

Central Vermont Humane Society

2021-2022

Report to the Community



We are grateful to have been able to:

Take in & provide loving care for 796 pets



Help 388 local families & pets who needed us

Save the lives of 269 pets via transport



Create 682 new families through adoption

Care for 249 pets through our foster families

Most of all, we are grateful to the 2,208 individuals and local businesses who donated this year to make all this possible!



Director's Message

We accomplished a great deal in our fiscal year 2021-22, and I hope you enjoy reading what your support helps make possible. While this is technically an "Annual Report" it is really a **Gratitude Report**. Everything we undertake at CVHS is dependent on the generosity of our community, the generosity of people like you. I am so grateful to you.

This will be my last "solo" Director's Message. As you may already know and will read below, **on July 1, 2022, CVHS made the bold move to a shared leadership model**. I am so proud of our organization, our wonderful staff, our Board, and our community for accepting this very forward-looking model.

These last few years have not only been challenging, but also a time of learning and growth. **CVHS is poised to move post-pandemic stronger, more resilient, with continued success helping people and animals in our community.**

I hope reading our Annual Report makes you proud to be a supporter of this amazing organization. With your partnership and loyalty to CVHS, we were able to accomplish so much. Celebrate what you helped make possible!

With heartfelt gratitude,



Laurie Garrison

**Your support makes a difference.
Thank you for being
a friend of CVHS and
the animals.**



Looking Towards a Bright Future

On July 1, 2022, we were excited to announce that CVHS will operate under a collaborative and shared leadership model. CVHS will have three co-executive directors, each of whom will focus on their areas of expertise: **Laurie Garrison**, Co-Executive Director, Finance & Development; **Erika Holm**, Co-Executive Director, Programs & Operations; and **Jen Delaney**, Co-Executive Director, Adoption Center & Animal Care. They will all report to the CVHS Board of Directors, are equals in the hierarchy of our organization, and together make a strong team that will ensure CVHS moves into the future in the most effective, efficient, and resilient way possible, and will continue to thrive.

Moving away from a strict hierarchical management structure to an equitable, collaborative model, gives CVHS significant flexibility and stability. This shared leadership model will result in longer tenures of anyone we put in the available positions, and will offer anyone joining our organization a flexible, and supportive environment that enables them to focus on areas they excel in and enjoy.

Laurie, Jen and Erika have always worked collaboratively. This team has weathered financial hardship, numerous crises around animals including multiple large hoarding cases, near constant calls to help animals in the south, and a pandemic. All the while they provided excellent, extra-mile care for the animals, always our priority.

We thank our Board, staff, volunteers, and our community for being there for CVHS and the animals!



Left to right: Co-Executive Directors Erika Holm, Jen Delaney, and Laurie Garrison

Saving Animals by Working Together

Earlier this year, we were happy to be able to help another humane society when they stepped up to rescue a large number of animals in need. **Large-scale neglect and hoarding cases happen all too often and place a huge burden on local humane societies. We've been there and try to help whenever we can.** In this case, CVHS joined six humane societies and the Bissel Pet Foundation to help the Humane Society of Tulsa save more than 130 severely neglected pets.



Tulsa

We took in five puppies and five adult dogs. All needed to be spayed/neutered, and while the puppies were adopted quickly, all five of the adult dogs needed significant extra-mile veterinary care. **All were seniors, and the neglect they suffered was plain to see by our vets.** Mr. Peanut and Pugsley needed extensive dental work, including many extractions. Bridget is probably the oldest, around 12 years old, and her teeth were so diseased they literally fell out of her mouth. Jasper had a deformed leg and also needed significant dental surgery. Tulsa appeared to suffer from a home-made neuter, and needed two surgeries to repair the damage.

We cannot imagine the terrible pain these poor animals have been in, or for how long. The good news is that they are no longer in pain. **They are now safe, fed and warm, in new homes, homes full of love.**

Taking these dogs resulted in unexpected and significant expenses for CVHS. **We can say "yes" to animals who need us, no matter the circumstances, because of your support.** You made it possible to save Jasper, Pugsley, Mr. Peanut, Tulsa and Bridget!



Pugsley's adoption day

Almost 40% of our medical budget is spent on dental surgeries, healing their pain, often for the first time in years.

Small Pets Need a Lot of Care

Ash and Flicker came to CVHS the way many smallies come into our care — their little human friends lost interest in them. **This brotherly duo had been together their whole life and needed a home that would give them all the love and attention they deserve.** As you can see from the photo, they hit the lottery with their new family! Veggies, new play structures and lots of love to offer; Ash and Flicker are very happy.

Smallies, as we call them, pet rabbits, Guinea Pigs, etc., are often thought of as "easy" or "introductory" pets. **However, they need as much, and sometimes more, care than a dog or a cat.** As a result, we often have smallies for adoption and are happy to talk with you about their needs. Give us a call or email info@centralvermonthumane.org before you adopt (or buy) to learn about these small pets.



Walk for Animals Was A Big Success

Walk for Animals was a ton of fun! So many people and their dogs participated. We had some great dog costumes and tricks, and our vendor sponsors outdid themselves with pet-related giveaways. Nearly \$77,000 was raised by our local community, all to help save animals at CVHS!

We thank all our sponsors and businesses, especially our Top Dog sponsors: Better Living Audiology, Lawson's Finest Liquids, and One Stop Country Pets!

Huge thanks go to Dave Birmingham and Cara Gorman of 802Cars.com, **who again agreed to be a very special sponsor.** Dave, Cara and everyone at 802Cars.com are truly our Leader of the Pack!

We thank everyone for raising funds and for joining us for our event!



Bourbon, Loving His New Cushy Life

Did you know that it takes an average of 3 months for a newly adopted pet to settle into their new home and show their full personality? Bourbon came to us as a stray, and he proved to be quite the Houdini, bashful with staff and bolting through doors any chance he got. Previously Bourbon must have lived his life primarily outdoors as coming inside was scary, he wanted out. Luckily for Bourbon, we found just the home that could offer him time outside and protection from predators if needed. His adopter thought Bourbon would prefer to be outside most of the time, and given our experience, we thought so too. **But, after the first few weeks being afraid of things like the scary ceiling fan and loud vacuum, Bourbon turned out to be quite happy living the cushy life indoors.** He even acts like a mother hen to a human infant who shares his hair color!

A new home is a happy thing, but it can be stressful. Giving newly adopted pets quiet time to adjust can really help that pet settle in.



Time, Training, and Patience Makes a Huge Difference



Dot came to us when she was only 7 months old, and all of her life was spent in relative isolation forced by the pandemic. She was going through doggie adolescence and her person was not able to deal with her jumpy and mouthy behavior. Unfortunately, many dogs come to us at this age, and due to the pandemic, we are seeing more dogs like Dot who have had little or no socialization and/or training. When Dot came to CVHS, she was terrified of all the new people and situations.

Dot was lucky to end up at CVHS where support from people like you made it possible for us to give her the most precious things she needed: time, training, and patience.

Loveable Dot ended up staying with us for six months, a very long time. **She is a shining example of what we mean when we say we go the extra mile for our animals** — going at her pace to work on her fearfulness, and teaching her manners by modifying her behavior through patience and reward-based training. Our staff worked with Dot to build her trust, and Dot responded wonderfully. Now we needed to find an adopter who would also be patient with Dot.

Her new person met with Dot at CVHS more than once, so she could get to know him. **The two bonded quickly, and Dot had an adopter!** Her new life gives her the understanding human she needs to continue to grow in confidence to feel safe and loved.

Going the Extra Mile for Puppies

This year, we had a local dog come to us who gave birth to eight puppies while in our care, a rare event. **We knew we had the opportunity to make a huge difference during their critical first two months of life,** and help them enter the next phase of their lives better prepared to handle whatever comes their way. We followed Puppy Culture guidelines and during each stage of development, our staff exposed

the pups to new sights, sounds, and experiences to build up their confidence and resilience. The pups learned to recover quickly and naturally from being startled, and they learned that new things, like a vacuum cleaner or unknown people, don't automatically mean scary. **Our staff went the extra mile to give these pups the best start toward becoming calm, confident, happy dogs.** We also sent each puppy home with the book "Puppy Socialization: What it is and how to do it" by Rogers and Anderson, and now we do this for all adopted puppies.

Puppies need proper socialization and training. Check out our website to learn about the variety of training classes we offer.



Our Mission

To protect and advocate for companion animals in need, work to build a humane community that promotes compassion, and seeks to strengthen the human-animal bond. We strive to exemplify the core values of respect for life and to meet or exceed the best standards of practice for shelter care and operations.

Staff

Laurie Garrison, Co-Executive Director,
Finance & Development
Erika Holm, Co-Executive Director,
Programs & Operations
Jen Delaney, Co-Executive Director,
Adoption Center & Animal Care
Sara Schrum, Development Manager
Terri Crowther, Development Assistant
Shannon Cottrell, Adoption Counselor
Bella Nutt-Mayhugh, Adoption Counselor
Jess Tatro, Adoption Counselor
Brock Phillips, Shelter Agent
Carissa Brittain, 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

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are grateful to end our fiscal year in the black. Operating only by appointment not only meant we could work effectively and efficiently, it also meant healthier animals and so less vet costs. This tight control of expenses, and the strong support from our community, has put CVHS on solid ground. Thank you!

This surplus will be put to good use in the upcoming year. **For the last few years, we have been working towards providing our hard-working staff a living wage.** In our upcoming budget, our board approved the final big leap and our starting minimum is now \$15 an hour. While this is well above the minimum set by the State of Vermont, it is still far less than what is actually needed to live here. We have more work to do to get there.

With the \$15 minimum, our payroll will be significantly higher next year. We are anticipating significant increases in heating oil costs, fuel, medications, and just about everything needed to operate CVHS. Gasoline and heat are large expenses for us. We drive our animals to and from our vets every week. Our heating costs are high since we open doors to let our dogs out multiple times every day, making heating our dog wing a challenge.

And, inflation and a lack of affordable housing are hitting Vermonters hard, and that impacts their pets. We are expecting this upcoming year to be tough and that CVHS will be needed more than ever. **Thank you for being there for CVHS, and we know you will be there for CVHS this coming year.**

It takes about \$700 per animal to operate. Our average adoption fee is about \$140, resulting in a \$560 gap per animal – a gap filled through donations. Your generosity matters!

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Revenue

Adoption Fees	\$ 106,792
Public Programs	\$ 48,582
Donations	\$ 424,285
Events	\$ 107,054
Private Grants	\$ 8,000
Total FY20-21 Income*	\$ 694,713

Expenses

Animal Care and Programs	\$ 515,018
Fundraising	\$ 56,461
Management/General	\$ 74,272
Total FY21-22 Expenses*	\$ 645,751

* Preliminary, unadjusted amounts

Order your CVHS Calendar!

We will have our full-color wall calendar available for 2023.

Thirteen months of adorable photos, all winners from our photo contest held in September. 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/>





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Annual Report 2021-2022



Mini Burbs Loves Vermont

Transports save lives, and we were happy to help our rescue partner in Kentucky by taking 40 felines, including "Mini Burbs." **His momma cat gave birth to Mini Burbs and his siblings as soon as she settled in at CVHS, almost as though they knew they were now safe!**

Mini Burbs, his momma and siblings all spent time in one of our foster homes until they were ready for adoption. After adoption, his lucky family reported: "We adopted Clancy (was Mini Burbs). I just want to say that adopting a kitten through CVHS was a really positive experience. I thoroughly enjoyed my phone conversations with our Adoption Counselor. **Having Clancy come into our family has been a true gift!** He is fun, good natured, playful and engaging. His foster family and CVHS did a great job of socializing him. Clancy and Hazel, our Golden Retriever, love each other.

It is so perfect! Thanks for bringing this wonderful kitten into our lives!"



Clancy with his new friend Hazel

Foster families make all the difference for vulnerable pets like tiny kittens. If you are interested in fostering, please email: foster@centralvermonthumane.org

Kids are Amazing!

On a cold January day, we were pleased to meet a very kind-hearted student from East Montpelier Elementary School who organized, promoted and ran a donation drive to benefit the animals at CVHS. With the help of her mom, Adelle created posters advertising her drive. Adelle even made announcements over the PA at school encouraging fellow students to bring in food and toys to help dogs and cats waiting for new loving homes. What a wonderful way to start 2022! Thank you, Adelle, and everyone in the EMES community who donated.

— Adelle shown with collected donations

