

The Companion Connection

Summer 2026



A publication of **Central Vermont Humane Society**

Who Rescued Who?

Our **Companion Connection** is aptly named, since we highlight the very special connection between people and their pets. We love helping people find their best match, creating new families. We love it when people send in their happy "tails" and update us on their adoptions. We hope you enjoy reading just a few of their stories, and if you have a happy "tail" of your own please email info@centralvermonthumane.org.

Read the story of Apricot, now Zazu, inside!



Strawberry Shortcake

Strawberry Shortcake, AKA Strawberry-Berry-FeeBee-Mouse-Catcher-Kitty-Ka, is doing wonderful in her new home with her new family and is very well loved!!! She did hide on us for a few hours, but we were reassured she would come out of her hiding spot by our Adoption Counselor... and she did! "Berry" has acclimated to the kids, she is very, very sweet.

We have a lot of sunny spots and windows; she watches the hummingbirds go at the feeder and the robins in the apple tree. We have three little mouse stuffed toys she bats around the house which has been great for practice—she has already caught three real mice!

Strawberry has added more love to our house, and it's really great to have a companion here when my kids aren't home.

Thank you so much for matching us with her. She's been purrrfect!

— Alanna, John, and Leah

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centralvermonthumane.org



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Flirt (above) and Kendric (below) are adjusting well to their new forever-homes.



Apricot

From the first moment we met Apricot, now named Zazu, it was obvious that he would go to the ends of the earth to love us, and we adopted him. We quickly learned Zazu is a giant lap dog whose preferred method of cuddling is laying directly on top of you.

Zazu settled into our family life and routine almost immediately. He has discovered that he's allowed in the big bed during early mornings and evenings alongside his dog brother, Coonie, and cat sister, Nyx, and being piled into bed with everyone is one of his favorite things in the world.

This sweetie takes his job as Yard Security seriously, and his favorite phrase is, "Do you want to go outside?" He prefers to spend as much time as possible sunbathing, no matter the temperature, like a true sun worshiper. Or he's sprinting around the yard with his best dog friends, all of whom are much smaller than he is. Recently, Zazu discovered a love for tennis balls. He is currently working on carrying two at once, a skill he's mastered for almost an entire second.

He's a quick learner and has picked up a lot from Coonie. He knows how to wait patiently for dinner, sit, and shake. While he'll try just about any food he's offered, celery sits high on his "do not like" list.

Just like we did, every person and dog who meets Zazu falls in love with him. Between his unbeatable snuggles, goofy personality, and enthusiasm for life, he has a way of stealing everyone's heart. **We can't imagine our lives without him.** — Jen and Scott

Most pets come to CVHS because their humans are facing housing or financial troubles. Your support makes it possible for us to find pets like Apricot their new loving families!



Thomas O'Malley

We absolutely love our Thomas O'Malley (we mostly call him Thomas)! He has just become part of our little family. I do think he misses the outdoors; he is strictly an indoor cat as he is FIV+ (which would be our wish anyway—all of our cats have been indoor cats). He looks out at the chippies, squirrels and a couple of neighborhood cats. Thomas enjoys playing with his toys, especially his birds with the sounds that are activated with movement. He spends time during the day at various places around the house, the back of the couch (facing a window), a chair in the sunroom and sleeps with us on our bed at night. Thomas really has us wrapped around his little paw! We are very grateful to have him and especially to the woman who brought him in from the cold last year, as well as CVHS for taking care of him until we found him! — Judi

FIV is not contagious to humans, only to other cats through bite wounds. While Thomas has FIV, with an indoor lifestyle and proper vet care, he can live a long and happy life.



Atari

I was initially drawn to Atari, now named Tuna, for his unique fur pattern and how sweet and curious he looked to be in his photo. He seemed like a friendly and social cat, which was perfect for me and my household. Tuna is the only pet in the home which doesn't seem to bother him, he loves attention. Though he doesn't have any siblings, he has tons of human aunts and uncles who love him dearly! He thrives in our home and the more visitors the better in his opinion. He will always be the first to greet anyone at the door and loves following us around the house. He is the most curious cat we've ever encountered and insists on being involved in every activity we do (even

vacuuming!). His favorite toys are plastic springs and paper bags. He loves to carry his springs around in his mouth and stash them in shoes, or his water bowl.

When we first picked Tuna up at CVHS we were a bit worried because the drive home was about an hour and we weren't sure how he'd handle that. He seemed very tolerant at first but did end up getting a little car sick and needing a bath. We were so worried to put him through all of that with us strangers right after the long drive. He was SO good about the bath and tolerated it very well! He was a bit scared but did a great job and immediately after, he was trotting around the house with a wet tail as if it never happened. He forgave us right away and just wanted to explore and hang out. We immediately knew he was the perfect cat, it's so rare for all of that to leave a cat unbothered in an unfamiliar place! **Tuna is such a special and unique cat, he is incredibly outgoing, curious, quirky, and affectionate. He captures the heart of anyone he meets, even dog people!** — Veronika



Marilyn Bun-ro

The first thing that drew me to Marilyn Bun-ro, now named Phoebe, was her curiosity about me and she came right to me. She also let me touch her immediately. Phoebe has an older bunny sibling, named Focker, they are getting to know each other. She adapted immediately and she found the potty box her first time out. She lets me pick her up, she gives me kisses, she follows me around and she steals my chair whenever I get up. She feels totally at home. Her special power is she can sense food from the sound of the refrigerator opening. Her favorite treat is any vegetable and she absolutely loves her bunny bed but she loves all her toys and loves to pull them all out and crawl into the bunny toy box. She is a joy. — Nancy

Bunnies need fresh veggies, should not spend their life in a small cage, and can be litter-box trained!



Mark Your Calendars

We are excited to announce a new venue for our very fun event, Fur Fest: the Haybarn at Goddard College! Their chef is also excited and has put together a delicious menu of tasty hearty hors d'oeuvres. We are busy gathering exciting silent and live auction items, and more. **Save the date: Saturday, September 26.** Keep an eye on our website for more information about this event, where all proceeds go to help the animals in our local communities.





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Cashew and family!

Buddy the Dog Reports on His Life!

“Central Vermont Humane Society found me a retired couple who just adore me. They had the perfect set up—fenced yard and lots of love and attention. I won them over and trained them right from the start. In the summer we go for rides and stop for ice cream.

My typical day starts when I feel like getting up. Every morning, I get up near dad's face and look up at him, with my cute puppy eyes that I know they can't resist, and I get my share of belly rubs. Boy or boy, I have them wrapped around my little paw. I keep my humans on a great schedule. At 9:30 I whine and let them know it is time for my treat. At 2:00 it is time for my supper. At 8:30 time for bed. Sometimes I have to whine again to let them know it is time for bed, and I mean all of us!

During the day, each of them will take me out to play in the yard. I have taught Mom to fetch. She will throw the ball from one side of the yard and I will run, stop, look at the ball, and walk away. So she has to go fetch. We will do this quite a few times until she catches on. I love to keep watch from my yard for any neighbor dogs that may be in the area. I will let them know I am king of the neighborhood.” — *Buddy the dog*

From Buddy's Mom: “When we brought him home from CVHS, he had a bit of separation anxiety. He is now much better as far as not barking once we are gone – goes to our bed. However, when we arrive back home, he lets loose! He barks and acts like we deserted him. But he will settle down after we give him some loving and a treat. I believe he is just so tickled to have such a loving home; he doesn't want to lose it. And we feel the same about him. Thank you for our sweetheart!

