugh and cry and hug each other in their excitement that Arnie finally had the loving home of their dreams.

Arnie's parents report that he settled in nicely and has brought an immense amount of joy to their home. He LOVES having parents — his very own people to cuddle him and help him explore all the world has to offer. He is (rightfully) very spoiled



**Arnie's life was hard but now he's having a ball.**

and has a wide variety of balls to choose from, and he does his best to play with as many of them as possible. Arnie knows that every day is a gift, and his loving and wonder-filled approach to life is absolutely inspiring after everything he endured.

The New Hampshire SPCA is proud to help our partners at the Humane Society of the United States find homes for overlooked dogs like Arnie and Cary. We look forward to continuing this partnership as part of our Transport Program, so keep an eye out for more HSUS dogs at our facility!

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# The anatomy of a rescue: Compassion in action

By Sheila Ryan

Director of Development & Marketing

Animal cruelty cases often involve collaboration with law enforcement agencies and local authorities. The NHSPCA works closely with these entities to ensure a seamless and legally sound rescue operation. Coordination is vital to securing the necessary permissions, ensuring the safety of the rescue team, and addressing any potential legal complications.

Our purpose in responding to investigations and other requests for assistance is always to provide a safety net for the animals involved.

Throughout the year, every day, our Humane Agent works on saving animals from sad and sometimes incredibly disturbing circumstances. He receives between 600-800 calls each year, an average of about two per day. These reports may involve intentional cruelty, unintended neglect, animals without shelter and more. Sometimes we find the cases are more complex than we imagined, sometimes they turn out to be meritless. But all investigations take time.

Last week was one that we won't ever forget. The weekend saw three separate transports bringing us over 50 animals needing to be readied for adoption. With kennels already full, on Monday our Humane Agent received word from a local police department official that a warrant that we'd been working toward would be issued imminently. This is where our story begins...

Notification of a warrant triggers the next steps in execution of a rescue, particularly if there are farm animals or a large number of small animals involved. First, the Humane Agent called a meeting of the Rescue Lead Team. Members of the team include Managers and Directors of all the areas of the agency that play a role in a rescue, including the Executive Director, Director of Animal Services, Director of Development and Marketing, and Director of Administration. The team also includes managers from animal care, adoption, farm, and of course, the Humane Agent. This team comes together to plan every aspect of our response. The meeting is to inform, plan and assign tasks, such as who will go on the rescue vehicles, who will oversee readying the shelter for the incoming animals, what veterinarian will go with, will there be charges, will the press be informed and if so, when. Each case involves circumstances that are unique and require discussion, often more grey than black and white.

The logistics of an animal rescue involve careful planning regarding transportation, equipment,



**There's so much more that goes into rescues than what meets the eye.**

and resources. The NHSPCA ensures that we have the necessary vehicles to transport animals safely and securely. Specialized equipment for handling different species, along with supplies for temporary housing and medical care, is organized to address the immediate needs of the rescued animals.

By the end of Tuesday, we went home thinking that the warrant would be served within the following two days. But everything changed when, that night, a house fire occurred at a home with dogs and farm animals. The police called the NHSPCA to come on scene at the home and bring the animals to safe shelter. While not routine, we've been called on before to help in similar circumstances. What we discovered when we arrived was shocking even to our experienced crew. The animals appeared to have been suffering long before the fire took place. Two dogs were barely able to stand, so sick and neglected, while two other dogs seemed to be good. A goat at the home was also unable to stand or bend her front legs. Her front hooves protruded straight out from her feet about 18 inches, untrimmed, likely for years.

Working with the police on scene, we loaded the animals that were in most need of our help, brought them back to the shelter and gave them food, water and comfortable bedding.

Wednesday turned out to be an incredibly difficult day. Our veterinarian examined the dog and found him to be very sick and in pain. He had been denied veterinary care too long and the humane thing to do was to help him pass. We soon learned that a dog that was left in the

## Should I report this?

Are you uncomfortable with what you are seeing? If you are suspicious of what you have seen, please report it. You might be the animal's first witness. It never hurts to err on the side of caution. You might be saving lives!

## How do I report cruelty?

If you witness animal abuse or neglect, call your police immediately. In some cases, you may have to leave information for the ACO or Police Department to call you back.

If you know or suspect that an animal is being neglected or abused, you can report information by calling our Field Services Department at 603-772-2921 ext. 111 or fill out this [form](#). Any inquiries regarding suspected neglect or abuse are welcome.

Your calls are confidential; however, our agent will require information to receive a valid report.

owner's care also had to be euthanized. We called a veterinarian specializing in large/farm animals to come out and evaluate the goat who was about as sweet as a goat could be, wagging her tail and crawling on her elbows toward anyone who gave her the slightest attention. The vet trimmed down her hooves making it easier for her to move, but her front legs were permanently bent at the elbow. Tests needed to be done to determine the cause of the deformity. CAE, an arthritic condition was suspected. Thankfully, the horse appeared to be in relatively good shape and only needed a foot trim. Each staff member and volunteer that witnessed the condition of these animals felt heartbroken for the suffering they'd endured.

Meanwhile, the case that we expected to execute that day had to be postponed. The training, preparation, time, and resources that had been invested in it, put on hold.

As of today, we have multiple animals in protective custody from previous cases that include horses, donkeys, cats, and dogs. There are also several pending cases that we will be assisting the police with over the next few weeks.

We hope that by sharing some of what goes on behind the scenes of rescues that we raise awareness of animal cruelty and neglect issues. In the future we hope to share more stories of successful outcomes, to inspire community involvement and promote responsible pet ownership.



# *BELIEVE IN* **SAVING LIVES**

**2023** IMPACT  
REPORT



2023

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## TAILS FROM AROUND THE SHELTER



### JANUARY

The New Hampshire SPCA kicks off the year with 133 animals already in our care. We're looking forward to an awesome year filled with adoptions and community programs. Our Farm Manager was preparing to fly to California for an internship with Monty Roberts, providing her the training to gentle and place feral horses.



### FEBRUARY

Lola our most famous grumpy cat was adopted on February 16. She had been surrendered after her owner passed away and had an incredibly hard time adjusting to the shelter environment. Lola was our anti-Valentine's Day post on social media and was adopted just two days later, 159 days after arriving at the NHSPCA. Lola is proof that there's love out there for everyone.



### MARCH

The Alexandria Police Chief reached out to NHSPCA on March 28 about a case of neglect and cruelty in his town, about 85 miles from Stratham. Our emergency response team headed out with two trucks pulling stock trailers and our transport vehicle. We rescued 11 goats that were living in deplorable conditions. Ten of the eleven were kids, one as young as a day old. Through bottle feeding and constant care all but one of them recovered and found forever homes.



### APRIL

We welcomed 14 mice from the Animal Welfare Society in Kennebunk on April 22. This was first of many incoming mice in 2023. In fact, we adopted out 45 mice this year.



### MAY

Raven our feral mare gave birth to her stunning black foal, Sylvester, on Mother's Day (May 14). Raven came to us five weeks before as a pregnant, untouchable mare. Raven joined Jessie, our first feral pregnant mare who had arrived back in March. Jessie's boy Cash was born on March 30. Our farm team was fully equipped to work with Raven and Jessie, to gentle them, thanks to the training Farm Manager, Michelle had received during her internship last year with Monty Roberts, the horse whisperer. These four horses stayed with us for the next 6 months while the foals grew and were weaned. Now each has a wonderful forever home.



### JUNE

A busy start to the summer with Paws Walk leading the way on June 4. Though it was a freezing June day, our walkers came out and raised over \$130,000 to care for homeless animals. It was a good thing too as just two days later we welcomed 10 cats and 13 kittens at Manchester Airport as part of our first Good Flight transport with Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League (West Palm Beach, FL) and Humane Society of Broward County (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). 138 cats traveled on the flight to find homes in New England.

Then on June 16, we were called on to assist Bedford Police to remove animals from a deeply disturbing neglect case that included horses, donkeys, and more than a dozen severely under socialized dogs.



## JULY

Nearly 200 children, ranging from 6 to 12 years old reveled in animal love at the NHSPCA summer camp! From planting and harvesting veggies for the tiny animals to learning about the care of dogs and cats, to creating their own animal promotion videos, these kiddos had a blast!



## AUGUST

The NHSPCA took in over 300 animals this month. Unbelievably, 76 of them came as the result of two large neglect cases. Returning to Bedford to assist the police at the same home that we'd investigated back in June, 33 additional dogs were rescued from this one home. Then just a week later, another case, this time in Northwood where the police and the Dept. of Agriculture asked us to assist with a seizure which brought 39 animals into protective custody. Animals in protective custody must wait for the courts to decide their future. As of February 2024, we still have 22 of these animals waiting.



## SEPTEMBER

The NHSPCA was excited to welcome full-time veterinarian, Dr. Carly LaGrandeur, DVM on September 5! Dr. LaGrandeur was joined by four relief veterinarians during the month and together they provided a wide variety of care for shelter animals ranging from basic health checks and vaccines to hernia repair to mass removal, entropion surgery and spay/neuter. With their help we also restored our low-cost community spay/neuter clinic which hadn't been offered through the pandemic and construction. The need for this service is tremendous and we are thrilled to be rolling it out again.



## OCTOBER

Our Adoption Center took in nearly 200 animals this month, a huge number for October. Even more impressively, our Food Share Program distributed a total of 978 pounds of dog/cat dry food, canned food, litter and treats during the month. We work with several food pantries in the region to help alleviate pet food shortages for their population.



## NOVEMBER

The NHSPCA Board of Directors established the Josephine A. Lamprey Veterinary Assistance Fund in honor of longtime supporter and dear friend, Joanne Lamprey. The fund was announced at our *Auction for the Animals*. This permanently restricted fund will contribute toward the work of our Community Wellness Programs and make non-emergent care available to families unable to afford veterinary care.

Meg the American Pitbull was adopted on November 4 after being in our care for 80 days far beyond on usual average length of stay of 14 days. Meg was transported from an overcrowded shelter in Texas on one of the 59 transports completed this year.

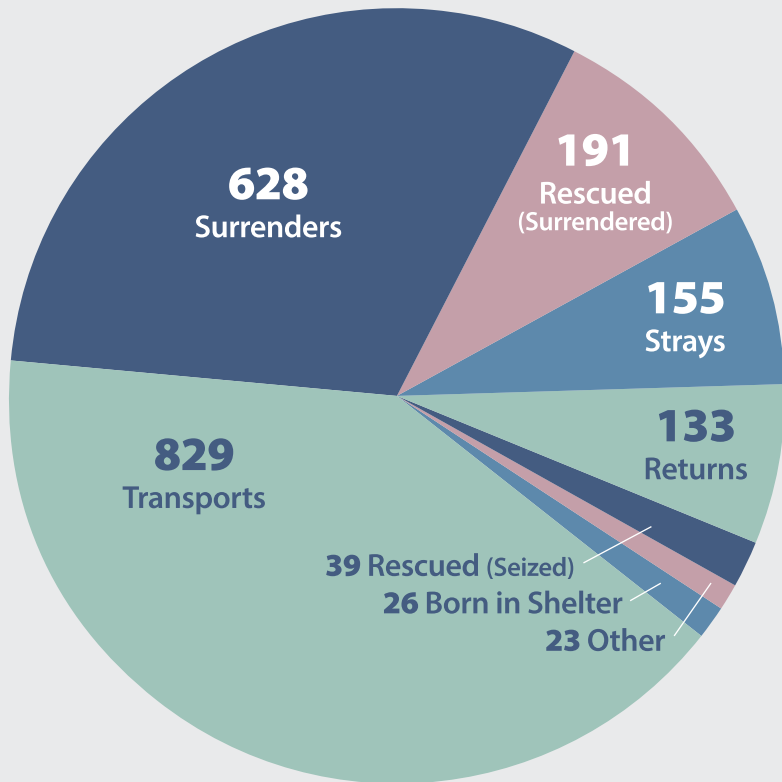


## DECEMBER

The NHSPCA rescues 80 sugar gliders from a single home on December 12. Our community came out in droves to help us care for these unusual marsupials. The response was truly heartwarming and made a huge difference as we worked to acclimate to such a large number of animals while learning how to best care for them.

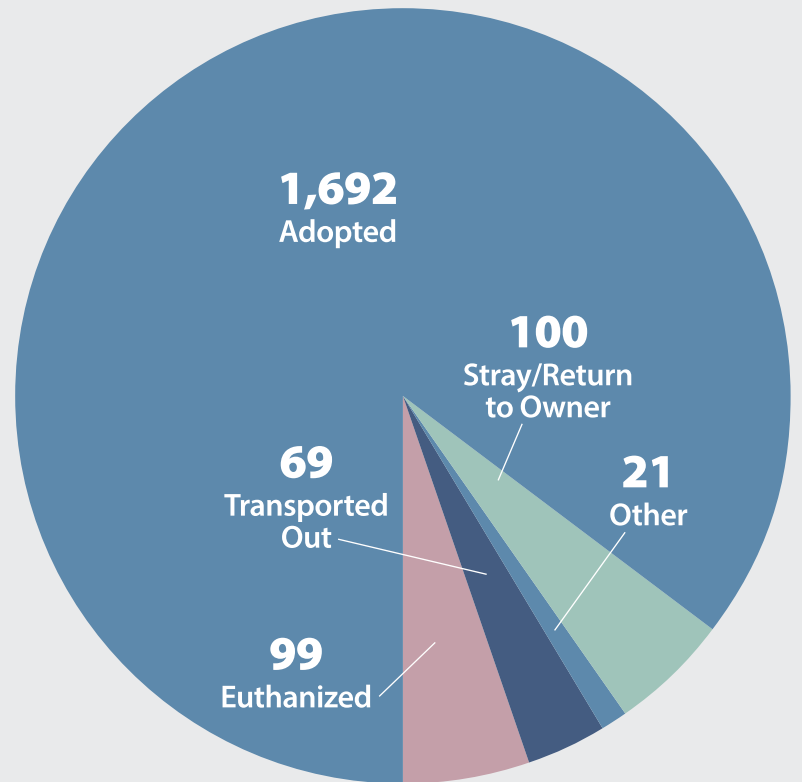
We ended the year having taken in 2,053 animals, 1,224 locally and 829 from partner shelters working to save the lives of those in their care. The final transport of the year came on December 27 and included 8 dogs and 16 cats. It was a happy new year for each of them and we couldn't do any of this without you! Thank you for an amazing year!

**INCOMING ANIMALS: 2,024\***



\*Does not include the 133 animals in care at start of 2023 or 29 animals in Safe Pet Program

**OUTGOING ANIMALS: 1,981**



**LENGTH OF STAY STATISTICS**

The **average length of stay** is the time animals spend at the shelter from the moment they are brought in until they are adopted. The **median length of stay** represents how many days a typical animal spends at the shelter.

Animal type	Number of Animals	Adopted	Return to owner	Average LOS	Median LOS
Dog	424	326	53	14	8
Puppy	147	140	3	14	9
Cat	416	363	28	27	9
Kitten	470	463	1	14	7
Rodent	124	101	0	60	32
Bird/Other	84	34	0	164	18
Horse	72	56	7	71	37
Rabbit	71	58	8	33	19
Farm Fowl	68	49	0	62	39
Guinea Pig	60	58	0	108	26
Farm Animal	45	44	0	97	96
<b>TOTAL*</b>	<b>1,981</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>100</b>		



**100%**  
placement rate  
of healthy animals

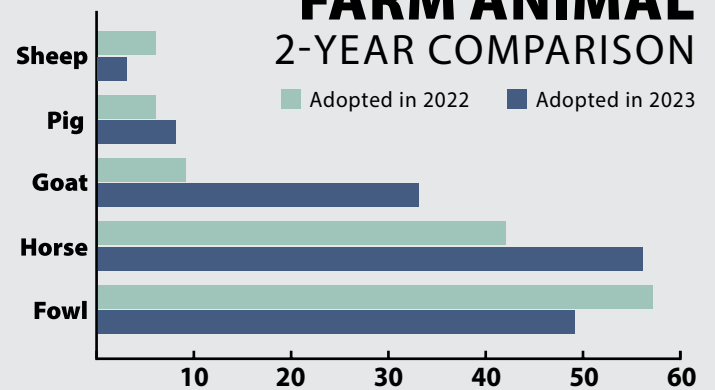


**100%**  
placement rate  
of treatable and/or  
rehabilitatable animals



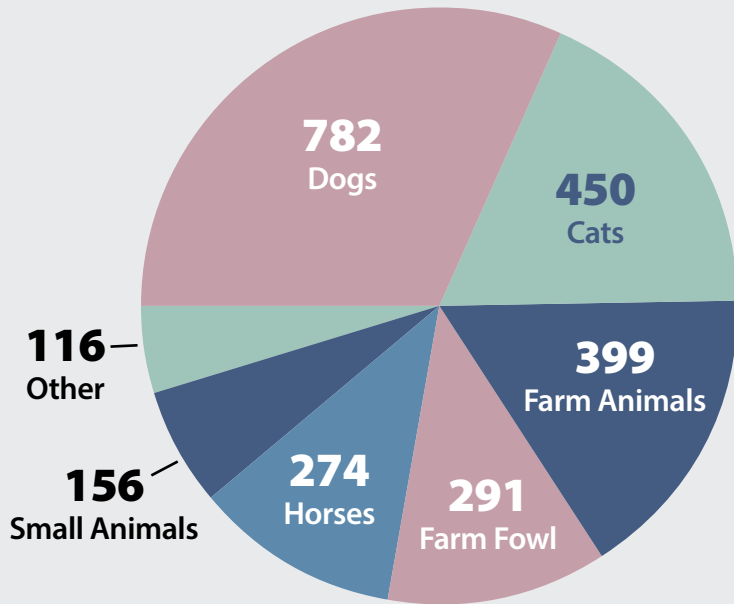
**95%**  
overall live  
release rate

**FARM ANIMAL  
2-YEAR COMPARISON**

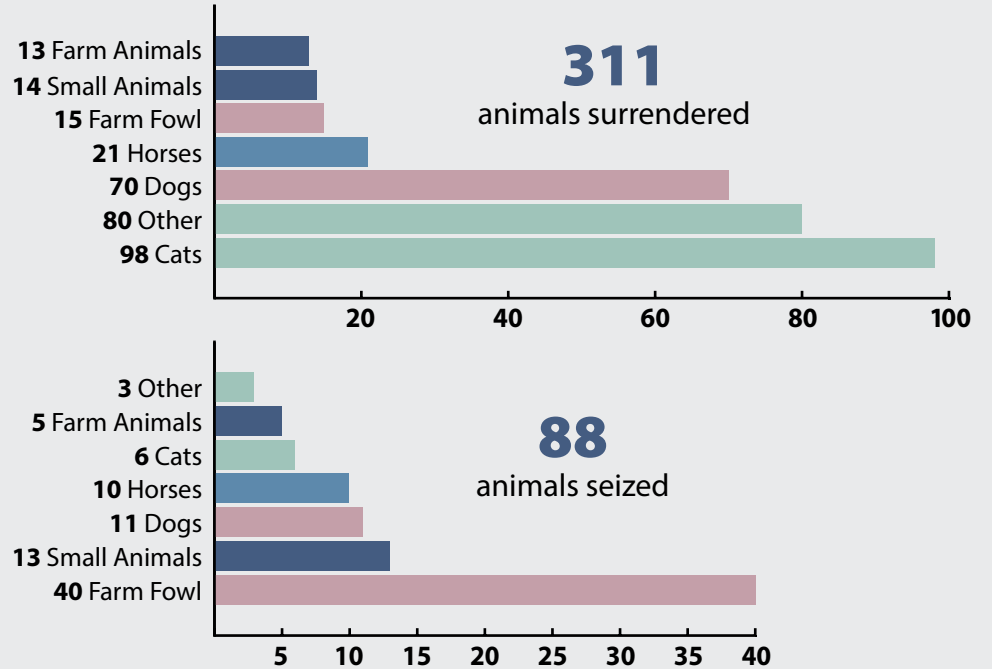


FIELD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

625 COMPLAINTS received and investigated involving 2,468 ANIMALS



399 ANIMALS seized or surrendered following investigations



SAFE PET PROGRAM

This program provides free housing for pets (for an initial period of two weeks) for members of our community who are dealing with difficult circumstances. It allows them to deal with whatever is happening with peace of mind knowing their animal(s) will be safe.

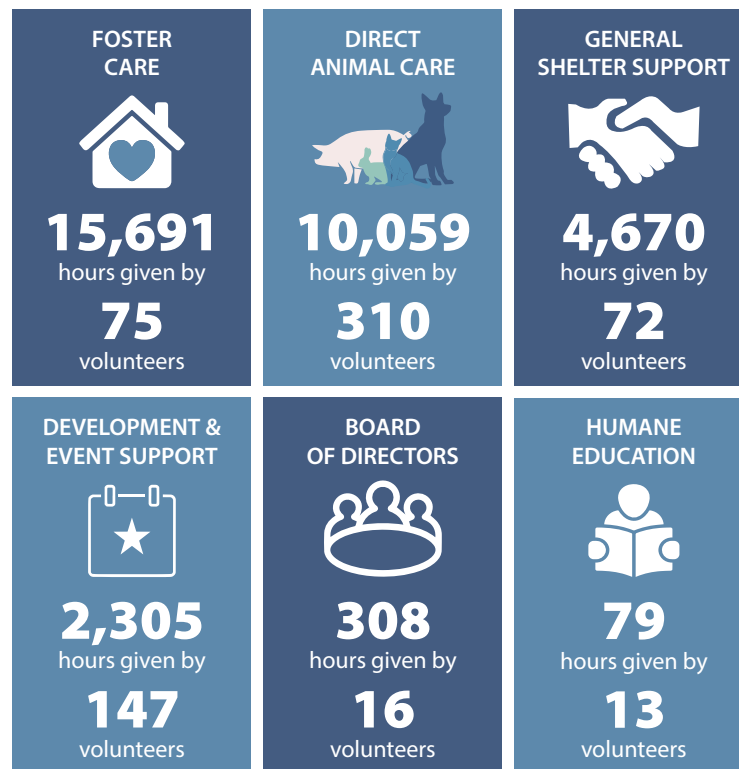
29 ANIMALS ENROLLED IN OUR SAFE PET PROGRAM FOR A TOTAL OF 521 SAFE NIGHTS

TOP REASONS FOR USE OF THIS PROGRAM:

- HOSPITALIZATION
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- LOSS OF HOUSING
- MENTAL HEALTH

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

588 VOLUNTEERS GAVE 33,499 HOURS



FOOD SHARE PROGRAM

10,845 POUNDS OF PET FOOD DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY EQUALING AN ESTIMATED 54,225 MEALS

84 CLIENTS CAME DIRECTLY TO THE NHSPCA FOR PET FOOD AND SUPPLIES

8 PARTNERS RECEIVED PET FOOD & SUPPLIES TO DISTRIBUTE WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES, SERVING 5 STATES

- BROOKHAVEN ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE
- FOOTPRINTS FOOD PANTRY
- GATHER
- MATTHEW 25
- NEWMARKET FOOD PANTRY
- SAVE OUR SOULS RESCUE
- STEPHEN WILKINSON MEMORIAL PANTRY
- WISH PROJECT



# 1872 Society

*The 1872 Society was developed as a way of recognizing and thanking our incredibly generous donors who are so important to the animals and our mission. The category names were chosen to further demonstrate that each plays a significant role. We sincerely appreciate each one of you for your commitment to our work.*

## HERO — \$10,000+

Anonymous	Mr. John Holland	Mr. Richard K. Parker Jr.
Adella and Alfred Giller Charitable Trust	Deborah Kane	Mr. Jeffrey L. Paulson
ASPCA	Knopf Family Foundation	Port City Veterinary Referral Hospital
Ms. Helen S. Brosseau	Mr. and Mrs. James E. Lawson	Ms. Tara Rutman and Mr. J. Morgan Rutman
Charles Engelhard Foundation	Steven and Aviva List	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Span
Janet L. Collins	MacDonald Family Foundation	Subaru of America and McGovern Subaru
Mr. Larry Costa	Mrs. Gurdon H. Metz	Tito's Handmade Vodka
Exeter Run Club	Murphy, Powers & Wilson Certified Public Accountants, P.C.	Veterinary Emergency & Surgery Hospital of Brentwood
Give With Liberty	Ocean Properties	Wal-Mart Foundation
Mr. Thomas W. Haas and Ms. Karen Grover		

## GUARDIAN — \$5,000+

Anonymous (2)	Mrs. Brenda Crawford	Nicolas and Kelly McCarthy	The Noah Foundation
American Eagle Outfitters Foundation	Mrs. Ann Duschatko	Mr. Edward J. Mehigen	Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Thompson
Renee Bolmeijer	Mr. Frank A. Furdyna	Vance and Anne Morgan	Three Bearings Fiduciary Advisors
F. Gordon and Diane Bitter	Dr. Peter A. Gray	Petmedic Urgent Care	Patricia Tingley
The Dan Brown Giving Fund	Mr. and Mrs. Keith Harnum	John C. Porter	Cassandra Viau
Dr. Alison Cassotis and Dr. Nick Cassotis	Mr. and Mrs. Trevor James	Seascape Capital Management, LLC	Vineyard Way Charitable Fund
Donald F. Connors, Jr.	Mrs. Alice Larrea	St. Mary's Bank	Mr. and Mrs. Dennis J. Viola
Juliene Conway	Mr. Peter Lennon and Ms. Susan Y. Desjardins	Ms. Katherine Surman	Mrs. Karen Walsh
		The Fabulous Find	

## ALLY — \$2,500+

Anonymous	Mr. Mark Ewert	Mrs. Paula D. Merritt	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schoenberger
Eleanor Abrams	Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Freeze	Mr. Michael J. Murphy	Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Sivret
Amazon Smile Foundation	Great Bay Orthodontics	Douglas Myers	State Line Pet Supply
Audi of Stratham	Lynne Klevanosky	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Parziale	Ms. Nancy E. Sullivan
Dorothy Baker	Edward Lague	Ellyn and Greg Phelps	The Francis Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Cooper	Gail and Michael Lynch	Katherine and Julian Potenza	The Winner's Circle
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Curley	Amber MacDonald	Carol A. Rivers	Ms. Karen Watkins
Hali Dearborn	Ms. Monica McCarthy	Ms. Linda J. Rogers	Windham Packaging, LLC
Dr. and Mrs. Richard J. Duffy	Mark and Diana McNabb Charitable Fund	Christine Russell	Peter and Kareen Worrell
Ms. Gay G. Ehler		Sault New England	

Anonymous (3)	Mrs. Barbara Fernane	Dr. and Mrs. Gregory M. Lynch	San Diego Foundation
Accurate Instrument Services	Ms. Monique Fiola and Dr. Tom Fiola	John Lynn	Ralph Santosuosso
ADP Employer Service	First Anchor Wealth Management, LLC	Mr. and Mrs. Russell S. Lyon	Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Saunders
Allen Wayside Furniture	First Seacoast Bank	Dr. and Mrs. John MacGregor	SC Digital
Mrs. Diana Appleton and Mr. Jack Appleton	Ms. Debra W. Ford	Andrew MacGregor	Julia Schiff
Ralph E. Armstrong	Ms. Ifen C. Foster	Mr. Bruce L. MacIntyre	Ms. Mary-Ann Schmidt
Mr. and Mrs. Wildolfo Arvelo	Pamela Furbush	Mr. Roderic D. MacKay	Stephanie Shaines
AutoFair Nissan of Stratham	Mr. Daniel B. Gallagher	Ms. Mary W. Mahoney	Shattered Comics
Ms. Donna C. Ball	Jack and Rosemary Gardner	Tami Mallett	Ms. Sue Smulski
Mr. Thomas Blonski and Mrs. Caroline Blonski	Kim and Josef Gazzola	Ms. Rose Beth Mandelbaum	Mrs. Marilyn Sneiderman
Ms. Linda Boles	Mr. Brian Gibb and Mr. Chris Williams	Manley and Doris Irwin Fund	Southwick Construction, Inc.
Ms. Geri Bona	Mr. Thomas Glasrud	Ms. Maureen Martin	Ms. Lucinda Spaney
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Connie and Jim Boyle	Greg Grunwald	Susan Mathieu	Mary Strathern
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Jake Brown	Hartford Foundation For Public Giving	Samuel Smoot and Karen McDonnell	Take Five Dogcare LLC
D. Chris and Marilyn Brown	Ms. Jo Haskell	Mr. Joseph D. McEachern	TD Bank N.A.
Mr. Steven M. Burke, Esq.	Ms. Diane R. Hill	Michael McGarr	The Fuller Foundation, Inc.
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Ms. Sheila A. Carter	Ms. Deborah Holbrook	Marcia and Craig McLaughlin	Doris and Arthur Timmins
Michael Casey	Jeanette and Charles Hood	John and Cheryl McMahan	Lisa Unger
Mr. and Mrs. Jason S. Chaplin	Ms. Catherine Howard	Ms. Mary Lynn McPhie	Ms. Veronica Van Loan
Ms. Ruth Christopher	Cheryl Howes	Meredith Village Savings Bank	Mr. Richard and Mrs. Joan VanLandingham
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan C. Clark	Ellen Hoyt	Mr. Reid Merrill	VCA Caves
Mr. James Conroy	Clayton Hunter	Doreen Morris and Bert Hodges	Thomas Vittoriosio
Mr. and Mrs. Weston F. Cook, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. James J. Hurley III	Mr. and Mrs. Daniel F. Murphy III	Vogel Veterinary Dermatology
CoreMedical Group	Invisible Fence of Southern ME and Seacoast NH	Newburyport Bank	Mr. Charles Walker and Mrs. Lynne Walker
Mr. Thomas A. Daly	Sarah and Dan Isaacs	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Nies	Brian and Linda Walters
Michael and Cheryl Damour	Dr. Wendy B. Jack	Robert and Brenda Noga	Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Weir
Dr. Patricia A. Day-Lollini and Lance O. Lollini	Jackson Lewis, P.C.	Ms. Donna Novelli, Ph.D.	Scott Wellington
Tina L. Desfosses	Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Johnson	Kyle Orndorff	Mrs. Cathy Wells
Mr. Richard Desmarais and Mrs. Trudy Desmarais	Ms. Catherine R. Judd	OTTO of Exeter	Ms. CherylAnne Williams
Amanda Diccico	Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn Kailian	Karen Parnes	Alex Wilson
Mr. David A. Dilts	Mrs. Judith Keaney	Duska A. Parsons	Ms. Mara R. Witzling
Mr. Frank Doherty	Stephen and Joanie Kelly	Mr. Jeff Pasakarnis	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Wolfson
George Downer	Kennebunk Savings	Ms. Mary Pelletier	Ms. Sherry Wyskiel
Ms. Joanne F. Drelick	Mr. George M. Kester	Mr. Philip S. Perham	Linda J. Yost
Ms. Kim Edwards	Mr. Edward A. Knowlton	Ms. Victoria Petrigni	Tara Young
Mrs. Lydia J. Eklund	Mr. Edward J. Kohlhase	Chris and Alison Pyott	Mr. and Mrs. John M. Zanellis
Elevator Engineering, Inc.	Ms. Linda Kydd-Keeler	Ms. Jennifer F. Roberts	
Charlotte Ellis	Brady Lambrou	Kristina Romano	
Steven Epstein	Mr. and Mrs. Eric A. LaMontagne	Mr. James R. Rosencrantz, Jr.	
Mrs. Nancy Ethier	Dr. Robert C. Lebold	Donna Royer	
Devin and Thomas Farrelly	Linda Cloutier Kitchens and Bath, LLC	Pat and Tony Rubbicco	
	Karen and Dave Linden	Mr. and Mrs. John J. Ruby, Jr.	
		Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ryan	
		Ms. Ellen Saas	

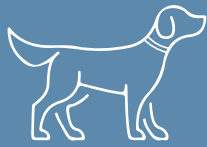
*Although the 1872 Society recognizes our top donors, we would also like to express our gratitude to each and every person who contributes. Each gift has a positive impact and helps care for the animals. Thank you.*

**BEHAVIOR & TRAINING**

**600 DOGS**  
PARTICIPATED IN ONE OF OUR  
**144 CLASSES**



**516**  
PLAYGROUP PARTICIPANTS



**59**  
PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS

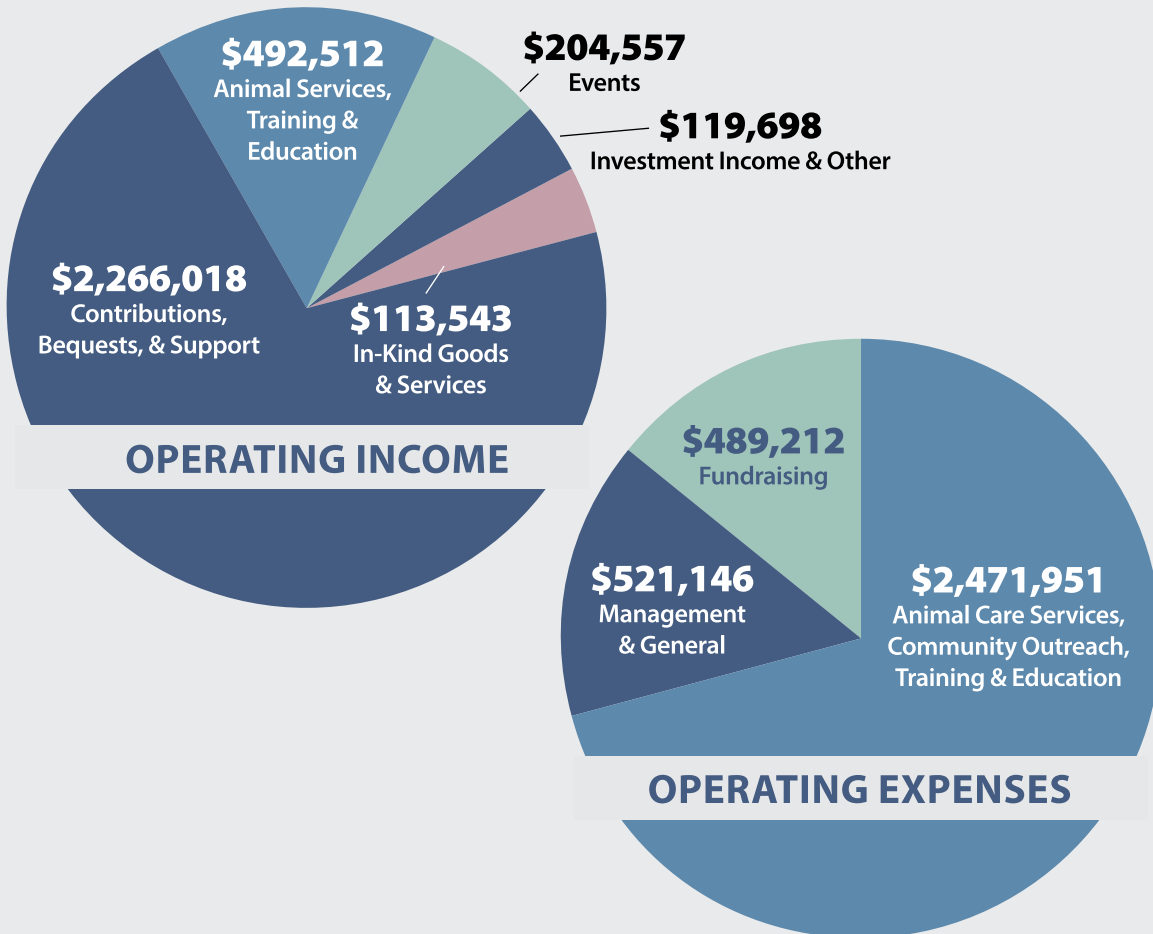
**HUMANE EDUCATION**

**1,849** CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN IN-PERSON HUMANE EDUCATION PROGRAMMING



- 338** Birthday Party Participants
- 265** Camp Participants
- 232** School Visit Participants
- 181** Story Time Participants
- 127** Reading with the Animals Participants
- 86** Tour Participants
- 24** Junior Volunteers

**2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**



**A HEALTHY COMMITMENT**

Our average investment in every cat and dog:

SERVICE	APPROX. VALUE
Dental.....	\$400 <i>(When applicable)</i>
Food & care on average 14 days .....	\$210
Spay/Neuter .....	\$125-400
Other procedures/surgeries .....	\$100-7,000 <i>(As needed)</i>
Time with Behavior Trainer .....	\$100 <i>(5-hour average for dogs)</i>
Diagnostic .....	\$75
Microchip implant & registration.....	\$50
Updated vaccinations.....	\$50
Heartworm test & preventative.....	\$35 <i>(Dogs)</i>
Flea & parasite prevention .....	\$35
Vet exam .....	\$35
Collar/leash or carrier.....	\$24
Identification tag .....	\$6

Average committed to every cat and dog:

**\$1,200-\$4,020**

*Note: Approximate value of services other animals receive would vary by species.*

## 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.

September 1, 2023 - February 29, 2024

### From the Estates of:

**Peter Burgess**  
Dover, NH

**Constance Eldredge**  
Derry, NH

**Nancy M. Ethier**  
Londonderry, NH

**Nicolina Fitzgerald**  
Franklin, NH

**April Gallant**  
Exeter, NH

**Roger P. Henry**  
Hamilton Township, NJ

**Faye M. Iacono**  
York, ME

**Sandra A. Jutras**  
Amesbury, MA

**Gerda Kalman**  
Kingston, NH

**Josephine A. Lamprey**  
North Hampton, NH

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

**Marie E. Tallmadge**  
Belmont, NH

**Patricia Tingley**  
Chester, NH

**Carla F. Tishler**  
Exeter, NH

If you'd like information about leaving a gift in your estate plans, please visit [nhspca.planmylegacy.org](http://nhspca.planmylegacy.org), or contact Lisa Dennison at [ldennison@nhspca.org](mailto:ldennison@nhspca.org).

# Be a friend to the animals

By Rich Hegarty  
Annual Fund Manager

A home's roof is sustained by beams and rafters, keeping it strong during storms and heavy winds,

## Become a Faithful Friend

Click [here](#) for additional information about our monthly giving program!

making sure it can provide shelter and protection. Our bodies are sustained by water, nutrition and oxygen, working together to keep our minds and bodies healthy and focused. Sustenance is what

maintains wellness and strength.

The vital work of the New Hampshire SPCA also requires sustenance. Sustenance for us is provided by our generous supporters and means that our life-saving care of animals is possible. We are so grateful for every gift and every supporter!

There is a special kind of donor, however, that we are especially grateful for. They are the monthly sustainers, donors who automatically give monthly, we call them our Faithful Friends. They have chosen to be the financial beams and rafters, helping us to weather the storms and changing winds. Our Faithful Friends are so important to our mission and to the animals at our shelter; in fact, you could say they are like the oxygen that sustains our work! These committed folks are more than just generous, they are practical. They know that giving monthly allows us to focus on rescuing animals by providing a reliable source of income to ensure we have the resources to give every animal food, shelter, medical care, and the loving home they deserve.

Would you like to become a Faithful Friend? When you do, you'll...



Our Faithful Friends are the backbone of our work!

- **Help save thousands of lives with just one easy click.** You'll have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping animals in your community each and every month.
- **Give in a convenient, more cost-efficient and environmentally friendly way.** Monthly donations mean less paperwork, postage and administration, making monthly giving one of the most cost-effective ways of helping the animals!
- **Make a larger impact.** Your monthly gift can be any amount. Monthly giving is an affordable and convenient way to make a larger gift by spreading your gift automatically over 12 months.

We would like to invite you to join our Faithful Friends by becoming a monthly sustaining donor. Our goal is to add just 50 members this Spring.

Together, through collective dedication and generosity, you can ensure that the NHSPCA remains a steadfast guardian of hope for countless animals in need.

## Spring Cleaning?

Have an old vehicle (working or not) taking up too much space in your yard and your life?

You can donate it to the animals!  
(It's tax deductible, too!)

Please call (603) 772-2921 ext. 102 to make arrangements for us to pick it up.

# Celebrating the heartbeat of our organization!

**By Jordan Roberts**  
Volunteer Coordinator

Wow — what an incredible year our volunteers had! The statistics I have pulled for 2023 have been *paw-sitively* jaw-dropping, and I'm so excited to share them with you! Our volunteers are truly the heartbeat of our agency and I could not be more proud to work with such an amazing team! I'd like to take this time to acknowledge some of the amazing achievements our volunteer program saw in 2023 and share a little about what you can expect in 2024!

In 2023, our volunteer program saw a lot of positive changes. First, we lowered our minimum volunteer age from 18 to 16, giving high school students the ability to log service hours for school, gain valuable work experience, and give back to their communities! We reintroduced our Mentor Volunteering Program, which is comprised of volunteers looking to have more responsibilities during their volunteering shifts. These volunteers come in regularly and help with more advanced tasks such as preparing food, monitoring animal wellness charts, and training new volunteers. We also brought back our Dog Enrichment Program for the first time since the pandemic, which gives volunteers the opportunity to work with dogs 1-on-1 and help prepare them for adoption. And finally, we introduced new volunteering opportunities in our Veterinary Center!

Let's talk numbers: In 2023, we received 557 new volunteer applications. That's over 550 people interested in making a positive difference in their community! We ended the year with 531 active volunteers who put in at least one hour of service at our agency. Based on recent trends, we anticipate that number growing to at least 700 active volunteers at the end of 2024, surpassing our pre-pandemic total of 649 volunteers in 2019. Those very dedicated 531 volunteers put in a grand total of 35,037 hours into our agency this past year! (See breakdown in attached Impact Report).

Looking back at these incredible achievements has been absolutely inspiring. If you ever need a reminder that there's still good in this world, researching how many locals volunteer for a good cause is a great place to start. Our volunteer population is so diverse- made up of individuals coming from all different contexts and stages in their lives. Someone in between jobs wanting to make good use of their time. Folks looking to celebrate retirement by giving



**Congratulations to Bethany Constance, who was recently named Volunteer of the Year for 2023!**

back to their community. Someone who's just moved to the area looking to meet like-minded people. A student looking to gain job experience on their winter and summer breaks. A nurse by night finds herself a volunteer by day. These are all true examples of active NHSPCA volunteers in 2023.

In short, our volunteers love being here, so much so that they're making time to be with us regardless of what life looks like for them right now. We cannot even begin to express how much that means to us- to have folks happy to be here multiple times a week, once a month, or whenever they can, because we're happy you're here. The collective dedication within our volunteer community fills my heart to the brim. We are so lucky to have such an incredible group of heroes helping us every single day.

In 2024, our mission is to continue welcoming folks even with the busiest of lives into our volunteering family. We will continue to expand our opportunities and be as accessible as possible to everyone in our community. All are welcome here, and we thank those of you who have already found their way here for being with us. Your work does not go unnoticed, and we couldn't do what we do without you!

Looking to join our volunteering family? Please contact Jordan at [jroberts@nhspca.org](mailto:jroberts@nhspca.org) or apply [here](#) today today!

## NEW HAMPSHIRE SPCA 2023 Volunteer Awards

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held the evening of April 17 this year and was such a blast! It was so fun seeing everyone get together and we loved being able to honor each and every one of our volunteers for their hard work and dedication to our agency and animals over the last year.

Our staff chose to recognize a few volunteers personally for their outstanding service and willingness to go above and beyond (see award recipients below).

Thank you all so much again for all you do for us — we can't wait to see what 2024 has in store!

- Volunteer of the Year:** Bethany Constance
- Foster Parents of the Year:** Ann Locke & Erika Lundgren
- Golden Harness:** Patricia Patterson
- Golden Whiskers:** Deb Holbrook
- Golden Critter:** Patty Keck
- Golden Pitchfork:** Nate Bemis
- Dog Whisperer:** Carole Bilodeau
- Enrichment All Stars:** Lisa & Mike Hanley
- Canine Rookie of the Year:** Scott Eiserman
- Cat Cuddler:** Lynzie Chase
- Feline Rookie of the Year:** Emelie Horvath
- Speaks Small Animal:** Deb Hawkes
- Smalls Rookie of the Year:** Pam Marshman
- Farm Fanatic:** Marissa de la Torre
- Barn Rookie of the Year:** Tracy Wood
- Launderers of the Year:** Tim Jones & Tom Oliver
- Dynamic Duo:** Jill & David Rumore
- Classroom Caregiver:** Suzie Buck
- Vet Center Rookie of the Year:** Ellen Raemsch
- Admin Angel:** Linda Fagan
- Little Miss Sunshine:** Stephanie Stanley
- Café Queen:** Jan Peters
- Development Diva:** Deborah Kane
- Event Rookie of the Year:** Jeanne Danilczuk
- Event Extraordinaire:** Annette Sell

***Congratulations & Thank You!***

# Fostering: a temporary commitment with permanent rewards

**By Morgan Daly**  
Foster Coordinator

Finding foster families for some of the animals in our care is essential to our life-saving mission to save and find homes for as many animals as possible. Some animals come to us vulnerable, sick, or with special needs — there is nothing more crucial to their recovery than to be removed temporarily from the shelter environment and into a loving home with individualized care and the time to heal.

Being a foster parent for an animal in need is truly invaluable. Fostering is a temporary commitment with permanent rewards for that animal. Have you been considering becoming a foster? Here's some reasons to make the decision:

- Satisfaction of knowing you're making a difference in the community and the lives of animals, one animal at a time.
- Spend loving, quality time with a pet without the permanence of ownership or the expense.
- Help free up kennels in the shelter for other animals in need — truly saving more than one life.
- Kids learn about care, responsibility and compassion for animals.
- It's fun, flexible and rewarding.
- Helps our staff obtain important information about how the animal is in a home, which can radically decrease their length of stay.
- Helps promote rehabilitation by providing a safe and healthy environment for animals who need to heal or grow.

Brutis, Brownie and Ash are wonderful examples of the success that fostering can bring. All three of these dogs required extensive hip-repair surgery to restore pain-free mobility and regain normal function of the affected leg — a surgery that would cost an adopter between \$5,000-\$12,000 and requires at least two weeks for recovery.

As you can imagine, this greatly decreases an animal's chance at swift adoption. By being able to provide a foster placement, we were able to complete these surgeries before adoption. In each case, the dogs required pre-surgery foster care while being prepared for surgery and then at least two weeks afterward to recover. The partnership with our foster providers is unmatched and is a massive



**Brutis was lucky to be able to recover from surgery in the comfort of a quiet home with his foster family, including his favorite little girl who read to him often.**

step forward in our ability to provide the extensive care that some animals need, without slowing our lifesaving adoption rate. Then, when they are cleared for adoption, restored to health, they


come back to the shelter and are ready to move on to their forever family, with thanks to those who cared for them when they needed it most.


Through our Foster Program, all pet food, supplies, and medical services are provided by the NHSPCA. Since a revamp of the program in August 2023, I've been beyond grateful, humbled, appreciative and overall fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work with both our foster animal population and foster parents as part of this reinvigorated program.

The program has grown exponentially in the last six months and has been the busiest it's ever been in our agency's recent history. In 2023, between the fostering of dogs, puppies, cats, kittens, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice and more, our foster families donated 15,336 hours of their time. We will only go up from here — and none of it would be possible without their willingness to open their hearts and homes to animals in need of a safe, quiet place to land.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the care and love that you as a community consistently provide us. All that we are would be impossible without you.

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**New Hampshire SPCA**



Est. 1872



## What's happenin' in HUMANE ED

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS WE'RE SUPER EXCITED FOR...

**Reading with the Animals** >> Open to anyone 5 years and older, increase reading proficiency with the very best audience — our shelter animals! Offered on Mondays from 4:00-6:00 p.m.!

**Story Time with the Animals** >> Families with children ages 2-5 are invited to visit for Story Time with our classroom animals on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:45-11:30 a.m.!

**Farm Camp** >> In April, campers (8-12) will spend much of their time outdoors helping the farm team muck stalls, feed animals and complete tasks.

**Summer Camp** >> June through August, campers (6-12) will help with animal care, provide enrichment and treats for our shelter animals, make crafts, play games and interact with ambassador animals.

**Junior Volunteers** >> Teens (13-16) will help care for animals by helping with feeding, cleaning, enrichment activities, and more. Our next two sessions are already sold out!



To learn more or register for one of these programs, please visit [nhspca.org/humane-education](http://nhspca.org/humane-education)

# A super sweet love story

By Aliza Eliazarov

Manager of Humane Education

The text from Tracy, our Humane Educator, appeared on my phone at 8:18 a.m. on Sunday, November 19. She was 10 minutes away from welcoming six Junior Volunteers and leading them through small animal care in the Adoption Center.

The news was devastating. Pearl, aka Pete, one of our two beloved classroom rabbits, had suddenly passed away.

Tracy entered the room to find him in his enclosure with his faithful mate Coco curled up next to him. The scene was heartbreaking. Word spread, and over the following days, co-workers from different departments stopped by to pay their condolences. Languishing through her day, the surviving widowed bunny seemed forlorn.

"Poor Coco," we'd sigh.

Coco is a 6-year-old brown female rex rabbit. Calm, friendly, and sweet as candy, this bunny is everything you want in a classroom ambassador animal.

Many of our Humane Education students are loyal New Hampshire SPCA enthusiasts. Year after year, month after month, these children enroll in summer camps, vacation camps, attend special events and celebrate birthdays with us. These die-hards pride themselves on knowing everything about the agency and look forward to visiting their favorite classroom animals. It's not a surprise that rabbits are always a favorite.

The pets in the classroom are the only permanent residents of the NHSPCA. These classroom pets are integral to our lessons and activities focused on compassion, animal behavior, proper care, and welfare.

We quickly decided Coco needed a new companion. We gave a new guy named Honker a shot. Rabbit introductions need to be orchestrated carefully and slowly. Bunnies can be territorial and fight if placed together too soon. He was placed in a separate pen next to Coco's, where he thumped loudly and angrily at Coco. We tried for a reasonable time, but this was NOT a love connection. Honker did not receive a rose. Honker had to go (back to the Adoption Center).

Deflated but not defeated, we decided to give love another shot. This time, we brought in Toblerone, who is 5.5 years younger than Coco. Dark brown with perky ears and bright eyes, this 6-month-old little boy is spunky, funny, and adorable. Repeating the previous set-up, he was



**Coco (right) was pretty sad after losing her rabbit companion, Pearl... but thankfully, it wasn't too long before Toblerone (left) came along and picked right up where Pearl had left off.**

placed in an adjacent pen. This time around, the energy between the rabbits was different. Both were curious but not aggressive. We set up "brunch dates" where they would touch noses and share hay while still on opposite sides of the gates. Within a few weeks, after Toblerone was neutered, the day arrived for them to have monitored time together. We opened both pen doors, sat back and watched.

On day one, Toblerone hopped after Coco like an excited kid and Coco hopped away from him like an older lady with no time for games.

On day two, they "Lady and the Tramp-ed" a piece of parsley.

On day three, Coco was no longer hopping away, and took a leisurely nap in Toblerone's pen.

And on the fourth day, while Toblerone was stretched out and relaxing, Coco saddled up next to him, pressed her entire body against his, and gently nuzzled her head into the nape of his neck. Coco, it seemed, had gotten her groove back.

On the fifth day, they moved in together.

Since that day, the two rabbits with chocolate names have been a happily bonded pair.

Was it meant to be? Luck? Timing? Who knows? But there is something to be learned from these two. There IS love to be found after loss, and there ARE second chapters... even for bunnies.

FUN FOR ALL AT FUTURE VETS CAMP!



In February, the Humane Education Department ran its first ever Future Vets Camp! This special camp focused on veterinary sciences and campers learned how to suture, perform emergency first aid and learn about the specific medical needs of neo-natal fosters. They were wonderful and had so much fun!



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# Shelter Stars class adds value for homeless dogs

By Ashley Conte

Dog Trainer

Let's face it, shelter life can be really, really tough on animals... especially dogs. They wait days and sometimes even weeks or months for their big moment: going home. The sad reality is that as the number of days a dog waits in the shelter environment increases, so does the likelihood that their mental state will decline.

Here at the New Hampshire SPCA, we try to do everything we can to make sure our dogs have the enrichment opportunities they need to help keep them mentally stimulated. This, in turn, gives them the opportunity to learn new skills in a humane environment.

As we have worked to expand and improve our Enrichment Program, our beloved Shelter Stars training class has been revived! This class is designed specifically for the homeless dogs in our care and provides them with the opportunity to work with a trainer during their stay with us. The goal of this program is to lessen the stay length for our dogs and help them prepare to showcase their abilities to future adopters.

So, as you're browsing our website to see if your future pup is available for adoption at the NHSPCA, they're likely at the shelter working on polishing up their skills in hopes to wow you when you come to meet them!



**Lil Foot takes a break during Shelter Stars class to get used to being touched while enjoying a treat.**

Our Shelter Stars class has so many benefits. It provides our dogs with the ability to learn basic commands and skills, like proper leash walking or how to politely greet people. We also work with the dogs that could benefit from a little extra help — those that are shy or easily over-aroused — providing them with healthy coping skills to work through those feelings.

The benefits extend after the class, too. Quality rest in the shelter environment can be really hard

to come by. It's so great to see the tuckered-out dogs finally settle down for a long nap after all the excitement and stimulation.

## Take a class!

Click [here](#) to see a complete listing of upcoming classes!

The best part is that this program not only provides enjoyment for the dogs, but also the people working with them! We have a team of dedicated volunteers who handle the dogs during these classes. It gives these volunteers the opportunity to build a deeper bond with the dogs while learning new skills for those they will handle in the future. It helps everyone build more confidence in their abilities and be able to recognize the unique needs of different dogs. We learn some pretty valuable information from these classes and it helps us determine how to make the dogs in our care feel safe while with us... and also what their future families need to know.

Shelter Stars provides the opportunity for our dogs to shine like the true stars they are! When I started working here a few years ago, this is the type of program I was really hoping to be part of someday. I am so happy to have the opportunity to help run it and am grateful to be able to work with some truly wonderful individuals – dogs and humans alike!

## FHO SURGERIES...

*Continued from Page 1*

are able to compensate and form a “pseudo-joint”. This leads to a functional joint over time and many animals will often return to full function of that leg.

Recovery consists of appropriate pain management and two weeks of intensive physical therapy to assure that scar tissue does not form and restrict the leg's range of motion. After these first two weeks of healing, they are not only able, but are encouraged to be active on that leg. Using the leg normally helps encourage those muscles to form a strong new “joint”.

A recent case included Brownie, a dog that had congenital malformation of her hips resulting in severe arthritis over time. Ash and Reba had a history of prior trauma that resulted in the head of the femur being pushed completely out of the socket. Sydney is a cat that was likely hit by a car and has a very abnormal conformation of her pelvis and the inability to use her back leg normally.

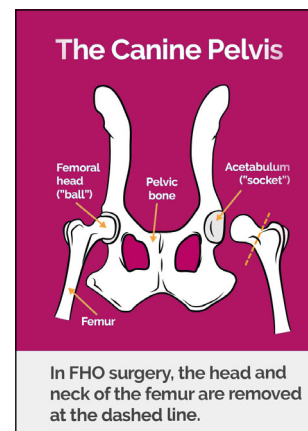
All these animals will receive or have received



**8-year-old Brownie underwent FHO surgery at the NHSPCA, drastically improving her quality of life.**

their FHO procedures at the NHSPCA, either by staff veterinarians or traveling surgeons.

Our goal is to set animals up for as much success as possible in their new homes, but the surgery is



really the smallest part of the story. The rigorous physical therapy post-operatively has the most significant impact on how a patient will do long-term. Without owners, you may think these animals will not be able to get such rigorous care... but we are so grateful to have dedicated,

loving foster homes to send these animals to after surgery to provide that care.

We have seen success in the procedures that have been performed thus far and look forward to continuing to provide necessary care to make animals more comfortable, regardless of their condition when they walk through our doors. We wish them all the best and a life of love and comfort in their forever homes.

# REGISTER TO JOIN THE FUN!



SUNDAY, JUNE 2 AT STRATHAM HILL PARK

ADULTS: \$35 • YOUTH: \$25

NHSPCA.ORG/PAWS-WALK

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



**Register,**  
fundraise and  
walk on June 2<sup>nd</sup>



**Form a team**  
with coworkers,  
family or friends



**Volunteer**  
on event  
day!



**Donate at**  
[nhspca.org/  
paws-walk](http://nhspca.org/paws-walk)

## Transporting second chances

Each year, an adorable squad of pups is the highlight of Paws Walk, offering tail wags, licks, and plenty of playful fun in the Adoption Center tent. But it's more than just luck that brings them to this event. Months before Paws Walk, our team works diligently with shelter and rescue partners in other parts of the country to schedule transports of loveable dogs and puppies in desperate need of a second chance.

It might seem hard to believe, but there are still places where homeless animals greatly outnumber the households that want them. Animal shelters in these areas do their best, but sometimes innocent animals linger in kennels or are put down simply because there isn't enough room. That's where we can help.

Thanks to fundraisers like Paws Walk, the NHSPCA runs a critical transport program, bringing dogs and cats from across the country to New Hampshire, where they quickly find their forever homes. If you've been to past Paws Walks, you've likely met



some animals that were saved in this way.

At last year's event, we had a mix of adorable puppies newly arrived from Georgia and South Carolina. For these sweet dogs that had few prospects in their home-states, Paws Walk is a dream come true. It's a chance for them to find their forever family, and it works. Four puppies were adopted that day!

Your support of Paws Walk helps make happy endings like this possible. Register and start fundraising today.

## THINGS TO DO & SEE AT PAWS WALK



Hit the trails and save lives step by step on the approximately one-mile walk.



See adoptable dogs on the Cat Walk, then meet them (and maybe take one home)!



Shop the Vendor Village with local goods for pets and people, plus food and drink.



Watch talented dogs in action including police dogs from the Working Dog Foundation.

## JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN!



Please click [here](#) to learn more about this critical event and register today!

## What's your favorite thing about Paws Walk?

"The generosity of family and friends who contribute to my fundraiser is overwhelming because I realize the love they have for their own animals and their desire for a safe home for every animal. The walk itself is so inspiring, and gives me so much hope."

**Stephanie,**  
*Attendee, 27<sup>th</sup> Paws Walk*

"I wish I could list all of it as a favorite. Between raising money for animals in need, all the fun booths set-ups, the amazing performances of dogs, delicious food trucks, the community walk, all the DOGS I get to pet! I truly cannot pick, it's all a magnificent event we get excited for every year."

**Morgan,**  
*NHSPCA Staff Member, 3<sup>rd</sup> Paws Walk*

## MAKE IT A TEAM EFFORT!

Whether you're co-workers, friends, or family, have a blast together and help even more animals as a Paws Walk team. Use promo code **TEAM** to save \$5.00 off each individual registration.



# HELP HOMELESS ANIMALS!

SUNDAY, JUNE 2 AT STRATHAM HILL PARK

ADULTS: \$35 • YOUTH: \$25

NHSPCA.ORG/PAWS-WALK

## Step right up to save lives!

By Julie Halama

Special Events & Sponsorship Manager

It's the most pawesome time of the year at the NHSPCA, Paws Walk! Join us on Sunday, June 2, for a day of fun to help every animal find a home.

Animal lovers of all ages are invited to Stratham Hill Park for this celebration of community and companionship. Kelly Brown of iHeartMedia will once again be hosting the festivities, which include a fundraising walk, Vendor Village, meet and greets with adoptable pups, doggie entertainment and demos, farm animal encounters, prizes, and more!

We hope you can make it to New Hampshire's favorite dog-friendly event. Register for Paws Walk today!



← Batman was one of the puppies who met their families at Paws Walk in 2023!

### More than just a walk in the park

As the New Hampshire SPCA's largest community fundraiser, Paws Walk plays a critical role in our lifesaving work, all because of people like you! In an average year, over 2,000 homeless, neglected and abused animals come through our doors in need of critical care. Your support of Paws Walk helps make this possible. By registering to walk and fundraise, you'll bring our mission to life and help us provide rescue services, medical treatment and attentive care to animals in-need, like beautiful Stormi.



### Walk to help homeless and abused animals!

Scan this code to register!



**Date:** Sunday, June 2, 2024  
**Location:** Stratham Hill Park  
**Time:** Festival opens at 10:00 a.m. We walk at noon!  
**Registration:** Adult: \$35, Youth: \$25

[Need more information? Click here!](#)



Boston was SO excited to spend the night snuggled up with Amber during our Shelter Slumber Paw-ty!

## More than just a Slumber Paw-ty!

Around noontime on Saturday, April 6, an inspiring group of animal lovers arrived at the New Hampshire SPCA prepared — well, as much as they could be! — for a new event that is really quite different from anything we have ever done before: the Shelter Slumber Paw-ty!

Expectations were relatively unknown, but we did know that it was going to be an unforgettable 24 hours for the animals.

Our Paw-ty People committed to spending 24 hours in a kennel with a homeless animal... Yep,

you read that right: 13 passionate friends spent the night sleeping in kennels alongside dogs, cats and rabbits... all the while, raising critical funds for their care.

This event was an incredible success, raising more than \$45,000 for all the animals the Paw-ty People got to know so personally, and those that will turn to us in the coming months.

Thank you to all our participants and their donors for making this such a successful 24 hours for the animals!