

∞ Annual Report to the Community

2000



The mission of Cocheco Valley Humane Society is to provide quality, compassionate care and shelter to our animals, in partnership with educating the community concerning animal treatment and welfare.



Compassion & Hope since 1984



Strafford County Complex ~ 262 County Farm Road ~ Dover, NH 03820
(603) 749-5322 ~ www.cvhsonline.org

Celebrating 25 Years of Compassion & Hope

Since its inception in 1984, Cocheco Valley Humane Society has grown to provide shelter and care for thousands of deserving, surrendered, homeless and stray animals each year. Over the last 25 years, numerous programs have been developed to assist community members – with the ultimate goal of keeping pets in their homes and out of the shelter.

2008 was a year of progress. In our commitment to the renewed humane movement across our nation, CVHS has made great strides in our efforts to save and improve more lives, to help end pet overpopulation in our communities and to foster the bond between people and animals.

Expanding our capacity to shelter more cats and kittens in 2008. Stray and abandoned cats left unaltered have become a serious epidemic in our communities. Statistics show that one unspayed female cat and her mate produce two litters per year. On average, 2.8 kittens survive per litter. This number in combination with all of the offspring, results in over 67 unwanted kittens in just two years. These unwanted kittens and adult cats fend for themselves, while continuing to reproduce.

Our inadequate holding capacity was not sufficient to shelter and care for the hundreds of homeless cats and kittens that came through our doors throughout this year's "kitten season", which started in March and ended in early December. To meet the overwhelming need for sanctuary, we were forced to convert a storage barn into a heated and air-conditioned incoming cat room. CVHS now has six cat

holding rooms and we rely on more than 20 volunteer foster homes to provide hope for the feline residents that rely on us for a second chance.

The shelter's new spay/neuter suite is now fully operational. Made possible through a grant from Red Acre Foundation, generous donations of equipment and supplies from Animal Health Center of Rochester and VCA Animal Hospital of Portsmouth, and help from Rakens A to Z Services, CVHS is now able to alter many of our own animals in-house before going to their new forever homes.

Our Visiting Vet, Dr. Cindy Hoisington of Animal Health Center, generously



Dr. Cindy Hoisington and Amy Comeau of Animal Health Center prepare a resident cat for spay/neuter procedure

volunteers her time once a month to perform spay/neuter procedures. In addition, once a week she evaluates resident animals, prescribes needed medications and administers rabies vaccinations. Dr. Asya Zolotusky of Concord Area Veterinary Services also donated countless hours of her time in the past year to spay/neuter our animals.

With the compassion and generosity of these two individuals, CVHS was able to alter nearly half of our resident companions in-house.

2008

Cocheco Valley Humane Society
Board of Directors

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William Phipps

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Our History

In 1982, an unused farm building in the Strafford County Complex – a former piggery – was transformed to house stray animals in response to the needs of Rollinsford, Barrington, Farmington, Milton, Madbury, Strafford, New Durham, Dover and Somersworth. Named the Granite State Humane Society, funding and limited capacity soon became issues and the facility was later closed.

A small group of community members, determined to create a place for homeless animals, stepped in and through their tireless commitment and dedication, the Cocheco Valley Humane Society came to be. "It could have been permanently closed if not for the many hours of hard work by some very dedicated individuals," stated Dr. William Lowe of Broadview Animal Hospital, who was elected the first President of the CVHS Board of Directors in 1984.

Despite the endless challenges and hurdles, the board of directors scoured, disinfected, tore apart, rebuilt and equipped the facility. Awareness and public relations through posters, newsletters, membership drives, fundraising bake sales and yard sales were essential in those early days – and the community soon responded. Donations were gratefully received, animals were adopted to new homes and owners who could no longer care for their pets knew there was a safe place that offered care, compassion and hope.

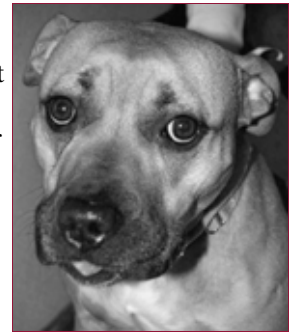
Animals In Our Care

In 2008, the number of animals arriving at our door largely increased due to these challenging economic times. Many owners were forced to surrender their beloved pet because they had lost their home and were moving to an apartment that didn't allow pets.

Still more animals, mostly stray cats – often entire litters - were brought to us by concerned citizens who found them and wanted to be sure they were safe.

We are glad that CVHS can be that safety net – and with the community's continued support – know we'll be here well into the future for animals in need.

As an *open admission* shelter, we accept all companion animals regardless of age, breed, temperament or medical issues. Throughout their stay, each animal receives whatever they need while waiting for the right family to adopt them – proper nutrition, a clean and warm bed, medical care, grooming and most importantly, a loving touch from a dedicated and compassionate group of staff and volunteers.



Aria found her new forever home

2008 Statistics

There is no time limit for the animals at CVHS.

Animals that came into our care	
Cats	1583
Dogs	521
Rabbits/Small Animals & Birds	144
Total	2248

Longest stay of a...	
Cat	7 months
Dog	2 months
Rabbit/Small Animal & Bird	11 months

Average stay of a...	
Cat	1 month
Dog	2 weeks
Rabbit/Small Animal & Bird	4 months

All healthy, adoptable and medically treatable animals that come into our care have a safe place for as long as it takes them to be adopted.



Chuck & Larry were adopted.

Amount of pet food and litter used

Canned cat food	11,220 cans
Dry cat food	7,573 lbs.
Cat litter	46,200 lbs.
Canned dog food	1,224 cans
Dry dog food	6,425 lbs.
Bales of shavings/hay	156 bales

*Plans are underway for a bigger, brighter future for CVHS!
More details to come.*

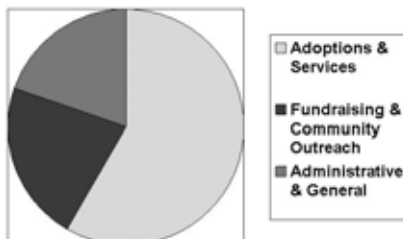
Financial Statement

EXPENSES

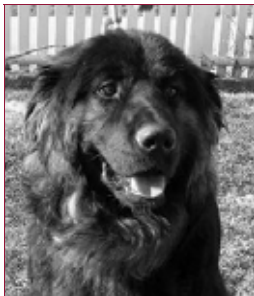
Adoptions and Services	\$ 432,861
Fundraising & Community Outreach	\$ 162,389
Administrative and General	\$ <u>145,758</u>
	\$ 741,008

INCOME

Donations & Fundraising (includes Bingo)	\$564,571
Adoption & Service Fees	\$ <u>160,122</u>
	\$724,693



Champions' Fund, a special medical fund launched in early 2008, was created to enable CVHS to help more deserving animals. Generous supporters in attendance at our



March Dessert Tasting and Silent Auction fundraiser contributed the original \$3,200, which was used to pay for a costly surgical procedure required for Champion (*left*), a sweet, 9-month old German Shepherd mix. Champion had come into our care with a deformed right front leg – the result of a break earlier in his young life that had never been

repaired. Today we are happy to report that Champion has a new family that adores him, and he walks confidently, unflinching.

CVHS' Humane Education program is now in full swing, under the direction of retired teacher, Jane Kennedy. Jane conducts shelter tours and presents to school and youth groups to spread the word about the importance of kindness and compassion in our everyday life. Through her presentations, young people – and adults, too - learn about the proper care of companion animals, safety around animals and the humane treatment of all living creatures – helping to ensure a more humane community for the future.

All of this progress didn't happen overnight. The very foundation from which we continue to grow began back in 1984, when a small group of animal lovers saw a need.

CVHS is extremely grateful for the support we receive from the local veterinary community, many of whom help us work toward our goal of spaying/neutering all pets before adoption. Their services are often discounted or sometimes free of charge.

Animal health professionals that supported CVHS' mission in 2008:

Animal Health Center - Rochester
Central Park Veterinary Clinic - Somersworth
Concord Area Veterinary Services - Concord
Dover Veterinary Hospital - Dover
Great Bay Animal Hospital - Durham
Great Falls Veterinary Hospital - Somersworth
Ocean Valley Veterinary Clinic - Stratham
Stratham-Newfields Veterinary Hospital - Newfields
The Cat Doctor of Dover - Dover
VCA Medical Center - Portsmouth
Veterinary Surgery of New England - Durham

2008 Grant Awards

Abraham Burtman Charity Trust
Rakoske Family Fund
The Normand A. Ramsey Family Foundation
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Sam's Club

2008 Bequests

We are grateful for the generosity and foresight of the following friends of the animals who left a legacy gift to CVHS through their will and estate plans in 2008:

Anne V. McKone
Thomas and Barbara Perez
Louise Rollins

Thank you

To the many friends who responded to our Holiday Appeal for the animals - and a big thank you to the CVHS Board of Directors for your holiday matching gift of \$11,000!

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we're looking forward to the next 25 years. Thank you to everyone who has supported our mission and our work. We hope you will continue to join us in our efforts to promote greater awareness and a more humane future for our four-legged companions.