

The Companion Connection

Spring 2017



A publication of **Central Vermont Humane Society**

Stanley – The Cat Who Weathered the Storm

Weeks ago when the weather was cold and wintry, we noticed cat paw prints in the snow near the front porch of our building. Knowing the forecast later that week was for below zero temps, we decided to try to trap the kitty and we got Stanley! And just in time – Stanley was already suffering from frostbitten ears and was underweight. He needed a lot of tender loving care, and he lost the tips of both ears to the frostbite, giving them a slightly ruffled, and adorable, look. Stanley was on the timid side, so we gave him the time he needed to get used to his new surroundings, finding the right mix of cats for him to hang with.

If there ever was a cat who "chose his person" it's Stanley. He knew instantly when the right adopter came along and was adopted into a loving home where he will never be cold again!



New Strategic Plan to Guide our Future

We are excited to announce that after a collaborative effort between staff, board, volunteers and supporters we have a new three-year Strategic Plan to guide and focus our work. Creating this plan put a spotlight on the fact that so much of what we do is above and beyond for the animals and people in our community.

Our priority goals include:

- 1)** Provide extra-mile medical and behavioral support for the animals in our care.
- 2)** Help people keep their companion animals in their home.
- 3)** Be a leading companion animal resource in the community.

Another key goal is to grow our fundraising program. A few years ago, CVHS decided to make the leap to provide even more exceptional care to every animal who comes to us. We firmly believe this is the right thing to do. However, funding for these extraordinary efforts for animals has not kept pace. As a result, CVHS has been running at a significant financial deficit. We took the leap of faith for the animals, and we must now reach out to our already generous communities for even more financial help. We hope that people like you will take a leap of faith in us and help us keep our promise to the animals!

We invite you to read our Strategic Plan on our website at centralvermonthumane.org/2017/04/strategic-plan-2017-2019/

Calendar of Events:

June 3: Walk for Animals 9:00 – 12:00 at Montpelier High School

(see back page for more details)

Now thru July 24: VOTE for CVHS to win \$10,000

Your vote can be the home run that wins a \$10,000 Impact Award for CVHS from the Red Sox Foundation. *(see page 2 for more information)*

June 26 -30 & July 10-14: Humane Heroes Kids Camps (Slots all filled)

August 16: Dog Days at the Pool 5:00 – 6:30 pm at Montpelier Rec Field Pool

October 14: Fur Fest – Don't miss this exciting evening of food, merriment, and auctions to benefit the animals at CVHS. Stay tuned!



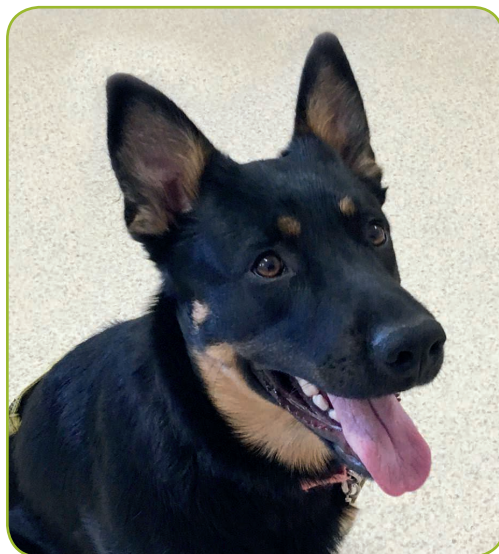
Porter's Happy Tail — Our new fences made all the difference!

Some dogs just want to go go go! As a seven month old German Shepherd mix, Porter had energy to burn. And that presented challenges to being adopted after his person relinquished him because he/she could not give him the exercise he needed.

New fences to the rescue! Last year when we asked our supporters to fund new fencing for our play yards we were astounded at everyone's generosity. Through the support of people like you, today we have safe and secure new fencing.

The dogs in our care benefit so much — physically and emotionally — from being able to run and play, and Porter is an excellent example of a dog who desperately needed to run. Our new fenced play yards were critical for this guy who could chase a ball for hours! We are proud of our Dog Care team who provide state-of-the art behavior rehab, enrichment, and training for dogs in our care. With Porter, that meant spending time working on his puppy mouthiness,

which coming from a large pup like Porter was troublesome and would make him difficult to adopt out. So we worked with him to decrease that behavior, and included in his adoption fee a Good Manners training class. Porter was adopted by someone who will provide many adventures for this handsome guy, giving him all the exercise he needs. And he is a star pupil in his Good Manners class!



Through the support of people like you, today we have safe and secure new fencing.

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Let's hit it out of the ball park! Help CVHS win \$10,000!

Your vote can be the home run that wins a \$10,000 Impact Award for CVHS from the Red Sox Foundation. Just think how many animals we can save with \$10,000.

Your vote matters!

Please **VOTE TODAY** at www.boston.redsox.mlb.com/bos/community/impact_vote.jsp.

Use the password GEN1396. And type in Central Vermont Humane Society as your charity. Any Vermont resident can vote — but just once.

Please spread the word — and ask others to do the same so we can get even more votes. Your vote counts twice if you're a Red Sox Season Ticket Holder, a member of the Red Sox Nation or Kid Nation fan clubs, or a donor to the Red Sox Foundation.



Going the Extra Mile for Cats — More than meets the eye

Have you ever wondered about the journey a cat makes when it comes into our care? A lot happens behind the scenes in those first days and sometimes weeks before they are ready for adoption. At CVHS, we go the extra mile to make their health and well-being our top priority.

All new cats get time in a cozy, quiet kennel to decompress after the stress of suddenly finding themselves in a strange place with new people. When ready, the new cat will get a medical exam, tests for diseases, and as needed be dewormed, vaccinated, microchipped, and given a flea preventative. They are spayed or neutered and if the kitty needs additional medical care, such as the removal of painful teeth, we arrange for that quickly with one of our partner veterinary clinics.

When ready for adoption, they are introduced into one of our bright, sunny, warm colony rooms. Here they have plenty of space and during warmer weather, can enjoy the fresh air and sounds of the outdoors on the attached screened-in “catios.” The skilled staff and volunteers on our Cat Team learn as much as they

can about each kitty and carefully assess each one's behavior and personality using a scientifically designed “feline-ality” assessment to create harmonious colonies and to make the best possible matches with adoptive families. Last year, because of your support, 647 cats and kittens found their new forever homes. Pretty amazing!

◀ Neil, one of our dedicated volunteers, goes above and beyond and adopts Max, the cat who captured his heart.



CVHS Cat Team: Jen Delaney, Jamie Dutil, Chris Sepe, and Christina Hayward

At CVHS, we go the extra mile to make every animal's health and well-being our top priority.



Creative Ways to Give More

Elise Eaton is passionate about her pets (cats rule in her home). In fact, she is passionate about helping all creatures large and small and diverse. **She believes they all matter ... a lot.** Elise lives her values. Using fun and creative ways to help Central Vermont Humane Society save and protect animals, she has significantly increased her philanthropy:

- ▶ Last year Elise participated in our **Walk for Animals** for the first time and was one of our top 3 fundraisers — raising over \$2,200;
- ▶ A month later she joined the ranks of our **sustaining donors**. By giving monthly vs. once a year, she is able to give a larger donation over a longer period of time;
- ▶ Last December, Elise was instrumental in creating a **\$10,000 challenge** that helped CVHS raise over \$60,000 with our end-of-year fundraising appeal — multiplying her gift exponentially;
- ▶ And to continue her care and compassion for animals beyond her lifetime, she has included CVHS in her **estate plans**.

Elise notes, “It's important to ensure there are safe spaces for animals, places where they can get help. Animals are the most vulnerable and underserved population — there's no safety net for them. **I'm impressed with CVHS. They don't have the funding to provide the extraordinary care that they do — but they do it anyhow.** They are one of the premier shelters in Vermont.”

Like Elise, you too can take creative steps to increase your giving to make a world of difference for animals and the people who love them. To learn more about these and other giving options, contact Shery Knudsen at shery@centralvermonthumane.org, 802-371-9843 x119 or visit our website at www.centralvermonthumane.org/donate-now/



Elise and Fitz



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www.centralvermonthumane.org

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Join us at Walk for Animals

June 3, 2017, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
at Montpelier High School

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

- ▶ NEW dog contests (best costume, best kisser, best trick)
- ▶ Activities for kids and dogs
- ▶ A gentle 2 mile walk through beautiful downtown Montpelier
- ▶ Prizes and refreshments



Please collect donations from friends and family to help us meet our \$70,000 fundraising goal by June 3 – even if you can't be at the event. (We have another \$40,000 to go!) Every extra dollar will help us provide exceptional care and find loving adoptive homes for over 1,000 animals in the coming year. Raise or donate 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/2017/03/walk-for-animals/

It's fun for the whole family. Dogs on leads welcomed.

**Presented by
Top Dog
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