



Summer Newsletter 2021

News from the Humane Society of Chittenden County



Message from our CEO



120th Anniversary!



Social Media Star



Community Pet Clinic

Message from our President & CEO

We have good reason to celebrate.

In 1901, a group of concerned local citizens began rescuing animals in a garage on Clymer Street in Burlington. Forward to 1955, when Herb and June Davis, both local opticians, stumbled over a sick pup laying on Church Street, scooped him up, and fed him chicken soup through an eyedropper. They would go on to build HSCC's first facility in 1961 on the site where we reside today.

The world of animal sheltering has evolved significantly since HSCC's founding 120 years ago. If you consider the ethos of the past when companion animals were often thought of as possessions rather than beloved family members; when spaying and neutering your pet was considered unnecessary, and when people relinquished their animals for the slightest behavioral infraction only to unwittingly secure their fate by routine euthanasia. These are the relics of an industry whose practices seem archaic, if not barbaric, to us now.

Animal sheltering has become increasingly rooted in science, with more data and empirical evidence challenging the status quo. Just consider the stark decline in euthanasia in shelter animals nationally: in the 1970's, over 20 million cats and dogs were euthanized compared to 1.5 million today. **In 1975, HSCC's live release rate was 17% - now it is 98%.** We now understand that there are alternatives to euthanizing or surrendering a pet, and that preserving a family unit comprised of people and animals keeps everyone mentally and emotionally fulfilled.

We believe that Herb and June would be proud of HSCC's evolution, bringing to fruition what they had clearly envisioned – both literally and figuratively - for the future: the need for a compassionate, resourceful, community supported animal welfare organization that stands up to the test of time.

We hope you will join us in celebrating this milestone and many more.

Gratefully,



120 Years. Together.



1901

A group of concerned community members create the **Burlington Humane Society**, operating out of a small garage in Burlington.

Early 1900s

BHS steadily expands its organizational capacity under the leadership of **Frank Fuller** (1901-1936), **Howard Walter** (1936-1943), and **Walter Burns** (1943-1976).



1955

June & Herb Davis become the modern-day founders, dedicating themselves to further developing the BHS after seeing an increased need in the community.

1961

A larger shelter is built at Queen City Park Road, thanks to **community fundraising** efforts lead by June & Herb.

1974

BHS is renamed the **Humane Society of Greater Burlington** to reflect its growing service area.



1980s

Expanded spay/neuter services and humane education programs begin trend of **decreasing intakes and increasing adoptions**; the shelter is officially dedicated to June & Herb Davis in 1987.

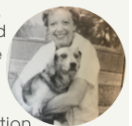
1993

With donor support, the shelter is significantly re-modeled to provide a **safer and more welcoming place** for animals and the public.



1994

The Scooter Fund is created in honor of rescued beagle Scooter, providing support for animals in need of medical care before adoption.



1998

The HSBG is renamed the **Humane Society of Chittenden County**, and begins serving Grand Isle County.

The 1st Annual Walk for the Animals also takes place!

1999

The annual **June Davis Award** is established to honor a special HSCC volunteer who exemplifies June's dedication to animal welfare and community service.



2002

A successful capital campaign funds the **brand-new 12,000 sq. foot building** at Kindness Court where we operate today.



2008

Camp Paw Paw welcomes its first group of students, and educates **1,500+ kids** over the next 13 years.



2013

The late **Nancy Cathcart** is named President & CEO, ushering in a new era centered on keeping pets & people together.



The Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program (spearheaded by JoAnn Nichols) begins, significantly reducing the number of free-roaming/feral cats in the local community over time.

2014

The Good Neighbor Program and Rainy Day Fund are created, which will support hundreds of families in the coming years.

2018

Joyce Cameron takes the helm as President & CEO and HSCC's mission & strategic direction is expanded, focusing on surrender prevention and community programs & services.

2020

The COVID-19 pandemic drastically changes operations, and the **Pet Helpline** and **Community Outreach Team** are created to support more pet owners in need in our community.

2021

The **Community Pet Clinic** is launched to serve local families who cannot afford basic preventative veterinary care for their pets.



The Jess Cares Fund is established and our **Med Room** undergoes a large remodel, allowing on-site spay/neuter, dental procedures, and more.

We look forward to the next 120 years!

Angel's Journey Home

While many of our animals find their new families relatively quickly, some require extra care and time. Angel's journey began in Georgia when she was brought to Baldwin County Animal Services as part of a cruelty case, weighing only 25 pounds. Angel required extensive veterinary support and her caretakers helped double her weight by the time she left for Vermont and arrived at HSCC in February.



Though physically healed, Angel was very nervous around new people and unsure of her surroundings. Nevertheless, her sweet personality shined and she soon had staff, volunteers, and trainers wrapped around her little paw.

We knew Angel would need a special family with a great deal of understanding and commitment to help her work through challenges. In April, Angel headed home with a foster-to-adopt family to try life together in a home environment. It wasn't without some struggles, but with her family's dedication and support from HSCC's expert trainers, Angel began to blossom.

Angel's adoption became official this June!

Angel recently stopped by HSCC to visit her friends and former caregivers. Her big smile and confident trot around the play yard made all the tough times worth it. We feel honored to have played a role in Angel's story, and grateful to everyone who followed her story and made donations to help care for her.

YOU make happy endings like this possible!

P.S. Angel now goes by Myrtle and she has her very own Instagram account (@myrtlethemagicaldog) where you can follow along with her new adventures!



Hiking Mount Philo

Staff Spotlight

Jenna McMaster, Customer Care Manager

What is your role at HSCC? Customer Care Manager, AKA all things relating to adoptions and the overall lobby experience.

What brought you to the animal welfare field/HSCC? I moved to Burlington in 2020 from NYC, where I worked at the city shelter and volunteered with local cat rescue groups. Before I even got to Burlington, I looked up local animal organizations and found HSCC—I could tell it was an amazing place. I refreshed the job openings page on the HSCC website for months until something opened up. I feel so honored to be working here—it's really a dream come true.

What's your favorite part of the job? Working with adopters and seeing all the happy endings is definitely the best part of my role at HSCC! It's such an exciting time for people, and I love being able to help shape the adoption experience to make it both fun and educational for everyone.

What part of your work are you most proud of? I am personally very proud of the opportunities I have had to help people struggling to manage their pet's behavior issues. HSCC is a great resource for the community, not only for adoptions and low-cost vet care, but also for surrender prevention services. Being able to help someone through that difficult time and provide options to help keep families together is truly rewarding.



Get to know the entire HSCC Team at [hscvvt.org/Meet-Our-Team!](https://hscvvt.org/Meet-Our-Team/)

HSCC Celebrates 120 Years!

One hundred and twenty years ago, in the year **1901**, a group of animal welfare advocates established what is known today as The Humane Society of Chittenden County. Over the century, HSCC has grown from a concept with no facility to the largest humane society in Vermont.

While much has changed over the decades, what has remained true is HSCC's commitment to the animals and the people connected to them. Today, HSCC rehomes over 1,000 animals each year, and offers humane education and community programs & services that help keep families together.

None of this would be possible without YOU! Your dedication to this organization has touched the lives of so many people and animals and allowed HSCC to prosper, thank you.



HSCC's alums, Shelby and Siena, about to enjoy a special **Andy's Dandys** doggie cake!

To celebrate HSCC's milestone anniversary, we are challenging 120 donors to make a special \$120 donation, or to increase your donation by \$120. We hope you will join the celebration and make a gift today through the envelope enclosed, or by visiting hscvvt.org/120Years. **From all of us at HSCC, thank you for your support!**

3rd Annual *Fabulous Feline Foto Contest*

The *purrrfect* contest for cat people returned for a third year of fabulous fun. We received over 50 photo submissions, 5,400 votes, and raised \$6,800! Thank you to all who participated!

Congratulations to our winners!



People's Choice:
Jäger



Judges' Pick:
Mister Jackpots

Thank you to our sponsors:



★ Social Media Sensation! ★



No one was quite prepared for the social media frenzy over the ultrasound photo of Polly Walnuts the rat. Overnight, the image went viral, attracting thousands of views from all over the world. Polly was even featured on the news!

Polly went on to deliver **11** healthy babies, who have all since been adopted!



Low-Cost Community Pet Clinic

Just Launched!

Now more than ever, we recognize the vital role that our companion animals play in our lives. Unfortunately, the cost of veterinary care is a source of stress for many pet owners and often leads to relinquishment of a beloved pet. To better support our community, HSCC launched our new **Community Pet Clinic (CPC)** in April. The clinic has been so popular, we are planning on expanding access with additional service days.

The CPC provides **low-cost spay/neuter and preventative veterinary care**



services for local families with limited income.

Services include wellness exams, vaccinations, flea/tick treatment, microchipping, and more.

To learn more about the CPC, apply for support, or to make a donation to the CPC Fund, please visit hscvct.org/Community-Pet-Clinic or reach out to wellness@hscvct.org or (802) 862-0135 ext.19.



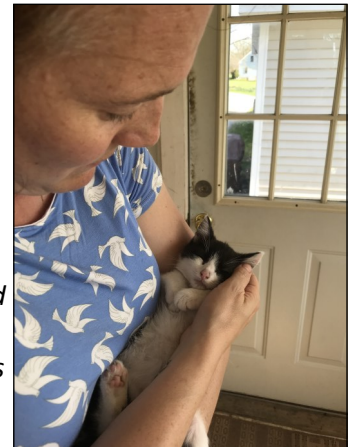
Mobee's Recovery



Three years ago a student of mine mentioned that her family had three cats with litters of kittens, and asked if I wanted one. I did not. I had a very dear kitty and I didn't want to stress her out with a kitten. But I did want to see those kitties...

Mobee was a quiet kitty. Within a few weeks of bringing him home, he developed a high fever. He had awful breath and I looked in his mouth and gagged. It was filled with abscessed teeth and gums. No one was sure he'd pull through. The vet said that his teeth were like those of an old cat, not one of ten weeks. I gave him his pain meds and mouth rinse and antibiotics

and prayed. That little scrap of fluff pulled through!



Our vet suggested that removing all of his teeth would allow him to live a comfortable life.

He had gum disease that if left untreated, would eventually make its way into his body. The surgery cost \$1,800. During that time my husband lost his job. **It felt like someone put our world in a snow globe and gave it a good shake and Mobee's life depended on how things landed.**

Our vet told us about HSCC and their Rainy Day Fund. I can't even explain the relief we felt when the Humane Society stepped in and helped take care of our Mobee. Mobee had the surgery and he is now thriving! I think about how that poor little scrap of fluff must have been in pain all of that time until his teeth were removed because now he is a whole new kitty. His family is so grateful! ~ Mobee's mom

The Rainy Day Fund is entirely donor-funded and makes a significant difference in the lives of community members and their pets. You can support this fund today by visiting hscvct.org/RDFdonate.





**Humane
Society**
of Chittenden County

Where Best Friends Meet

120 Years. Together.

142 Kindness Court
South Burlington, VT 05403

Upcoming Events!

27TH ANNUAL
**Walk for the Animals
& 5K Doggie Fun Run**

AUGUST 14TH 2021



Celebrating 120 years together!

HSCC's largest annual fundraiser is back at a beautiful brand-new location, Burlington's Waterfront Park! Save the date for Saturday, August 14th and register for the 1 Mile Walk or 5K Fun Run today using the QR code or by visiting hscvvt.org/News-and-Events. We can't wait to see you, and maybe your pooch too!



Thank you to all of our Walk sponsors,
including our **Best Friend Sponsors:**



Shearer Volkswagen
of South Burlington



Get unleashed with HSCC!

Thursday evenings

August 12 - September 16

5:30 - 7:30PM

Pours provided by Switchback,
Queen City, Zero Gravity, Citizen
Cider, Goodwater, and more!

Presented by:

