Taking “paws” to reflect on a fantastic year!
The mission of HSCC is to foster compassionate treatment of animals and to prevent animal suffering. We do this through: sheltering homeless & unwanted pets; timely efforts to place each animal in a responsible & caring home; animal cruelty investigation; feral cat colony management (TNR); and humane education.

MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR
Do you remember the house that sat on the hill as you came up the drive at HSCC? That old building was our shelter for many years. It had just been retired for the opening of our current facility when I volunteered in 2004. HSCC was pushing to be at the forefront. The design of this building reflected many new ideas about sheltering. However, ‘shelter medicine’ was in its’ infancy. Pet enrichment, fostering, transports, microchipping, social media? These were not even concepts yet.

Jump to 2017. HSCC strives to be at the cutting edge in the sheltering world. We transport and microchip. We foster pets and have open adoptions. We actively provide for the enrichment of the animals in our care. We use social media to promote the animals and our services and programs. We also have an emergency pet food shelf for pet owners in need and we support low cost spay-neuter efforts. HSCC staff and volunteers work every day to adopt out animals and also to support the human animal bond in our community. Watch and you will see us change and grow, always focused on our mission but responding to the changing world.

If you are reading this, you may be a donor, volunteer, adopter or all of the above. I want to thank you for everything you do. Organizations (and their buildings) come and go. This one endures because of the compassion and professionalism of our staff, and because of each hour given, each dollar raised, each Facebook like, each kind word, each visit to Bark and Brew, every community effort -- it all matters.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO
The Humane Society of Chittenden County had a stellar 2016 year. In just two years, we nearly met several of the goals in the 2014 three-year strategic plan: to eliminate the long-standing deficit by reducing expenses, and increasing revenue and efficiencies, and to increase transports from southern states. In 2016, we had projected a deficit of $78,000, and we successfully reduced it to $34,000. We are hopeful that 2017 will be the year of our balanced budget! Our Board of Directors recently guided us in the revision of the strategic plan for the next three years. We are excited for the changes ahead!

The creative and dedicated team of staff and volunteers enabled us to accelerate our adoption process so that more animals spend less time in the shelter (see charts on page 2). Connected to each animal coming in or going home, there are human beings impacted. I am most proud of the compassion of our staff, caring and respecting each person they interact with. We truly are a humane society.

On a personal note, on January 16, 2017, I was diagnosed with stage I ovarian cancer. Our committed team has enabled me to balance my work with my treatment. The Board of Directors approved a CEO job share with Jen Cypress, a beloved former Medical Care Supervisor, who will oversee the internal operations for the next six months. My sincere thanks to you for the devotion to this mission, to the animals, and to the people who work here. We are deeply grateful.
ANIMAL CARE FIVE YEAR SUMMARY

We are witnessing some interesting new trends in the animals who come to us from the community. As evidenced by this graph, there has been a downward trend of homeless community cats and dogs. This may indicate success with spay/neuter practices. The 2016 upward trend in dogs is a result of our accelerated transport programs from high-kill shelters in the south.

It never ceases to amaze us that this community is so willing to adopt. Despite downward trends in homeless community animals, the adoption rates continue to grow. We are even able to find homes for the older, sicker animals.

Along with increased adoptions, we are delighted to see an accompanying decrease in length of stay. We have worked hard to achieve this downward trend. The staff and volunteers at HSCC have streamlined the adoption process and facilitated same day adoptions whenever possible.

*The trends for small animals are not included in this chart. This is because they are more difficult to track; each species has varying lengths of stay and therefore lumping the data together does not reflect the overall trend.*
As with most non-profits, a dedicated volunteer force is critically important to the health of the organization. At HSCC, every helping hand is needed and greatly appreciated. In 2016, we had approximately 240 volunteers that logged 7,283 hours helping with various jobs like walking dogs, cleaning cages, helping with events, feeding animals, and helping with customer care and adoptions.

In the last year, HSCC has seen drastic changes in animal trends. As we adapted to the differing needs of our community, we were able to take in animals from our community, and fill up the extra space in our shelter by rescuing animals from the south. With a high volume of animals, and a succinct and successful adoption process, it was time for a change! We updated our processes and did an overhaul of the Volunteer Program. By putting more trust in our volunteers and giving them the proper training, we are able to better utilize our incredible volunteers. We have fast tracked new volunteers to work intimately with our animals, and as a result, it has alleviated the heavy workload of our staff. We are so grateful for our volunteers. They give so much to much to HSCC... we simply could not do this work without them!
COMMUNITY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Helyn Kerr Humane Education Series
In August of 2016, HSCC’s former Board Chair and advocate, Helyn Kerr, passed away. She was a powerful force in promoting the humane treatment of animals. She served on the HSCC volunteer Board from 2006—2014, serving as Chair from 2012—2014. She and her husband David have a two beautiful HSCC alums, Jackson and Carly.

After some thoughtful reflection, we renamed our “Best Friends University” to the “Helyn Kerr Humane Education Series”. The logo for this series was designed from a photo of Jackson and Carly taken by Kelly Schulze of Mountain Dog Photography.

Helyn’s life and work epitomized all that HSCC’s humane educations series attempts to bring to others. On November 10, 2016 we officially unveiled the Helyn Kerr Humane Education Series with Helyn’s colleagues, former HSCC Board members, and family. The ceremony was followed by “Pet First Aid: How to care for your pet during an emergency” presented by Dr. Garrett Levin of Burlington Emergency & Veterinary Specialists. These free seminars are presented quarterly by professionals in the animal welfare field.

Our next Helyn Kerr Humane Education Series program will be on Thursday, May 25th. JoAnn Nichols, our Humane Investigator, will be discussing animal cruelty and the laws in place to protect the animals in our community.

22nd Annual Walk for the Animals and 5K Doggie Fun Run
June brought our 22nd anniversary of our Walk and 5K Doggie Fun Run. We love this event! It is a time when the community can celebrate our love for the animals with a beautiful 5K run with our favorite canine pals, or a one mile stroll. It is our largest and most significant fundraiser of the year and it takes all of you to make this happen! Last year we were joined by more than 400 people and 100 dogs, and we raised nearly $80,000.00! We hope you will join us for our 23rd Walk for the Animals and 5K Doggie Fun Run on June 11, 2017. We are excited to announce our new location of the Walk this year will be right down the street from us, at the Veteran’s Memorial Park in South Burlington!

Low-Cost Rabies Clinic
In May 2016, we hosted our annual low-cost Rabies Clinic for the community. We were able to provide 103 rabies vaccinations, and a couple dozen nail trims all at a reduced cost. A big thanks to Vet 2 Pet Mobile, our dedicated long-time partner, who each year donates time and resources for this service. This year’s clinic will be held on Saturday, April 29, 1:00 - 3:00 pm at HSCC. No reservations are required.

Voted Best Non-profit—Seven Days
For the third consecutive year, HSCC was voted best non-profit in Vermont from the readers of Seven Days - “Seven Daysies” winner! We are so grateful for this resounding vote of confidence in our mission.

Community Giving
Each year we are blown away by the tremendous support from our community! There are countless creative ways that community groups, school groups, families, and businesses have come up with to support our mission! We are so grateful for all of the bake sales, group crafting, in-lieu of birthday gift donations, social media campaigns, donation drives, philanthropic store sales, and more, that benefit HSCC! In 2016, local businesses and community members raised nearly $22,000.00 to support our mission, conducting projects and fundraisers outside our shelter!

Our canister program had another successful year in 2016! We have about 58 canisters spread across our community collecting change and the occasional dollar or two. We are surprised at how quickly it all adds up! In 2016 our community canister program brought in almost $10,000. Every little bit helps!
In mid-September, three little old dogs trotted through our doors; their lifetime owner had just died un-expectantly. With no one to care for these dogs, we were of course, the place of refuge for them.

Fat Jack, Buddy and Trouble all came to us in rough shape. They all had terrible dental disease, so severe that some of their teeth were practically rotting out of their mouths. This condition was not only painful, but it also affected their overall well-being. Something needed to be done for them. Between all three dogs, we ended up removing 77 teeth!

In addition to their collective dental work, these seniors came in with individual medical challenges. We noticed a significant heart murmur in Buddy, which required a consult with a cardiologist. Fortunately, Buddy’s heart was deemed strong for now! Fat Jack also presented a few medical concerns. He came in as very overweight for a pug, weighing 26 lbs. on intake. We immediately placed him on a prescription weight loss diet, and he began to lose weight! We also discovered that Fat Jack is blind and has a condition called dry eye, which requires daily medication. After some thoughtful promotion for these dogs through our local media channels, we were able to both raise money to our Scooter Fund to help us cover the cost of these dogs’ extensive medical bills, and spread the word to find these dogs wonderful new homes!

We never know who will walk through our doors, needing our help, on any given day. We are here for our community, in the times when people need us the most. We take in animals who are unwanted, abandoned, neglected, and who can no longer be cared for. We welcome companion animals from Chittenden and Grand Isle counties with open arms, and provide them with excellent care, even when they are of senior age and when they have medical challenges. We then work to match them with a wonderful new family. This, is our mission.

Fat Jack, making his debut on WCAX!

Fat Jack, Buddy and Trouble getting some hot dog treats— their favorite!!

Fat Jack, Buddy and Trouble posing with their new families!

For kids who are wild about animals!

“Camp Paw Paw is a great way to learn about animals while having fun!”

Kids ages 5-12

Visit www.chittendenhumane.org for more information!
HAPPY “TAILS”

DAISY
Daisy was full of surprises! This sweet, active dog came to us with a displaced knee-cap that needed immediate medical attention. During her surgery, it was discovered that she also needed her hip repaired. All of this medical attention was necessary for Daisy, but the associated cost was hard for us to swallow. We were humbled by the support that came flooding in to help us cover the cost of her surgeries. Donations were made to the Scooter Fund in Daisy’s honor, and our friends at VCA Brown donated the “surprise” hip surgery! Thanks to the tremendous support, Daisy made a full recovery from her surgeries, and soon-after ran into the arms of her new family! She got second chance that she deserved.

FREDDIE
Lucky for Freddie, his adopter didn’t think twice about his age... she was sure that he was the cat for her! Freddie came to HSCC because his owners could no longer care for him. In just one week, this 20 year old cat found a match made in heaven! His adopter tells us: “He's the sweetest snuggliest kitty I've ever known. His health is still tip-top and although his favorite activity is probably napping with me, he's also super playful when the mood strikes!! He will walk right into the middle of a party and ask just anyone for pets!! ... I love this handsome orange old man.”

ANNA AND MYA
After 13 years, Anna and Mya’s family had to move away, leaving them behind. Life at the shelter was new and unfamiliar to these timid senior dogs. They were emotionally bonded—a sisterly love that we couldn't bear to break up. We worried that it would be difficult to find a family that wanted to adopt a pair of 13 year old dogs... but, knowing our compassionate community, we had hope! Nearly two months passed by, when one day, a lovely couple walked in wanting to take these senior sweeties home! Anna and Mya are living out their golden years in a fabulous new home!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HSCC Annual Meeting & Volunteer Celebration—March 31, 8:00 - 9:30 am at the Hilton Burlington
Rabies Clinic—April 29, 1:00 - 3:00 pm at HSCC
Walk for the Animals & 5K Doggie Fun Run— June 11, 8:00 - 11:00 am at Veteran’s Memorial Park, South Burlington, VT
Helyn Kerr Humane Education Series—JoAnn Nichols on Animal Cruelty- May 25, 5:30 - 7:00 pm at the Hilton Burlington
Camp Paw Paw— Week-long sessions from July 10— August 18 at HSCC
Bark & Brew— Thursday nights: August 10— September 21, 5:30-7:30 pm at HSCC

Check out our website for more details on all of our events!
Upcoming Events!

Walk for the Animals and 5K Doggie Fun Run

Sunday, June 11
Veteran’s Memorial Park, South Burlington, VT

Bark & Brew
Thursday Nights at HSCC
August 10–September 21

www.chittendenhumane.org