



Humane  
Society  
of Chittenden County

# Annual Report 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

*“The only constant in life is change.” - Heraclitus*

HSCC has seen its fair share of change over the last year. We said goodbye to long-standing employees and welcomed new staff; we saw an increase in demand for affordable veterinary care and **expanded our Community Pet Clinic**, providing a record 2,513 wellness visits and surgeries; we planned a facility expansion project that allows us to continue meeting the ever-changing needs of our community.



Animal welfare is a rapidly evolving field and HSCC continues to be at the forefront of innovative practices that **prioritize the strength of the human-animal bond** and reduce pet relinquishments.

2023 was the first full year of our Foster-To-Adopt program for canines, giving adopters an opportunity to see how a dog fits into their lives in real time. Consequently, we saw a 14% increase in dog adoptions and a 40% decrease in returns. We **rehomed 1,188 animals, found foster families for 600 animals, and helped hundreds of pets and families stay united** through our programs and services. We welcomed thousands of visitors to our facility and served over 150 students through our humane education programs.

Accepting change provides us with the opportunity to embrace new and better ways of doing things. The only thing that HSCC guarantees not to change is **our commitment to go above and beyond** to serve our animals and our community’s needs. We cannot accomplish this work without **your support**. Please consider donating to HSCC. No gift is too small or too large and all are accepted with deep appreciation.

Gratefully,

Joyce Cameron, President & CEO

## HSCC’S COMMUNITY PET CLINIC: CHANGING LIVES, ONE SPAY AT A TIME



Last October, we received an ASPCA & Subaru Loves Pets grant that **provided spay/neuter surgery for 21 dogs at no charge to their owners**. For one of our clients and their dogs, this was a life-changing opportunity. The family had several intact dogs, resulting in large numbers of puppies. We first helped through our Spay the Mom program, spaying one mom and adopting out the puppies. With the grant in October, we were able to help spay and neuter the rest of the adult dogs, alleviating the stress of constant litters being born. In 2024, we are excited to implement a **new grant**, The Irving and Phyllis Millstein Foundation Spay and Neuter Fund, which will provide **free spay/neuter** for dogs whose owners have limited resources. *If you are interested in learning more about these services, please call the CPC scheduling line at (802) 923-9028 or visit [hscvt.org/Community-Pet-Clinic](https://www.hscvt.org/Community-Pet-Clinic)*

## 2023: THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER!

We simply could not open our doors each day without our outstanding volunteers. HSCC now has over **200 active volunteers** helping us reach our daily and long-term goals. Volunteers provide essential support with daily animal care, cleaning, events, and more! These dedicated community members generously give HSCC their time and energy, supporting the mission of HSCC. In 2023, volunteers worked **over 8,000 hours** logged! We are very fortunate to have a reliable and passionate group of individuals who come together for their common love of animals.



Thursday Morning Animal Care Volunteers:  
John, Mike, Kat and Noon

**Interested in volunteering at HSCC?**

Learn more about our volunteer program and apply at [www.hscvt.org/Volunteer!](https://www.hscvt.org/Volunteer!)



**1,188** adoptions

823 cats 218 dogs 147 smallies



average length  
of stay at HSCC:

**55 Days**

**96%**

live release  
rate

**1,274**

affordable  
community  
spay/neuters

+

**597**

shelter pet  
spay/neuters

=

**1,871**

total animals  
spayed/  
neutered



**5,192**

vaccines  
provided to shelter  
+ community pets



**320** animals

transferred from  
high-volume shelters  
& adopted at HSCC

**41**

feral cats  
Trapped  
Neutered  
Returned

**193** stray  
animals  
taken in

**64** pet owners supported  
through our free  
pet helpline



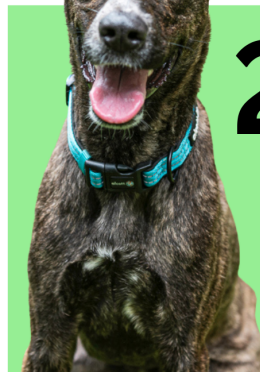
**43** families & their pets

provided with care +  
emergency services  
through our *Rainy Day Fund*  
& *Good Neighbor Program*



**26** community  
cats & dogs

spayed + vaccinated  
for free through  
our *Spay the Mom*  
Program



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

2023 was a fantastic year for HSCC! In addition to sheltering and finding new companion families for homeless pets, we continued to focus on **surrender prevention** and **humane education** programs. All of these services align with our mission to ensure every pet has a loving home and that every pet owner has access to the necessary resources to make that happen. That same mission drives our Community Pet Clinic (CPC). After an impactful year in 2022, the CPC accomplished even more in 2023, performing **over 1,800 spay and neuter surgeries** for community and shelter animals. On the fundraising front, our inaugural Black Tie & Tails event in June was one of the most successful and fun nights in the history of HSCC. And this is just a small sample of what we have accomplished.



None of this would be possible without HSCC's staff and volunteers, whose kindness, spirit, and dedication is truly inspiring. Nor would it be possible without **our loyal and passionate donors**, whose generosity fuels so many great accomplishments. HSCC is incredibly fortunate to have the support of so many wonderful people, and we look forward to another great year in 2024!

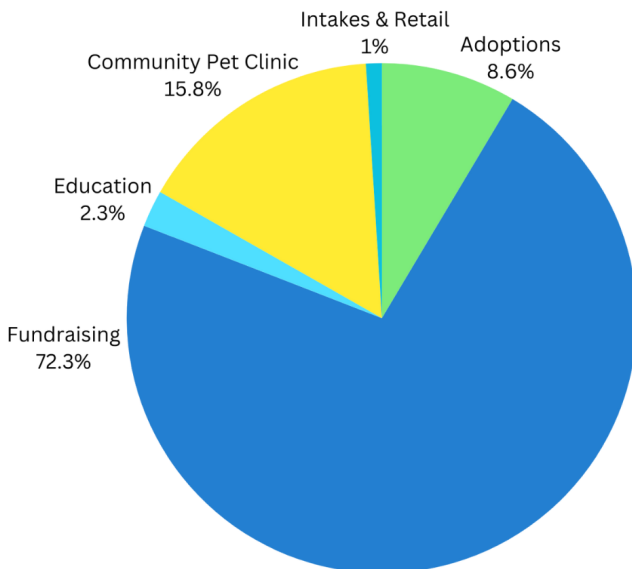
- Josh Kruk, Chair

### 2023 HSCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

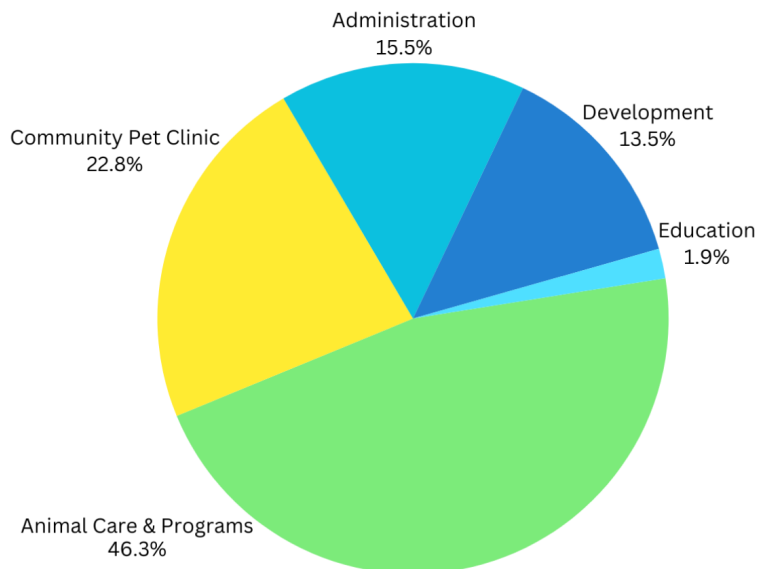
Sally Adams, Esq., <i>Chair</i>	Dr. Sandy Steingard	Yvonne Lockerby
Josh Kruk, <i>Vice Chair (2024 Chair)</i>	Dr. Christine Wojewoda	Tim Ashe
Sarah Schmidt, <i>Treasurer</i>	Nina Hurley	Sarah Lenes
Annemarie Daniels, <i>Secretary</i>	Barbara Cory	Caroline Canning
		Sandra McGuire

## 2023 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2023 Revenue Total: \$2,219,786\*



2023 Expenses Total: \$1,875,578\*



Adoption and Clinic fees cover only a fraction of the cost of providing care for thousands of animals each year. **That's why we rely on your generous support!** When you donate to HSCC, you help strengthen vital community programs and services that help pets and people alike. If you want to support our mission, you can **make your gift today at [www.hscvct.org/donate](http://www.hscvct.org/donate)** →



\*These numbers are currently being audited and are subject to change.

## HAPPY TAILS FROM HSCC ALUMS

### PETUNIA BLOSSOMS AFTER MEETING HER NEW BEST FRIEND

In September 2022, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) assisted federal agents in rescuing 275 dogs from an alleged dogfighting operation in South Carolina. Dogs were found living outside in pens along with objects and equipment typically used in dogfighting. We don't know exactly the trauma these dogs endured, but we do know that the conditions they lived in and how they were treated was not humane.

Petunia was one of the lucky survivors, and HSCC was honored to take her in and help her make a fresh start here in Vermont. Her new owner understood Petunia's needs, and came to meet her several times to slowly build a bond with her before taking her home in May 2023. After a brief Foster-To-Adopt period, these two became the best of friends, and it's clear that our sweet Petunia has finally found a place to call home.



Petunia at HSCC in February 2023



Petunia relaxed at home with her new family

***"Petunia came to me scared, not knowing how to be a dog, and on anti-anxiety medication. It was hard for her to get comfortable in a stable home as she was uprooted by two floods, but she prevailed and has become a loving companion. Petunia is now off her medications and doing well. She enjoys giving hugs and kisses, snuggling, going for rides, and playing with her toys on my couch that she's taken over. She is still fascinated with the toilet. She's blossoming like a beautiful flower! She's my Petunia."***

**- Petunia's Owner**

### CHEERS TO THE PETS THAT RESCUE THEIR PEOPLE



Whiskey's Intake Photo

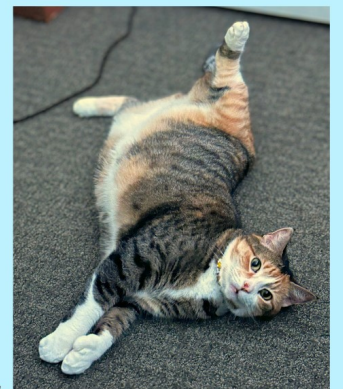
When Whiskey came to HSCC in October of 2023, she was a shy kitty who took some time to warm up to staff members. She had a history of urinating outside her litter box, hiding under the bed, and avoiding other cats. Staff determined that Whiskey needed a quiet household where she could ease into her new surroundings and open up to reveal the sweet side we knew she had. In late November of 2023, that's just what she found: Whiskey's adopter was ready to provide a calm, loving home where she could feel safe and comfortable. Whiskey has been happy at home ever since, and her new best friend has found Whiskey's companionship to be truly life-changing.

***"Whiskey is doing amazing! She's starting to come out of her shell! If she isn't having zoomie attacks, she is usually following me around or sleeping next to me. I never ever knew how much I needed an animal in my life let alone her. I have major depression with seasonal affect and since I adopted her, I can feel how much happier I am. I know that HSCC is an animal rescue but they also rescue the people who adopt from them. Thank you for doing this work - I can only imagine how difficult it must be."***

**- Whiskey's Owner**



Whiskey's Adoption Day



Whiskey at home in 2024

### Can't get enough Happy Tails?

Scan the QR code or visit [www.hscvt.org/Happy-Tails](http://www.hscvt.org/Happy-Tails) to see more adoption updates from HSCC alums and find out how you can make more Happy Tails possible!





Where Best Friends Meet

142 Kindness Court  
South Burlington, VT 05403

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# SAVE THE DATES!

## BLACK TIE & TAILS — BENEFIT —

The graphic for the Black Tie & Tails Benefit features the text "BLACK TIE & TAILS" in a large, bold, serif font. Below the text are silhouettes of a cat on the left and a dog on the right, both wearing collars. The word "BENEFIT" is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below the silhouettes, flanked by horizontal lines.

The paw-ty of the year is back this June! Save the date for our second annual **Black Tie & Tails Benefit on Friday, June 7, 2024 at the Vermont National Country Club**, and join us for a fun + fabulous evening while supporting animals in need!



Get unleashed this summer at **Bark & Brew 2024!** Join us on **Thursday evenings from August 22nd - September 12th** to enjoy local brews and snacks with friends while your canine companion socializes in our dog yard.

*Learn more about upcoming events at [hscvct.org/News-and-Events](https://hscvct.org/News-and-Events)*

 [www.hscvct.org](https://www.hscvct.org)

 [/chittendenhumane](https://www.facebook.com/chittendenhumane)

 [@hscvct](https://www.instagram.com/hscvct)

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