

Central Vermont Humane Society

www.centralvermonthumane.org

Dear Friends of CVHS:

A year ago I joined CVHS as Executive Director. From day one, I have been amazed and impressed with the remarkable work accomplished by our staff, volunteers, and board of trustees. The support from our community is just incredible. Together, our "little" shelter saved over 1,000 animals last year and impacted countless human lives. Wow!

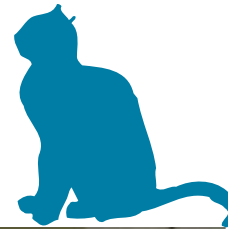
More than 70% of the animals we save are from our local communities here in Vermont. We put local animals first, and we commit to "going the extra mile" for every animal. That might entail special medical care, extra behavioral support, or more time to find just the right family.

We made a big leap of faith several years ago to commit to this higher level of care for each and every animal — to save every adoptable animal that comes through our door. It is an expensive leap. The reality is that most years, like this past one, we run a significant deficit. It is only when we receive large bequests from generous legacy donors that we end the year in the black.

With your growing support, we are making progress to close the gap and create a more financially sustainable future. But we have a ways to go and hope you will go the "extra mile" with us so we can continue to provide vital services for the animals and people of central Vermont. This report is a testament to the impact that your support makes every day. Thank you!



Laurie Garrison, Executive Director



Open Door Open Heart

Our doors and our hearts are open to people and animals in Vermont who need us. That means that CVHS goes the extra mile to save every adoptable animal that comes to us. And it means that we recognize that pet problems are people problems. Crises can happen in people's lives at any moment and impact their ability to care for their pets. We treat people with compassion, kindness, and respect when they reach out to us for help. Open door...open heart.



Cricket came to us when her family lost everything.



2016-2017 Report to the Community



Going the Extra Mile for Animals

We strive to provide the highest level of care for animals while finding the right match for their new family. Our "Open Door, Open Heart" philosophy means we take in animals with a wide variety of needs. Some animals simply need spay/neuter and vaccinations, some need extensive medical care, surgery, or behavioral support. Every day we go the extra mile for each animal in our care - doing everything they need to get their second chance at life. Your support makes it possible to do the work we do. Together we are creating a more humane community. **Thank you!**

Petunia came to us a terrified stray back in 2016, and we went the "extra mile" for her in every way. Our little "Princess Petunia" had various medical issues including needing eye medication three times a day. Being a princess, Petunia had her opinions about certain people and pets, so we worked on improving her behavior. We gave her all the time she needed to find a home, and it turned out she needed over a year. Now, Princess Petunia has her own loving home, which appropriately she has made her castle!



1,023 animals were lovingly cared for in our shelter.

272 animals were fostered in **volunteer's homes**, the equivalent of **7,661 days** of foster care.



Kate Taylor is one of our amazing foster families who provide short-term care for animals outside of the shelter, increasing the number of animals we can save!

Happiness is Adoption

Every adoption is a joyful occasion — it means new best friends, a second chance. With your support, we help make happy families. Like the family who adopted Gertie, who wrote to us: "Gertie is a wonderful puppy. We are having so much fun with her. We took her to Maine and she visited the ocean...We are so thankful to the volunteers that opened their homes and hearts to her so that we could bring her to our home. We love our Gertie Girl!" Stories like these from our adopters warm our hearts.



993 dogs, cats, rabbits and other small critters were placed into new, loving homes.



Every dollar donated to CVHS helps to provide the ultimate gift — saving a life, finding love between people and pets. Worth every penny.

CVHS has a **94% live release** rate, a testament to our commitment to save every adoptable animal who comes through our doors.



Education and Prevention

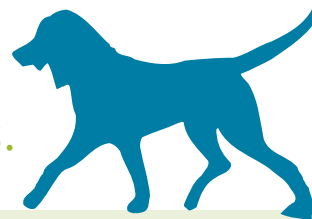
You are an important partner in helping us prevent problems that might put animals at risk. With your support we spay and neuter all animals before they are adopted, preventing overpopulation and unwanted animals that might be abandoned or surrendered. We offer vaccination and microchip clinics that keep community animals healthy and safe. And thanks to you, children are able to attend our Humane Heroes Kid's Camp where they learn how to interact and care for animals, and build lifelong compassion for our four-footed companions.



103 community animals were given vaccinations and microchips.

545 animals were spayed or neutered.

408 community members participated in dog training classes.



28 children aged 8-12 attended our Humane Heroes Kid's Camp.

CVHS investigated 37 reports of suspected animal cruelty in Washington County. CVHS is the lead agency responsible for reviewing, triaging, and referring the Washington County reports to appropriate local animal control or law enforcement officials. We serve as a valuable resource to local officials, providing expertise, advice, and accepting rescued animals as needed.

This year, along with the Humane Society of the United States and the Vermont Humane Federation, CVHS advocated for legislation to strengthen animal cruelty laws. In 2017, lawmakers passed legislation that increased penalties for animal cruelty and banned bestiality (which tragically was actually happening in Vermont, and often involves dogs). A win for animals!

Holy Expenses Batman!

Do you ever wonder how much it costs to run an animal shelter like CVHS? About \$751,000 a year, that's how much! We saved nearly 1,000 animals last year, so on average it costs CVHS about \$751 per animal to operate. Unlike many businesses that can price their inventory to make a profit, we can't do that. Our "inventory" is animals who desperately need new homes, and we believe everyone should be able to afford a furry family member. On average, adoption fees bring in only about \$130 per pet. So where does the other \$621 come from? The short answer is, donations from people like you. We depend on your generosity.

Even still, we are not able to fill the gap and we operate at a significant loss every year. So why do we do it? Because we believe it is the right thing to do. For dogs like Gilligan it meant we provided surgery to amputate his severely deformed leg, and weeks of loving

care with a foster family. Once he recovered he was a new dog — happy and playful, and adopted into his new loving home. For little kitten Forrest, it meant draining fluid from his head over many days, the result of an infected head wound. He grew up healthy and is now entertaining his new family with his antics. Or for Sky, an elderly little fluffball of a dog, it meant relieving his pain by extracting nearly all of his teeth. He was able to go to his new home with his brother

Buddy, to be pampered as they should be. Or Samara, who had unbearable anxiety being confined in our dog kennel. So we moved her to our one and only meeting room where she was much calmer, and provided her with a lot of behavioral support until we finally found the perfect home for her. We see so many animals who need so much help, and with your help we are here to provide it!

70% of the animals we care for come from **Vermont communities.**



Animal care and program expenses were **\$570,966.**



We Love Our Community!

You make our work possible! Financial and volunteer support from our community is crucial, and without it we could not save lives. Monetary donations from individuals, businesses and organizations provide the vast majority of the funds that make our work possible. A large team of dedicated volunteers contributes thousands of hours, lending valuable hands in countless ways. Donated supplies and services reduce our expenses by tens of thousands of dollars. Bequests and other planned gifts create legacies that help fund our work today, and for years to come. We simply would not exist without this amazing community of supporters of which you are a part. **We cannot thank you enough!**



\$64,275 was raised at our Walk for Animals event.

Special thanks to our Top Dog Sponsors: 802Cars & One Stop Country Pet Supply.

\$384,162 was contributed by individuals, businesses, and private foundations.

When you go the extra mile, we can go the extra mile. We are so grateful that when we reached out this past year with appeals to help, our community responded in a big way —

- When nine motherless puppies needed extraordinary care, we sent out an emergency plea and our community donated **\$22,000** to save them.
- New fencing — and happier dogs — became a reality with community members donating **\$10,000 to match a \$10,000 grant** from the Animal Farm Foundation.
- Animal lovers united — and voted. With more votes than any other non-profit in the state, CVHS won Vermont's 1st place **\$10,000 Impact Award** from the Boston Red Sox Foundation.



Kudos to our volunteers who spend thousands of hours cleaning, caring for the animals, fostering, greeting visitors, helping with events, providing office support, maintaining the grounds and building, and lending a hand in a hundred other ways. So many businesses and organizations help us with large projects at CVHS from cleaning to painting to major repairs. This year, new benches for our cat rooms were generously built, assembled, and funded by employees of Keurig Green Mountain and stained by employees of VSBIT. Cats and people alike love these benches!

◀ *Tim Frazier and his sons go above and beyond to keep our grounds looking great and paths mowed for doggie hikes. They even came to our rescue when faced with a very messy emergency septic issue. Some volunteers have all the fun!*



We are so grateful for the young philanthropists in our community!

This compassionate young lady is one of the many children who choose to use their birthday as a way to raise money and much-needed items from our wish list. The caring and generosity of children in our communities is remarkable!

Volunteers spent **6,430 hours** helping CVHS, the equivalent of nearly **three** full time staff positions.



Board of Directors

Michael Yaeger, *Co-President*
Amber Countis, *Co-President*
Sharon Asay, *Treasurer*
Robert Fairbanks, *Secretary*
Jennifer Kramer
Susan Mesner
Larry Myer
Joan Van Cour
Rick Yeiser

Administrative Team

Laurie Garrison, *Executive Director*
Erika Holm, *Director of Operations*
Jen Delaney, *Shelter Manager*
Sherry Knudsen, *Development Director*

Contact

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Website: www.centralvermonthumane.org



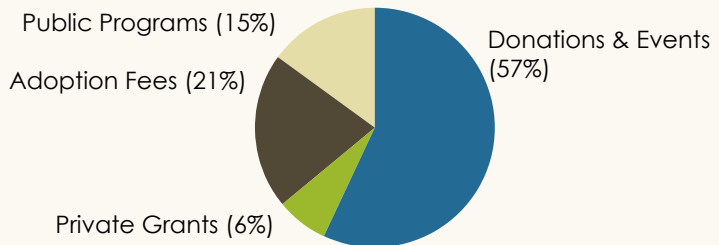
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Our Strategic Plan – Our priority goals include:

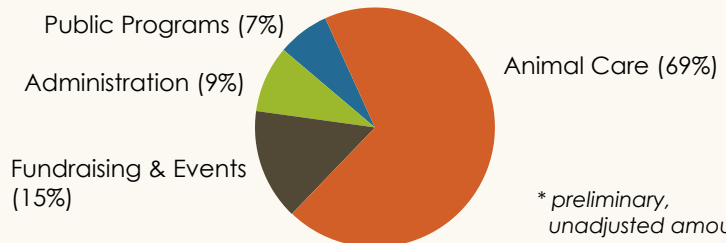
- Save every adoptable animal who comes through our doors
- Reduce the number of homeless and at risk companion animals
- Provide extra-mile medical care and behavioral support for the animals in our care
- Be a leading companion animal resource in the community
- Ensure long term viability and sustainability of CVHS

Read more on our website.

Total Revenue = \$609,783*



Total Expenses = \$751,271*



* preliminary, unadjusted amounts

Creative Ways to Give More

This past year, a number of generous donors gave even more than they might have thought possible. Here's how they did it. Please consider if you, too, can go the extra mile for animals by giving in one or more of these ways:

- 1. Donate Stock:** By giving appreciated securities you can avoid paying capital gains taxes, receive a tax deduction on the full value of the gift, and support CVHS at a lower cost to you than if you made a cash gift.
- 2. Donate from your IRA:** If you are age 70½ or older you can donate up to \$100,000 directly to CVHS from your individual retirement account (traditional or Roth IRAs) without it being counted as taxable income. The money can count toward your required minimum distribution and must be transferred directly from the IRA to CVHS.
- 3. Recurring Gifts:** It's easy to set up a monthly, quarterly or annual gift to be automatically transferred from your bank account or paid via credit card.
- 4. Estate Gifts:** You can leave a lasting legacy by naming CVHS as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance, or retirement account. It can be simple, flexible, and offer tax benefits.

For more information about these and other giving options, please contact Sherry Knudsen at sherry@centralvermonthumane.org or (802) 371-9843 x119.





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Annual Report 2016-17



New Beginnings and Miracles

Out of the 400 puppies and kittens we cared for last year, one litter really stands out. We got an emergency call — nine newborn puppies were abandoned in a box, no mother dog in sight. Could we take them? Even though we knew it would require 24/7 care for weeks to save these little ones, and despite knowing that motherless pups have a dismal 20-40% survival rate, we gave a resounding **YES**.

It is a testament to the love, care and generosity of so many people that we were able to save eight of the nine puppies. This was an all-hands-on-deck job, everyone from our staff, to trained volunteers and board members helped save these pups. Our community rallied with us and responded to our call for help, donating over \$22,000 to help pay for the unexpected costs including surgery for one pup. It truly took a village — and a miracle — to save these fragile lives, who are now energetic adolescents bringing joy to their new families. Thank you everyone!



Jeb Wallace-Brodeur/Times Argus