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Central Vermont Humane Society Announces a New Leadership Structure

Collaborative and equitable leadership will increase efficiency and effectiveness to save animals in Washington and Orange Counties

East Montpelier (July 1, 2022) – Central Vermont Humane Society (CVHS) is excited to announce a new, collaborative and shared leadership model begun on July 1 (the start of the fiscal year). CVHS will have three Co-Executive Directors, each of whom will focus on their areas of expertise. Laurie Garrison, who for the last six years has acted as Executive Director, will hold the position of Co-Executive Director, Finance & Development. Erika Holm, who has been with CVHS since 2011, first serving on the Board of Directors and for the last seven years has been Director of Operations, will be Co-Executive Director, Programs & Operations. Jennifer Delaney, who has been with CVHS in a variety of capacities for the last ten years, most recently as Director of Animal Care, will be Co-Executive Director, Adoption Center & Animal Care. All three Co-Executive Directors will report to our Board of Directors, and are equals in the hierarchy of our organization.

For the last six years, Garrison, Holm and Richardson have worked together as a team to reduce the significant budget deficit under which CVHS was operating. Together they successfully managed CVHS through the pandemic, ensuring CVHS continued to effectively serve their community of Washington and Orange Counties to help pets and the people who love them.

CVHS Board President Sandy Meyerhofer states “The Board is pleased that Laurie, Jennifer and Erika will share the responsibility of leading the organization in these times of uncertainty. The detrimental impact of COVID on our local community has resulted in a significant increase in financial and housing issues that have dramatically increased the need for the services CVHS provides. This collaborative leadership model will result in a stronger, more effective organization that will be needed to meet the challenges ahead.”

The evolution to a formal shared leadership model will enable each co-director to better focus their respective talents on their areas of expertise, while also combining their strengths as a team. Moving away from a strict hierarchical management structure to an equitable, collaborative model, gives CVHS significant flexibility and stability. This will ensure CVHS moves into the future in the most effective, efficient, and resilient way possible, and will continue to thrive.

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About Central Vermont Humane Society

Central Vermont Humane Society’s mission is to protect and advocate for companion animals in need, and to build a humane community that promotes compassion and seeks to strengthen the human-animal bond. Central Vermont Humane Society shelters over 1,000 homeless, lost, abandoned, abused and neglected companion animals each year, and finds new loving, adoptive homes for them. With a priority to serve local animals, CVHS goes the extra-mile to provide exceptional medical care and behavioral rehabilitation to the animals in its care. CVHS compassionately assists families during times of crisis and transition and its work and mission impacts countless people whose lives are enriched by animals. <http://www.centralvermonthumane.org>