As I sit down every year to write my column for the annual report, I struggle to find the words to adequately acknowledge all that the staff, volunteers, and donors have accomplished throughout the year. Their dedication to our mission is unwavering and their love for the animals is unconditional. Every day, animals come into the shelter with baggage, a backstory, and a desire to give all of their love to their “human.” Throughout all of the ups and downs since I have been with the Humane Society, one thing has remained constant; we rely on these animals as much as they rely on us. As with most things, every animal has a story that they would love to share if we take a minute to slow down and listen. While it may seem like a far-fetched idealistic journey, each and every one of the animals that passes through the Humane Society teaches us something. They teach us to love unconditionally, aspire for hope, be strong and confident in who we are, and always show kindness towards others. Most of these animals come to the shelter for a second chance, some for a third chance. These chances that we offer are more than just doing our job, they are our responsibility. The great Mahatma Gandhi profoundly stated “The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” Here at the Humane Society, we embody this within our mission and our actions. We are a role model for our community and we take that responsibility seriously. As we look forward to 2016, I hope you know how much we appreciate everything you do for the animals each and every day; every little bit counts.

Thanks again to the staff, volunteers, donors, and community for your unwavering support. I look forward to seeing you around the shelter!

Chris Walkley
WHAT ANIMALS TEACH US AND THE LEFT GAZE BIAS

The most rewarding aspect, hands, or should I say “paws down”, of living a life dedicated to animals, and more particularly being part of the New Hampshire Humane Society family, is witnessing the happiness of our animals as we pass the torch of caring and stewardship to new adopters. These vulnerable and often luckless creatures arrived every day from a diverse range of sources including Animal Control-public drop off, citizen surrender, or our boots on the ground response to animals in need in the community.

The world of animal welfare is changing and experiencing an interesting shift – less animals living long term in shelters. This phenomenon isn’t owned exclusively by NHHS, or even our sister shelters in the Granite State, but is being tracked in the North East as a whole. The takeaway from this stunning statement is that we have done a very, very good job collectively, and yes, here locally, with our spay/neuter initiatives. Rather than resting on our laurels, we now plan and strategize "how to help the most animals", having developed a smooth, quality adoption experience, developed a robust volunteer base, work tirelessly to achieve fiscal stability, have a fabulous, professional veterinary team, and have created a solid network of partnerships with sending shelters nationally to offer a second chance to animals that would otherwise have no hope of a loving home.

Animals teach us unconditional love, the absence of judgement, they demonstrate the ability to simply live in the moment and experience joy. Dogs in particular, have shown, they are capable of reading emotion. A study run at the University of Lincoln in the UK discovered that like an understanding best friend, dogs can see at a glance if we are pleased, angry, happy or sad. Their research showed that just as humans look at a new face with our eyes tending to wander to the left, falling on the right hand side of a person’s face first – a so called ‘left gaze bias’ this behavior is clearly demonstrated in dogs when looking at a human face. No other animal has been known to display this behavior before. Armed with this knowledge, witnessing the cycle of neglect and cruelty, is all the harder to understand for those of us who care so deeply about their wellbeing.

I am proud my team demonstrates that ‘fire in the belly’ every day. We’ve made some real headway in placing animals in homes that will love them. We’ve helped more families in crisis and continue to be the resource for the community. We couldn’t facilitate these small wonders without support from our donors, business partners, a strong board of directors, volunteers who give their most precious resource, their time, and a staff bottom up and top down, who truly care and about the lives of the animals we are pledged to serve.

Life is good for the animals that call NHHS home until a fur-ever home is found!

Marylee Gorham
NHHS Executive Director
New Hampshire Humane Society
Mission and Purpose

1. Finding responsible and caring forever homes.
2. Provide shelter for lost, abandoned and unwanted animals.
3. Advocate for animals…Speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves.
4. Implement educational programs and provide services to promote responsible pet ownership and the human-animal bond.
5. Prevent cruelty to animals.
ANIMAL STATISTICS

Animals Adopted

1000

Animals Received

671 Cats/Kittens
560 Dogs/Puppies
1236 Rabbits & Birds

Animals Reunited

170 Cats/Kittens
26 Dogs/Puppies
144

Euthanasia Rate

4%

No animal is euthanized due to time or space. Animals are welcome to stay at the NH Humane Society until they find a home.

Surgical Stats

524 Cats/Kittens
85 Dogs/Puppies
609

No-Cost Spay/Neuter Statistics

41 Dogs/Puppies
7 Cats/Kittens

SNAP

96 Dogs/Puppies
7 Cats/Kittens
73

Incoming NH Dogs vs Transport Dogs

NH Dogs
241
Transport Dogs
321
January – 5th Annual Chili Cook Off raises a delicious $2,500!

February – 37 cats and 30 dogs found love in the month of love!

March – 11th Annual Funspot Indoor Triathlon raises over $28,000! Team competition in Bowling, Golf and Games.

April – Annual Rabies-Microchip clinic with dog registration for Laconia and Meredith residents.

May – Binnie Media holds Kentucky Derby Party at Faro Italian Grille to benefit NHHS.

June – 1st annual Adopt-a-Dog at Irwin Automotive. A new partnership is born to help find forever homes.

Mae West Memorial Motorcycle Ride, in honor of NHHS alumni Mae West, bikers raise $6,390!

July – Paws for a Cause Auction raises over $100,000!

White Mountain Karate kick-a-thon raises over $7,825! Students collected pledges for how many kicks they could do in a set amount of time.

August – Classic Car Show in Newfound raises $5,000 and NH Humane will be the beneficiary of the annual event in 2016 as well.

September – Participated in the Ashland Town Wide Yard Sale – total proceeds of $900 helped the animals.

October – NH Chive collects funds at Octoberfest event and presents gift of $1,135.

After 350 days at NHHS, Cassie went home!

November – Black Friday Adopt-a-Thon at the Belknap Mall sees 27 dogs adopted, and Caturday sends 13 cats home!

December – Year End giving campaign, our Wishing on a Star appeal, receives a very positive response from our donors, raises over $36,000 for the animals.
Cassie arrived at the NH Humane Society from Miami Dade Animal Services in October 2014. She had been seized from a hoarding situation when she was a puppy and was still a baby herself at just under a year old. Right away, it was clear from her chaotic energy and fearful behavior that this sweet girl needed our help. She was utterly undirected; craving attention, consistency, guidance and, above all, love.

We could only guess at what happened in her past, but it was evident that humans had not been good to her; that gentleness had not been part of her world. At the very least they had simply ignored her, robbed her of their company and time, making it natural to rely on her insecure instincts. Underneath her uneasiness, however, we could see the spark in her eyes and the eager warmth in her heart. We knew there was a kind and gentle soul just waiting to blossom.

Cassie worked hard with our shelter trainer, staff and volunteers learning doggy manners and skills, learning what it was like to be with people who loved her. Week after week, month after month, Cassie came into her own, happily romping in the grass or snuggling up with her shelter people, covering them in kisses. She grew leaps and bounds from where she started as her trust grew and she continued to look to people for guidance, soaking up her training and building her repertoire of commands and tricks, posing for countless photo shoots, and preparing to carry those skills that would finally take her home.

After so long at the shelter, Cassie might have thought this was her forever home, after all we were her family for half her life. She started to show more signs of stress, becoming more frustrated in her kennel, it was harder to keep her happy as no matter how much time we spent with her it could never equal the comfort of home. Yet, still she greeted each new day (or every time she saw one of her friends) with her signature brand of Cassie: wiggly, giddy, boundless happiness, loving with every inch and breadth of her slight body, unaware that there was someone out there that needed her just as much as she needed them.

Then, one day in October, after 11 long months, two weeks shy of a year, her family finally found her. Love at first sight might be a cliche, but we were lucky enough to witness it first hand that day. Cassie and her new Dad and little brother fell for each other instantly. They were ready for the challenge and gave her the chance she had awaited for so long.

Her Dad has worked so hard introducing Cassie to the world and to her many firsts (such as what a TV is — she had never seen one!) and she has done amazing with her human brother, the playmate she has always wanted. She even has her own Facebook page her Dad updates regularly with stories and pictures of their adventures. Cassie has continued to blossom in her new home and has been busy being part of a family- playing in the yard, having her first real Christmas, jumping in leaf piles and going for lots of hikes. She’s even learned off-leash skills and has been making many friends, some on four legs! To hear her Dad tell it, Cassie is the missing piece to their family and exactly where she was always meant to be.

There truly is a home for every dog and no one taught us that more than Cassie. She grew up in front of our eyes and though we showed her the way, she brought herself home, while teaching us much about friendship, commitment and courage along the way. She continues to inspire all of us to never give up, to strive to be better than we are and to greet each day as Cassie would, with a spark in our eyes and warmth in our heart, not looking back but running forward.

Kim Randall
Animal Caregiver
VOLUNTEERS, OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE

Total Volunteer Hours 2015: 10,868!

500-1,000 Hours
Chris Baerman
William Desmond
Vanessa Lemieux

200-500 Hours
Jessica Avery
Joyce Coleman
Nancy Jacobson
Lakes Region Community Services
Janet Lenetine
Barbara Lyden
Deb McNeish
Pat Muzzey
Jan Poire
Candace Wyman

100-200 Hours
Marcy Alkalay
Evelyn Blais
Justin Boulanger
Deb Corr
Lynn Davis
Diane Deleon
Karyn Fallon
Evelyn Forshay
John Gaffney
Sara Gray
Meg Greenbaum
Marilyn Hill
Bonna Hughes
Betty Isaac
Mckenzie Stephen

50-100 Hours
Jack Bender
Ron Blais
Phil Bohl
Carolyn Brown

Nathaniel Cohen
Karyn Dietrich
Gerianne Eash
Laura Eddings
Beverly Foerst
Allen Geldart
Sandra Gilbert
Sherri Graton
Scott Hipp
Lisa Hurley
Maryellen Jancsy
Kelli Kemery
Nancy Lievens
Barbara Lukacsy
Adora Maharaj
Joeseph Nicolato
Wendy Palmquist
Linda Petell
Karen Reed
Michele Rogers-Goss
Dana Ruchti
Rod Simmons
Danielle Walter

UNTIL ONE HAS LOVED AN ANIMAL, PART OF THEIR SOUL REMAINS UNAWAKENED

~ 8 ~
2015 has been a year of exciting growth for the NHHS volunteer program. This past year over 100 volunteers provided animals and the shelter with a record 10,868 hours of volunteer service. This year saw the introduction of two new programs for young people; Puppy Love and Cat Tales. Both programs have been very successful with over 60 participants, ages 5-15, having gone through program training.

Volunteer led programs have also blossomed with a new enrichment program for cats and dogs in medical isolation, Healing Hands and an expansion of the Shy and Fearful Program for socializing timid and frightened cats.

The Education Outreach Team has expanded and provided humane education and fun to 145 children in area towns at library story hours, after school programs, and through classroom instruction.

The pet therapy team of volunteers continues to bring joy to residents in 8 area long term care and rehabilitation facilities with monthly dog visits. And of course many volunteers help with fundraising and outreach at events and through collection from banks placed in generously participating businesses in the community.

As in previous years volunteers continue to provide dogs and cats with much needed and all important compassionate care and training, cleaned kennels and cat cages, socialized shy and frightened animals, staffed events, planned fundraisers and provided administrative assistance, performed grounds maintenance and landscape services, offered facilities improvements and professional in-kind services, assisted in keeping the shelter clean, fostered animals, conducted trainings for new volunteers, developed and led humane and responsible pet ownership education programs through a variety of venues and served the organization on the Board of Directors and various essential committees. Volunteers are an essential component in the success and growth of New Hampshire Humane Society.

Andrea Bonner
Volunteer Coordinator
CONTRIBUTIONS

Our mission would not continue without the support of our donors. A sincere thank you to our special friends who allow us to continue to provide care and comfort, a warm bed, medical intervention, enrichment, and ultimately a forever home for the animals.

$25,000.00 +
Canning Family Revocable Trust
Deborah Fairbanks Corr
Theodore Ellis
Karen Swensrud

$10,000.00 – $24,999.00
Dr. Peter Gray
John Stiger Ferry Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Knopf Family Foundation, Inc.
Ruth W. Metcalfe Charitable Trust
Estate of Joan Veazey

$5,000.00 – $9,999.00
Peter & Kathy Allen
Clark Foundation
Hampshire Hospitality Holdings, Inc.
Helen J. Busiel Trust
Steve & Tracy Lemoine
Meredith Village Savings Bank
Constance Milner
Marnie Schulz

$2,500.00 – $4,999.00
Bank of New Hampshire
Anne Bryan
Leslie Sharp Christodouloupolous
Richard & Lynn Clogston
Mary Jane Cooney
Granite State Group at Morgan Stanley & Kurt Patten
Diane Nyren
Estate of John H. Randall
Sick Boy, LLC
Bob & Miriam Smith
Douglas & Angela Stone

$1,000.00 – $2,499.00
George S. Troupe Foundation
Marylee Gorham
Guy Haynes
Constance Heath
Ingeborg Hilberg
Marilynn Hill
Ellen Hoyt
Richard & Bonna Hughes
Patricia Isaacson
Charles & Nancy Jacobson
Albert Jones
Lakes Region Pet Resort / Cynthia & Mike Ingalls
Lena T. Nelson Fund
Lovett-Woodsum Foundation
Duncan & Deborah McNeish

$500.00 – $999.00
Ursula Hagenmeyer
Harbinger Communications Inc.
Rick & Jennifer Haskell
Tavern 27
J&P Cycles, LLC
Junior’s Crush House, LLC
Natt & Denise King / King Stoneworks
Jack & Charlotte Landow
Lovering Volvo
Alex & Michelle Maffei / Cyska LLC
Patrick & Patti May
David & Winnie McCullough
Nicole McMillan
Meredith Bay Colony Club
Meredith Place Veterinary Emergency Hospital
Gregory Moyer
Patricia Muzzey
Charlotte T. Nadeau

Michael & Robin Moyer
Sandra Mucci
Thomas & Sandra Mynzcywor
National Bikers Venders Association
NH Chive
Peter & Kathy Nurge
Robert & Fay Nutter
William Nutter
Yes Energy, LLC
Raoul Pietri, Jr.
Sandra Preiswerk
Steve & Diane Randall
Beth Taylor
George & Sharon Tyler
Nathan & Jodi Warren
White Mountain Karate

Suzanne Pfister
Susan Pilliod
John & Susan Poduska
Jane Rice
Cynthia Rooke
Sanborn’s Auto Repair
Nicholas Sceggell
Evelyn C. Schwager
Speare Memorial Hospital
Laurel Stewart
Dr. Brenda Stowe
Diane Tefft
Christopher Volpe
Christopher Walkley
Debra Wallace
Stuart & Janis Weiner
Barry Whenal
Richard & Gail Wholey
Karen Wilson
Karl Wulfsberg & Lisa Prucha
IN MEMORIAM

In 2015, the NH Humane Society was honored to receive gifts in memory of the following animal advocates.

Adrienne Adams  Nora DeNutte Grignon  Isolde Liebl  Lynn Nutter
Eric Anderson  Jean Hawkes  Joan Beach Little  Dan Ouellette
Arthur Baker  Marion Howe  Karen Lord  Nina Pickles
Rexford Barros  Audrey Hull  Norma MacBrien  Samantha Plante
Arlene Bauer  Nicole Kenneson  Leonard Madden  Wendell Purington
Barbara Bolduc  Tommy Kilgellon  Paul Marcotte  Eleanor Rasmussen
Sue Bonner  Donna King  Maurice Martineau  Douglas Richter
Bruce Boone  Edward Kisel  Margaret McAteer  Jan Carol Smith
R. Charles Boone  Barbara Lane  Nancy McKone  Constance St. Cyr
Anita Brazeau  Kevin Lawrence  James Mooney Jr.  Donald Stankatis
Kathleen Brough  Alex O. Levy, Jr.  Leonard Muller  Hugh Sweeney
Henrietta Butler  Reidun Lewis  Denise Newell  Harold Tefft
Joanne Camara  Shirley Cass  Myrna Tenney  Armand Vachon
Emily Clogston  Marie Connell  Janet Waldron  Lawrence Walker
Roy Cook  Gregroy Crowell  Barbara Wellington  Fred Wells
Allan Demko  Fred Davidson  Gail Wheeler  Hazel Whenal
Lorraine Derick  Claudette Dube  Suzanne Whitney  Kathleen Wilson
Sylvia Gamblin  Helen Geddes  Ferne Woodbury  Jan Yeaton
Henry Greenbaum

~ 11 ~
Join us again at Church Landing, Meredith, New Hampshire

Charity Auction
A night of fun, entertainment and giving
August 11, 2016

Tickets available June 1, 2015