Central Vermont Humane Society

2025-2026

Report to the Community



We were able to:

Take in and provide loving care for **565*** pets



Help **425** local families and pets who needed us

Save the lives of **41** pets via transport



Create **464** new families through adoption

Care for **171** pets through our foster families who increase our lifesaving capacity

Most of all, we are thankful for the 1,881 individuals and local businesses who donated to CVHS this year to make all of this possible!

** Since pets in Vermont are our priority and in such need, we significantly reduced transports from out of state. This is one reason why our intake numbers have been under 1,000 for the last three years or so.*

Co-Director's Message



Another fiscal year has come to a close, bringing a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the lives saved and transformed at CVHS. **We have accomplished so much since our last report, and it's all thanks to our caring, supportive community—it is all thanks to you.**

While this year brought its share of challenges, it was also filled with celebration. Local pets remained our greatest focus, as an increasing number of animals arrived at our shelter with significant medical needs. Many had never received veterinary care, resulting in unwanted litters and painful conditions that required more time and resources to heal. Yet, we never wavered. At CVHS, our philosophy is to go the extra mile for every single animal. **We will always put an adoptable pet first and give them the second chance they deserve, regardless of the challenges.** We can do this because you stand with us. We are fortunate to have an extraordinary community of supporters who believe that every pet deserves a brighter future.

Beyond our shelter walls, incredible strides are being made in Vermont's animal welfare legislation. While it is just the beginning, a foundation is being laid for a stronger future in our great little state. A recent cruelty case, which you'll read about on the following page, highlights exactly why these legislative changes are so urgent. **CVHS has been involved in this movement from the start, and we will continue working alongside the Division of Animal Welfare to end animal suffering in Vermont.**

Whether it was a large-scale rescue effort, a helpless stray, or a distressed pet who needed a safe place to land, CVHS was there to answer the call. This fiscal year, we provided safe shelter and compassionate care for 565 animals. That means 565 unique stories, and 565 customized care plans to heal physical and/or emotional wounds. **565 animals could count on us, and that's all because of you.**

With heartfelt gratitude,

Jen, Sara, and Erika

A Major Step Forward for Vermont's Animals



Jeb Wallace-Brodeur/SevenDays

After much hard work from animal welfare advocates, including CVHS, the passage of H.626 (Act 167) in 2024 created Vermont's new Division of Animal Welfare, and Lisa Milot (pictured here) was hired in 2025 as its first Director. Lisa's first task was to draft a comprehensive report outlining the deficiencies in our current system and how to fix them. She traveled across Vermont to speak with animal welfare professionals and advocates, presenting her final roadmap to the Legislature in January 2026. The report confirmed that Vermont's system for managing animal cruelty is fractured, inefficient, and ineffective. The system is failing law enforcement, animal welfare organizations, and, most importantly, the animals themselves.

While Lisa has outlined comprehensive solutions, fixing this system will be a slow process. Two critical bills passed during the 2026 session—Act 118 (H.578) and Act 121 (H.841)—address small but vital pieces of the problem. Together, they work toward improving the animal seizure process, shortening the timeframe for civil forfeiture, strengthening penalties for bestiality, and requiring animal welfare organizations and pet importers to register with the new Division.

We thank our representatives for their dedication and hard work, especially Representatives Emily Krasnow of South Burlington and Chea Waters Evans of Charlotte, who introduced and sponsored these bills. **The 2026 legislative session was exceptionally challenging, and we deeply appreciate the effort our representatives invested in protecting Vermont's animals.** CVHS, with the Vermont Humane Federation, is now crafting new legislation for the upcoming biennium to continue the work to improve animal welfare standards and statutes.

It Takes a Village to Save 13 Sweet Dogs



During a bitter cold January, we helped rescue thirteen Beagles from truly horrific conditions, living in filthy wire cages with no bedding to speak of and no real protection from the cold and wind. The local animal control officer, Sheriff's office, and Vermont's new Director of Animal Welfare, Lisa Milot, had been working to try to get the owner to improve their living conditions, to no avail. So, a seizure warrant was executed. It was 14 degrees when we rescued them out of those cages, with a forecast of temperatures below zero that night.



We took in these sweet dogs, gave them fresh water and food, and got them seen by a vet. Thirteen dogs are a lot for our little shelter, and we are lucky to have such strong partnerships with other shelters in Vermont. Two of them assisted by taking six of the dogs. Still, caring for seven dogs for an unknown amount of time stretched our resources and limited staff. Despite their horrible past, we found them to be happy-go-lucky little beagles. Staff fell in love with each and every one of them.

The laws protecting animals in Vermont are very weak. We had no idea how long these poor dogs would be with us, or if we would eventually be allowed to find them new loving homes. The owner fought against losing custody, but he finally signed a plea agreement to surrender the dogs to us in May, just days before his custody hearing. These amazing little dogs went from the nightmare of frigid living conditions, to their compassionate and caring time with us, to new, happy lives in loving homes. We were thrilled when they were all adopted within a couple weeks of becoming our dogs! Here is a note from the adopter of Noble November:

"Kudos to the matchmaking skills of CVHS staff because November has been an absolute dream come true. She's so sweet, friendly, curious, adventurous and so much more. It breaks my heart to know she was caged but the silver lining to that is I'm getting to watch her experience freedom every single day. She loves to get out in the woods, and when she gets on a scent the Beagle yips absolutely kill me. She's so great, it'll be fun to learn and grow together. Thanks again for everything you do!"

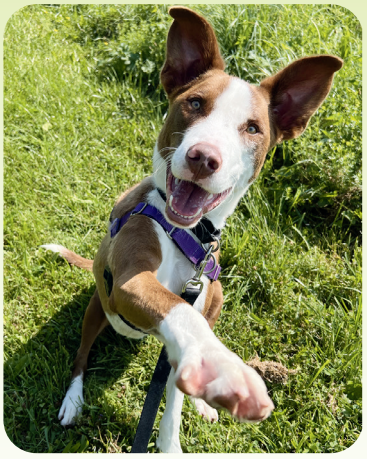
This is an excellent example why a Director of Animal Welfare at the Statehouse is so important, and why the Department needs more support in order to improve the laws protecting animals in Vermont.



Auggie, A Staff Favorite, Finds a Home!

Staff loved all the Beagles from the case above, but Auggie, affectionately nicknamed "Auggilicious," quickly became a favorite. Like the others, Auggie needed time to leave his past life behind and learn how to snuggle, play, and just enjoy being a dog. He embraced his new beginning completely. He loved curling up for a good nap and thoroughly enjoyed sniffing around our yards and trails. Auggie was always open to new adventures, including learning to walk on a leash, which was a brand-new experience for him. **We were absolutely thrilled when this sweet boy found his loving home, where he will never be cold or hungry again!**

CVHS Matchmakers: Pairing Animals with Their Best Match



Flirt is a wonderful example of a great dog who just needed the right match to live his best life. While we work hard to make the best match possible, we understand that a pet and a family are not always a perfect fit. When that happens, we happily take the pet back and use the information gained from their time in a home to help find a match where they can truly flourish. Still, it took two tries before we found Flirt a family with enough energy to match this dynamo, and he is now living his absolute best life! Sometimes going the extra mile means taking the extra time and effort to talk with potential adopters for the animals. We are so happy Flirt found his happily ever after. Just look at that smile!

How a Kitten Brought Back a Family's Happiness



Petunia, formally Amber, was a member of the only transport we could accommodate this fiscal year. We always prioritize local, Vermont, pets but we were able to take in 33 felines from our rescue partner in Kentucky, including Amber. Despite being just a kitten, it didn't take long for Petunia to find her new loving home. Her adopter had a very special story about how that happened:

Kaitlin reports: ***"While scrolling through Facebook one day, I was looking at the animals available for adoption. I felt a very strong pull toward Petunia. There was something in her eyes that just felt like home. My parents' two senior cats had both passed away several months earlier, and their house had been so quiet ever since. I wasn't sure they were ready for another cat. But I felt like I needed to show my mom Petunia. I sent her photo to my mom, fully expecting to be told that they weren't ready for another cat. Instead, my mom said, 'I saw the post of all the cats, and that is the cat that stood out to me. That is the one I kept looking at.'***

I was stunned. What are the odds that we would both see the exact same post, look through all of those cats, and be drawn to the same one? It honestly felt like Petunia had already chosen us before we even knew she was ours."

At CVHS, we pride ourselves on being excellent matchmakers and we know looks aren't everything. We take a lot of time talking with prospective adopters to make the right match, and this was an easy one!

Kaitlin continues: ***She settled in almost instantly. It truly feels like she has always belonged here. I am so thankful that we saw that Facebook post, that my mom and I were both inexplicably drawn to the same little black cat. Petunia has brought so much life and happiness back into a house that was too quiet after losing two beloved cats. Watching her bond with my parents, especially seeing her curled up napping with my dad, has been incredibly special. Thank you for helping bring this sweet girl into our lives."***

The Best Chapter Yet: An Elderly Cat's Second Act



Poor Maverick was found outside in the frigid Vermont weather, scared and hungry. Our vet estimated Maverick was over 10 years old, with a possible thyroid nodule, a 5/6 heart murmur, and many diseased teeth. He was also flea-ridden, and his nails had grown into his pads. Staff noticed he moved stiffly, hinting at possible hind end or tail issues. Maverick was a complete mess!

Because that's what we do at CVHS, we went the extra mile for him. We ran a full senior blood panel to test his thyroid and ensure he was stable for surgery, a urinalysis to rule out an infection, and X-rays to investigate his stiffness. While his bloodwork showed his thyroid was fine, his heart enzymes were elevated. He needed a thorough workup before we could safely address his dental needs.

Once cleared for surgery, the vet discovered that every single one of his teeth was diseased. This senior boy must have been in so much pain!

As soon as he healed, this handsome cat finally got to be himself. We quickly learned that Maverick knows exactly what he wants: yummy food, plenty of attention, and a cozy napping spot. We are thrilled to report that we found this senior sweetie the warm, loving home he truly deserves. His adopter recently sent us a lovely note:

"Maverick is wonderful. He fit in immediately. A senior cat for a senior woman! I renamed him Lionel since it seems more appropriate for an older gentleman like him. Thank you for all you do!"

Going the extra mile looks different for every shelter animal. But the goal is always the same—helping them find a loving home.

Staff

Jen Delaney, *Co-Executive Director, Adoption Center and Animal Care*
Erika Holm, *Co-Executive Director, Programs and Operations*
Sara Schrum, *Co-Executive Director, Development & Finance*
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Leah Deering, *Adoption Counselor*
Jericho Nicely, *Adoption Counselor*
Tiffany Palmer, *Adoption Counselor*
Amanda Reed, *Adoption Counselor*
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This was a tough year for CVHS financially. Overall, giving was down about 7%, reflecting the fact that people in our community faced a tough year themselves. And as we know was true for everyone, our expenses soared higher than expected, increasing over 11% compared to last year. Our Special Needs budget, which goes toward extra-mile medical care for our shelter pets, went up over 26%.

But, no matter the cost, we won't stop going the extra mile for animals. We believe it is our responsibility, our mission, to focus on each animal who comes into our care and give them what they need, whether medical care, behavioral support, or simply time to find a new loving home.

We take going the extra mile for animals seriously, and we know you do too. You show it in your generosity. Every donation counts, and we are so grateful.

We say it all the time because it is true: **we simply cannot do the work we do without you**. We are so thankful to have such kind and compassionate friends who care about animals, and CVHS. **Thank you for going the extra mile for animals.**

Unfortunately, financial hardships and housing issues will likely continue in Fiscal year 2026-27. **Together, we will get through it, and be there for the animals who need a second chance.**

This year it cost $1,523 per animal to operate. Adoption fees remained steady at $140 per animal. The gap is made up by your generosity!

Our supporters are the heartbeat of our organization. With each donation, you fund life-saving care to give animals a second chance. To donate, scan the QR code below or visit centralvermonthumane.org



July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Revenue

Adoption Fees	$ 74,862
Public Programs	$ 59,610
Donations	$ 469,802
Events	$ 156,488
Private Grants	$ 10,500
Total Income*	**$ 771,262**

Expenses

Animal Care & Programs	$ 630,880
Fundraising	$ 93,062
Management/General	$ 136,981
Total Expenses*	**$ 860,922**
Net*	**- $ 89,661**

** Preliminary, unadjusted amounts*

Moving Our Paws for a Meaningful Cause

Walk for Animals 2026, held on June 6 on the State House lawn, was a huge success. ABC22 and FOX44's Meteorologist Alexander Wasilenko joined us once again, accompanied by Multi-Media Journalist/Reporter Lily Sakaniwa, to be our event MCs, delivering a lively experience! It was a celebratory morning filled with waggin' tails, smiling faces, and a great parade through Montpelier to showcase our love for our furry companions.



Thanks to the generosity of our local community, **we raised over $83,000 for shelter pets.** We so appreciate our peer-to-peer fundraisers, donors, and each and every one of our sponsors, all local businesses who made the choice to support CVHS. We especially thank our Top Dog sponsors, 802 Cars and North Country Federal Credit Union.

We thank everyone for joining us for our biggest event of the year, and raising an incredible amount of funds that will help so many animals. Thank you!

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Annual Report
2025-2026



Every Adoption is Cause for Celebration

During the Subaru Loves Pets Celebration last October, we held a special adoption event with our friends at 802 Subaru, where we brought 16 kittens and 2 adult cats. In just a few hours, all but one feline found their new loving homes. And the one feline that remained was adopted not long after. Every single adoption is a time for celebration, as a shelter animal finds a safe and happy future, and a family grows by one beloved new companion. We are proud to have helped so many animals and humans find their pur-fect match.





Third Time's the Charm

Phill needed CVHS twice when his families hit tough financial and housing times. Every animal's story is unique, and for Phill, the third time was truly the charm. His adopter reports: ***"Phill is settling in really well. He has made quite a few friends at the dog park and at least two of them came from CVHS. When he's trying to get your attention when he wants to play, he will nibble at your hands and yodel until you toss his toy for him.***

"He's helped our family so much with routine and responsibility for the kids (feeding and giving water) and he's helped me be more active in the mornings. We wake up early every morning and go on a half hour walk before everyone else wakes up for school!

Phill has been the missing piece of this family that we didn't know we needed! He's been a blessing and he takes care of us just as much as we take care of him."