



The Happy Howl

The Newsletter for the Volunteers of
Cocheco Valley Humane Society

Spring 2010

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It's raining cats and kittens!

Spring is here again! The snow is gone, flowers are blooming, and kittens are pouring into the shelter! Each year during the spring and summer months, CVHS has upwards of 300 cats and kittens in its care. With a shelter designed to comfortably hold roughly 130 cats, this is obviously a large problem. In addition to space issues, we also find ourselves struggling to keep up with the food and litter needs of our feline residents. To help prepare for this influx of animals, we're holding a Kitten Shower on May 1st and 2nd from 11am-4pm in the courtyard of the shelter, at Petco in Dover, and at Petco in Newington! We will collect donations of food, toys, litter, and blankets for the cats. Please join us on May 1st and 2nd and meet all our new residents! Volunteer help is also needed - contact Alaina to sign up!



**Come meet
a new friend at
the shelter!**



**June is
Adopt a Cat
month!**

Calling all bakers! The kitten shower wouldn't be a party without lots of goodies! We need cookies, brownies, cupcakes, and any other kind of treat that will be easy for guests to carry and eat. Baked goods do not need to be individually wrapped. Please label all containers and plates so they can be returned to you. All baked goods can be dropped off anytime from 8am-5pm on Friday April 30th or Saturday May 1st before 11am. Please contact Alaina at 603-749-5322 ext 111 or volunteerc@cvhsonline.org if you plan on bringing treats to the kitten shower. Thank you!



We need foster parents!

Have you always wanted a kitten but don't have the time to commit to a new pet?

Become a foster parent! With the shelter bursting at the seams with cats and kittens during the spring and summer months, we rely heavily on our dedicated team of foster volunteers. Fostering is an incredibly rewarding experience. An application is required and can be picked up at the shelter or received by mail. Foster parents must be at least 21 years old and should have a separate room available for foster animals. Still not sure that foster care is right for you? We encourage all longtime, new, and potential foster parents to attend

Thank You Bingo Volunteers!

Attention all Bingo volunteers! We want to say THANK YOU for all the hard work you have done to support the shelter. On **May 1st at 8:30am**, we will be holding a thank you breakfast for all the Bingo volunteers at Stafford Farms restaurant in Dover. Last year, the staff and volunteers had a great time laughing and sharing stories together. If you are a Bingo volunteer and would like to attend this event, please RSVP to Alaina at 603-749-5322 ext 111 or volunteerc@cvhsonline.org.

Every Saturday, Seacoast Bingo Hall hosts a Bingo game, the proceeds of which benefit the animals at Cocheco Valley Humane Society. The game is almost entirely volunteer-run and we are always looking for new Bingo volunteers to assist in counting and distributing tickets, behind the scenes office work, and a whole lot more! Volunteers are asked to commit to one Saturday evening per month. No prior experience is required, but you must have a clean criminal record and be 21 to participate. If you are interested in volunteering at Bingo, stop by Seacoast Bingo Hall any Saturday night and meet Bingo Manager



Thank you to everyone who helped make the Dessert Tasting and Silent Auction a success! We raised \$22,100 for the animals, \$2,172 of which will go to the Champion's Fund to help with medical expenses. THANK YOU!

We're having a Papa Gino's fundraiser!



On Thursday, April 29th, Papa Gino's in Dover will donate 20% of their sales to Cocheco Valley Humane Society! The fundraiser takes place from 5-9pm and includes both eat in and carry out orders, but not on deliveries. **You must present a flyer when making your purchase in order for CVHS to receive a donation.** Flyers are available at the shelter on the volunteer sign in desk or on our website. Enjoy some pizza and help the animals at the same time!



We're looking for ponies!

Do you or someone you know own a pony? For our upcoming craft fair on July 10 in Barrington, we'd like to offer pony rides to benefit the shelter. Owners would have to be available the day of the event to run the pony rides. Please contact our special events manager, Laura Clark, at specialevents@cvhsonline.org or 749-5322 ext 113 for more information.

Wanted: Small Animal Socializers

The small animal room, located just a few steps from the volunteer sign in desk, is a busy place these days. With many rabbits being brought in from the House Rabbit Society, our small animal room is currently overflowing with loving bunnies (as well as ferrets and guinea pigs) who need just as much socializing as the shelter cats and dogs. As with any animal at the shelter, the more we handle the small animals, the friendlier they will be when potential adopters come to see them. If you have some spare time, please consider spending a few minutes in the small animal room petting, holding, or playing with the many sweet animals awaiting their forever home. When handling the small animals, please keep in mind a few things:

- In general, rabbits do not like to be held in the air. If you are handling them, they will be most comfortable in their playpen or in your lap while you sit in a chair or on the floor
- Please remember that rabbits are VERY powerful. To avoid injury to both yourself and the bunny, don't try to hold any rabbit that is fighting to be put down.
- Rabbits LOVE treats - it's ok to give the rabbits a few goodies now and then, but please do not feed them excessively. This means pellets, too! Bunnies have a sweet tooth and will ignore healthy food in favor of treats.
- Ferrets are very social animals that love to play. They're also very clever animals that can open cage doors and slip out of play pens. If you take the ferrets out, be sure to supervise them at all times! They have even been known to open the cage of the cat carrier they are put in while their cage is being cleaned!
- Like cats and dogs, small animals may enter "fight or flight" mode when someone reaches into their cage. Remember that, because of their eye placement, rabbits cannot see you head on. When reaching into a cage to pet a rabbit, make sure they are able to see your hand before you touch them to avoid startling them.
- Have fun with them! Many people don't realize just how playful rabbits are. While some enjoy just stretching out on your lap while getting a good brushing, a surprising number of them love to chase a ball if you roll it across the floor for them!



Feel free to visit Alaina anytime if you have questions about how to handle the rabbits. We have a great group of small animals who are looking for some interaction!

You can raise money for the animals at CVHS just by doing your normal errands!



We're always looking to expand our donation bank program to include more locations. Currently, donation banks are located everywhere from health food stores to gift shops. Do you frequent a local store that might be willing to house a bank for us? Come to the next donation bank meeting on May 18th at 5pm at the shelter to learn more about how you can be part of this program that raises \$9,000 each year for the shelter. Current donation bank volunteers are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting, as well. Maintaining a donation bank is easy and requires as little as a once a month pick up. ***Every dollar makes a difference!***

**Cocheco Valley Humane
Society**

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cvhsonline.org



Cocheco Valley Humane Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the 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.

Upcoming Events

April

4/29 Papa Gino's Fundraiser

5pm-9pm at the Central Ave restaurant in Dover. 20% of proceeds will go to CVHS. You must present a flyer in order for the shelter to receive a donation - pick one up at the shelter!

May

5/1 Kitten Shower

11am-4pm at CVHS, Petco in Dover, and Petco in Newington.

5/1 Bingo Volunteer Breakfast

8:30am at Strafford Farms Restaurant in Dover.

5/1 Myhre Equine Clinic Kentucky Derby Party

9am-5pm at the Myhre Equine Clinic in Rochester.

5/18 Donation Bank Meeting

5pm at the shelter

5/25 Foster Care Orientation

5pm at the shelter

June

6/19 Somersworth International Children's Festival

9am-4pm on Main Street in Somersworth. We're going to need lots of volunteer help and kissing booth dogs!

July

7/10 4th Annual Summer Sun & Fun Craft Festival

9am-4pm at Calef's Field in Barrington. Keep an eye out for the volunteer sign up sheet!