

adopt. honor. advocate

Cocheco Valley Humane Society

Fall 2018 Newsletter

What's inside:

MEET OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HAUNTED OVERLOAD

ADOPTION UPDATE

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATES

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

WAG, SWAG, AND GIVING EVENT



Meet our spotlight pet: Blair!

Blair is a quiet and independent girl who likes to be the one to initiate affection. She will invite you to pet her when she's ready but otherwise is happy to lounge in a covered cat bed to rest. When she is ready to hang out with you, she really loves ear scratches and will purr in delight while you give them to her. Because she can be skittish, Blair would do best in a low-energy home where she can just hang out and relax. That said, this girl still loves play time and would benefit from active daily play with you. She loves toys that she can pounce on and chase, but laser pointers are her all-time favorite.

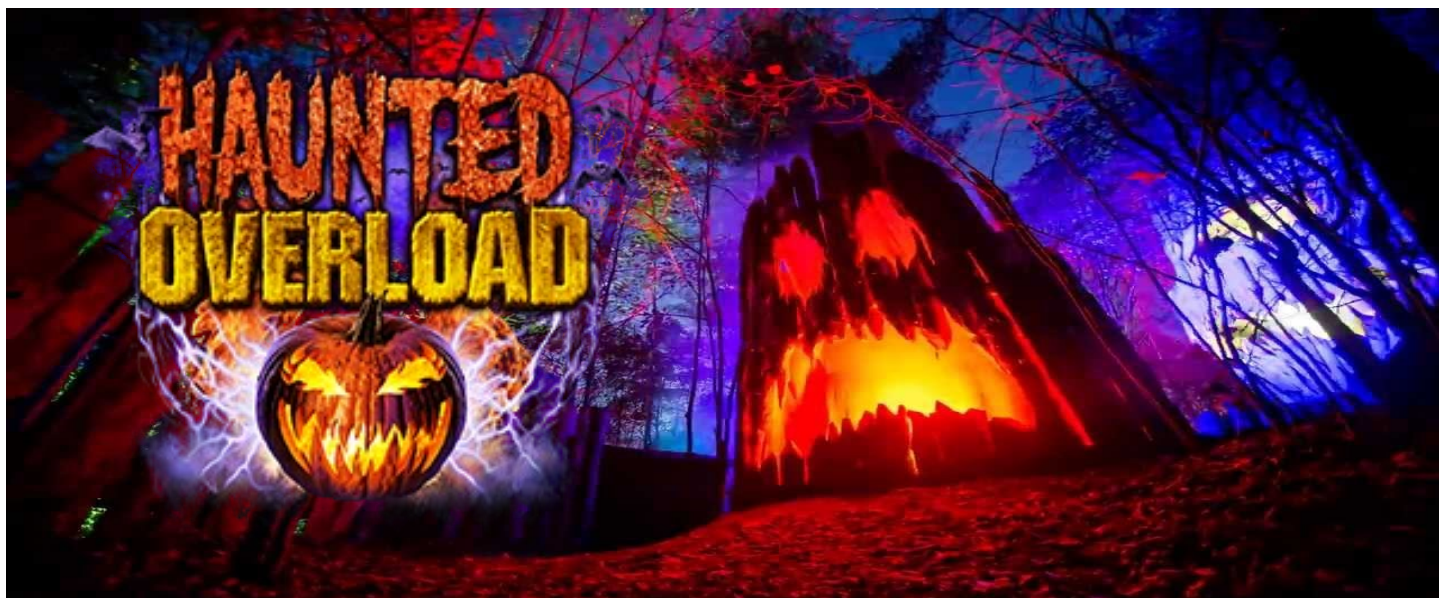
Blair is 3 years old and has shared her home with other cats in the past but never with a dog or children. Given her more laid-back attitude, she would probably do best with adult companions. Routine and calm are the name of the game for this sweet girl.

If you're looking for a mature cat to happily co-exist with you, please consider Blair!

DID YOU KNOW?

Between May 1st and August 31st, CVHS adopted 9 rabbits, 1 lizard, 5 birds, 10 small animals, 124 cats, 68 kittens, 68 dogs, and 18 puppies. That's a total of 303 animals who are now safe and happy in their forever homes!





Haunted Overload

Haunted Overload is a New Hampshire staple for Halloween lovers and people who just love to be scared. Located on the DeMeritt Hill Farm in Lee, NH, this spooky show has twice been voted one of the top 13 haunted attractions in the country. In 2014, Haunted Overload was named the scariest haunted attraction in the US on ABC's "The Great Halloween Fright Fight"!

Haunted Overload very generously donates 10% of their profits each year to Cocheco Valley Humane Society. In return, we try to help make the haunt as successful as possible by providing committed and dependable volunteers to help with parking cars, feeding actors, and monitoring the line of guests as they wait to enter the haunt, as well as thanking them and collecting donations as they exit. We also provide assistance in selling tickets to the day haunts, which are perfect for people who appreciate the art and craftsmanship that goes into the haunt but don't want to be scared to pieces while they are experiencing it!

If you're interested in helping out at this year's haunt, visit our website at cvhsonline.org/haunted-overload for more information and a listing of available volunteer shifts. You can learn more about the haunt itself and buy tickets at hauntedoverload.com.

Howl for the Animals

Each year on the opening weekend of Haunted Overload, we hold a special Halloween fundraiser for the animals at CVHS. This year on October 13th, visitors can come decorate their own trick-or-treat bags at our craft table and then trick-or-treat their way through the Haunted Overload Day Haunt where friendly costumed characters will hand out candy along the way.

We'll also have face-painting, a bouncy house, and fun raffle prizes to give away. This event is family- and pet-friendly, and costumes are strongly encouraged. Admission is \$5 per person and tickets can be purchased at the gate or in advance on our website at cvhsonline.org/howl-for-the-animals.



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Identifying Shelter Animal Breeds

by Dr. Sarah Proctor

How can we identify the breed of animals at CVHS? Unless a pet has a documented pedigree, we must rely on the owner's knowledge or our own best guess. A dog with a short nose, a brindle coat, and a docked tail might make us think, 'Boxer mix,' while a tri-colored dog with long floppy ears we might call a Beagle mix.

The dogs pictured below were part of a study to evaluate the accuracy of breed identification.¹ What breed do you think these dogs are?



Fig. 1¹



Fig. 2¹

Unfortunately, identifying breeds this way is difficult. There are many breeds that exhibit the same features, and there are many factors that determine how an inherited gene is expressed. Let's look at the dog in figure 1. His brindle coat pattern is found in many breeds like the Boxer, Mastiff, Staffordshire Terrier and more. Is he one of those breeds? His parents could have been other colors and were only carrying the brindle gene. Maybe that feature only explains a small portion of his breed genetics.

Let's look at his ears. They almost stand up straight but not quite. Does that mean he's part German Shepherd and part Labrador? If you cross a pointy-eared dog with a floppy-eared dog, is that what you'll get? That's not always clear.

Purebred animals are so alike because their genes are very similar from one generation to the next. When different breeds mate, genes mix and match randomly and you get variability in the offspring. If you mate a Labrador Retriever with a Poodle, the puppies will all look a bit different but still recognizable as Labradoodles. The more variety of genes present in the parents, the more variety you'll get in the offspring. If two mixed breed dogs mate, who knows what you'll get!



Fig. 3²

Here's one more dog for you to identify. This is a tough one! See the results of these dogs' DNA tests at the end of the article. The pictures used here are from this study: <https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/library/research-studies/current-studies/dog-breeds/>.

Several recent studies like this have found that even experts are not very good at identifying dog breeds by appearance. In these studies, experts labeled dog breeds in pictures and their answers were compared to DNA breed analysis. The experts were wrong 73% of the time.



Fig. 4¹

Continued on next page...



CVHS Fall Wishlist

- ☼ Halloween candy (collecting for Howl for the Animals until 10/11)
- ☼ Newspapers
- ☼ Peanut Butter (must not contain xylitol)
- ☼ Natural Balance Venison & Sweet Potato (Dog food and treats)
- ☼ Contractor Trash Bags
- ☼ Bleach
- ☼ Purina One Dry Kitten Food
- ☼ Purina One Cat Food
- ☼ Purina One Dog Food
- ☼ Plush/Interactive Dog Toys
- ☼ Kong and Nylabone toys—Large
- ☼ Pet Supply Store Gift Cards
- ☼ Grocery Store Gift Cards
- ☼ EZ Walk Harnesses—sizes Med and Large
- ☼ Timothy Hay
- ☼ Clay Non-Clumping Cat Litter

Introducing Obie



Cocheco Valley Humane Society is thrilled to welcome Robert "Obie" Barker as our new Executive Director. Obie will be taking the reins and leading us into the future in our new home, whose construction is currently underway!

Obie comes to us from the Boys & Girls Club of Lynn, MA. He has spent 39 years as Executive Director of Boys & Girls Clubs, and was selected Executive Director and Administrator of the Year in 2000. Obie was awarded the National Professional Service Award in 2008 and 2009, and the National Contribution to the Profession Award in 2010. During his time at Boys & Girls Clubs, Obie served as National Trainer for New Professionals as well as Staff and Board Development. A long time Rotarian, Obie was presented the Paul Harris Fellow in both 2014 and 2017, and in 2015 was selected by Lynn, MA's Mayor Kennedy as one of the community's Citizens of the Year. Obie resides in Pembroke, NH with his wife, Jean. He is the father of three children and the Papou of six grandchildren.

We are so grateful for his experience and leadership as we enter into this next phase of our organization.

Identifying Shelter Animal Breeds, cont.

Because of this research, many shelters are eliminating breed labels. Rather than label a pet incorrectly, CVHS more often uses a generic "mixed breed" label for dogs, unless the dog appears very much like one particular breed. We don't want to mislead pet owners and we don't want to make a dog seem less adoptable due to the stigma associated with certain breed labels.

The case for cats is more straightforward because purebred cats are much less common. 95% of pet cats are mixed breed cats, which we call Domestic Shorthairs (DSH) or Domestic Longhairs (DLH). It is much more likely that your tabby cat is a DSH and not a Maine Coon cat, because the purebred is just so rare. There is no validated DNA test for cat breeds to date. Without a documented pedigree, we really can only guess about a cat's true breed genetics.



Figure 5: Domestic shorthair with tabby coat pattern³ like that. The best pet for you is one who will enjoy living your lifestyle. We are confident that we can still help you select your next best friend, whatever their true breed.

Even though we can't usually identify animal breeds by appearance alone, we still know so much about the animals in our care. We can tell you where they like to be scratched, what toys they like, and how well mannered they are. We know if they'll be good hiking companions or couch potatoes. We spend so much time with our animals that we get to know them as individuals. The label of a breed becomes much less important with information

Answers to dog breeds pictures:

Figure 1: 25% Boxer, 25% Alaskan Malamute, 22% Sealyham Terrier, 20% Pointer

Figure 2: 33% Boxer, 25% Weimeraner, 15% Borzoi, 11% Keeshond

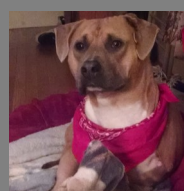
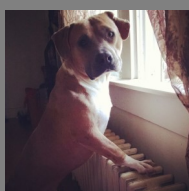
Figure 4: 25% Rottweiler, 13% Boxer, 13% German Shorthaired Pointer, 11% Manchester Terrier

References:

1. Croy, C., et. al., What kind of dog is that? Accuracy of dog breed assessment by canine stakeholders, Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program, University of Florida. Retrieved from www.sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu
2. www.wikipedia.com
3. www.pixabay.com

Happy Tails Adoption Update: Sherman

"When we brought Sherman home he was very timid, he was afraid of new spaces he was also very hesitant. He was still adjusting to his amputation when we got him so he would stumble every now and then but now he has gained muscle and navigates very well with his three legs. He even learned how to go up the stairs! He loves car rides and going for walks so every time he hears the keys jingle he runs to the door. Cocheco was a great help while finding the perfect dog for our family!"





Capital Campaign Naming Opportunities

Do you have a special person or pet that you'd like to memorialize? Remember them with a brick placed in the brick walkway or a dog or cat kennel at CVHS!

Large Dog Kennel

\$2,000

Small Dog Kennel

\$1,500

Cat Cage

\$1,000

Large Brick

\$1,000

Small Brick

\$500

For more information, contact
Debbie Shelton at
dshelton@cvhsonline.org



Join us November 2nd for our first annual Wag, Swag, and Giving: A Beer and Wine Tasting event to benefit Cochecho Valley Humane Society!

Hosted at the beautiful Cochecho Country Club, the night will feature multiple varieties of wine from Horizon Beverages and Pine State Trading as well as beer from local favorites Chapel + Main, Smuttynose, Stoneface, and Woodland Farms. We will have heavy hors d'oeuvres, live and silent auctions, and live music by Danny Harrington.

Tickets are \$70 per person and are on sale now! Get yours today at cvhsonline.org/tickets or by calling 603.749.5322 x112 and sign up for a night of delicious food and beverages, fabulous auction items, and a fun night out to celebrate the animals.



Capital Campaign Construction Update

It's been a long time coming, but after finding new homes for thousands of homeless animals over the years, Cochecho Valley Humane Society is finally getting a new home of our own!

As you may already know, we officially broke ground on June 21st and things have been happening fast over at 221 County Farm Road! The foundation is in, the pipes are run, and any day now we'll see the outer shell of the building erected in the field that we'll soon call home.

From our incredible groundbreaking ceremony early this summer through the signs of progress that have been popping up onsite, we have been overjoyed with the kindness, love, support, and generosity that we have received from all of you in our community. The road to this point has been very long and, at times, very frustrating for our supporters as much as ourselves. We can't thank you all enough for sticking with us and helping us realize this dream.

We know it seems like we're almost there, but we still have \$500K to raise before we reach our goal for this campaign. Please consider a donation to help finally bring us home!



Thank you to **Bill Dube Ford** and **Seacoast United** who partnered together for a Drive 4UR Community fundraising event in June. Ford Motors donated \$20 for each guest who test drove a Ford on the day of the event. By the end of the day they had raised over \$3.3K for CVHS! Bill Dube Ford has been a generous supporter of our shelter for a long time now and we couldn't be more appreciative of all they do for us.

Pictured above from left to right is Bill Dube president and CEO Debbie Dube Reed with her faithful pup Roscoe, Development Director for CVHS Debbie Shelton, and Bill Dube Ford General Manager Ann Morin.

Honor Kevin's legacy by donating to the **Kevin D. Clark Fund** for Special Needs Animals



Cocheco Valley Humane Society

262 County Farm Road
Dover, NH 03820
cvhsonline.org



Many thanks to **Keystone Dental Arts** for supporting our shelter through their Do Something PAWSitive campaign. They understand that dental issues can have a big impact on how readily a dog or cat can be adopted and wanted to help, so they raised and donated funds toward the purchase of new dental equipment for our surgical suite!

They also donated food, treats, and toys to keep all of our current residents full and happy.

Cocheco Valley Humane Society is a non-profit organization that receives no state or federal funding. We depend on fundraisers, grants, and the generosity of individuals like you to provide food, shelter, and medical care to the abandoned, abused, neglected, and homeless animals of Strafford County, NH and Southern ME. Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of the 1500+ animals each year who depend on us for their care while they are waiting to find their forever homes. Please consider making a donation today at cvhsonline.org/donate!

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

Oct 13: Howl for the Animals

Nov 2: CVHS Wag, Swag, and Giving Event

Nov 4: 5th Annual Helicopter Drop

Go to cvhsonline.org/events for more information.

Volunteer Spotlight



Meet our featured volunteers, **Leslie & Hunter Allain!** Leslie and Hunter joined our team earlier this year and really hit the ground running, helping with a number of our Humane Education events, as well as caring for the cats and small animals at the shelter. They've both just completed dog walking 101, so soon our pup friends will benefit from their company too! Leslie says, "Volunteering at the Cocheco Valley Humane Society is the best part of our day. From working with Mary G. going into schools to help educate children about the shelter and pets, spending time with the animals, playing with the cats for Hunter, to being there to see an animal get adopted, is the best! We always leave there planning our next visit."