

## 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*  
Amber Monti, *Shelter Agent*  
Brock Phillips, *Shelter Agent*

### Board of Directors

Sandy Meyerhofer, *President*  
Rick Yeiser, *Vice President*  
Cathy Shires, *Treasurer*  
Lolly Cochran, *Secretary*  
Kristin Dearborn  
Laurie Gossens  
Ryan Kriger  
Jennifer Kramer  
Meredith Sumner

### Central Vermont Humane Society

**MAIL:** PO Box 687, Montpelier, VT 05601

### VISIT by Appointment only:


1589 VT Rte 14S  
East Montpelier, VT 05651

**PHONE:** 802-476-3811

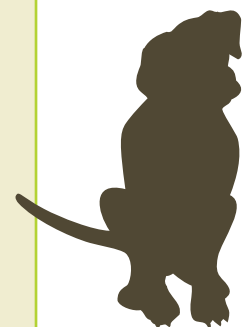
**Email:** info@centralvermonthumane.org

### Stay Connected

**Website:** centralvermonthumane.org

 **facebook.com/centralvermonthumane**

Design: RavenMark / Printing: Brown Printers



This is our second fiscal year operating under a pandemic. **It has been heartening to know just how much our community stands with us. We asked you for help, and you came through with such generosity!** We ended this year in a very good position due to savings from having to cancel budgeted programs such as Kid's Camp, lowered staff costs due to our new appointment structure, and **the remarkably strong support from our community that have put the shelter in a stable position to face the challenges**, come as they may, in this next year.

We anticipate this upcoming year will be tough. Financial support and eviction protections put in place to help people through the pandemic are ending. There is a demand for affordable housing and not enough of it. Landlords have their pick of prospective tenants and unfortunately many landlords are not pet friendly, despite research that shows people with pets are better tenants who stay longer. **When humans face a crisis, it impacts their pets — and CVHS will always be there for both people and their animals.** Accordingly, our FY21-22 budget projects a deficit.

This year we will bank a portion of the net funds from FY20-21 to help us get through this next year's **project budget** deficit. We will spend some on vital projects we have put off for many years due to budget constraints. One is to finally replace the paths connecting Dog Wing to our play yards. They are currently made of rough rocks that some dogs hate to walk on, and are very difficult to keep clear of snow and ice. They will be replaced with smooth concrete paths. This is a \$30,000 expense. Most importantly, we have invested in our staff, moving us closer to our goal of offering a living wage.

**Thank you for being there for CVHS during these difficult times, and we know you will be there for CVHS this coming year.**

*Our FY21-22 budget is \$679,117. We typically care for over 1,000 animals a year. In simple terms, it takes \$679 per animal to operate.*

*Our average adoption fee is \$139, resulting in a \$540 gap per animal — a gap filled primarily through donations.*

**Your generosity matters!**

### July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

#### Revenue

Adoption Fees	\$ 152,065
Public Programs	\$ 57,108
Donations	\$ 371,127
Events	\$ 87,861
Private Grants	\$ 13,960
<b>Total FY20-21 Income*</b>	<b>\$ 682,121</b>

#### Expenses

Animal Care and Programs	\$ 439,102
Fundraising	\$ 65,957
Management/General	\$ 62,518
<b>Total FY20-21 Expenses*</b>	<b>\$ 567,577</b>
<b>Net*</b>	<b>\$114,544</b>

*\* Preliminary, unadjusted amounts*



PO Box 687, Montpelier, VT 05601

## Annual Report 2020-2021



### At CVHS, We Save FIV+ Felines

**Tigger** came to us from our rescue partner in Kentucky, where this poor boy was found as a stray. He also happened to be **FIV** (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) positive. FIV is one of several viruses that can affect cats and has been a widely misunderstood condition. Shelters used to think they had to euthanize FIV+ cats, but now **we know they can be adopted and live normal, happy lives.** Almost all cats with FIV live normal lifespans, and they only rarely seem to get sick more often than cats who don't have FIV. We also know now that it is very unusual for a cat with FIV to pass on FIV to other cats in the same household. This can happen only if the FIV+ cat is biting other cats. So, we were happy to take Tigger and save his life. We found he loved treat tubes of yumminess and ear scratches. This handsome boy was quickly adopted into a loving home, and we take in and adopt many FIV+ cats every year, saving their lives.

### A Remarkable Young Lady

**A**t CVHS, we are awed by kids all the time. Kids holding lemonade stands to raise funds, kids who ask for donations instead of presents for their birthday or **Christmas**, kids who go the extra mile for animals. **Abby is an awe-inspiring 5th grader!** She chose CVHS as her school topic to research. Since she could not volunteer at CVHS due to COVID, she decided to raise as **much** donations as possible.

Over a few months, and under the mentorship of Jen, our Animal Care Director, **Abby filled 2 truckfuls with food, toys, cleaning supplies, and blankets. And she raised nearly \$2,000 through donation and bottle drives!** Not only that, she fostered under-socialized kittens, helping them to become adoptable. She is an adopter herself, adopting puppy Tyson this year. Raising funds, gathering food, fostering kittens and adopting. Awesome!



Jen (at left) and Abby (right) with some of the donated items Abby collected.

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# Central Vermont Humane Society

## 2020-2021

## Report to the Community





## FAST FACTS for the Year

Provided loving  
care to **1,158** pets



**509** local Vermont  
families and pets  
needed us



Saved the lives  
of **649** pets via  
transport



Created **1,036** new  
families through  
adoption

**249** pets were  
fostered by local  
families, increasing  
our lifesaving  
capacity

## Message From the Director

**A**nother fiscal year has passed working during a pandemic. Our Operations Director, Erika Holm, put it best in her year-end summary report to our Board: *"I think we all were hoping to be in a different situation at this point in the pandemic, but here we are, feeling like the movie 'Groundhog Day.' Reflecting on our 2020-21 fiscal year, a dominant theme has been flexibility. Through it all, everyone on our staff has kept a positive attitude, accepting of changes with their schedules, additional training and new, more stringent cleaning procedures. I have never worked with a group of people who work harder than this team, who rose to the occasion of extreme stress, who watch out for each other, help each other, have a sense of humor and fun about things, all while keeping the animals their top priority. I could not be prouder of our team."*



I could not have said it any better. During another year of so many changes, one constant was our commitment to providing excellent care for the animals, over 1100 last year. We have a remarkable team.

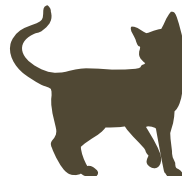
Once again, people like you, people in our community, stepped up and showed how much CVHS means to you. You sent cards and letters full of kindness and support. You adopted. You sent generous donations. We have a remarkable community.

As you read our Annual Report, celebrate with us a year filled with good news. We cared for a record number of animals. We have learned from the pandemic and became more efficient, effective, and stronger. **We have so many happy stories to share, stories made possible by your steadfast support.**

With heartfelt gratitude,

Laurie Garrison, Executive Director

**You make  
all of this  
possible.**



## Going the Extra Mile Means Different Things for Different Pets

**K**ronk came to us as a stray. We immediately fell in love with this guy, with his huge head and expressive eyes. **It was clear that this boy had never had any training at all, and heartbreakingly he obviously had never seen a toy in his life.** Can you imagine a 1½ year old dog who had never played with a toy? We worked to remedy that situation quickly! With his exuberant personality, he needed to learn to control his energy so he did not knock people down. **For over 40% of the pets who come to us, that means extra mile care,**



**care that is above and beyond standard of practice for many shelters.** Some pets, like Kronk, need to be taught that life is good, and how to be family pets with polite manners. **Our staff took the time to show Kronk the joy of playing with toys,** and teach him manners in a positive and fun way. Kronk learned to be a Very Good Boy.

**Our adoption fees for many of our dogs include a five week training class!**

## CVHS is a Fear Free Certified Shelter

**T**his year, all of our dedicated animal care staff have completed the Fear Free Shelter Program training. **What does this mean for the animals? Less stress and anxiety.** Coming into an animal shelter can be very difficult for a pet. Even though we work hard to make sure all animals have soft bedding, and get tons of attention and love, our shelter is not a home. **It is very important to us that every minute a pet spends with us is as stress-free as possible.** The goal of the program is to empower shelter staff to apply key techniques designed to significantly reduce fear, anxiety, and stress in pets while at our shelter, and increase their enrichment opportunities. The techniques we learned apply to all aspects of sheltering, from the time pets arrive, to covering medical and behavioral needs, to adoption. While we have already applied most of the techniques in this training, we are always looking for ways to improve. We are proud to be Fear Free!

**FEAR FREE  
SHELTERS**



## Walk for Animals Became Drive Fur Animals

**O**ur 2020 Walk for Animals had to be virtual due to the pandemic. This year, to be safe, we decided to have a car parade and dubbed the event Drive Fur Animals. Over 20 cars participated, decorated in creative animal-themes. In fact, two of the cars were so amazing we couldn't choose a winner! So, our Leader of the Pack sponsor, 802Cars.com, came up with a prize on the spot so we could declare both winners. This event, our largest, raised over \$67,000 and will help so many animals. **We thank all our sponsors, all local businesses who supported us even during a pandemic.** We especially thank our Top Dog sponsor, Lawson's Finest Liquids!

Our biggest thanks go to Dave Birmingham and Cara Gorman of 802Cars.com. Both are huge animal lovers who have supported CVHS for many years. This year, knowing the pandemic had significantly impacted our operations, **Dave went the extra mile for CVHS and raised their sponsorship level to an extremely generous \$10,000.** Dave, Cara and everyone at 802Cars.com are truly our Leader of the Pack!

Photo: Josh Kuckens



## Some Puppies Need Very Special Help

**W**e always put Vermont animals first. Whenever we have space, we work with our rescue partner in South Carolina to save dogs and puppies by transporting them here to get adopted. This year, we took in 4 puppies. **Even at their tender age of only 8 weeks old, we knew 2 of the puppies needed help. Keen and Kofi were terrified of their own shadow,** and almost completely shut down. We thought maybe the long trip affected them, so we gave them time to adjust. When they did not come around, we knew they needed **extra mile** behavioral support. **They needed Puppy Boot Camp — a chance to learn how to be happy puppies.**

Kofi, the most fearful (shown at right with Mary), went to a skilled foster home where he would get specialized care and training. Mary fostered Kofi for 3 months. For the first 2 weeks, she was unable to even touch him! Mary built their relationship around training to overcome fear, build trust, and for skills needed in life. Mary reported, *"I have never trained as much with any dog and cannot begin to tell you how much we both learned."* Kofi was adopted by people Mary knew, who have had many special needs dogs. Kofi has done very well in their home.



Keen (shown at left) went to a foster home who also specialized in shy pups. Keen wasn't as fearful as Kofi, and she quickly gained confidence with the help of a patient older dog in the household. After graduating from her version of Puppy Boot Camp, Keen was adopted into a loving home.

**Kofi and Keen were lucky to end up at CVHS where support from people like you make it possible for us to give them the special care that they need.**

**Young puppies need proper socialization — check out our Puppy Kindergarten classes on our website.**



## At CVHS Even Animals Go the Extra Mile for Animals

**L**ambchop came to us from a local family who had too many cats. And, Lambchop was pregnant. While in foster care, she gave birth to 5 kittens. **Sticking with the Lambchop "meat" theme, the kittens were named Meatloaf, Brisket, Ham, Kabob and Nugget. And they lived up to their names, all were large and healthy kittens!** Not long after, we took in 4 motherless kittens. At only a month old or so, they desperately needed a mom to survive. While it is possible to hand feed tiny kittens (and we have done so), it is a 24/7 job and they do not have the same survival rate as kittens who have a feline mom. **Would Lambchop take on these additional motherless kittens? Well, she not only took on these 4, she was a fantastic mom.** We had some fun and named the motherless kittens the opposite theme of the "meat" kittens—they were named Tofu, Black Bean, Tempeh and Falafel. Lambchop didn't care, she went the extra mile and loved them all, raising happy and healthy kittens who all were adopted, along with herself.

**Foster families make all the difference in so many ways. If you are interested in fostering please email [foster@centralvermonthumane.org](mailto:foster@centralvermonthumane.org).**



## So Many Kittens!

**I**t seems that in every one of our Annual Reports, we talk about kittens. Each year, we care for hundreds of kittens. And yet, we are able to manage them. Across the US, felines still suffer from overpopulation and make up almost 60% of the animals euthanized in shelters, simply because there is not enough room for them. **Luckily, no shelter in Vermont ever has to euthanize because of lack of space. Because of this, we are able to help overcrowded shelters in other states to literally save the lives of the pets we transport in from these shelters.**

We know the pandemic has caused veterinary clinics to be very busy. We also know that a record number of kittens were adopted across the US during the pandemic, kittens who are likely not spayed and neutered. Healthy kittens can get pregnant at only 4 months of age. **It is important for Vermonters to spay/neuter their pets so we do not have a population explosion here that will prevent us from saving lives of animals elsewhere who need us.** Please spay/neuter!

**With your help, we were able to save over 505 kittens this year!**



## Order Your CVHS Wall Calendar!

We are excited to announce that our first-ever full-color wall calendar is available for 2022! Thirteen months of adorable photos, all winners from our photo contest held this summer. All entrants will be featured in a collage in the calendar, so tons of cuteness! Proceeds benefit the animals at CVHS. Order online here: <https://centralvermonthumane.org/order-your-cvhs-calendar/>

