

# give me **SHELTER**

A Cochecho Valley Humane Society Publication

Winter 2013

\* Shelter Holding 16th Annual Dessert  
Tasting and Silent Auction  
page 9

\* CVHS Launches "Bring Us Home"  
Campaign  
page 10

\* Winter Tips for Your Best Friend  
page 11

\* Bunny Basics  
page 15

\*And more!



## Cocheco Valley Humane Society

262 County Farm Road • Dover, NH 03820

[www.cvhsonline.org](http://www.cvhsonline.org)

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# From the Executive Director: Leaving a Legacy

Have you ever thought about your legacy?

You have, no doubt, thought about providing for your family and, hopefully, your own pets. Many times, pets will outlive their owners and, if there is no plan for their care, they often end up here at the shelter. Your planned gift can provide a future for the animals at CVHS.

A bequest to CVHS will help ensure that homeless, abandoned, and stray animals will receive the second chance they deserve. We've updated our webpage with valuable information on how you can extend your commitment to the animals.

The most common form of "planned giving" is made through your will. Your will distributes your property in the manner that you wish after you pass away. Your will can establish trusts for beneficiaries who lack the ability or desire to manage an inheritance. You can nominate those you would prefer to administer your estate. Having a legal will prepared can even minimize the settlement costs of your estate. The making of a will ensures that your assets are distributed according to your wishes, not the state in which you reside.

You may wish to have your attorney notify CVHS of the terms, conditions, and circumstances of your will. CVHS is a tax exempt 501(c) (3) non-profit public charity chartered by the IRS. If you already have a will, you need only call your attorney and advise him/her of your interest in making a bequest to CVHS.

Want to make a difference today? Consider becoming a monthly donor. Monthly supporters help CVHS provide for the animals on a daily basis. Now, with automatic monthly donations, we can make the donation process even easier by debiting your credit card, checking account, or savings account each month.

Please take a look at our website for other ways you might be interested in providing a future for the animals at CVHS, and please make sure that you have made provisions for the care of your own animals' future as well.

Leslie Heindl

Executive Director

# Veterinary Corner: How to get your cat to use the litter box

Cat owners are fortunate that most cats don't have to be housetrained like dogs. We give them a box full of litter and they choose that spot for their toilet.

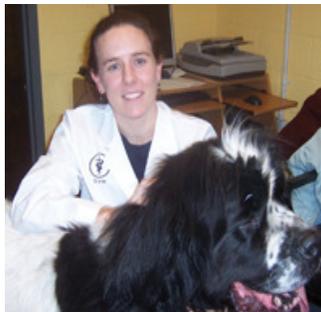
Well, most of the time.

Why would a cat choose to urinate on your bedspread, or in your sink, or even just to the side of the litter box? It is wrong to assume they are jealous or angry. A cat doesn't know that the litter box is the ONLY acceptable place to go. Most of the time, the litter box is just the place they like the best. How can you make sure the litter box is their first choice?

It's as easy as A-B-C:

## A – ACCESS

Make sure the cat can get to the box. The location should NOT be:



Sarah Proctor DVM

- Behind a door that is closed some of the time.
- On the first floor when the cat spends most of its time on the third floor.
- Where a child can bother the cat while it's in the litter box.
- Where one cat can guard the box and prevent others from using it. This can be very subtle behavior. We don't often notice the tension between cats in a home. A rule of thumb for multi-cat homes is to have one more box than you have cats. If you have 3 cats, get 4 boxes – and put them in different locations so there's always one unguarded box available.

Finally, make sure your cat can physically get in and out of the box. This is especially important for older cats with mobility problems.

## B – BIG

Make sure the box is 1 1/2 times longer than the cat. Imagine yourself trying to urinate into a toddler training potty – that's what we ask of cats when we give them a small box. Shallow plastic storage bins make great litter boxes, and are often cheaper than real litter boxes!

## C – CLEAN, CLUMPING, CLAY LITTER

Cats prefer clean boxes; so scoop daily. Imagine asking a person to use a toilet that hasn't been flushed in 3 days. That is what we often ask of our cats. **Continued on page 4**



# Give Them Shelter...

No Bones About It!



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Rochester Toyota is **committed to helping** provide shelter to all animals large and small.

# How to get your cat to use the litter box

*continued from page 3*

It's no wonder they choose another spot! Cats also prefer clumping litter over non-clumping, and clay over other materials. Finally, choose non-scented litter over scented.

If your cat's litter box options are good and they still choose inappropriate locations, your cat may have a medical problem. Often cats that have pain when eliminating will not use the litter box. Medical problems related to house soiling include bladder infection, bladder stones, inflammatory cystitis, constipation, and arthritis. Your veterinarian can diagnose and treat these problems.

Finally, if your cat is not spayed or neutered, that is the very first thing you should do to fix a house soiling problem. Cats mark territory with urine as a way of communicating. Cats that are spayed or neutered are much less likely to mark with urine.

If you can't fix your cat's house soiling problem on your own, you may need to consult a veterinary behaviorist who specializes in pet behavior problems. These vets can evaluate your cat's entire situation and give you a plan to stop the problem. Here are two veterinary behaviorists in our area:

Dr. Michelle Posage, Nashua, NH:

<http://www.amcne.com/services/behavior-medicine/>

Dr. Amy Marder, Lexington, MA:

<http://www.petbehaviorproblems.com>

If you understand what a cat truly wants in a toilet environment, you will have a good chance of preventing house soiling. Remember they aren't mad at you, they just might prefer your bed over that dirty, small litter box in the cellar. Think of the litter box from the cat's point of view and you'll understand better what they need.

1. Neilson, Jacqui, DVM, DACVB, Seminar: Urinary Problems, Medical, Surgical, Behavioral, 2012.

facebook

## Favorites

Did you adopt your pet from CVHS? Share their photo with us on Facebook and you may find your best friend spotlighted here or on our website.



We adopted Annie, formerly known as Reese, from CVHS in July 2012. I thought you'd like to see she has made herself right at home with her Golden brother, Oliver! She runs the house and isn't afraid to put Ollie in his place when needed :)

Posted by Kaitlyn Stone

My husband and I can never thank you enough for bringing us together with our cat Mitts a couple of years ago, he is an amazing cat and we couldn't love him more!

We are always telling people what a great setup your shelter has, with your separate room for adult cats where they get to leave their cages and sit in the windows and on your many cat towers. I really wish there were more shelters like yours in the world, your cats have a great quality of life while they're waiting to find their new homes and it was very obvious that your staff cares a great deal for all of your animals!

Posted by Laura Rogers



We brought Brady home in November and he settled right in with us. He has gone from being stressed and nervous to the biggest cuddle monster who loves everyone he meets. He does still insist on "killing" his toys though, like the frisbie above he successfully shredded at the beach last month.

Posted by Emily Bird

# A Word From the Shelter Manager

The month of December was very exciting for us and the animals at CVHS! We had a total of 115 adoptions! One very special adoption we had was that of Fauna. Fauna was a domestic short hair black cat who came to us in October of 2011 through a cruelty investigation. She was a sweet, frail, senior girl around the age of 17 years. She was nursed back to health, given the love and vet care she desperately needed, and spent most of her time at the shelter in an office. One of our cat volunteers fell in love with her and, despite her age, decided to adopt her. Fauna went to her loving, forever home mid December, just in time for Christmas!

I am looking forward to 2013 and the



**Fauna in her new home**

many upcoming events we have, as well as even more opportunities to make a difference for the animals that call CVHS their temporary home. One particular opportunity I enjoy being a part of is speaking to students regarding what we do

at CVHS and our mission. Many classrooms have put on donation drives or fundraisers that have benefited CVHS. It's wonderful to see young people become excited about making a positive difference in the lives of animals! We also recently began hosting birthday parties at CVHS. It's a great way for a young animal lover to celebrate their birthday, complete with a show and tell of some of our adoptable animals, a tour, and a fun activity, such as making enrichment toys for our rabbits. Please stop in and check out our wonderful animals waiting for their forever home, and if you ever have any questions regarding CVHS, my door is always open!

- Kate Koval, Shelter Manager



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# Fall Fundraisers for the Animals

It wasn't just the dogs who had cold noses at the 18th Annual Walk for the Animals. October 7th, 2012 was a chilly fall day for pets and their people, yet that didn't stop CVHS supporters from bundling their four-legged friends in sweaters and taking part in the ¾ mile pledge walk through the woods and orchards of DeMeritt Hill Farm. With more than 100 walkers and 16 vendors on site, Parade Your Pooch raised more than \$20,000 for the homeless animals at CVHS.



“Best Costume” Winner

The pledge walk was also the kick-off for the 2012 season of Haunted Overload. Taking place in the dark woods of DeMeritt Hill Farm in Lee, NH, Haunted Overload is one of the most creative and unique attractions in New England. Voted the #5 best haunt in the country by Weather Channel in 2011 and ranked as one of the top 20 best haunts in the world by Top Haunts Magazine for 2012, Haunted Overload combines movie quality sets, special effects, and live actors to create a truly chilling and one-of-a-kind experience.

Haunted Overload has a long tradition of helping animals in need and, in 2011, a partnership was formed with CVHS to present “Howl for the Animals”. When guests enjoy this spooktacular event, they are also helping animals in need as 10% of the proceeds are donated to CVHS. This year, Haunted Overload raised more than \$13,000 for the animals!



Thank you to DeMeritt Hill Farm, Haunted Overload, and everyone who participating in our fall events for the animals!



**Thank you to our friends at  
DeMeritt Hill Farm  
for generously donating the use of  
their beautiful farm for the 2012  
Parade Your Pooch!**



# Employee Spotlight: Carlene Lapierre, *Office Manager*

## Do you have a nickname?

Some people call me Carl for short. I was named after my Dad, Carl, so I don't mind it. I don't have any other that I know of.

## What makes you really happy?

Time. I enjoy having time to do things that I enjoy. I have a hobby farm and I truly enjoy spending time outside with my cows, horses, mini donkeys, chickens, and rabbits. The most enjoyable time, however, is spent with my grandchildren AND the animals. That to me is the most enjoyable use of my time imaginable.



## Which words or phrases to you most overuse?

"Oh my God" is one. I seem to be constantly amazed at what animals will do. The other is "seriously" because I hear so many things about animals each day that are strange, I always think someone is pulling my leg.

## What was on your mind on the way to work this morning?

Mostly planning out my agenda for the day such as what will I be tackling at work today, what time do I leave work today, what I have

to accomplish when I get home and how much time I have to accomplish it all.

## How did you get started at CVHS?

I was unemployed for a short period in 2002 and CVHS was advertising for an office manager. I came in for an interview, wasn't chosen, but the person that was chosen only showed up for a day and never came back again. Her loss was my gain. I was called in for a second interview and started working on September 19, 2002. 10 years later – here I am.

## What do you like most about working here?

Knowing that I help and assist in some small way to save the life of animals is what I love. It can be emotionally draining but, at the same time, rewarding. Some of us that work in the office area have the opportunity to help a shelter animal that may not be adjusting to a cage. While this is rewarding if it all works out, it can be heartbreaking if it doesn't. It can be a roller coaster of emotions sometimes but, most of the time, it is a rush knowing that you are working for a "higher" cause.

## How has working here changed your point of view?

I have become more educated about companion animals, more educated about people and how they interact with their animals, and, perhaps because of the latter, a little more "hardened" at times. But it is amazing to me how many people want to give of themselves to support CVHS. Time and money. Very impressive.

**Continued on page 8**

## WHERE BEST FRIENDS MEET



# Employee Spotlight:

## Carlene Lapierre

*continued from page 7*

### **Name one funny thing that has happened while working at the shelter?**

If you have an office with animals in it, you have a baby gate to climb over. I have seen many – I mean many – very funny incidents happen to people while trying to climb over a baby gate. It is one of the funniest visions in my head.

### **Has any animal left a lasting imprint on you and why?**

A cat that once was an office cat. His name is Carter. I have never seen a male cat that cared for very young kittens like he used to. He would clean them, snuggle them, and even let them try to nurse. He is a loveable cat that seems to have had an interesting life before Coheco. He is a very sweet cat.

### **What worries you?**

People. As much as all the animal rescues try to educate,, there are still people out there that don't know the proper way to care and love an animal.



**Chalmers, the first calf born on Carlene's farm**

### **What talent would you most like to have?**

Can I have super powers instead?

### **What was the last movie you saw in the theater?**

Grand Torino. I love Clint Eastwood and that was an awesome movie. I don't go to the theater often (as you can tell). I love the theater but rarely have the time and money to attend. If I have the time, I don't

have the money. If I have the money, I don't have the time.

### **What are your favorite shelter animal names, past or present?**

Jibba. She was an office cat with an attitude. She came here with that name and I loved the attitude that she had. If she wanted your attention, get moving and give it. If not, then back off quick!

### **What's your biggest pet peeve?**

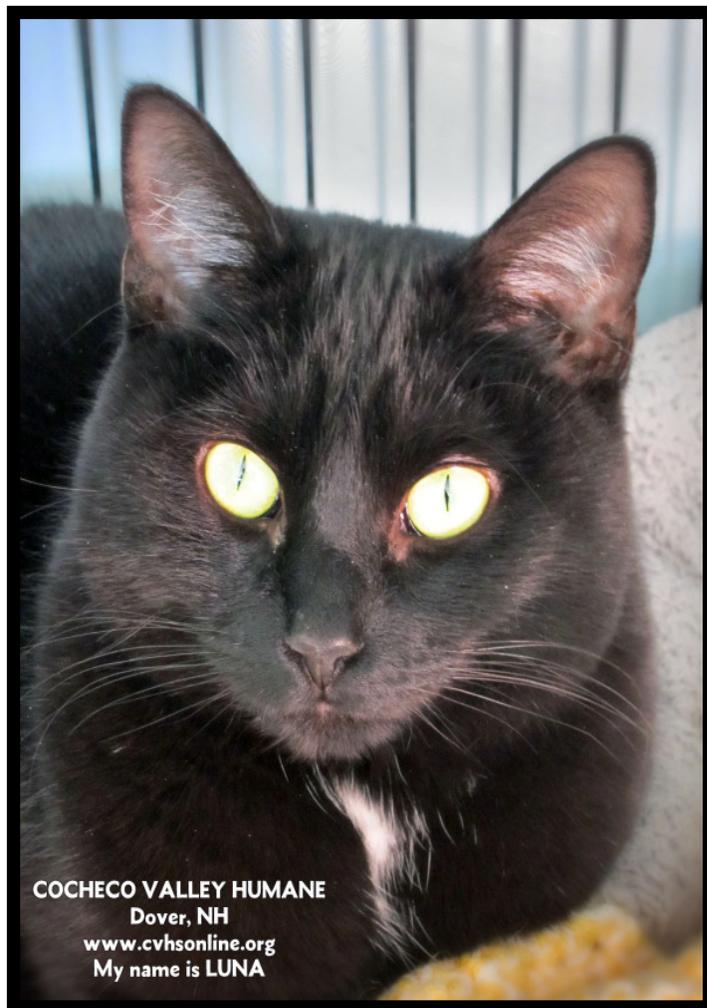
Cleanliness. I have not been able to potty train the cows and chickens yet, though! I am working on it ... still.

### **If you could come back as an animal, which animal would that be?**

I admire dogs more but I think cats get more attention and they could get the best of both worlds. They also live longer usually than dogs do. But parrots can live to be 80 and they get spoiled, as well. And they can talk. Yep – it would have to be a parrot.

### **What's the first thing you're going to do when you get home today?**

Take care of animals! What else is there?



# Indulge at the CVHS Dessert Tasting

Cocheco Valley Humane Society wants to invite you to indulge guilt-free at our 16th Annual Creature Comforts Dessert Tasting and Silent Auction.

Taking place Sunday, March 24th from 1-4pm at the Regatta Room in Eliot, ME, the Dessert Tasting allows guests to bid on fabulous auction items and sample decadent desserts from the area's finest bakeries and restaurants, all while supporting the homeless animals at CVHS. This popular event will once again be hosted by our friends Mark Ericson and Karen Kiley from WOKQ'S Morning Waking Crew and will feature music by jazz guitarist "Smooth Tony".



**WOKQ'S Mark Ericson leads the live auction**

"This year, we're going to be offering a special sneak peek at some of our auction items in

the weeks leading up to the event," said Alaina Goodnough, Promotions Coordinator at CVHS. "Starting on February 24th, we'll be featuring a different auction item every day on Facebook, the website, and a special Dessert Tasting board on Pinterest."

Adopters will once again have the chance to include their beloved pets in the annual CVHS Alumni Slide Show that will be presented at this event. Now through March 1st, adopters can email photos of their pets to [devassist@cvhsonline.org](mailto:devassist@cvhsonline.org). Please be sure to include your pet's name so it can be included in the slide show.

Animals looking for their new home will also make a special appearance during the event to help promote Champion's Fund. Created in 2008, the fund was named after Champion, a German shepherd who came to CVHS requiring a costly surgery on his deformed leg. Thanks to the generosity of the community, CVHS was able to collect enough donations to cover the cost of Champion's surgery. Now, with the Champion's Fund, supporters can make donations to help pay for the medical care of future animals in need that come to CVHS.

According to CVHS Development Manager Nicole Pelletier, the Dessert Tasting is the

largest fundraiser of the year for the Champion's Fund. "We're very grateful to the guests at this event who generously donate to this special fund. Whether you can donate \$5 or \$500, every little bit helps. We've been lucky enough to collect around \$3,000 at past Dessert Tastings and are hoping to do just as well this year."



The dessert tasting sells out year after year, so be sure to make your reservation today! Tickets are \$25.00 in advance or, if still available, \$30.00 at the door. Reservations can be made online at [www.cvhsonline.org](http://www.cvhsonline.org) or by calling 603-749-5322 ex. 112.



## RABIES AND MICROCHIP CLINIC



April 6, 2013  
11am to 3pm



Cocheco Valley Humane Society

\$25 Microchip (includes registration)  
\$10 Rabies Vaccine  
Cash or checks only

\*For 3 year vaccine. MUST have proof of previous vaccine



Send your question to [adminassist@cvhsonline.org](mailto:adminassist@cvhsonline.org).  
Please put Dear Denzi in the subject bar.

### Dear Denzi,

My parents are getting ready for Valentine's Day and have lots of chocolate in the house. I know chocolate is bad for dogs, but I'm dying to get my paws on some of that candy! How can I curb my craving for chocolate?  
- Cuckoo for Cocoa

### Dear Cuckoo,

Step away from the chocolate! Even in small amounts, chocolate is unsafe to eat. The darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is for animals. If you're looking for something to snack on, try filling a Kong toy with peanut butter. Not only is it tasty, it's a great way to take your mind off the tempting treats your parents are eating. And make sure your parents hide the chocolate some place you can't reach – just in case the temptation becomes too strong!

### Dear Denzi,

I'm a parrot who, up until recently, spent almost all of my time locked in a cage. My new family loves to let me

out, though, and I've been having a blast playing with my new toys, climbing all over my cage, and sitting on people's shoulders. Lately, I've been watching the birds outside the window that are visiting our bird feeder. It looks like so much fun to fly around like they do! Why do my parents clip my wings to keep me from flying?  
- Clipped and Curious

### Dear Clipped,

I like watching the birds at the bird feeder, too! As hard as it must be to watch the other birds flying around, you have to remember that your parents clipped your wings because they love you and want to keep you safe. Things like windows and ceiling fans are no real threat to animals like me, but a bird like you could get seriously injured if you accidentally flew into them. Believe it or not, I've even seen stray birds brought to the shelter who accidentally flew out open doors and couldn't find their way back home! Stay safe - and enjoy your new, loving family!

## CVHS Launches "Bring Us Home" Building Campaign

The chill of winter reminds all of us at the shelter how badly we need a new facility. As many people already know, a majority of the shelter is located in a 125-year-old building that was once part of a county work farm. Although the building has served us well since the shelter opened in 1984, the needs of our shelter have grown too great for the small, old building to handle.

With everything from small inconveniences (no running water in a majority of the building; one small bathroom for the entire facility) to outright problems (leaks; gaps in walls), our shelter challenges us on daily basis to complete even the smallest and simplest of tasks. That is why CVHS is thrilled to announce the "Bring Us Home" campaign to raise funds for a new shelter!

As exciting as this journey will be, the road to a new home for the animals is a long one. More importantly, it is one that we cannot travel alone! We invite everyone to visit our website at [www.cvhsonline.org/progress.cfm](http://www.cvhsonline.org/progress.cfm) to see updates on the building process.



[cvhsonline.org](http://cvhsonline.org)

**adopt.honor.advocate**



### The Road So Far...

- \* September 4th, 2012 - CVHS signs the intent to lease a new piece of land with Strafford County. This land is located in the Strafford County Complex.
- \* Working with Stewart Associates Architects, LLC from Laconia, NH on a building design.
- \* Land survey completed by McEneaney Survey Associates from Dover, NH.
- \* November 10th, 2012 - Received commitment of services and supplies from Central Paint of Dover, NH

# Winter Tips for Your Best Friend

It's winter, and that means we're all bundling up in thick sweaters, heavy coats, and warm boots. But what are we doing for our pets? Are they ready for the bitter cold that will hang over New England for the next few months? Just because they're wearing fur coats doesn't mean they're ready!

Volunteer dog walkers at the shelter have grown accustomed to seeing small coats hanging on the sides of the dog kennels. While many people tend to think of dog clothing as being limited to small breeds, such as Chihuahuas, even large breed dogs may need a little extra help staying warm when the temperature drops. If your dog has short hair, a coat will make them a lot more comfortable during the winter months. There are now many companies that offer dog coats in lots of sizes!



The cold, snow, and ice often take their toll on pets' feet, so be sure to wipe your pet's paws after every outdoor adventure. Cleaning your pet's paws will remove painful snow and ice building up as well as prevent them from licking off any salt or antifreeze – both of which are toxic to pets. As an added measure of safety, be sure to use pet-safe salt on

driveways and walkways.

Although dog boots do exist to help protect your pet's feet on winter walks, another option is Musher's Secret Wax. Originally designed for sled dogs, Musher's Secret Wax is like an invisible boot. Made of a blend of natural, food-safe waxes, Musher's Secret Wax is a safe, non-toxic way to protect your pet from salt, ice, and rough terrain. To learn more about Musher's Secret Wax, visit their website at [www.musherssecretwax.com](http://www.musherssecretwax.com).

Just like people, pets are susceptible to frost bite. And, like a scene straight from *A Christmas Story*, their tongues can, in fact, freeze to their metal water dishes. Whenever your pet is going to be outside for extended periods of time during the winter, remember to offer them a warm, dry area where they can escape the wind and elements. Plastic water bowls are a safer alternative to metal, but remember to check them often to make sure the water has not frozen solid.

For more tips on how you can keep your best friend safe, happy, and warm this winter, visit [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org).

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I'm a

Seeking 

- a warm lap
- lots of catnip
- a cozy bed
- toys to play with
- a sunny windowsill

**FEBRUARY**  
**ADOPTION SPECIAL**

February 9th through 23rd  
\$14 for cats over 6 months old

FREE adoption for cats over 6 months  
on February 14th!

# Shelter's First Indoor Yard Sale a Big Success

Animal lovers and yard sale enthusiasts alike came out in droves on January 19th to support Cochecho Valley Humane Society's first indoor yard sale. Taking place at Somersworth High School, the yard sale featured countless treasures donated by community members.

With every item priced to sell, supporters eagerly filled box after box with clothes, toys, books, and knick knacks. At the end of the day,



Kelly Bowen, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator at CVHS and organizer of the event, was hoping to raise \$3,000 for the shelter.

"We ended up bringing \$3,225.21," Kelly said. "Everyone was so generous at this event. Usually at yard sales, people try to talk the prices down. At this event, people were raising the prices! If we told them an item was \$3, they'd say, 'How about \$5?' It was really heart warming to see how much people wanted to help the animals."

To remind everyone what cause they were supporting, several animals available for adoption at the shelter

were on site for the entire event. While Pete, a cockatiel, serenaded guests with his chirps and whistles, 10-week-old lab mix Sage indulged in ear scratches and cuddles.



**Casper the ferret was a big hit at the yard sale**

The real star of the day, however, was Casper, a white and grey ferret brought into CVHS as a stray less than a week before. When he wasn't getting carried around by one of the volunteers or staff members, Casper was amusing shoppers by chasing his toys through out the yard sale.

"I think having the animals here is really important," said Kelly. "We want people to be able to see first hand who their helping when they make a donation."

This event would not have been possible without the hard work of the CVHS Yard Sale Committee, donations from the community, and support from Eagle Storage, Pizza Hut, Petco-Dover, All Points Vending, Somersworth High School, Foster's Daily Democrat, and WOKQ. With many items still left to sell, another yard sale may be in the future!



## THANK YOU

Dr. Michael J. O'Connell,  
PainCare, and all our  
supporters for helping us  
reach our goal for the  
2012 holiday appeal!



# The Faces of CVHS



My name is **Hank** and I'm a big, laid back, sweet guy. Although I walk well on leash, I am very strong, so I would do best with an owner who is familiar with large dogs. I'm looking for a home where I can be the only child - no kids (16 and older only, please!), cats, or other dogs. Do you have room in your home for a big guy like me?

**Age:** 6 1/2 years **Sex:** NM **Breed:** Bloodhound mix



I am **Emo**, a silly black and white boy who loves to peek down at you from high places. I'm a young boy with bright eyes and a happy personality, good with other cats, and shyly affectionate. Do you need a goofball in your life? A silly oreo-cookie face that will always make you smile? Then remember my name, E-M-O, there you go! I am in the Community Cat Room just beyond where the small animals are. Come ask for me, and if you like clown kitties, you should not miss me! And I don't want to miss you. Come get me!

**Age:** 4 years **Sex:** NM **Breed:** DSH

Hello, my name is **Halo**. I'm a cute little parrot with a big personality! I like to make a lot of noises, but I don't know any words. I've been having fun playing with all the toys in my cage at the shelter, but what I really love is to spend time riding around on someone's shoulder. I can be shy around new people, so I'll need an experienced parrot owner who is willing to take the time to get to know me and make me feel comfortable. If you're patient with me, I'll be your best friend forever!

**Age:** Adult **Sex:** Male **Breed:** Parrot Mix



Hello, my name is **George**. I am a flame-point Siamese with velvety-soft long hair (in my photo I'd just had a haircut!) and pale blue eyes. I am wonderfully mellow, get along very well with other cats, and adore most people. Come meet me and I'll saunter right up to you and look up into your eyes with my baby blues, purring gently and asking to be petted. I'm not super keen on little kids, though, so I would prefer an adults-only home. I am also declawed. Please come meet me today! I would like to go home with you!

**Age:** 9 1/2 years **Sex:** NM **Breed:** Siamese mix



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ADOPTION CENTER HOURS

**Monday:** Closed

**Tuesday:** 11am to 5pm

**Wednesday:** Closed

**Thursday:** 11am to 6pm

**Friday:** 11am to 5pm

**Saturday:** 11am to 5pm

**Sunday:** 11am to 4pm

# Meet Nicole: CVHS Development Manager

Having over twelve years experience in non-profit development, I hope to bring fresh ideas and support to Cochecho Valley Humane Society. I began my career at a non-profit community center in Mount Desert Island, ME, where I wore many hats. Working on all aspects of fundraising, coordinating special events, managing volunteers, organizing fitness programs, and more allowed me to learn all aspects of running a successful non-profit organization.

I look forward to continuing my career in non-profit development at CVHS and am excited to be part of making a difference.

Having worked in non-profits for quite some time, I know first hand how much each dollar and each helping hand means to the organization.

Together, WE can make the difference.

Cochecho Valley Humane Society is truly a special place. As the new Development Manager, I look forward to helping CVHS reach it's goals. I look forward to meeting our supporters and community members, as well as working closely with them to accomplish our mission of finding loving homes for deserving pets.



**New Development Manager Nicole Pelletier with her dog Escher**

When I am not hard at work for CVHS, I enjoy anything outdoors. My favorite activity of all is taking walks with my dog Escher on the beach!

- Nicole Pelletier, Development Manager

## YOU'RE INVITED...

### 16th Annual Creature Comforts Dessert Tasting & Silent Auction



Sunday, March 24, 2013 ~ 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The Regatta Ballroom ~ Eliot, Maine

- ★ Come and sample an array of delectable desserts from the area's finest bakeries, cafés, chocolatiers and more!
- ★ Bid on silent auction items, including gift certificates, artwork, and entertainment packages!
- ★ Tickets are \$25.00 and are on sale now at [cvhsonline.org](http://cvhsonline.org) or by calling 603-749-5322, Ext 112.

**Proceeds benefit the animals of Cochecho Valley Humane Society**

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COCHECHO VALLEY HUMANE  
Dover, NH  
[www.cvhsonline.org](http://www.cvhsonline.org)  
My name is DOTT



# CVHS Gets New Volunteer Coordinator: Kelly Bowen

I have always had a deep love of animals and knew that I would one day pursue a career in the animal field - specifically, at CVHS. I was lucky enough to get my dream job!



**Kelly Bowen**

Prior to becoming the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator in August 2012, I was an Adoption Counselor for the shelter. I loved being able to work directly with the animals and help adopters find their perfect match. Before that, I was a CVHS volunteer for more than two years. I socialized with the animals, cleaned cages, and helped with special events and outreach programs.

In addition to my volunteer work at CVHS, I am currently a big sister with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and have previously volunteered at the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick, ME, and Animal Welfare Society in Kennebunk, ME.

Throughout my career, I have worked at hotels, restaurants, and retail stores as either a manager or trainer and have travelled extensively in those roles. I have been married for 28 years and have a daughter (who currently works as an Adoption Counselor at CVHS!), grandson, four cats, a corgi, and many foster cats that I care for in my office!

I'm looking forward to adding new opportunities to our volunteer program and expanding our outreach programs. I've really enjoyed getting to know all our wonderful volunteers and welcome anyone interested in learning more about our program to contact me. My door is always open; stop by and say hello!

- Kelly Bowen, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

## JOIN THE CVHS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM!

Visit the volunteer section of our website to learn more about our many volunteer opportunities, including:

- \* Walking dogs
- \* Cleaning cages
- \* Socializing with animals
- \* Special events
- \* Foster care
- \* Dishes and laundry
- \* Humane Education
- \* Office work
- \* Offsite adoption events
- \* Collecting money from donation banks
- \* And more!

[www.cvhsonline.org](http://www.cvhsonline.org)

# Bunny Basics

At CVHS, we think it's safe to say that the average person who comes to our shelter is looking for either a dog or cat. Rarely do we see people come in with the intention of adopting a rabbit or other small animal. Based on the many conversations we've had with adopters, the reason for this seems simple: the average person just doesn't know what to do with a bunny. After all, what's the point of having one? Don't they just sit in a cage all day?

Wrong!

Rabbits are one of the coolest pets you can have. Not only are they incredibly social, they're smart, as well. Much like a dog, your rabbit will be thrilled to play a good game of fetch. If you roll a ball for them, they will likely chase it. And you can train them! One of the first things the rabbits at the shelter learn is how to use a litter box – just like a cat! One rabbit even came to us clicker trained. Although we never could figure out what she was trained to do (sit?), it does prove that rabbits are trainable animals that crave interaction.

Bunnies get bored just as easily as we do, so they need owners willing to give them plenty of play time. Although we let the shelter rabbits have play time throughout the day in a playpen, they are happiest when we bring them into the offices to explore. Our own shelter cat, Denzi, loves rabbits so much we often let him curl up with them in their cages - and the rabbits are happy to have a friend!

So why don't more people own rabbits?

Well, they're a lot of work. They're pretty much the equivalent of having a dog or cat in the house, and yet, with bunnies, you can't just open a can of food and plop it in a dish for them. Bunnies need a lot of different foods in their diets to keep them healthy, including fresh hay. And, as it has already been mentioned, bunnies need to have mental stimulation so they're not bored. Despite popular belief, rabbits are not oversized hamsters that live for two years and are content just playing alone in a cage. Rabbits can live for 8-12 years (sometimes even more!) and require daily out-of-cage time.



**Bunnies get bored sitting in their cages all day alone**

**Continued on page 16**

# Bunny Basics

*continued from page 15*

Rabbits are also not the ideal pet for families with young children. In fact, when most people come in looking for a rabbit for their small child, many Adoption Counselors will ask, “Have you considered getting a cat?” At least the cat can get away when it has had enough attention and – even better – land on its feet if a child should lose its grip.

Why do we discourage adopters from getting rabbits for their children? Mainly because rabbits are incredibly fragile and yet, at the same time, very powerful. Have you ever looked at a rabbit’s back legs? A rabbit’s best defense is to kick – and those back legs are strong! In fact, a rabbit’s kick is so powerful it can even break its own back from the force! It’s hard enough for adults to properly handle rabbits, let alone children who do not have the same amount of strength. Should a child (or anyone of any age) lose their grip on a rabbit and drop it, it can cause some serious physical damage to the bunny. That’s why you’ll always see us instruct children and non-experienced rabbit owners to meet the bunnies by sitting down and allowing us to put the bunnies in their laps.

Of course, every child is different and yours may be the exception to all this. In the end, as long as YOU are knowledgeable about handling bunnies and can enforce the rules about what is and is not okay to do with them, any child should do just fine in a home with rabbits.



So, do you think a bunny is a good addition to your home?

Be sure to stop by the shelter to meet the many wonderful bunnies we currently have available for adoption. All of the rabbits we have in our care now were born at the shelter this past summer and have been patiently waiting for their forever homes ever since.

Even if you’re not ready to adopt, the rabbits would love to have some one-on-one time with somebody new. For anyone really interested in learning more about bunnies, we are always in need of volunteers to help clean cages and socialize with the animals. This is a great way to gain bunny experience without committing to a new pet.

For some great information on rabbits, visit [www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org).



# Spotlight Volunteer Opportunities

CVHS is always in need of volunteers to help with everything from laundry to special events. Here are two of our newest opportunities for volunteers:

## **HUMANE EDUCATION:**

The Humane Education program gives CVHS the opportunity to teach kids about safety around animals, educate them about the shelter, and talk about how to treat animals humanely. This program involves traveling to area schools to give presentations to children of various ages, as well as leading tours at CVHS for groups of children who want to learn about the functions of a humane society. We encourage anyone who has experience with public speaking, a background in teaching, or who enjoys spending time with children to apply for this program. Volunteers interested in this program will go through a special interview and training process.

## **EVENT PLANNERS:**

Do you enjoy putting on a great show? Do you have experience organizing events? CVHS is seeking highly motivated volunteers to help organize and run various fundraisers throughout the year. With the support of the staff, event planners would be responsible for managing our fundraisers throughout the year, including current fundraisers and new future events. Event planners should be comfortable reaching out to businesses for sponsorships, donations, and support (securing venues, menu planning, etc.). Volunteers must be well organized, proficient in Microsoft Office, and comfortable speaking with potential vendors and supporters. Volunteers interested in this opportunity will go through a special interview and training process.

## **GETTING STARTED:**

All volunteers must go through an application and training process. The minimum age to volunteer is 14 with an adult or 16 without an adult. Applications are available on the volunteer section of our website at: [www.cvhsonline.org/volunteer.cfm](http://www.cvhsonline.org/volunteer.cfm). To learn more about the volunteer program, contact Kelly Bowen at [volunteerc@cvhsonline.org](mailto:volunteerc@cvhsonline.org) or 603-749-5322 ex. 111.

# HELP US GO GREEN



Join our email list at [www.cvhsonline.org](http://www.cvhsonline.org)  
and receive our e-newsletters, appeals,  
and other important shelter updates.  
Every dollar we save on postage is another  
dollar that can help a homeless animal.

## THANK YOU!

## About Cocheco Valley Humane Society

Cocheco Valley Humane Society (CVHS) is a community-funded, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the humane treatment of animals in Strafford County, NH and Southern Maine. Every year, we provide a safe haven to more than 2,300 surrendered, lost, abused, neglected, or unwanted animals. Our mission is to provide quality, compassionate care and shelter to our animals, in partnership with education the community concerning animal treatment and welfare.

CVHS is only as strong as the support we receive from our community. There are several ways individuals, organizations, and businesses can help us sustain our mission.

### JOIN US

#### Become a supporter:

- Support our mission financially
- Donate goods or services
- Sponsor an event
- Host a donation bank
- Host a fundraiser, supply drive,  
or off-site adoption

#### Volunteer:

- Help provide care, socialization  
and love to our animals
- Become a foster parent
- Join a CVHS committee
- Assist with community outreach  
and fundraising events

For information on how to support the animals of CVHS,  
visit our website at [www.cvhsonline.org](http://www.cvhsonline.org)