

# The Companion Connection

Spring 2018



A publication of **Central Vermont Humane Society**

## Finding the Perfect Match Sometimes Takes Time

So many extraordinary animals come to CVHS. Most get adopted quickly. Some end up needing more time. At CVHS, we give pets all the time they need to find their new home, we never euthanize for time or space. Griffin, an older gentle giant of a dog, waited a very long time for his perfect match. When he finally met his perfect match, his people fell completely in love with him. One catch, they were trying to buy a house and the closing date kept being postponed. This family was so wonderful, they came to visit him as often as they could to bring him new toys and shower him with love while they waited to close on their house so they could adopt Griffin. Finally, the day came! The closing happened, and Griffin's new people came to adopt him. After such a long wait, gentle giant Griffin now has a huge fenced yard to play in, a home of his own where he is truly loved.



## The Happiest Day is Adoption Day!

**A**t CVHS, our best days are adoption days. We do over 900 adoptions a year. That is 900 animals who are safe and warm in a new home, 900 animals who have a new sofa to sleep on, 900 new families created. Pets come to us bewildered, tired, cold, sometimes starving, sometimes in pain. We are gratified that we are able to take them in, warm them up, feed them, take away discomfort, heal their pain, and give them a second chance at love and a home. Like Snoop, who came to us as a stray cat with eye deformities. His people love him just the way he is! Or Bear, adopted as a puppy and now gets to be "Erin's Best Friend." Or Buttercup (shown here), who spent most of her life in a crate, sometimes standing in her own urine. She now has free run of her new home and gets to sleep on a cushy sofa. Or one heartbreaker, little Gracie came to us with a shattered leg. It was so bad the leg had to be amputated. Gracie doesn't miss it, she zooms around the house, now pain-free. Every animal is special, and every adoption is special. Thank you for helping make it all possible!



## Calendar of Events:

**June 2 – Walk for Animals** 9:00 – 12:00 at Montpelier High School (see back page for details) Join in the fun and help us raise \$70,000 to save homeless animals.

**Humane Heroes Kids Camps July 9-13, July 16-20** (all slots are filled)

**August 22 – Dog Days at the Pool** 5:00 – 6:30 pm at Montpelier Rec Field Pool

**October 13 – Fur Fest** – An exciting evening of food, merriment, and auctions to benefit the animals at CVHS.

**December 15** – Holiday with the Animals open house

**Ongoing Dog Training Classes** – Did you know we offer a variety of positive reinforcement based dog training classes at CVHS? Not only do classes teach good manners, they are also valuable socialization time for your dog. You and your dog(s) will have a dog-gone good time! For more info check out our website.



## Our Open Door/Open Heart Policy = Lot's O'Animals

**O**ur doors and our hearts are open to the people and animals in Vermont who need us. We see the effects of people problems such as financial crisis, homelessness, the aging population and more on animals, leaving pets vulnerable. CVHS is often the "last-chance" for animals. On any given day, we do not know how or where we will be needed. In the last nine months, we have responded to three large-scale animal crisis where local families were faced with terrible problems and CVHS was asked to help. In our latest case, we took in 30 cats from one home, including three nursing moms with kittens. This is an enormous job for our little shelter whose capacity is only 50 cats and 16 dogs. There is no other organization in central Vermont who can help with these large-scale rescues, CVHS is it. So, we roll with the roller coaster, always caring for the animals who need us.



We also often open our doors to animals from animal shelters all over Vermont, shelters that do not have many resources and the only other option is euthanasia. Just this March, we got a call from a shelter in northern Vermont that did not have the resources to deal with a pregnant dog named Ellie. We took her in, prepared to deal with whatever happens. Caring for this momma dog was a 24/7 job for the foster family who took her in for us. Of course the pups decided it was time to come into the world at 2:00AM, and CVHS Operations Director Erika Holm rushed over to assist. All seven pups survived, Ellie and pups are doing well.

If you are reading this, you support our work. You are the reason we can say "yes" to vulnerable animals in need. Chances are, you will never meet the animals you've helped save. They are out there, tails wagging, contentedly purring, feeling the love of their new families that you helped create!

**Thank you for making it possible for CVHS to be there for these animals, to make it possible to give them their second chance at life and love.**

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### Stay Connected:

#### **Website:**

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### **We welcome three new members to our Board**

**O**ur Board of Trustees has recently added three new members to our team of dedicated volunteers who provide strategic direction and governance to CVHS.

**Colleen Bloom** is a veterinarian who opened Onion River Animal Hospital. She has lived through much growth and change in the animal welfare world and is looking forward to keeping the change moving in a positive direction for pets and their stewards.

**Lolly Cochran** is a retired equine veterinarian who says "I may be a fully retired veterinarian but I am not done with animals and feel a strong need to use my skills, knowledge and compassion to better their lives."

For **Sandy Meyerhofer**, animals and the outdoors are her passion. She is a long-time volunteer in the dog wing at CVHS, has recently retired as a program manager from National Life Group and is looking forward to working on the Board.

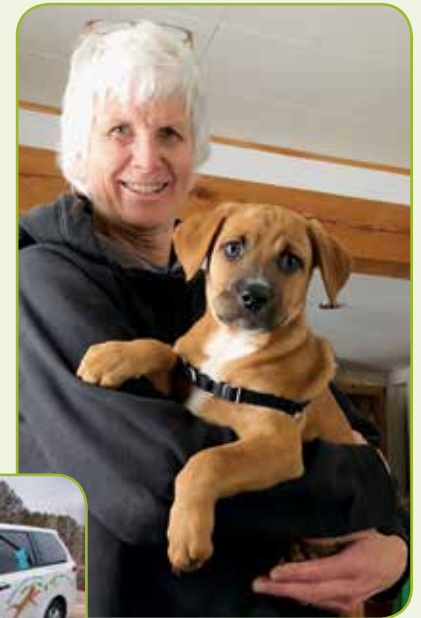


# It Takes a Village to Go the Extra Mile for Animals

**A**t CVHS, we go the extra mile for animals – even when that means needing to provide significant medical care for nearly 30% of the animals who come to us. How do we accomplish this? With amazing support from an entire network of medical people, our very own humane village!

Every week, either Erika Bruner of Heart of Vermont or Paul Alfarone of Bear Swamp Veterinary Services visit CVHS to assess the health of the animals in our care. They are instrumental in ensuring all of our animals stay happy and healthy while they wait for their new homes. We also ensure that animals at CVHS get all important dental care if needed. So many arrive here in pain due to bad teeth. Susan Tullar of Bradford Veterinary Clinic has been key in performing frequent dental procedures for CVHS animals, relieving them of pain and helping them get adopted. And Pamela Krausz and everyone at VT-CAN make it possible for us to spay or neuter every animal before they are adopted from CVHS – helping to reduce overpopulation and unwanted litters in Vermont.

And a story to warm your heart ... recently Lolly Cochran, a new Board member and retired veterinarian, was fostering tiny puppy Blondie. Blondie was on medication for what we thought was a simple bladder infection. But two days later, Blondie became lethargic and wouldn't eat. Lolly rushed her to Onion River Animal Hospital (ORAH), where another one of our new Board members, Colleen Bloom, realized that Blondie needed emergency surgery. Colleen called the owner of ORAH, Karen Bradley, who rushed in on her day off to perform the surgery, saving her life! Blondie is now called Ruby and is making her new people very happy with her puppy antics. It indeed takes a whole humane village to save these precious animals!



**When animals need to go to the vet, a team of dedicated volunteer drivers often do the transport for us.**

## Why we Give

CVHS donors touch our hearts just as much as the animals they help to save. Steve and Joanne Chadwick are two such donors who inspire us with their compassion and generosity. They recently shared some thoughts about giving.

**Why we give to CVHS** – We are lifetime animal lovers and we know that there are very few options to help animals in need. CVHS fulfills that critical role rescuing animals that might otherwise be victims to other fates. We believe it is important that we all pitch in to help CVHS maintain its high standard of care.

**What inspires us most about CVHS** – The passionate and dedicated staff of CVHS never cease to amaze us with all they do to help every single animal that comes through their doors. We are also inspired by the kids that get involved in supporting CVHS.

**What we hope our support will accomplish** – We hope to help provide a sustainable future for CVHS to always be there for animals in need, with good quality staff with the resources to do what it takes to help animals.

**What else we want others to know about CVHS** – **People's support for CVHS really does make a difference** and not just in helping to save the lives of many animals but in building a positive, compassionate, giving community. When we see pictures of families with their newly adopted pets we are reminded that they are doing great things for families too.

**Why we included CVHS in our estate plans** – We take comfort in knowing that we can make a difference for animals and families well beyond our lifetimes. It's a great way for us to give back for all of the daily joy we have had with our loving pets over the years.

To learn more about giving options, contact Sherry Knudsen at [sherry@centralvermonthumane.org](mailto:sherry@centralvermonthumane.org), 802-476-3811 x119 or visit our website at [www.centralvermonthumane.org/donate-now/](http://www.centralvermonthumane.org/donate-now/)



Joanne Chadwick



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## Join us at **Walk for Animals**



June 2, 2018, 9:00 am – 12:00  
at Montpelier High School

Don't miss the most fun event of the year to  
raise money for animals in need.

- ▶ Dog contests for Best Costume, Best Kisser, Best Trick
- ▶ 802 Disc Dog Demo; Alumni Parade; Activities for kids and dogs
- ▶ A gentle 2 mile walk through beautiful downtown Montpelier
- ▶ Prizes and refreshments

Help animals by collecting donations from friends and family –  
even if you can't be at the event! We need your help to meet  
our \$70,000 fundraising goal and to save over 1,000 animals  
in the coming year. Raise a minimum of \$50 and get a free  
souvenir T-Shirt.



For more event info and to get started with your fundraising,  
visit [www.centralvermonthumane.org](http://www.centralvermonthumane.org)

**It's fun for people of all ages.** Dogs on leads are welcome.

**Presenting  
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