



262 County Farm Road, Dover, NH ~ 603.749.5322 ~ www.cvhsonline.org Volume 56 ~ Fall 2010

## "Best Friends!"

#### By Karen Zaramba

When Martha Hewitt asked me to write about my experiences as an "adopter" from Cocheco Valley Humane Society ("CVHS"), it started me thinking about how pets insinuate themselves into our lives. Sometimes it is planned, but usually, like many life events, it is an opportunistic or chance event that we embrace. My experience with CVHS has been no different.

I always had dogs (and a cat) growing up and as an adult, and wanted to rekindle that relationship. I didn't start down the path of dog ownership as a shelter supporter. As chance would have it, I got my first dog from my mom's co-worker. She had a litter of collie puppies. Who could resist such a cute ball of fur and hence I acquired "Ginger." After "Ginger" passed a few years later, I fell in love with the breed of

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Bernese Mountain dogs, and became "mom" to three wonderful companions. But after dealing with many years of multiple and very expensive medical issues, I learned some of the drawbacks of owning purebreds. It was around this time that I was

honored to be asked to join the Board of CVHS. After my first visit meeting with the staff and touring the facility, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to

help. What I

found is a wonderful Camilla and Stella and caring staff that pours their hearts out each and every day. I was ready to help any way I could.

So how did my first chance encounter occur? Stella, aka "Monkey" was a cute little puppy in Martha's office! Anytime someone walked by the door she threw

herself against the puppy-gate as if to say, "pick me, pick me!" It only took one or two board meetings before I couldn't resist anymore and decided to bring Stella home. Being a new shelter customer, I had no idea that for the cost of the

> adoption, Stella would be spayed, micro-chipped, have all her shots, be accompanied by a bag of food, and the best part....a coupon for several free dog training classes! What could be better? I was amazed! Did everyone but me know

about this great deal when you adopted a dog from an animal shelter?

Now if you note my history, I clearly had gravitated to the larger breeds. So of course, I asked Karen, the shelter manager, a million questions,

Continued on page 5



## **Forego Festive Foods for Fido**

By Dr. Sarah Proctor

How do I love you? Let me count the ways...A warm safe bed, toys and playtime, a scratch under the chin, and perhaps a morsel from my plate? The holidays convey a spirit of giving and abundance, and many of us include our pets in our celebrations. We must not forget that they can't always

tolerate the rich foods that we enjoy. Let's look at some common examples:



Chocolate: A substance in chocolate called theobromine can be toxic to dogs and cats. Milk chocolate contains little theobromine, dark chocolate and baking chocolate contain

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## From the Executive Director's Desk

The leaves are beginning to change, the days are becoming shorter and there is frost on the pumpkins. That can only mean one thing here in New Hampshire; winter is on its way.

With the colder weather, it is important that you remember to prepare your animals for the long winter ahead. It can get very cold, so do not leave your pets outside for any length of



time and make sure they have shelter and blankets or bring them inside where they have a warm place to eat and sleep. Even though your pet may have fur they can still get cold, shiver and get frostbitten, especially around their ears, tail and pads. Being wet can accelerate the process of frostbite. I assure you that you will get lots of love and attention if your pet has a warm place, especially if it is on your lap.

Many exciting things have been happening here at CVHS. We held two fundraising events over the last few months. The Arts and Craft Fair in July and our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Paws in the Park, Walk for the Animals in September. Both were very successful. A Big Thank You to our sponsors, donors, vendors, special guests and to everyone who attended. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stuff a Bus was held again in August. The bus was filled to the rafters when it arrived at the shelter. It was like Christmas. We also participated in Apple Harvest Day, the Barrington Chamber Expo and numerous off-sites.

CVHS has been very busy and it does not seem to be slowing down. Every weekend in the months of November and December we will have an information and Kissing Dog booth at JC Penney. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black Tie and Tails event is coming up on November 5<sup>th</sup> and then holidays are upon us.

Kitten season is still going strong. Many more cats and kittens than we have space for and our foster care program is being stretched to the limit. Have you considered becoming a foster parent? Champions Fund has allowed us to have some unique surgeries performed and the animals adopted. Sue Carney is providing training and support for our adopted animals and their families, holding behavior classes to the public within the facility. Check our website for training dates.

There have been changes to our staff. Two of our staff members are attending Vet School, and a few are enrolled in Vet Tech school or pursuing a college degree. We would like to welcome Sarah Keener to the shelter as the Director of Development. She has brought enthusiasm and a new perspective to the organization.

Thank you to the staff, volunteers, donors and friends of CVHS. You continue to amaze me with your commitment, dedication and your love of the animals in our care.

On behalf of those with no voice,



- \* KONG toys for dogs all sizes
- \* Peanut butter
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- \* Canned cat and kitten food
- \* Canned dog food
- \* Dry dog food
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- For our operations:
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Cocheco Valley Humane Society is a community funded nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting humane treatment of animals. The Society's mission is to provide quality, compassionate care and shelter to our animals, in partnership with educating the community concerning animal treatment and welfare. \* Cargo van for transporting animals \* Copy paper \* Gas cards

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iles/prizes) cards Please see enclosed envelope for details or call (603) 749-5322 ext. 112

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## really help!

Photo by Schoff's Photography

## Get Fit with Fido!

Are you tired of trying to find time to go to the gym? No problem! Join the Cocheco Valley Humane Society volunteer program and Get Fit with Fido!

CVHS relies on volunteers to help walk and socialize dogs that are available for adoption. Going on walks offers a lot of benefits to the shelter dogs. In addition to giving them a break from their kennel, a walk helps them learn some basic leash manners - which will be greatly appreciated by their new owner!

A walk also has a lot of added physical and mental health benefits for shelter dogs. Along with helping to prevent obesity, regular physical activity helps them release stored up energy which, in turn, helps prevent such unwanted behaviors as barking and destructive chewing. Every minute you spend with a shelter dog helps socialize and prepare them for their new forever home.

Walking isn't just healthy for the dogs; it's healthy for you, too! Walking is a great workout for people of all ages and abilities. Not only is it great for weight loss, it helps reduce the risk of heart disease, increases cardiovascular and pulmonary fitness, helps build stronger bones, and increases balance.

By volunteering to walk shelter dogs, you'll have a fun workout at no cost. Also, when the "trainer" waiting for you each day is a dog, you'll actually look forward to exercising. Dogs are ideal partners for getting in shape - they offer lots of love and are always willing to walk at your pace.

## **Open Your Heart and Your Home**

Cocheco Valley Humane Society is full of newborn kittens and pregnant cats in need of a foster home. Each year, "kitten season" lasts longer and longer, putting a lot of strain on the shelter. Thanks to a dedicated group of foster parents, the shelter was able to take in hundreds of

cats during a short period of time. Now more than ever, with so



surrendered to the shelter, we need more volunteers to join our foster care program. Do you have space in your home to help these animals?

Frequently Asked Questions:

#### How old do you need to be to foster?

Foster parents need to be at least 21 years old. Children can help, but adults must be the primary caregivers.

#### How long does foster care last?

The length of time varies with each foster. Typically, animals sent into foster care are kittens too young for adoption. Kittens need to be at least 8 weeks old AND weigh at least 2 pounds to go up for adoption.

Joining the CVHS volunteer program is easy. To get started, fill out and return a volunteer application. Applications are available in the shelter and on our website, cvhsonline.org. An orientation and training session are mandatory before you begin working with the animals. The Volunteer Coordinator will work with you individually to determine a schedule based on your availability. You'll then receive all the training and materials you need to feel comfortable handling the dogs.

For more information, contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Alaina Goodnough, at 749-5322 ext 111 or volunteerc@cvhsonline.org.

#### How often will I need to go to the shelter if I have foster animals?

Kittens and puppies need to return to the shelter every two weeks for vaccines. In addition, all animals need to return to the shelter for adoption.

#### I have pets at home - can I still foster?

Yes! Usually, the animals needing foster care are mothers with babies. Most mothers will not like your pets, so we ask that you provide a separate room for your foster animals. This can be anything from a laundry room or bathroom to a bedroom. An enclosed area with no carpet works best. Foster animals and pets also need to be separated for health reasons since newborn animals are highly susceptible to illness.

#### How do I get started?

The first thing you'll need to do is fill out a foster care applications. Applications are available at the shelter or can be requested by mail by calling the Volunteer Coordinator at (603) 749-5322 ext 111.

Do you have questions about foster care? Join us at the meeting on Thursday, November 18th from 5:30-6:30pm at the shelter! Contact Alaina at 603-749-5322 ext 111 or volunteerc@cvhsonline.

#### Forego Festive Food 3 Continued from front page

not be a problem for many pets, the heavy sauces, butter and other high-fat components of our holiday meals can be very dangerous. Dogs in particular are prone to pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) after eating high-fat foods. Breeds like the Schnauzer are even more susceptible as they often already have high levels of fat in the blood (a condition called hyperlipidemia). Dogs with pancreatitis vomit, lose their appetite, and sometimes have a fever, diarrhea, and severe abdominal pain. Some dogs become ill so quickly they can die before treatment even begins.

You should consult your veterinarian if your pet sneaks into the holiday treats or if they develop any signs of illness. To avoid these problems, why not provide your pet with a safer treat during the holidays? For many of us, the food we give our pets is a sign of love. Knowing the risks of some foods, you can make informed, safe choices while loving your pets this season.

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If your name is not listed here, please watch for it in our next newsletter issue.

## Making a Difference

The following children put their birthday wants aside and selflessly asked friends and family to give donations to the animals in lieu of getting presents. Thank you to each of these caring, compassionate young people. You are the future of a more humane community.

Danielle Young of Dover, NH Jane and Kate Spear of Dover, NH Alexis Oberg of Somersworth, NH Logan Eighmey of Barrington, NH



## **Employee of the Month**

An employee who has gone above and beyond in support of the mission of the shelter and has stepped up and given more than just what is expected of them.

#### 2009

November - Carlene Lapierre December - Karen Fogarty

#### 2010

January - Alaina Goodnough February - Kristin Halsey

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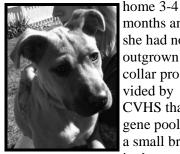
Call 603-749-5322, ext. 106 for more information.



## "Best Friends"

Continued from front page

what breed did they think Stella was..., could they tell how big she was going to get?....etc, etc. It became clear to me after I had Stella



months and she had not outgrown the collar provided by CVHS that her gene pool had a small breed in there some-

Stella at the shelter where! So (aka Monkey)

here's the best bonus from adopting from a shelter - sometimes it's a surprise! Stella has taught me a whole new world and lots of new lessons with her smaller size....she can escape through small spaces, she is FAST, and I can actually pick her up if I need to!

So here's a hint, never let a shelter manager know that you have owned more than one pet at the same time. Once you start out adopting, it's a slippery slope. Having to be at the shelter for vari-

ous meetings, it gives you the chance to drop by, see who's new, and just take the opportunity to give someone a pat or receive a big sloppy kiss. As chance would have it, Stella had originally been placed in a kennel with a rescued English bulldog named Camilla. Camilla was rescued from a local farm and from the second she was brought into the shelter, she won everyone's heart. I was no excep-

tion. I became very vocal about wanting the opportunity to bring her home if she was available for adoption.

After four



Camilla at the shelter

months of waiting, on a Friday night I got the call that Camilla was available and did I want her? By Sunday she was snuggled on my bed at home having been reunited with her best buddy Stella, and the rest they say is history.....how could I get so lucky?



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## 6 Life Should Be Good

Hi,

I just wanted to give you an up-

date on how Misa is doing. We added her to our family in March and she made herself right at home.



Misa Relaxing at Home

This was a first pet for my son. The two of them are best buddies. He will line up his army men and she will sit across from him and knock them all down. She has full run of the house. She has put on a few pounds and is happy and well loved. She loves to snuggle and have her tummy rubbed.

- Tracy and Stephen

#### From Stray to Therapy Dog!

In May of 2009 a black fuzzy dog was found wandering in Farmington, NH. The ACO brought her to Cocheco Valley Humane Society on May 15<sup>th</sup> and that is where this story begins.

The staff named her "Lady Bug" and she was an immediate Champion Fund Candidate. Lady Bug's ears were badly infected and extremely painful. Her earflaps had

crusty patches everywhere from hours of scratching to relieve the itch. She needed expensive surgery to correct the problem and to ease the

pain. Within shelter the week,

for donations to the Champion fund so the surgery could be scheduled. Anne immediately thought: Lady Bug will need a foster home for the surgery and Moses her rescued Golden Retriever had been in need of a buddy for over a year – maybe this would be a match?

Moses met Lady Bug the very next week and they got along very well, so the Shelter Manager approved Anne as a foster home. Meanwhile, Anne had told many of her friends about Lady Bug and in no time the donations came in and the surgery was scheduled!

The surgeries were painful, but Lady Bug was a trooper. She would be a "conehead" for many weeks, so Anne contacted a woman in Arizona who makes soft quilted "Liz Collars" for dogs. Lady Bug wore that collar for weeks. It could be washed and dried and was easy to put on and it was very stylish! On August 4, 2009 Anne "officially" adopted

If you'd like to share your adopted pet's story here, please send it with a photo via email to cvhs@cvhsonline.org



Lady Bug, now named "Kady".

Miss Kady went on to take 2 levels of obedience training and two levels of Agility train-

Moses and Katy (aka Ladybug)

ing. She loves to run on the See-saw and A-

Frame! She also became an AKC Canine Good Citizen and a Certified Therapy Dog. She currently visits regularly at Riverwoods of Exeter. She can be seen in the CVHS Kissing Dog booths at various shelter events. She is a great ambassador for shelter dogs of all kinds!

One spring day a dog was lost; and that summer a dog found a home. Thank you to everyone at CVHS. You are the canine "Match.com"!

> - Anne L. Surman In appreciation to everyone at CVHS!



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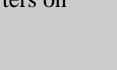
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#### **DOG FRIENDLY PARKS & TRAIL**

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**CVHS** receives quarterly



Ladybug at the

Anne a volunteer met Lady Bug. She saw the sign posted on the kennel asking

#### donation based on weight of bin.

Dropping your unwanted clothing items in one of Planet Aid's yellow bins extends their useful life keeps them out of our landfills and creates sustainable development and economic opportunity world wide.



**Dover-**Long Hill Park Rochester- Dog Park on Taylor Ave, Pickering Pond, Islington Glass trails, Hanson Pines. Durham- Adams Point, Wagon Hill Farm and town trails. Somersworth- All parks are dog friendly. Barrington- Trails at The Town Forest . Lee– Demeritt Hill Farm has 2 miles of trails. Portsmouth- Dog Park in South Mill Park, Urban Forestry Center and Pierce Island away from picnic area. Kittery– Fort Foster. Berwick- Memorial Field. \*\*Leashes often required

# The Importance of Exercise

#### By Sue Carney, Real Life Canine Academy

For any breed, exercise is extremely important. Think about what your dogs breed is and what he was meant to do. Was he bred to be a hunter? A herder? When we keep our dogs as non working pets, they do not get as much exercise as they require. This results in boredom. When a dog is bored he develops all kinds of bad behaviors like; destructive, reactive and excessive barking.

Everyone works and every family is gone for long work days. So, make sure you give your dog a good daily workout before you leave. Both mental and physical work is necessary and great stimulation. Mental work can be the equivalent of a 2 miles run! So, give your dog something to do while you are not home. Interactive toys like Kong's are great ways to get his brain working. Stuff the Kong with peanut butter and freeze it over night, making it more difficult to get the peanut butter out! Ice toys are also a great idea: fill a bowl with water, throw in treats, toys, carrots a spoonful of peanut butter; freeze it for a few hours, run it under hot water to pop it out and Voila! You've got yourself an interactive toy that will keep your dog busy for hours!

Agility is something to think about for a dog with high energy and a need for speed. Any sort of problem solving really gets their brain working in over time.

Dog backpacks are great for any dog that just doesn't tire easily, especially for working breeds.) Add your keys, bottle water or a few jars of pickles (evenly distributed), making the walk take on a whole different meaning and giving your dog a job. Of course the key to this is to make the back pack positive and fun first. So, please don't slap it on, throw in the weighted items and go for your first walk without an introduction. Teach your dog to be comfortable first by putting the back pack on him empty. Reward him and walk around the house. Take it off and the next

COCHECO VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY is proud to participate in Iams' Home for the Holidays Pet Adoption Campaign of 2010. Joining forces with over 3,500 shelters to help find loving homes for 1.5 Million homeless pets this holiday season Spread the joy of pet adoption and make them all have a happy home this holiday season!

time keep it on longer, walk outside and reward. Then tighten and correct the fittings, add something with a bit of weight and walk. Be sure to reward with praise, petting and a few treats. Once your dog is comfortable wearing it around the house and outside; try going for a short walk. Then on your next walk, add something heavier and leave it on longer. Again, make sure that the weights are even on both sides of the backpack!

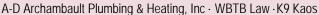
If you are a bike rider consider taking your dog with you. There is a great bike / leash attachment made with springs to help with pulling. Of course make sure your dog is comfortable walking and running next to a bike and be patient with training. Slowly introduce the bike first, then, get closer and closer while walking the bike. Ask for assistance by a family member to ride the bike while you run next to it. Attach the dog to the bike only when he is comfortable being close and you have taken all the steps to ensure his and your safety.

If your dog is one who pulls mostly on the way away from the house on your walks-try going in your backyard and playing a quick game of fetch before going for a walk. This will get that extra pent up energy out and will make your loose leash training a lot easier!

# Thank you to the sponsors of this year's 16th Annual Walk for the Animals

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~ Thank you to our top pledge collectors ~

Adult individual: Bethany Bryan Youth individuals: Jordyn Pollard, Morgan Johnson Adult team: Yellow Dog's Barn

## The event raised \$30,000 for the animals!

# Upcoming Events

## Black Tie & Tails Gala Friday, November 5th

Save the date!

at The Red Barn at Outlook Farm, South Berwick, ME. \*See front page for details\*



## See Us at the Mall this Holiday Season!



**Every Saturday and Sunday during November and December 2010**, Cocheco Valley Humane Society will have an information table and volunteers with their dogs at the **JC Penney** mall entrance at the Fox Run Mall in Newington.

We thank JC Penney for generously welcoming the shelter every year to help fundraising efforts during the holiday shopping season.

CVHS merchandise and pet-related products will be available for purchase. 100% of sales goes directly to the care of the animals. Be sure to stop by whenever you're at the mall!



14th Annual

Creature Comforts Dessert Tasting

& Silent Auction

Sunday March 20, 2011 ~ 1 pm to 4 pm

Decadent Desserts, Fine Artisan, Chocolates

Live & Silent Auction For More information www.cvhsonline.org



#### Sunday, June 12, 2011 10 am to 4 pm Strafford County Court House

Join us in our 17th annual Walk for the Animals! Support the animals by collecting pledges. Don't miss the fun dog contests, entertainment, the "Barkin' Market" featuring pet related businesses, and the parade of dogs.

## **Attention Artists!**

Drawing contest for the 2011 Paws in the Park event poster. Entries must be submitted to the shelter by May 1, 2011 Entries may be no bigger than 8 1/2 X 11. All talent levels encouraged.

Sponsorship Opportunities Available. Please call: (603)749-5322 ext

Please Remember The Animals In Your Estate Plan!



## **Behavior Classes**

Real Life 1 - A great beginner class for the newly adopted dog or owner that needs direction to solve some basic behavior problems. Teaches: sit, down, stay, wait, off, come, leave it, loose leash walking and dog to dog greetings!

Real Life 2 - For graduates of Real Life 1 or dogs (and owners) that are not beginners and need a bit of polishing. A great class to prepare for CGC. Polishes: stay, wait, heel, leave it and teaches place and settle!



For more information or to register for a class call: (603) 320-2969

## Adopt a Home

Have you ever wondered how you could remember or recognize a loved one, whether it is two or four legged or feathered, in a unique way? Or perhaps you want to show your support of what we do for the animals. Cocheco Valley Humane Society is now offering a special naming opportunity.

Sponsor a temporary home for the many animals that come through our doors. Through your sponsorship we will be able to continue to care for these animals.

When you pledge your support of one of our kennels, your name will appear as one of four sponsors of the residence and the animal inside for a year. You may personalize your recognition plaque up to 23 letters or spaces per line, 3 lines maximum.

\_\_\_\_ \$60.00/year for Small Animals

\_\_\_\_\$120.00/year for a Cat Cage

\_\_\_\_\$240.00/year for a Dog Kennel

Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip_	
Phone			
Enclosed is the amount of \$	Check	_MC_	_VISA

### Offsite Adoptions in the Community Sat & Sun\*

Pawsitive Steps, Eliot, ME PetCo, Dover, NH Club Canine, Portsmouth, NH Pet Junction, Somersworth, NH PetCo, Newington, NH

\*For details visit our website or call (603) 749-5322.

Account #
Expiration Date Your Personalized Text (max. 23 letters/line)