



**Humane Society**  
of Chittenden County

Where Best Friends Meet

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South Burlington, VT 05403

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# Paw Prints

News from the Humane Society of Chittenden County

Summer 2020

## A Message from the CEO

Viral pathogens, social distancing, PPE and PPP, antibodies, vaccines, furloughs, food shelves... this is our new nomenclature and it is indicative of turbulent times. There is a new, abiding anxiety underlying everything that we do, both in our personal and professional lives.

*Toto, we are not in Kansas anymore.*

It has been anything but business as usual at HSCC these last four months. However, through the pandemic haze there are silver linings. I feel so fortunate to work with a talented, committed staff who have made operating adjustments on the turn of a dime so that, as an essential business, we could continue to serve our community. I am grateful for a Board who is supportive and decisive when there is so little predictability and so much uncertainty surrounding us.

If anything has remained routine, it is the high level of care that the animals receive from our staff and foster families. Every day, animals get the love, attention, and medical care that they need as they await their new home. Many community animals have significant behavioral challenges and medical needs and our staff act as 24/7 rehabilitators so that these animals can live their best lives with their chosen people. Our Surrender Prevention program requests are at an all-time high, and our new Pet Helpline has proven to be a valuable resource for many. Our pet food shelf has been warmly received by the public, and our newly renovated medical clinic will make it much easier for us to treat our patients affordably, efficiently and effectively. Our humane education camps have officially begun, prioritizing the safety of our students and staff. These programs and services come at a significant cost and we could not provide them without the generosity of our community.

The human-animal bond is stronger than ever and demand for companion animals has increased during the pandemic, but supply has not kept pace. Our primary obligation is to the people and animals in the Chittenden and Grand Isle communities, but transporting and re-homing animals from high volume shelters is important to our operations too; it helps animals who may be euthanized; it supplies loving pets to our adopters; and provides a revenue stream allowing HSCC to better serve our community needs. Unfortunately, Covid guidelines currently prevent us from transporting animals from outside the state, *making community support to continue our mission driven work more critical now than ever.* In a typical week, HSCC sees hundreds of people and animals walk through our doors. With our facility closed due to Covid, we have provided alternative ways to offer services. With the health and safety of our staff and the public in mind, we hope to reopen our facility soon.

In the meantime, *know that we are here for you* - regardless of your backstory, your ethnicity, your socioeconomic status, or your religious affiliation. HSCC unites in solidarity to combat the other virus in our midst - the one that propagates systemic racial inequity, discrimination, and the pervasive disrespect of our brothers and sisters. We renew our commitment to provide judgement and bias-free community services. We listen, we learn and we improve. HSCC welcomes all creatures, both two and four legged, with open arms. We continue to thrive and prosper because of, not in spite of, our uniqueness.

If what's past is prologue, then one thing is certain - better days lay ahead. On behalf of all of us at HSCC, thank you for your trust, kindness, and continued support.

Appreciatively,

Joyce Cameron

President & CEO



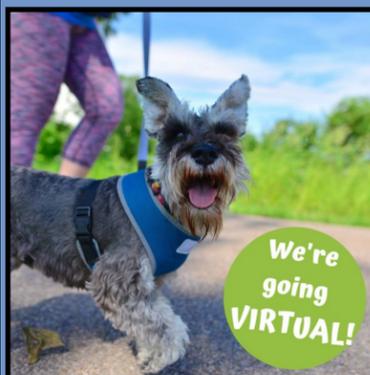
Happy Tails

News & Events

Staff Spotlight

# Upcoming Events!

**26th Annual Walk for the Animals & 5K Doggie Fun Run is going Virtual!**



Participate in HSCC's largest annual fundraiser right from your own neighborhood! Register and create your fundraising page today!

Sunday, October 4th

Visit [hscvct.org](http://hscvct.org) or scan here for more info



Trusted Choice® Presents: **Wags to Wishes**

A photo contest to benefit the Humane Society of Chittenden County and Make-A-Wish Vermont

New this year!

Online fundraiser begins August 1st



Get unleashed with HSCC!

Thursday evenings  
August 13 - September 17

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



Presented by:

## Surrender Prevention in Action: Josie's Journey

Josie was adopted by her family from a Tennessee rescue in 2014. Though very shy, her family's love and care helped coax Josie out of her shell. Then in September 2019, Josie's house was sold and her family found themselves in a very challenging situation.

*"With a poor credit score, Josie, Miley the cat, and I quickly became homeless. We couch surfed and stayed in hotels while I continued to work for Delta Airlines. The stress was unbelievable and I could see it taking effect on Josie. Economic Services of Vermont recommended **The Good Neighbor Program** at HSCC. I had no choice - I had to get Josie stable. With a broken heart, I met with Cynthia (HSCC's Animal Care Manager) and bawled as she took Josie and me into her office and ever so gently helped me relinquish Josie for 2 weeks. She was amazing. I called and checked on Josie a few times and she always made me feel like Josie was on 'vacation'. Then I got the call from Heather (HSCC's Medical Care Manager). I cried as she explained Josie's teeth were really bad. She most likely was in pain and asked if I would I be interested in a program called the **Rainy Day Pet Fund**? Covid-19 was now settling in and Josie again needed stability, so I flew her to Oklahoma City to stay with my daughter for a bit. Upon her return to Vermont, Josie had dental surgery at Green Mountain Animal Hospital with the support of HSCC's Fund.*



*Josie and I are so grateful we were supported by HSCC. Josie is now toothless and seems to have more pep in her step. Homelessness affects all family members and Josie has been through a lot. She is my emotional support dog and my very Best Friend. We have since found a lovely apartment in Burlington and she seems much happier."- Josie's mom*

## Scotty's Story: Former Stray to Family Member



Scotty came to HSCC in February 2020 after being trapped at a feral cat colony in South Burlington. He arrived in rough shape; he was severely matted, had broken teeth, conjunctivitis, an ear infection, and was frightened. Scotty is also FIV+, meaning his immune system has a difficult time fighting off infections.

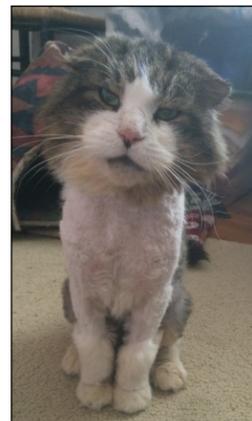
HSCC set out to improve Scotty's health and place him in a safe and loving home. Along with a whole lot of TLC, Scotty received dental care, was neutered, shaved (no easy task!), and treated

for his ear infections. Before long, Scotty started to look and act like a different cat!

Scotty's big day arrived in March when he was adopted by his new loving family. He now has two feline friends and a family who gives him the time and care he needs to thrive. Scotty is also starting his next chapter with a brand new name, Dandelion! His family says they were inspired by his lion-esque hairstyle and brave heart. ♥



*"The first two days were rough for him. He was scared, particularly when we went to the vet for a check up. Since then he has made great strides. We changed his diet and he is now feeling sooo much better. He loves his new home and all the great food!! Thank you HSCC for trusting us to care for him." - Scotty's (Dandelion's) family*



## 2nd Annual Fabulous Feline Foto Contest



**People's Choice**  
**Piper & Simon**



**Judges' Pick**  
**Charlie**

The purrrfect contest for cat people grew significantly in its second year, raising **\$10,162!** Congratulations to our fabulous winners and thanks to all who participated including our sponsors, **Vet to Pet Mobile Veterinary Clinic** and **Seven Days!**

## First-Ever Candid Canines Photo Contest

HSCC's latest photo contest put the spotlight on the precious pooches in our lives. Over 200 people paw-ticipated with their photo submissions & votes and helped raise nearly **\$6,000!**



**People's Choice**  
**Timon**



**Staff Pick**  
**Tess**

Special thanks to **Chroma Optics** and **Seven Days** for sponsoring the contest and **Local 22 & Local 44** for showcasing these winning canines on the morning news!



**PETHELPLINE**  
Humane Society of Chittenden County

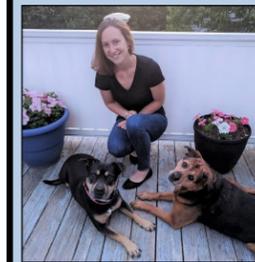
**Surrender prevention** is at the heart of HSCC's mission and we always look for new ways to help keep pets & people together. The **HSCC Pet Helpline** is a newly developed, free service for pet owners facing challenges that could lead to relinquishment, including behavioral issues or financial hardship. Staff members offer guidance, resources, and provide referrals to other services, within 24 hours.

You can contact the Pet Helpline at (802) 862-0135 ext 29 or email [helpline@hscvct.org](mailto:helpline@hscvct.org) to access this service.

Learn more about HSCC's community programs & services at [www.hscvct.org/Surrender-Prevention](http://www.hscvct.org/Surrender-Prevention)

## Staff Spotlight

### Cynthia Harris Cole, Animal Care Manager



**What is your role at HSCC?**  
Animal Care Manager—it's a big job, but I love it!

**What brought you to the animal welfare field/HSCC?**  
I had been volunteering with animal welfare organizations for years while working in

different fields & when I saw this role open up at HSCC it seemed like a perfect opportunity to follow my passion full-time.

**What's your favorite part of the job?**

It's impossible to pick just one! It's so rewarding to see the animals who come into our care scared, sick, or shutdown make huge improvements and leave as beloved family pets. And of course, the kittens!

**What part of your work are you most proud of?** I'm so proud to be part of an organization that focuses on helping people as well as their pets. Managing the *Good Neighbor Program*, I connect with people in our community who are going through times of crisis but are relieved to know that their pets are in good hands until they can be reunited. Thinking about how important my dogs are to my family, it means a lot to me to be able to provide a way for people to keep the pets that they love.

## Why We Support HSCC

Since 1901, HSCC has been protecting animals. Its mission has grown to include providing medical care and foster homes for particularly vulnerable ones, and adding small animals to potential adoptees. A larger and healthier shelter was built in 2002, and new services include camps for children to learn about animals and supportive services to help people in precarious situations keep their pets. We, who love to be with animals, know how critical having them in our lives is to our well being. We support HSCC because they share our passion for protecting animals and keeping them in our lives. We invite you to keep HSCC going for another 119 years!

-Elizabeth & Richard Bernstein  
Jericho, VT