

Central Vermont Humane Society

2023-2024

Report to the Community



We are grateful we were able to:

Take in and provide loving care for **780** pets



Help **475** local Vermont families and pets who needed us

Save the lives of **132** pets via transport



Create **573** new families through adoption

Care for **304** pets through our foster families who increase our lifesaving capacity



Most of all, we are thankful for the **2,058** individuals and local businesses who donated to CVHS this year to make all of this possible!

Co-Director's Message

What a year! It is hard to believe that it began July 2023 with terrible flooding that devastated so many people in our local communities.

As always, Vermonters pulled together, stepping up in so many ways to help each other through the muck and debris.

And you stepped up for CVHS and the animals. Your generous response to our appeal for help in July 2023 was overwhelming, heartwarming, and so needed.

Because of your generosity, we could help the hundreds of animals from our communities who needed a safe place to go last year. We always put Vermont pets first, and the local need was so great we significantly decreased transporting animals in from our rescue partners in South Carolina and Kentucky. While we hate to say no to our southern partners, it means we were able to say yes to so many pets right here in Washington and Orange counties (our service area), and beyond to other parts of Vermont when our help was needed. This report tells so many of their stories!

Whenever we need you, you are there for CVHS and the animals. Everything in this annual report, everything we have accomplished, is only possible because of support from people like you.

We started the year facing great difficulties, and yet our year was filled with happy success stories. We hope you enjoy reading our Annual Report. **We could not have helped all those people and animals without you.**

With heartfelt gratitude,

— Erika, Jen, and Laurie



Torch Proves Three Legs Can Be As Good As Four!

Your donation dollars go far here at CVHS. **Over 40% of the pets who come to us need extra-mile care, like Torch.** Not long after Torch arrived at CVHS, we noticed he was limping so we sent him for x-rays. They found an old fracture of his "elbow" that never healed properly, and part of the elbow was chipped off. Our vet felt the bone fragment would cause on and off painful infections and recommended amputation. Animals do great on three legs, and Torch was no exception! **Now free of pain, Torch was one happy cat** and he was quickly adopted into a home who just adopted another CVHS alum, Finke.



His new family reports "Torch, now Finn, doesn't let his missing leg stop him and is just as active and wild as any 4-legged friend! He is

such a love and wants nothing more than to be nuzzled up to his human as close as possible (ok, maybe food is the one thing he'd want more lol). He is such a sweet, chill, laid-back kitty. Finke is a bit more standoffish but is starting to feel more comfortable. He's a very vocal kitty and sounds more like a guinea pig than a cat at times. He absolutely loves to play and can turn anything into a toy: an apple, a box, and even a toddler's shoe! There is no doubt that these boys were meant to be adopted together and no doubt that our home is right where they belong! Through thick & thin, Finke & Finn."



Bamm-Bamm: A Happy Tail A Year in the Making

If you follow our communications, we know you have read all about Bamm-Bamm. We thought his story deserved to be front and center of our Annual Report.

We often say that we go the extra mile for animals. This means many things, and is tailored to each pet who comes into our care. It can be medical care, behavioral support, stress-relieving activities, or simply the time needed to find a new loving home. Bamm-Bamm needed it all!

Bamm-Bamm needed CVHS more than once in his nine years. The first time, he was found tied to a tree, abandoned. We worked with him to teach him people are not scary, and he was adopted into a loving home. As too often happens, his people had to find new housing and could not find any that would allow a big dog. They called us, and we welcomed Bamm-Bamm back with open arms.

This time around, he was older and needed a lot of vet care, including surgery to remove a mass that had to be biopsied, x-rays to figure out why he was limping, treatment for a nail infection, and a few tooth extractions. He also needed anti-anxiety medications to reduce his stress in our kennel. Despite this, shelter life started to wear on him. To give him a break, he started to spend time at a staffer's home where he got to bask in the sun and sleep on her comfy sofa.



he also knew they are perfect for each other. We're getting many reports of how well he's settling in and thriving on all the extra love, including rides in their ATV. Bamm-Bamm is now living his best life—basking in the sun, sleeping on the sofa, and so loved!

Thanks to you, we were able to give Bamm everything he needed, including 359 days to find his new loving home.

Months went by, all along he needed ongoing vet care and behavioral support. He was a tough placement, an older boy at 9 years old, a larger dog, and he needed to go to a home with no other pets. **We always give pets all the time they need to find a home, and Bamm-Bamm was closing in on an entire year with us.**

It turned out he just needed the stars to line up. A wonderful family had lost their beloved elderly dog to cancer, and they initially thought they did not want another dog. They realized they still had a lot of love to give, and they reached out about Bamm. We could not have created a better home for him if we tried, and it was obvious to all of us when he met them,



At CVHS, Sometimes Even the Animals Go the Extra Mile!



When Mum came to us, she had just finished nursing her litter of kittens. Not long after, we took in a litter of motherless kittens. While it is possible to hand-feed these tiny babies (as we have many times), the chances of survival for tiny kittens is much better with a mom. So, we decided to see if Mum would live up to her name and take on these babies, and she happily became a momma cat again. Turned out Mum needed loving care of her own. Her belly became swollen, and she had a high fever. We sent her on an emergency visit to the veterinarian, where she got fluids, medications and X-rays. After a few scary days, she started improving. When she was finally healthy and ready to be adopted, we found her a great home of her own.

Mum's story is a good reminder — spay and neuter is vitally important to help reduce the number of homeless pets. And, if you find kittens who appear to be motherless, be sure mom is not hiding nearby. She very likely is waiting for you to leave!

Birdie Finds Her Joy

Pets come to us for all kinds of reasons and in all different kinds of shape. Birdie came to us a little shut down, but once she figured out she was safe, she turned into a gigantic puppy! **In our play yards, Birdie loved to run, play, jump around, and generally express her joy.** We see such transformations so often, and it is so gratifying! It was no surprise to us that when Birdie finally found her person, her joy could not be contained. The best adoption photo ever!



Saved From A Rough Life on the Streets



This year it was tough for us to squeeze in transports from our feline rescue partner in Kentucky since the local need was so great. But, we had a slot of time when we did have some room. **We had the chance to save a bunch of lives, so we decided to go big and took in 93 cats and kittens, our biggest transport ever.** Most were moms with their kittens and they went immediately into foster homes to give the kittens time to grow. We were only able to take in so many cats at once due to our foster homes!

Some needed medical care, like Callie and Vega. At only four years old, Callie had severe dental disease and needed 12 teeth removed. That is a lot of teeth! She gave us a little scare when she came back from surgery, her eyes stayed fully dilated for a long time. So, we gave her a dark space to hang out in (since dilated pupils meant bright light would be painful) and kept watch. It took four days but her pupils finally got back to

normal. **Once she was healed, we could tell she felt better because it turned out she had quite the strut!** She was beautiful and she knew it, and we found her a home where her beauty would be much appreciated.

Vega was also a beautiful cat, and like Callie, very affectionate. **Vega quickly became a staff favorite, and spent time in the office.** She helped with their paperwork by laying on the keyboard, batting their hand when trying to use the mouse, or rolling around until she got pets. She also loved to try to mooch lunch, tuna fish being a favorite.

Like Callie, Vega needed teeth extracted, and she also gave us a scare. We noticed she had a swelling on her belly that shouldn't be there. Our vet said to keep an eye on it, and we noticed it was growing. Now the vet was concerned. The mass might be cancer, so we had it biopsied. Two tense days later, the biopsy came back negative. Whew!

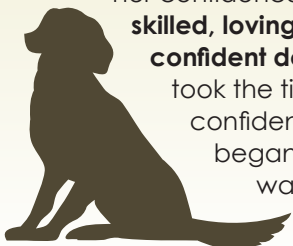
Now we needed to find this outgoing and curious purring ball of love a home, maybe where she could be an office assistant! Luckily we found the perfect home where we are sure her new person will share tuna sandwiches with her.



We could not save so many lives without our dedicated foster families. Would you like to become a foster and help save animals? Email us at foster@centralvermonthumane.org.

Mouse

Mouse was picked up as a stray, never claimed, and spent all the time she needed with us while learning to trust new people and experiences. She loves other dogs, so we were able to use play groups to help increase her confidence around people. **With a lot of positive experiences with our skilled, loving staff members, she blossomed into a very loving, more confident dog.** Her adopter understood Mouse's changing needs, and took the time to visit more than once to ensure that Mouse could confidently leave the people she knew and trusted at CVHS. Mouse began her new life with someone open to sharing the world in a way that Mouse needs, perfect!



Staff

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

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Joshua LaFrance
Shannon Salembier
Meredith Sumner



Central Vermont Humane Society

VISIT by Appointment only.

Note, our P.O. Box has been closed.

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Email: info@centralvermonthumane.org

Website: centralvermonthumane.org



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Walk for Animals Was a Ton of Fun!

Walk for Animals 2024 was held on June 8 on the State House Lawn and it was so much fun. So many people and their dogs came out, and we all made for a great parade through Montpelier. We got very close to our goal of \$80,000, all raised by local individuals and businesses, funds that will help rescue so many animals!

All our sponsors are wonderful, and **we especially thank our Top Dog sponsor, One Stop Country Pet Supply.** One Stop supports us in many ways, please be sure to shop there for all things pets. They have an amazing store!

Once again, huge thanks go to Dave Birmingham and Cara Gorman of 802Cars.com who went above and beyond for CVHS.

Dave, Cara and everyone at 802Cars.com are truly our Leader of the Pack!

New this year, the Top Team prize was a yoga session with shelter cats! Great fun was had by people and felines! Next year we hope to offer the same prize.

We thank everyone for raising important funds, and for joining us for our biggest event of the year!

We are excited and grateful to say we ended our fiscal year in the black. Despite hard work to keep our expenses down and control costs, overall our expenses still went up almost 7% compared to last fiscal year.

Luckily, YOU made the difference! Overall donations were up by 18%! Your generosity meant we ended the year with an operating surplus. Just last year we ended the year with a large deficit, this year's surplus will help balance that out.

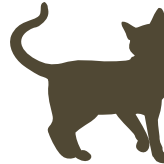
We are grateful for every single dollar our local businesses and individuals in our community donate to CVHS. We know that expenses were up for everyone last year, and the fact that so many of you made animals a priority means a lot to us. It makes a difference. Thank you.

Your support means we can be there for people and pets in our community when they need us.

Fiscal year 2024-25 started just like last year – with terrible flooding. Even more affordable housing was wiped out, and CVHS will be needed more than ever. Our FY25 budget includes a large deficit. **We will need you more than ever to help us get through the year.**

Your kindness makes a difference at CVHS. If you'd like to make a donation, scan this QR code with your smartphone, or go to our website at

**centralvermonthumane.org/
online-donations**



July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Revenue

Adoption Fees	\$ 90,681
Public Programs	\$ 68,762
Donations	\$ 448,392
Events	\$ 121,278
Private Grants	\$ 38,350
Total FY23-24 Income*	\$ 767,463

Expenses

Animal Care & Programs	\$ 540,712
Fundraising	\$ 82,103
Management/General	\$ 115,488
Total FY23-24 Expenses*	\$ 738,303

Net **\$ 29,160**

* Preliminary, unadjusted amounts





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Annual Report 2023-2024



Kids Are Amazing and Kind!

For the fifth year in a row, Lisa Gariboldi's class of kindergartners (this year the third graders in Jenn Fitch's class also helped) from East Montpelier Elementary School hand-made dog biscuits, which they sold by suggested donation in bags of 5 biscuits per bag. These kids raised \$500! It has become a tradition and the kids love helping homeless animals. Thank you all!

Second Time Was the Charm

When Homer first came to meet adoptable dog Maize, he brought his elderly dog Buddy. Buddy was his wife's love and protector, and she had passed away in 2022. The house was too empty, so Homer thought it was time to adopt a new pet, and called us about Maize. Unfortunately, Buddy did not take to Maize, it was not a match. Sadly, Buddy passed away not long after. Homer decided to see if Maize was still available, and she was! After adopting her, he wrote to us *"It has been 90 days and I think Maize has decided to keep me. She loves to romp around in the yard and chase her ball. Her favorite spot is on top of the couch cushions, looking out the window and basking in the sun. I know it is a cliché,*



but since losing my wife, and then Buddy 22 months later, Maize has been a life saver. Thank you." First time wasn't a match, second time was the charm!

