

Central Vermont Humane Society

2019-2020

Report to the Community



Central Vermont Humane Society



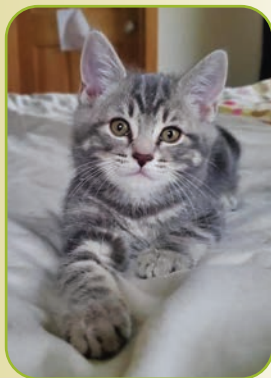
FAST FACTS for the Year

Of the **1,014** pets
we provided care
to, **81%** were
from Vermont.

We created **909**
new families
through adoption



We saved
the lives of **193**
pets via transport



228 pets were
fostered.
Our foster
families enable
us to save
hundreds more
pets a year!

Message From the Director

What a remarkable and surprising fiscal year! We were on track to balance the budget. We ran surveys and talked with our supporters about our strategic direction, and based on everyone's feedback, we created a new Strategic Plan to guide us for the next three years. **We were on our way to save a record-breaking number of animals.** What a year it was going to be!

Then the pandemic arrived, and everything changed. But so much good news. Wow—do we have amazing staff. Everyone rolled with near constant changes in how we do our work, and **through it all, taking excellent care of the animals was always first priority.**

More good news—as an essential business, we continued to be a lifeline for people and animals in our community. **We never closed our doors to animals, and ended our fiscal year caring for over 1010 pets who needed us.** Pretty amazing.

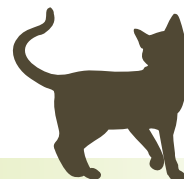
And—the most heartwarming news of all—our supporters, people like you, stepped up for CVHS when we needed you. When suddenly faced with a significant loss of income due to the pandemic, we asked for help and people in our community responded with such generosity. We are so grateful!

The heartwarming stories and news described in this report prove two things: CVHS will always be here for the animals and people in our community; and now more than ever, our community stands with us. We can get through anything, together!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie Garrison".

Laurie Garrison, Executive Director

**Your support
makes all this
possible.
Thank you!**



Going the Extra Mile for Animals Goes for Everyone!

We believe that once a pet is in our care, it is our responsibility to go the extra mile for that pet, whether medical care, behavioral support, or simply time.

This was the case with Fox. One handsome cat, Fox had the smelliest, grossest, ears we have ever encountered. It took many weeks, multiple tests and treatments, a biopsy and a consult with a specialist in Japan to diagnose his very rare ear condition. Fox would need medication in his ears for the rest of his life.



Now, we needed an adopter to go the extra mile for Fox. That special person was Roberta, who fell in love immediately. She felt Fox had magical qualities (we agree) and named him Merlin. Roberta told us: **"Merlin thriving. He has his own room with lots of windows and toys. He is free to roam the house but when he wants be alone he goes to his 'gated community'! Despite having four dogs, three of which had never seen a cat, stepped up for Merlin. Happy to say he is a success story!"** We are grateful that Roberta goes the extra mile Merlin, and in return he provides tons of love!

**Over 45% of the pets who came to us this year
needed extra mile care.**

One thing is clear, we are there for animals, always

We operate under an Open Door, Open Heart policy, and work to be a safety net for animals when their people face challenges in their lives. Abileen came to us a year ago as a stray, and we adopted her to a family who loved her. A year later, Abileen's family was moving to the city to live in a very small apartment. Knowing that Abileen would not be happy there, they called us so we could find Abileen a new home. Even though it broke their hearts to give her up, they knew we would take good care of her. We took Abileen back and found her a new home. This time, Abileen did not get along with the resident cat, so we welcomed Abileen back. Every family is different and every pet is different. If an adoption does not work out for whatever reason, we are there for that pet and that family.

Now, equipped with even more information about that pet, we will find a match.

A good match means both the pet, and their family, are as happy as can be.

That is what it is all about!



Even the smallest pets inspire great love

We so often highlight dogs and cats, but we also save small furry pets. Emma wrote to us about Chestnut, her bunny who she adopted from us nine years ago. Here is what she wrote about him:

"One of the best died today. Chestnut passed away at home lying in my lap at 10 years old. He wasn't a fan of carrots or lettuce and loved to throw his food bowl all over the place to let you know he was hungry (even if he had already been fed). He was litter box trained and loved attention. He loved my parents most of all. Chestnut was such a sweet bunny. He was really like a dog or cat—he was so smart he listened to commands to jump up and down on boxes. I knew he was the one when your staff was sad he was getting adopted. He was so special to many people. I love you Nut-Nut."

Emma ended her email with this: ***"I feel whatever time we have with our pets is never enough."*** So true.



Keeping pets with families who love them

Daisy was a handful all by herself as a giant Bloodhound mix. Expecting a child any day, her people were overwhelmed when Daisy became pregnant with puppies. We took in Daisy so her people could focus on their own newborn, and we could focus on caring for Daisy and her pups. Daisy was so loved by her family that we had her spayed and reunited them. Daisy was part of our "Spay the Mom" program. If someone finds themselves with an unexpected litter of puppies or kittens, we will take in the babies and find homes for them (Daisy's pups were adopted). And we will spay the mom, and reunite her with her people. This keeps the pet with the family who loves her while ensuring no more "oops" litters. We are here to help people and pets, and prevent unwanted litters. **A win-win as far as we are concerned!**

**495 pets
came to
CVHS from
their people
when they
needed us.**



Foster families save lives, and sometimes they adopt!

Giuseppe, his baby kitten siblings and their mom, were found as strays behind a local business. Christina and her family have been a long-time foster family for CVHS, and they took in this family of tiny kittens and their mom. As often happens to all of us, one animal manages to capture our hearts. Little Giuseppe did just that, Christina and her family fell in love and adopted Giuseppe. Christina reports: *"Giuseppe is a great kitten! He's gone to town to get dinner and gone on a playdate. He is a great companion for our child at home dealing with COVID, school and staying busy on the family farm. Giuseppe is being trained to hike mountains in a cat pack and harness! Also, he loves to swim in the pool (under supervision of course)."* It is hard to know who is luckier, Giuseppe or his new family!

Our foster families enable us to save **hundreds more pets a year!**



A happy ending for two special dogs

So often, CVHS is there for people facing serious challenges in their lives that affect their pets. Ike & Leo were two older, LARGE, dogs who spent their entire lives together, with one family. Their person became gravely ill, and could no longer care for Ike and Leo. Luckily, CVHS was there for this family and these two dogs. Placing **one** large, older dog can be challenging, but these two needed a home together. We could not split them up, it would break their hearts. These guys needed a special person to open their home to a lot of dog, someone with a soft spot in their heart for older dogs. We are so lucky to be able to help this family when their lives turned upside down, to be able to find an adopter for these two gentle giants. And we did! Ike and Leo's previous family could be comforted by the knowledge that we had found a new family to love these boys, just as they had.



Little kittens, little kittens!

Every summer, something called "kitten season" happens in animal shelters all over the country. At CVHS, we typically care for hundreds of kittens a year, most of them during July, August and September. This is a time when many shelters are overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of these vulnerable animals, and sadly some shelters in the U.S. still euthanize pets because there is not enough room for them. Fortunately, spay/neuter is pretty common here in Vermont so no shelter in our state ever has to euthanize because of lack of space. We are lucky, and so help overcrowded shelters in other parts of the U.S. whenever we can, literally saving the lives of the pets we transport in from these shelters. It is vitally important that Vermonters spay/neuter their pets before their pets have kittens or puppies. Keeping our local population in check means we can save animals elsewhere, animals who need us!

You helped us save over **275 kittens this year!**



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

Staff

Laurie Garrison, *Executive Director*
Erika Holm, *Operations Director*
Jen Delaney, *Animal Care Director*
Linnea Cecere, *Development Associate*
Terri Crowther, *Development Assistant*
Ben Powell, *Volunteer Coordinator*
Shannon Searles, *Adoption Counselor*
Bella Nutt-Mayhugh, *Adoption Counselor*
Jess Tatro, *Adoption Counselor*
Kim Hammarstrom, *Shelter Agent*
Amber Monti, *Shelter Disinfectant*
Brock Phillips, *Shelter Disinfectant*

Board of Directors

Rick Yeiser, *President*
Sandy Meyerhofer, *Vice President*
Sharon Asay, *Treasurer*
Lolly Cochran, *Secretary*
Robert Fairbanks
Laurie Gossens
Jennifer Kramer
Cathy Shires
Meredith Sumner
Joan Van Cour

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For the last three years, we have been working diligently to reduce our deficit by prudently reducing expenses while growing our fundraising programs. We were on track to end our fiscal year slightly in the black for the first time in many years. Then, in March, the pandemic hit.

In the last four months of our fiscal year, we lost over \$100,000 in revenue due to canceled programs and events. Meanwhile, most of our expenses to operate (utilities, insurance, etc.) remained steady. Our cleaning expenses, always high due to our strict standards, significantly increased with the precautions required to prevent the spread of COVID. We had fewer animals coming in, so we were able to significantly reduce payroll expense by placing all staff on a partial furlough. However, our Animal Care expenses did not decrease since the animals who did come to us needed much more medical care. **No matter what, we always provide all the care animals need.**



As COVID loomed, we spent the last few months of the fiscal year seeking funds to face the unknown. We submitted and received a grant from a local Vermont foundation "to allow us to continue to go the extra mile for animals." We ran a special fundraising appeal and our community responded with amazing support. And, we received a \$10,000 grant from the Small Business Administration.

Between these COVID-targeted fundraising efforts, and our decreased payroll expenses, we are able to start this new fiscal year without a huge deficit caused by the pandemic. Instead, we concluded the year in a stable position, and can forge ahead strong and prepared to continue to save animals in what we know will be a tough year.

As we enter our new year, our financial needs are as critical as ever.

We know you will be there for CVHS and with your support we will stay strong and nimble in these unknowable times, together.



Revenue

Adoption Fees	\$ 126,787
Public Programs	\$ 66,654
Donations and Events	\$ 397,482
Private Grants	\$ 33,000
Normal Operating Income	\$ 623,922

One-time COVID grant	\$ 30,000
SBA grant	\$ 10,000
COVID fundraising appeal	\$ 48,456
Special COVID Income	\$ 88,456

Total FY 19-20 Income	\$ 712,378
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Expenses

Animal Care and Programs	\$ 479,131
Fundraising	\$ 71,870
Management/General	\$ 47,913
Total FY 19-20 Expenses	\$ 598,914

Funds banked for next year	\$ 113,465
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Annual Report

2019-2020



At CVHS, you never know what you will get!

Bennington came to us with wounds on her hind end. She was found injured near Berlin Pond. We took photos and worked closely with our veterinarian who found Bennington's wounds to be unique. Not bite wounds, more like talons! She thought petite, tiny, Bennington was probably scooped up by a large predatory bird, and then dropped back down near the pond. We bet this little cat put up a good fight! We cleaned and cared for her wounds, and sent Bennington to a foster family who closely monitored her progress. She needed antibiotics and multiple vet checks to make sure she was healing properly and the wounds were not becoming infected. Bennington is adopted into a great home, and now named Little Peanut!



Kids are our future

We see many inspiring children and young adults who want to help animals. Kids with huge hearts who want to make a difference. They donate their allowance, they run lemonade stands, they hold birthday parties where they ask for gifts for the animals instead of themselves.

The generosity and kindness of our future generation is heartwarming and inspiring!



Follow us on Facebook

 Our Facebook page is full of happy news. Like this one: This boy is only 5 years old, and wanted to help animals. So he set up a lemonade stand to raise funds for animals. We regularly post about pets waiting to be adopted at CVHS, as well as heartwarming stories. **Our Facebook page will make you smile, we promise!**

