

# Humane Society of Chittenden County

## 2020 Report to the Community



## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

*“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”* Mahatma Gandhi, Social Activist

Animals have come to mean so much in our lives especially during these unprecedented times. We are at an inflection point in our culture, our politics, our health and our environment, and our connection to one another. **The one constant that we have in our lives that we can agree on, and unconditionally depend on, is our beloved pets.**

In 2020, HSCC adopted 1,087 canines, felines and small companion animals to loving families. The demand for animals was tremendous and it was difficult to fulfill requests due to limited supply. Spay/neuter practices throughout the country have reduced overpopulation - a good thing - and there are less community animals surrendered by their owners; we hope this is due in part to the success of our ongoing **surrender prevention** efforts which keep animals with their families.



Joyce and HSCC alum Percy

For every animal that comes into our care, there is a team of caregivers devoted to him/her to ensure that they are happy, healthy and adoptable. As you read Rocco's and Milo & Mr. P's stories, you will see that our team addresses each animal's medical and behavioral needs and their general care and well-being from the moment they enter the shelter until they are re-homed. **The generous community support we receive makes these endeavors possible. Thank you.**

We believe that caring for animals does not begin and end at our shelter. That is why we are opening our **community pet health and wellness clinic** this spring. The clinic will offer affordable wellness checks, flea and heartworm prevention, vaccinations, microchips and spay/neuter services to those experiencing financial hardship. In addition, our **pet community outreach team** will be moving through the communities we serve, meeting people and their pets where they are and offering our services. Our **Good Neighbor and Rainy Day Programs** are vital to many of our neighbors and now, thanks to the benevolence of the Pomerleau family and friends, we have a newly established **Jess Cares Fund** in memory of Jess Pomerleau-Halnon. We are honored to perpetuate Jess's love for animals by helping those animals and families in need with their pet's medical care expenses.

The humane treatment of animals and their welfare means more to us than what our mission statement reflects. It is our purpose and our passion and it is deeply rooted in our belief that the human animal bond is inextricable and, as we have witnessed over the past year, as much of a gift to us as it is to them. So be it that our four legged friends exemplify the kindness and compassion that the world so desperately needs right now. **Let's help them to bring out the best in each of us.**

To better days ahead and with abiding gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joyce".

Joyce Cameron, President & CEO



# HUMANE SOCIETY OF CHITTENDEN COUNTY

## 2020 Impact Report

### Pet Adoptions

**1,087**  
adoptions!



**838**  
cats



**160**  
dogs



**89** small  
animals

**95.6%**

Live release rate

**23 Days**

Average length of  
shelter stay

### Medical & Wellness Care

**1,200+**  
exams



**1,558**

vaccinations



Facilitated  
**22** specialized  
surgeries and **379**  
spay/neuters (**144**  
performed in-house!)



**200+** pets  
fostered

### Community Partnerships



**42** feral cats  
trapped, neutered  
and returned to site

**365** pets transferred  
from high-volume  
shelters & local  
organizations



**16** stray dogs  
taken in from  
Animal Control



**90** kids & teens  
educated in Camp  
Paw Paw & Animal  
Welfare Warriors

**2,703**  
donors!

### Keeping Pets & People Together

Rainy Day Pet Fund &  
Good Neighbor Program

**250%**  
from  
2019!



Supported **68** families and  
their pets by providing  
shelter, care, and emergency  
veterinary services

Spay the Mom  
Program

**40+** cats & kittens  
spayed and  
neutered at no  
cost to their family



New Pet Helpline



**182** pet owners  
supported  
through free  
service to help  
with challenging  
pet behaviors &  
reduce pet  
relinquishment

Emergency  
Pet Food  
Shelf



Provided free pet  
food & supplies  
to **1,000+**  
families in need

Stay connected with HSCC!

/chittendenumane

@hsccvct

[hsccvct.org](http://hsccvct.org) | (802) 862-0135

142 Kindness Court  
South Burlington, VT 05403

## OUR MISSION



The mission of the Humane Society of Chittenden County (HSCC) is to foster compassionate treatment of animals and prevent animal suffering; to strengthen the human-animal bond; and to further the cause of responsible animal ownership through education and public awareness.

*In addition to **rehoming** animals in need, HSCC offers **humane education** programs, **assists law enforcement** with animal investigations, **transports** hundreds of animals from high-volume shelters, employs expert **dog behaviorists**, aids community pet owners through **surrender prevention programs**, and much more.*

### Jess Cares Fund

Jessica Pomerleau-Halnon was a great friend to HSCC. She loved animals and was passionate about rescuing dogs, including her beloved dog, Willard.

Sadly, Jessica passed away in August 2020. To honor Jessica, HSCC and her family established the **Jess Cares Fund** to support animals in need of veterinary care. Since August, more than one hundred donors have contributed to this fund, raising over \$50,000!

The Jess Cares Fund has supported surgery, diagnostics, and dental procedures for animals awaiting adoption. The fund is needed now more than ever, as more and more animals arrive at HSCC requiring medical care.

We hope you will consider supporting the Jess Cares Fund throughout the year and help HSCC care for all animals in need.



Visit [hscvct.org/jess-cares-fund](https://hscvct.org/jess-cares-fund) to give today.



## HUMANE EDUCATION

Camp looked a little different last summer. To keep everyone safe, HSCC welcomed a smaller yet passionate group of children and teen animal advocates. Ten 13-15 year olds graduated from our second year of **Animal Welfare Warriors** and students from our inaugural AWW returned for a new in-depth program. We also welcomed eighty 5-12 year old campers through our longstanding **Camp Paw Paw**.



**For more information about our humane education programs or to register for A.W.W. and Camp Paw Paw 2021, visit [hscvct.org](https://hscvct.org)!**

## HAPPY TAILS!



When **Mr. Particular (Mr. P)** was relinquished to HSCC in November 2019, he was shut down and afraid of visitors. Staff and volunteers spent weeks trying to coax Mr. P out of his shell. With not much progress, Mr. P was considered for our Barn Cat Program.

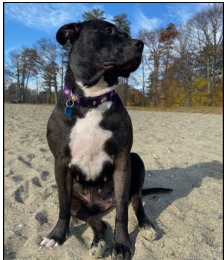


Hoping to help socialize Mr. P, staff introduced him to a more confident feline resident, **Milo**. Upon first meeting, Mr. P began purring and was smitten with his new best friend. In March 2020, Milo and Mr. P went into foster care together. Luckily for this bonded pair, their foster family officially adopted them!

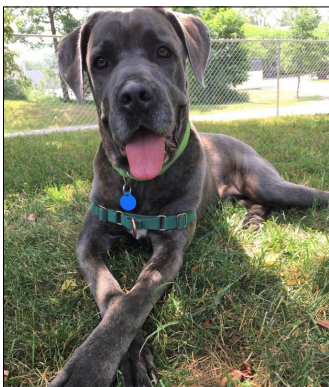


"Thanks to his "brother from another mother", Mr. P quickly became a loving, purring, playful boy. These two keep us laughing every day with their shenanigans. **The bond between them is simply amazing.** We can't imagine life without them."

*~Milo & Mr. P's family*



After 121 days and round-the-clock care by our committed staff, two knee surgeries (thanks to your generous donations!) and a few wonderful foster homes, **Cocoa was finally ready to find her new family!** Though still recuperating from surgery, Cocoa became available for adoption this February. Her new *leash* on life has just begun!



**Rocco** arrived at HSCC in June 2020. He was anxious, fearful of new people, especially of men, and kept to the corner of his kennel.

HSCC staff and dog trainers worked with Rocco for several weeks before he began to let his guard down and could begin the process

to find his new family. After months of support and encouragement, Rocco's silly side began to show and he and eagerly awaited visitors.



**After 161 days at HSCC, Rocco found his match**  
(a male adopter)!

"I can't imagine not waking up or coming home to Rocco." *~ Rocco's Dad*



## OUR AMAZING FOSTERS & VOLUNTEERS!

When the pandemic hit in March, HSCC closed our doors to the public and began placing animals in foster homes to support limited on-site staff. Thankfully, hundreds of foster applications poured in offering a loving, temporary home.

While we were unable to welcome regular support from our 200+ volunteers, we are thankful to the few volunteers who have returned and grateful to know everyone is eager to come back. **To all HSCC foster families & volunteers, thank you for the vital role you play in caring for animals and making our work possible!**

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



This year, we fulfilled our mission by:

**Fostering the compassionate treatment of animals and preventing animal suffering** through continuing intakes during the pandemic, and utilizing our Rainy Day Fund and Jess Cares Fund (formally Scooter Fund) to provide necessary vet treatments for more animals than ever before. Both of these funds are made possible through generous donations from the community.

**Strengthening the human-animal bond** by adopting out over 1,000 animals into new loving homes, and providing counseling and services to keep current animals in their existing homes.

**Furthering the cause of responsible animal ownership** by continuing to safely hold our Camp Paw Paw for kids over the summer, and being creative in how we reach the community by creating the pet helpline and a community outreach team.

We will continue to support our community with new and innovative programs and services. A huge thank you to the amazing staff and community for making all we do possible. **Nina Hurley, Board Chair**

**2020 Board of Directors**

Nina Hurley, Chair	Whitney Durivage
Yvonne Lockerby, Vice Chair	Robin Gronlund
Jeanne Chenoweth, Treasurer	Julie Longfellow
Sally Adams, Esq., Secretary	Kris Nelson
Caroline Canning	B.J. Rogers
Barbara Cory, Esq.	Maureen Schake
Annemarie Daniels	Sarah Schmidt

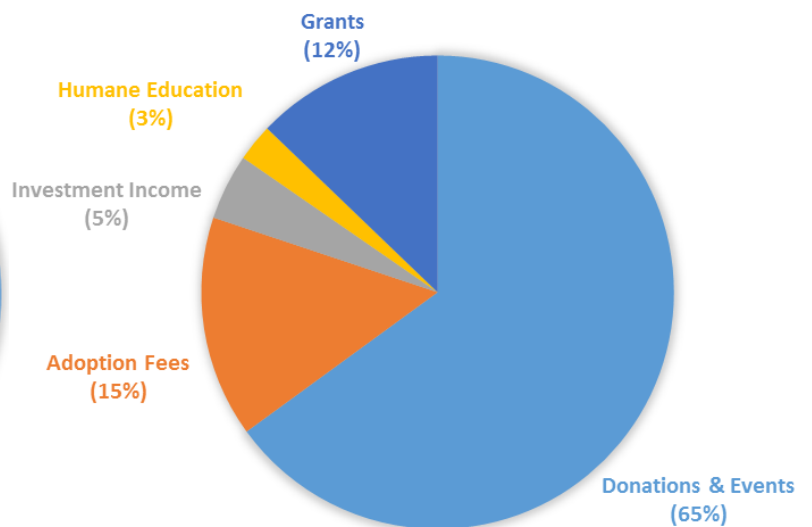
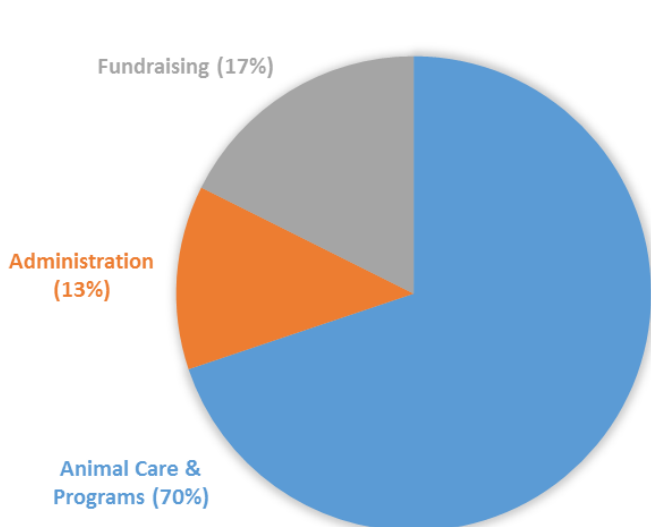
**Administration**

Joyce Cameron - <i>President &amp; CEO</i>
Erin Alamed - <i>Director of Volunteer &amp; Community Outreach</i>
Amanda Bottiggi - <i>Communications &amp; Development Coordinator</i>
Cynthia Harris Cole - <i>Animal Care Manager</i>
Diana Hill - <i>Director of Development</i>
Brent Householder - <i>Director of Finance &amp; Administration</i>
Chelsea Beauregard Kiessling - <i>Shelter Director</i>
Heather Klaff - <i>Medical Clinic Director</i>

2020 Financial Overview

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,098,688

TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,333,181

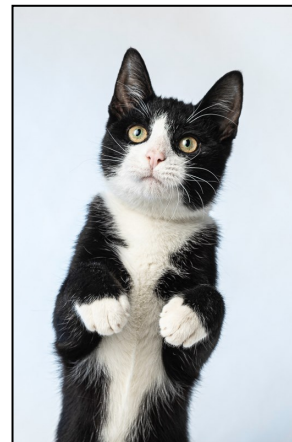


## VIRTUAL COMMUNITY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### 2nd Annual Fabulous Feline Foto Contest

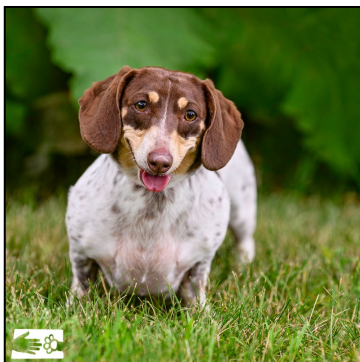
Cat people nationwide submitted their most *fabulous feline* photos last April for the chance to be featured in Seven Days! Thanks to 87 photo submissions and over 7,500 votes, we raised \$10,162!

Is **YOUR** feline fabulous? Get those pictures ready for HSCC's  
**3rd Annual Fabulous Feline Foto Contest**  
**April 9 - April 19, 2021**



### First-Ever Candid Canines Contest!

Precious pooches took the spotlight in June for a chance to win a feature in Seven Days and appear on Local 22 & Local 44! Over 200 dog lovers participated with their photo submissions & votes, raising \$6,000!



### Wags to Wishes

Over the summer, HSCC partnered with Make-A-Wish Vermont to introduce a brand new event, Wags to Wishes. The photo contest showcased the amazing bond between kids and pets while helping to grant wishes and support animals and people in need.



Contest winner Kaya with her dog Ivy



### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for the Animals and 5K Doggie Fun Run

There's a first time for everything! In October, HSCC hosted our first-ever *virtual* Walk & 5K. Though we missed seeing all those dogs (and their humans), we were grateful to *see* participants from all over Vermont and the country walk and run their own courses through their favorite park, neighborhood, and backyard. Thanks to our paw-ticipants, donors, and sponsors including our Presenting Sponsor, FoodScience Corporation, this event raised \$42,500!



We hope you'll mark your calendars for HSCC's 27th Annual Walk & 5K on Sunday, June 6th. We plan to offer remote options and host a limited in-person gathering at **Burlington's Waterfront Park!**

### Bark & Brew 2020

This unique series went *virtual* in its 6<sup>th</sup> year! Thanks to our local breweries, Switchback Brewery, Queen City Brewery, Zero Gravity, Goodwater Brewery, and Mill River Brewing BBQ & Smokehouse for adapting and helping raise funds with a good brew in hand! **Info about Bark & Brew 2021 coming soon!**





**Humane  
Society**  
of Chittenden County

Where Best Friends Meet

142 Kindness Court  
South Burlington, VT 05403

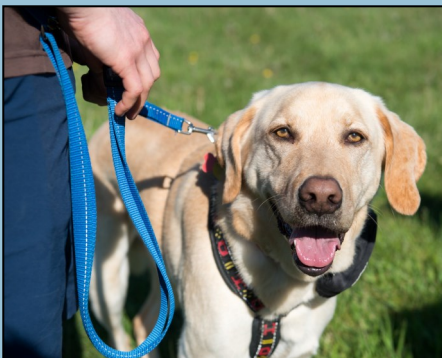
NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Burlington, VT  
Permit No. 176

# Save the Dates!

**27th Annual  
Walk & 5K**

**Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**  
NEW VENUE!

Burlington's Waterfront Park



For kids who are wild about animals!

Sessions begin July 5th  
Ages 5 -12



August 16th -18th  
Ages 13 -15

Free Seminars!



March 10th, May 12th & July 14th  
5:30 - 7pm on Zoom

**Bark & Brew**

August - September 2021



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

 /chittendenumane

 @hscvvt