A Message from the CEO

I have been giving thought to the theory and practice of organizational evolution. How does a 118 year-old animal welfare organization stay relevant and sustainable? How do we navigate through the powerful winds of change in our industry and continue to provide critical services to our community? How do we continue to deliver on and advance our mission in substantive, measurable ways? As we analyze our services and assess our impact, we conclude that what we provide may be enough for some, but not nearly enough for others. In striving to fulfill the needs of all of our community members, we must be innovative, creative, and adaptive.

Growth is not always linear and evolution does not exist without some turbulence. The animal welfare business is a dynamic and unpredictable one and it necessitates making constant adjustments. We strive to be cutting-edge and we stay abreast of national trends in animal welfare. Through these efforts, we recognize that our community needs help caring for their pets. If they cannot, the alternative is often relinquishment and possible euthanasia. Because we feel strongly that families should stay together, we’ve made surrender prevention our strategic focus.

Consider these scenarios: Your pup needs an emergency surgery, but you do not have the funds. You unexpectedly lose your job and caring for your pet is a challenge. Your housing situation does not allow pets and your pet needs shelter. A loved one is struggling with addiction or domestic violence and their pets are at risk so you take them but need help with their food, behavior and medical needs.

HSCC helps our neighbors in all of these circumstances - on this we will never waver. But one need that rises to the top is affordable pet medical care. Our response to this need is to enhance the medical services we currently provide. Our plan is to phase additional services, such as spay/neuter, into our operations, beginning with the animals in our care and then making these services available to community members who are financially insecure. We are also planning for exciting initiatives such as a canines in prison program and expanded humane education - our Animal Welfare Warriors pilot for teens is new this summer!

As we ask if what we are doing is enough, and in order to deepen our resolve and remain sustainable, we need your observations and feedback, your trust, and your charitable support. After all, this is your Humane Society! It is on your behalf that we look to the future with tremendous optimism that anything is possible, and with the sincere hope that you and your four legged friends will be along with us for the ride. We stand on your shoulders and the sky is the limit.

With Abiding Gratitude,
Joyce Cameron, President & CEO
The Story of Snickerdoodle

Snickerdoodle arrived at HSCC in March 2019 along with 2 other adult female cats and 15 kittens! Snickerdoodle had 6 little ones, but it was evident that they weren't the only ones who needed special care. She had significant difficulty breathing due to a nose deformity - Snickerdoodle was missing a right nostril and had only one small left nostril to breathe through! Our friends at BEVS were able to determine through a donated CT scan that Snickerdoodle was a good candidate for nasal surgery and had the potential to live a much more comfortable life. Great news!

However, this surgery is complex and expensive, and Snickerdoodle was not the only animal in our care requiring medical procedures (as is usually the case!). We are so thankful to have The Scooter Fund in place to help us in these situations! Donations to this fund pay for veterinary costs for animals with special medical needs, providing them a chance to be adopted into a loving home post-recovery.

This sweet lady had a long road ahead of her before being ready for adoption and she required Snickerdoodle spent over three months with her fosters and a special bond formed along the way. With the help of The Scooter Fund, Snickerdoodle's surgery was performed by the great people at Affectionately Cats and we received an update from her foster dad that all had gone well and she was breathing much easier. In even MORE amazing news, Snickerdoodle’s foster officially made her a family member, along with a brand-new name to start her new life! Her foster-now-adopted-family sums it up best: “Movie HAS movie! She is no longer just surviving, but is now living! The Movie/Snickerdoodle story is the epitome of HSCC’s mission and the Scooter Fund provided her with the chance to move beyond existing in survival mode and gave her the opportunity to enjoy life.” - Eric Svensson and Mariella Wretman

Zoey’s Journey Home

Sweet Zoey came to us in February 2019 as part of a local animal cruelty case. She was found locked and boarded in a trailer along with her mom and sister. It was the middle of winter and they had no food or water, eating whatever they could find—including car parts. Their owner agreed to relinquish the dogs to law enforcement and all three then came to HSCC to begin their recovery, with good food, a clean space, and the loving care they so desperately needed.

Zoey had unexpected medical needs in her three months at HSCC. First, she was so food, a clean space, and the loving care they so desperately needed.

Unfortunately, our staff noticed that Zoey was limping on a hind leg a few weeks later. She had torn a cruciate ligament, a very important part of her knee’s structure and function. Tears are common in muscular, active dogs and due to Zoey’s age and energy level, the only option for her was to have the ligament repaired - a surgery that is well over $1000. Thanks to The Scooter Fund, Zoey was able to have surgery at VCA Brown Animal Hospital and start the recovery process. Cage rest and slow exercise is a tough ask for a dog with Zoey’s energy, but she did wonderfully! Zoey’s start to life was far from ideal, but she found her new family shortly after, strolling out of HSCC and into her next chapter.

First-Ever Fabulous Feline Foto Contest!

We put out the call for your cutest/goofiest/flookest pictures and cat people did not disappoint! Thanks to 72 submissions and 4,000+ votes, we raised over $6,000!

25th Annual Walk for the Animals & 5K

On June 9th we welcomed over 300 animal lovers and their canine pals to Veterans Memorial Park! The sun and Ben & Jerry’s ice cream added a nice touch to a great morning. Thank you to all who participated, volunteered, donated, and helped raise $70,000 for HSCC!

The Annual Fund

All of our services, from educational programs and behavioral training, to foster care and humane investigations, rely on the generosity of our donors and community partners to The Annual Fund. Your gift supports the advancement of our mission and strengthens our ability to make a difference for animals in need!

The Scooter Fund, such as the Rainy Day Fund and the Good Neighbor Program, are in place to help both pets and people in our community in times of hardship and crisis.

The Annual Fund also fuels the Scooter Fund, which provides necessary medical attention for HSCC animals who are too sick or injured to be adopted in their present condition. Last but certainly not least, your donations keep our doors open, the lights on, and the animals fed and cared for!

202 HSCC volunteers have logged 4,400 hours in 2019 so far! We could NOT do what we do without the help of these kind and committed folks—thank you so much for all of your hard work and dedication!

Zoe’s foster parents

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You can support HSCC today at hscvct.org/Donate!

WHY WE GIVE:

“It is our moral imperative to protect those who are innocent and the most vulnerable” Michael & Kim T., HSCC Supporters

Did You Know?

1,026 votes were cast in the 2018 “Your Animal is Amazing” contest. The top voted “animal” was a Boxer mix named Tori and got to be the star of the HSCTV program “Fierce Felines” on June 21st.

2019 was a banner year for our Good Neighbor Program (GNP). The GNP enabled us to add over 400 new families into our community!

What brought you to the animal welfare field/HSCC?

I’ve always known I wanted to work with animals and my passion is improving the quality of life for animals in human care and the relationship between humans and their animals. My favorite class in grad school was Animal Welfare 101! I came to HSCC when my husband and I moved back to VT in 2017 - it just so happened that HSCC was looking to hire a dog trainer.

What’s your favorite part of the job?

I love seeing a dog get a second (or third, or fourth!) chance with the right set of circumstances. It isn’t always the outcome, but when the stars align... to describe it as “rewarding” doesn’t even come close to how incredible the feeling is.

What part of your work are you most proud of?

Seeing people come to a better understanding of dogs - their behavior, how they learn, and how we can communicate with them and try to help them through whatever issues they’re dealing with.

Training sessions were a huge help! I would have had no idea what to do with Telly if I weren’t for Lucy. While we still have some things to work through, Telly has come a super long way since I got her and is behaving much better than when she first arrived!” - HSCTC Adopter