

# Central Vermont Humane Society

centralvermonthumane.org

Dear CVHS Friends,

**W**hat an incredible and exciting year! It is a privilege to save over 1,000 animals in a single year. So many animals needed us. And this year we had some very special, heartwarming, and tough cases. Stray dog, Ellie, was starving, cold and pregnant. Jax, a dog with a curable but contagious disease, a huge challenge in a shelter full of animals. Sonji, a feline who started out far from being adoptable, who needed our help to become friendly. Four different times, we responded to calls from people in our community to save over 20 cats each time — an enormous undertaking for our little shelter. And rabbits, so many rabbits this year. Nearly all of the animals I've described are now in loving homes. How amazing is that?

All that we accomplished this year could not happen without our supporters, people like you. The generosity of our community makes it possible for us to say "yes" to animals in need. Without hesitation, we jump into situations to save animals not knowing exactly what will happen, and we do this because we know our community believes in, and helps fund, the work that we do.

Every day we go the extra mile for animals, and I hope you will continue to go the "extra mile" for CVHS. **When you read this report, know how powerful your support is, what a tremendous impact your help has on the animals and people of central Vermont and beyond. Thank you!**

Laurie Garrison, Executive Director



## Time and Love Make All the Difference

Sonji came to us a true scaredy-cat. Having had very little interaction with people, she was terrified of them. We saw her potential and started to work with her, slowly getting her used to the idea that people are good. Many months later, Carol walked in and fell in love with Sonji. Within days of bringing her home, Carol reported that "Sonji has decided to come out and be friendly. She still has her own agenda but is showing she can be a ball of purr."

Awwwww, we love happy endings!



Sonji, finally able to be herself.

## 2017-2018 Report to the Community



## Going the Extra Mile for Animals

**A**s a supporter of CVHS, we know you care deeply about animals. You make it possible for us to say "yes, we can help" without hesitation whenever an animal needs us. You make it possible for us to provide excellent care while we find the perfect match between pet and people. Every day we go the extra mile for animals in our care and our community goes the extra mile for us. **Together we save over 1,000 animals a year. Thank you!**

**When Jax came to us, he quickly became a staff favorite.** Such a sweetie! Then it was discovered that he had the canine version of athlete's foot, perfectly treatable yet highly contagious, a potential disaster in a shelter full of animals. Staff jumped into action to contain the spread. They spent six weeks giving Jax medicated baths and medications. At CVHS, we are committed to going the extra mile and knew that in time, Jax would recover. We were able to make this decision knowing people like you would support us. Now Jax is in his new loving home, with his very own doggie bed, living a life of leisure!



**1,028 animals** were lovingly cared for in our shelter.

Over **40%** of the animals who come to us need extra mile care.



*Suzy came to us a senior girl who had a heart murmur and needed an EKG before we could remove painful teeth and a mass on her ear.*

## Kittens Kittens Kittens!

**T**his year was a banner year for kittens, 290 to be exact! Young kittens are very fragile, and need a lot of care. All summer, during "kitten season" we stand at the ready so we are able to respond immediately when kittens need us. This year we took in a heartbreaking case of motherless kittens, very thin and flea infested. Staff stayed after hours to de-flea and feed these little ones using tiny syringes, but



**74%** of the animals we care for come from local communities in Vermont.

they were not eating well. Luckily, we had a momma cat in our care. We wondered, would she take on these poor kittens, in addition to her own? Well, she turned out to be a terrific mom to the newbies. Not only do our staff go the extra mile, but sometimes our animals do too!



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



This year **66%** of the animals we cared for were cats and kittens, **28%** were dogs and puppies, **5%** were bunnies, and the rest were smallies!

## Pet Problems are People Problems

**T**he main reason why animals come to CVHS is because something happened in their person's life. Job loss. Homelessness. Divorce. Illness. We have an "Open Heart, Open Door" policy — we are here for the people and animals who need us. We treat people with kindness and compassion. So when we got a call from a family who discovered that their elderly mom, who had early signs of dementia, had over 30 cats living in her tiny home, we knew we had to help. We took our van and picked up all the cats which included eleven kittens, three of whom needed bottle-feeding. What would this family have done without CVHS? Thanks to you, we are here!

OUR LIFESAVING WORK IS  
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



**526 animals** were spayed or neutered.

**110 community animals** were given vaccinations and microchips.

**456 community members** participated in dog training classes.

**Little Lulu** came to us when her people had so many health issues of their own, they realized they could no longer care for Lulu. At almost 13 years old, we were prepared for the possibility that Lulu would be with us for a very long time. Going the extra mile for animals sometimes means giving them all the time they need to get adopted. Luckily for Lulu, she did not have to wait long for a special family to adopt this special girl. A win for Lulu!



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

## Making Progress

**I**n our last Annual Report, we detailed the challenges we face financially. While we work hard to control expenses, some increases, like heating oil, are beyond our control. The good news is that our community really stepped up for us this year to help us significantly reduce our deficit. Our Walk for Animals raised nearly \$80,000, wow! Our fundraising at the end of the year broke all records. Our community has been so generous! Three years ago we posted an operating deficit of about \$247,000. This fiscal year, we posted a deficit of only \$110,000. A significant decrease, and we are striving to continue to close the gap. Obviously we still have a ways to go. To do the work we do, we rely on your generosity. **It's your support that enables us to save dogs like Clooney** (right, bottom), **who had to have nearly all his teeth removed — to give cats like Lady Rutabaga** (right, top) **all the time she needs to get adopted — to take in large numbers of animals at once when needed — to save lives.** Your donations enable us to go the extra mile for animals. So many animals need so much help, and with your help we are here to provide it!

On average, it costs CVHS **\$805 per animal** to operate, while our average adoption fee is only \$135 — your donations help bridge the gap to save more animals.



## It Takes a Village

**W**hat a year we have had, and you made our work possible. It takes a village to save over 1,000 animals a year. It starts with our fantastic, hard-working staff. Our village also includes over 50 dedicated volunteers, including an active Board of Directors. Hundreds of local businesses donate goods and services, and sponsor our Walk for Animals. So many individuals provided generous support. 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 village of supporters of which you are a part. **We cannot thank you enough!**

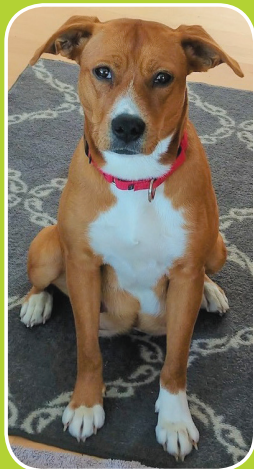
**\$432,530 was contributed** by individuals, businesses, and private foundations.

**\$78,933 was raised** at our Walk for Animals event, a record! Huge thanks to our Top Dog Sponsor **802 Cars**.



*This amazing young man 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! We are so grateful to all our young philanthropists!*



**When we took in pregnant dog Ellie, we had no idea what we were in for!** Ellie was found as a stray, cold and starving. She must have known she was safe and warm — not long after we took her in she gave birth to seven puppies! Luckily for Ellie, our village included a foster mom who happened to be a physician. So when Ellie went into labor at 2am, she was in good hands! Their foster mom took excellent care of them and all seven plus mom Ellie are healthy, happy and adopted!



**322 animals** were fostered in volunteer homes, the equivalent of **7,290 days** of foster care.

**Our dedicated volunteers** donate countless hours of their time to CVHS — including an amazing network of foster families who are key to helping us save lives. Yasmeen has a talent for working with shy kittens who would otherwise not be social enough to be adoptable. She and her family spend hours sitting quietly, slowly getting the kittens used to people. Six year old Arianna specializes in socializing kittens with children, ensuring that all goes well when they get adopted into homes with kids. A large network of fosters enable us to save the lives of puppies from overcrowded shelters in the south. And we have foster families who care for animals after surgery. We could not save over 1,000 animals without these special families!



Arianna and kitten Fluffy

## Board of Directors

Rick Yeiser, *President*  
Sandy Meyerhofer, *Vice President*  
Sharon Asay, *Treasurer*  
Robert Fairbanks, *Secretary*  
Colleen Bloom  
Lolly Cochran  
Rachel Feldman  
Jennifer Kramer  
Susan Mesner  
Joan Van Cour

## Administrative Team

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

## Contact

### **Central Vermont Humane Society**

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**PHONE:** 802-476-3811

**Email:** [info@centralvermonthumane.org](mailto:info@centralvermonthumane.org)

## Stay Connected

**Website:** [centralvermonthumane.org](http://centralvermonthumane.org)



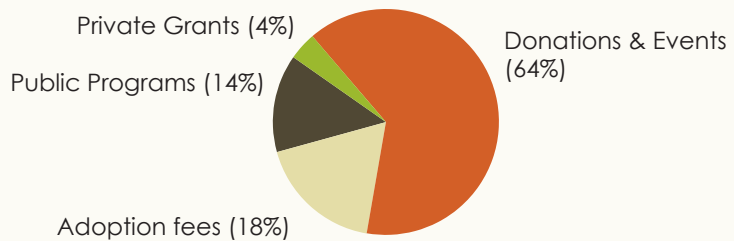
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## **Our priority goals include:**

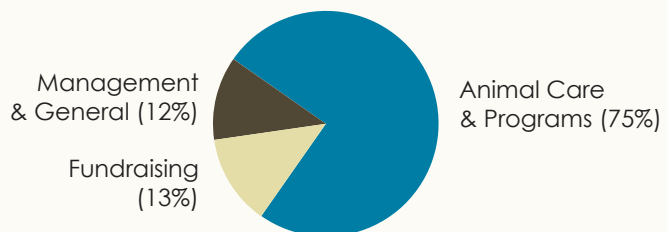
- Save every adoptable animal who comes through our doors
- Reduce the number of homeless and at risk companion animals
- Provide extra-mile medical care and behavioral support for the animals in our care
- Be a leading companion animal resource in the community
- Ensure long term viability and sustainability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

**Read more about our Strategic Plan on our website.**

**Total Revenue = \$644,556\***



**Total Expenses = \$754,619\***



**July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018 \* Preliminary, unadjusted amounts**

## **You make all the difference!**

We're grateful to everyone who donates to CVHS. Every gift, big or small, makes a difference. Here are a few creative ways that people were able to increase their giving last year and make even more of a difference for animals and people in our communities. Please consider if one of these options would work for you, too.

- » **Make monthly gifts** – become a sustaining donor
- » Give through **payroll deduction**
- » Take advantage of **matching gifts** from your employer
- » Make a gift of **appreciated stock**
- » Donate directly from your **IRA**
- » **Name CVHS in your will** or as a beneficiary of a bank account, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

For more information about these and other giving options, please see [centralvermonthumane.org/donate-now/](http://centralvermonthumane.org/donate-now/) or contact Sherry Knudsen at [sherry@centralvermonthumane.org](mailto:sherry@centralvermonthumane.org) or **(802) 476-3811 x119**.

We are extremely grateful to Paula Young and Rollande Fraser for their forethought and generosity in making bequests to CVHS in their estate plans. We are sad to lose these dear friends and are honored to continue their legacy of caring for animals.





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# Annual Report

## 2017-18



### Creating Families

**W**ith every adoption, a new furry friend enriches and grows a family. It is so heartwarming to see the smiles and happiness when adopters meet “the one” — the pet meant for them — and we get to see it nearly every day. Finnegan and Snickers are a perfect example. Their original family was devastated by severe illness and could no longer care for them. Thank goodness we were there for them; Finnegan and Snickers would be in good hands at CVHS. We thought adopting two large, senior dogs might take some time, but a perfect match came up quickly. Deborah, a widow who wanted to continue the commitment she'd made with her husband to help older and special needs dogs, fell in love with Snickers and Finnegan. Every adoption is special at CVHS, and this adoption day was extraordinary. We couldn't be happier about this adoption, and the feeling is mutual — their new person said on adoption day: “It's a match made in heaven, they were meant for me.” We think this is true for every adoption!

