

# Central Vermont Humane Society

## 2018-2019 Report to the Community



Since 2009 your support made it possible for CVHS to:

Provide loving care for over **11,000 animals**

Create over **8,000 new families by adopting a new furry friend (or two!)**

Increase our Save Rate from **77% to 94%**

Save the lives of over **2,800 animals via transport**

CVHS is very much a vital resource for our communities!



## Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch Changes...

Ten years ago we moved into our new building. What a difference a decade makes! Back then, there were too many homeless pets. Like most shelters across the United States, CVHS was overcrowded and sometimes forced to euthanize for space. Can you imagine? Today, things are very different. Ten years ago, our Live Release Rate was 77%. **CVHS now saves over 94% of the animals who come to us.** We now go the extra mile for every pet, and this means they need more. More medical care, more behavioral support, more time.

Going the extra mile is not cheap. Our expenses have gone up 38% in ten years. Thankfully, donations from caring people and businesses in our communities have increased by 51%. You have helped us reduce our deficit by 75%! This fiscal year we posted the lowest deficit in a long time. While we still have a ways to go, operating under a balanced budget is on the horizon. I know we can get there because you support the work we do.

In ten years, **we have saved over 11,000 animals.** We have grown our humane education for kids, increased and expanded our dog training programs, and have become more efficient and effective. Our animal care policies and procedures are state-of-the-art. CVHS used to be the last resort for animals. We now strive to be the first resource for animals and the people who love them.

When you read this report, I hope you are inspired by what your support has helped to accomplish for the animals. **We can't do the work we do without you.** Thank you for believing in CVHS!

Laurie Garrison, Executive Director

**870 animals were lovingly cared for at CVHS this year**



## Time and patience make the difference for a sweet dog

Bitzy led a difficult life before coming to CVHS. She was so scared, our Dog Team worked hard to win her trust. And, Bitzy was terrified of the leash. At first, we had to carry her in a crate to get her outside! We acted slowly, giving treats with the leash nearby, moving it closer, more treats... until it was right next to her.

It took many weeks and tons of treats till the big day when we were finally able to attach the leash to Bitzy's collar. Patience, time, and positive training made all the difference in this girl. We waited for the right home for Bitzy, and we found her a family with experience caring for shy dogs. Now Bitzy has a shy doggie friend, and a family who is continuing our efforts to make life wonderful for her.

Our work with Bitzy took weeks, and made such a difference for her. Ten years ago, we might not have been able to give her the time and effort she needed. **Now, we are able to help dogs like Bitzy because of your support.** Bitzy thanks you!



## Some things never seem to change

Every day at CVHS brings new challenges, and we are constantly adapting. Over these last ten years, **one thing has been constant — the large number of homeless kittens who need us.** Kittens make up over 20% of the animals we take in nearly every year, and they need a lot of loving care. If they come in without their mom, they need even more. Our dedicated foster families often take an entire litter of kittens and diligently bottle feed them every three hours, all day and night. Foster homes are lifesavers!

**You helped us save over 200 baby kittens this year!**



## Hurricane Pup finds love in the Mountains of Vermont!

Over the last decade, the number of homeless puppies born in New England has dropped to nearly zero. However, animal shelters in other parts of the US struggle with overpopulation of pups. **We always put local Vermont pets first,** and we help our rescue partner in South Carolina whenever we can. Last September, ahead of Hurricane Florence, we agreed to take 19 puppies and their moms to get them out of harm's way. Louie was one of those pups. Lydia drove two hours to meet the pups. When Lydia met Louie, she knew she was going home with him. Lydia reports "Louie is a fun, easy going puppy who just loves everything and everyone! I call Louie my little social butterfly because he's always making friends wherever we go, usually stopping dead in his tracks until he can say hello. Louie has made the most amazing addition to my life!" Lucky Louie, from southern puppy to mountain loving dog!



With your support, we saved the lives of 75 puppies and 10 momma dogs via transport this year!



## Humane Education has grown

A few years after moving to our new location, we started offering humane education for kids one evening a week in the summer. Now it is a week-long, full-day, Kids Camp offered in two summer sessions that covers a variety of topics centered on the humane treatment of animals. Over the years, we have reached more than 300 children. We believe that teaching children to be humane to animals will extend to humane treatment of all creatures — including humans. The campers learn some great skills, have fun, are creative and — the part they like the best — spend time with animals. We regard these campers as future animal advocates and professionals who will carry on our mission to protect animals for decades to come.

Teaching kids to be humane to animals teaches them to be humane to people as well!

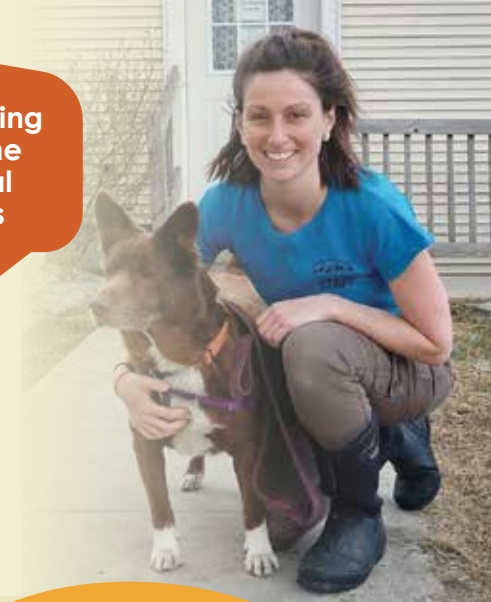


## The winner for longest stay is: Mr. Luigi!

While we work hard to find animals their new homes as quickly as possible, **we also give them all the time they need** to find the perfect home. Mr. Luigi, a senior boy with skin issues, needed a lot of time — 144 days to be exact! He was our longest resident last year. Luigi was beloved by staff, so much so he was adopted by one of our Dog Team staffers, Laura. We were so thrilled to know Mr. Luigi finally found the perfect home for him!

**Mr. Luigi was not alone – 16% of all local dogs needed more than one month to find their new homes.**

81% of our animals, including Mr. Luigi, come from our local communities



## You gotta be kitten me!

VHS is the only organization that does what we do in central Vermont. That means **we need to be ready for anything**. This past spring that included taking in 44 cats at once. Trying to find space for so many at once is a daunting task, especially when so many of these cats needed medical attention.

Little Moo was one of the 44, and one of the tiniest. She was suffering from an upper respiratory infection and her eyes were nearly sealed shut from it. After a round of antibiotics and lots of tender loving care, Moo was ready for adoption. **We are able to respond to these large cases of pets in need without hesitation because we know we have the support of our community!**



Felines make up 68% of the animals we care for every year



## The day Shaq learned to purr

On a frigid winter morning, a kind person noticed a frightened kitty hiding near her garage. He looked cold and hungry, so she put out some food. This cat was quite hungry, and clearly homeless, and she called us. We named the big tom cat with his giant cheeks "Shaq" and discovered he had multiple infected puncture wounds under his front leg. He needed treatment for his wounds, and two of his canines were broken and needed to be extracted. Shaq spent time in a foster home to recover. He was very scared and kept to himself. One day, his foster mom was shocked when she heard Shaq purring, seemingly for the first time! From cold, hungry and in pain, to warm, fed, and loved.

**Your generosity helped Shaq become the purr machine he was meant to be!**

Over 40% of our animals require extra-mile care before adoption.



OUR LIFESAVING WORK IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



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## Administrative Team

Laurie Garrison, *Executive Director*  
Erika Holm, *Director of Operations*  
Jen Delaney, *Animal Care Director*

## Contact

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## Stay Connected

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



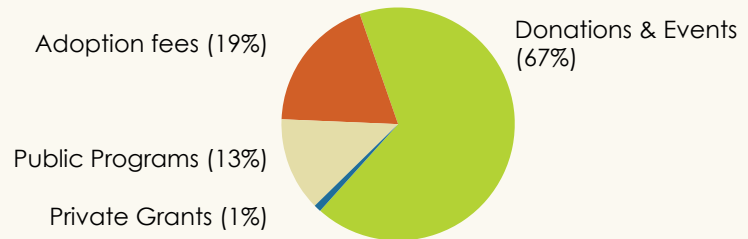
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## **Our priority goals include:**

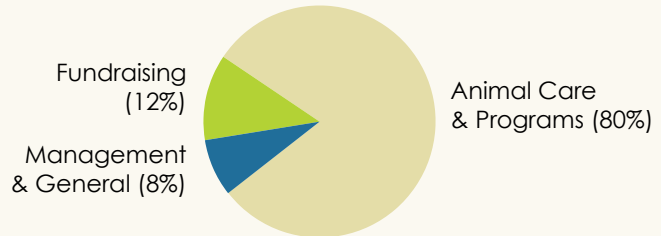
- Save every adoptable animal who comes through our doors
- Reduce the number of homeless and at-risk companion animals
- Provide extra-mile medical care and behavioral support for the animals in our care
- Be a leading companion animal resource in the community
- Ensure long term viability and sustainability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

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

**Total Revenue = \$647,066\***



**Total Expenses = \$697,374\***



*July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019 \* Preliminary, unadjusted amounts*

## **Your generosity makes our work possible!**

**W**e need your support to save lives. Local people and businesses provide the vast majority of the funds that make our work possible. A large team of dedicated volunteers contributes thousands of hours of work, 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 our amazing community of supporters, including you.** We cannot thank you enough!

### **Creative ways to go the extra mile for animals:**

- Donate directly to CVHS from your traditional or Roth IRA
- Become a Faithful Friend Sustaining Donor and make monthly gifts.
- Name CVHS as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance, or retirement account.

For more information about these and other giving options, go to our website at [centralvermonthumane.org/donate-now/](http://centralvermonthumane.org/donate-now/) or contact Laurie Garrison at [laurie@centralvermonthumane.org](mailto:laurie@centralvermonthumane.org) or (802)476-3811 x102.





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# Annual Report

## 2018-19



### So many happy stories this year, read more inside!



**A happy update on Ritz**, who came to us with a swollen eye that needed surgery. CVHS goes the extra mile for animals, and we asked our community for help. And wow- you went the extra mile with enough donations to cover the surgery! Finally free of pain, Ritz was one happy dog. Ashlee and her family fell in love with Ritz. Ashlee told us: "There are so many things we love about Ritz. Despite her rough life before us, she is such a sweet loving dog! She loves long naps and car rides and of course being with her humans.

Thanks again guys for matching us with our Ritzy girl."



**Kitty Bella** was found wandering the streets last December. When she came to us, she was in rough shape and in a lot of pain from a broken canine tooth. We removed the tooth, much to Miss Bella's relief. Bella was quickly adopted and spent the holidays warm and safe in her new home.

**Cuddles** (shown right) came to us when her elderly person needed to move to assisted living. True to her name, Cuddles loved to snuggle and we quickly fell in love with this sweetie. We knew she had a history of bladder stones. X-rays showed our vet that Cuddles had another stone and needed surgery. She came through with flying colors and was adopted into a loving home who will feed her a special diet and keep close watch on her health.

