

*adopt. honor. advocate*

# Cocheco Valley Humane Society

Winter 2019 Newsletter

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## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Between September 1st and December 31st, CVHS adopted 141 cats, 48 dogs, 4 puppies, 67 kittens, 8 rabbits, 1 bird, 1 ferret, and 15 small animals. That's a total of 285 animals who are now safe and happy in their forever homes!



## **Meet our spotlight pet: Fergus!**

Fergus is an energetic and playful guy that also enjoys his downtime. Most days you can find him sitting quietly in his kennel, gazing at visitors with his big brown eyes. Once he gets outside, Fergus loves long walks in the fresh air, and only occasionally gets distracted by squirrels. With such an active personality, he would make a great running or hiking partner!

As an intelligent, friendly dog, Fergus enjoys socializing with people. He has mastered many of his basic commands, but needs to work on his boundaries. Fergus is in need of a home with an experienced owner that will work with him on his excitable behaviors. He must go to a home without any feline friends, and would do best with family members aged 14 and older. Fergus must meet any potential canine companions.

If you have room for a friendly, energetic pup and have the resources to work with his behaviors, please consider Fergus!

## Fall Fundraisers Wrap-Up

### Haunted Overload

Every year, Haunted Overload donates 10% of gross profits to the animals of CVHS. This year, \$40,425 was raised for CVHS! The haunt draws thousands of people from all over the world each year. Countless hours were clocked to keep the spooky attraction running smoothly, many of which were logged by volunteers on behalf of CVHS!

If you're interested in volunteering for next year's haunt, please email Melanie Burger at [mburger@cvhsonline.org](mailto:mburger@cvhsonline.org).

### Wag, Swag, and Giving

On November 2, we hosted the first annual Wag, Swag, and Giving: A Beer and Wine Tasting Event to Benefit Cochecho Valley Humane Society. The event was hosted at the gorgeous Cochecho Country Club, and featured beer and wine from local favorites, music, and live and silent auctions. Over \$30,800 was raised for the animals in just one evening! We look forward to holding the event again in Fall 2019!

### CCC Fall Classic Charity Tournament

In November, the Cochecho Country Club hosted their annual Fall Classic Charity Tournament. The event, including the 5th annual golf ball raffle & helicopter drop, raised an impressive \$4,442.50 for the animals! Thank you to Cochecho Country Club for hosting such a wonderful event in support of local organizations, and to all who participated!

### The Fabulous Find

Every month, The Fabulous Find in Kittery, ME donates their profits to local charities. In November, the store raised \$6,991 for the animals of CVHS! Thank you to the Fabulous Find and all their patrons for your incredible generosity!

### How Cold is Too Cold For Your Dog?

how cold is too cold?						
°C	°F					
15°	60°	1	1	1	1 No evidence of risk: Have fun outside!	
12°	55°	1	1	1	2 Risk is unlikely: Have fun outside, but be careful!	
10°	50°	2	1	1	3 Unsafe potential, depending on breed. Keep an eye on your pet outdoors.	
7°	45°	2	2	1	4 Dangerous weather developing. Use caution.	
4°	40°	3	3	2	5 Potentially life-threatening cold. Avoid prolonged outdoor activity.	
1°	35°	3	3	3		
-1°	30°	3	3	3	+2 if wet weather is present	
-4°	25°	4	4	3	-1 if Northern breed or heavy coat	
-6°	20°	5	4	3	-1 if dog is acclimated to cold	
-9°	15°	5	4	4		
-12°	10°	5	5	5		
-15°	5°	5	5	5		
-17°	0°	5	5	5		

source: adapted from  
The Tufts Animal Condition and Care (TACC)

Petplan®

[www.petplan.com](http://www.petplan.com)

Follow these guidelines to keep your pup safe and happy this winter! Always consult with your vet if you have questions specific to your dog.

### Capital Campaign & Building Updates



The roof is on, the walls are up, and the future home of PMCVHS is coming along! We've had an exciting fundraising year that has allowed us to break ground and start building the new shelter that we've dreamed of for years! We are about \$500K shy of our fundraising goal for the construction to be completed. Please consider donating to our Capital Campaign and help us close this final gap in the funding of the new building! Visit [cvhsonline.org/donations/bringushome](http://cvhsonline.org/donations/bringushome) to donate and see the remaining naming opportunities! For more information, contact Deb Shelton at [dshelton@cvhsonline.org](mailto:dshelton@cvhsonline.org).



## #KindnessforKaine Update

His story is a familiar one to our community. Tens of thousands of people have seen, read, or heard about Kaine. When he first came to CVHS in July of 2017, he was malnourished and bald. As the shelter staff nursed him back to physical health, they found that Kaine was also dealing with anxiety issues. Due to his energy levels and anxieties, Kaine was constantly being overlooked on the adoption floor. Eventually, he found what seemed to be a forever home and was adopted. Unfortunately, Kaine's needs were not made a priority in this home. He lived a lonely life of solitude, and his mental health deteriorated. This decline affected his personality, and he began to lose the spark that the shelter staff saw in him when he first arrived at the shelter.

In January 2018, Kaine returned to CVHS, where his heightened anxieties were worsened by a return to the kennel environment. He was declining rapidly, so we reached out to our community for help to fund Kaine's rehabilitation. Thanks to your incredible generosity, Kaine began to show signs of improvement, but we knew he couldn't stay in our care forever. He needed a home. A true forever home that was loving. Somewhere he could feel safe.

In September, Kaine entered a foster home with a caring family that was committed to working with him on his anxieties. They selflessly put their time, energy, and love into Kaine's well-being. On Christmas Eve, they made it official, and Kaine was adopted by his forever family. Kaine's adoptive mom, Morgan, shares her thoughts on her journey with Kaine below:

### Lessons Learned from My Dog

The world is filled with animals who have been wronged by us as humans. Every day, we hear the stories of another animal in need. I find myself feeling helpless over the scale of abuse and neglect right here within my very own community. However, when I feel like I am losing my last shred of hope in humanity; it only takes one look at Kaine!

He is just one of the many dogs that passed through those shelter doors, but to me he is a reminder that despite all the evil among us, good people still exist.

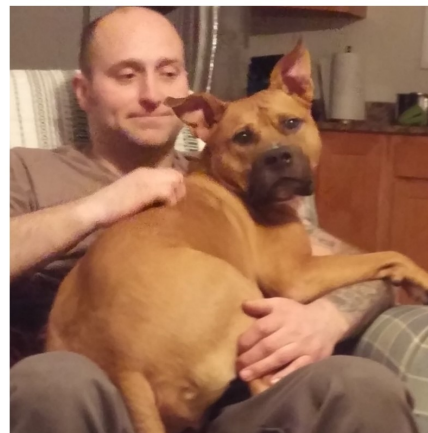
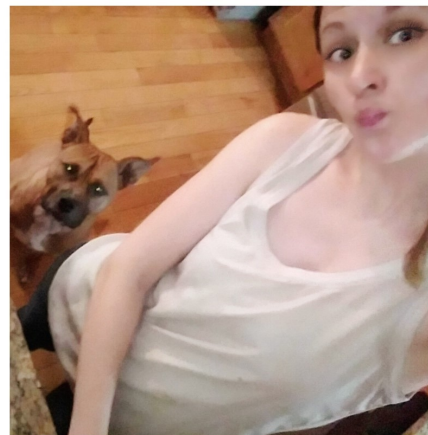
The people at CVHS looked past his poor health, broken spirit, fears, and anxieties and gave him a second chance. They never gave up, even when all the odds were stacked against them. His spirit has been restored.

As an animal lover, I have a difficult time walking into any shelter and not wanting to take every animal home with me.

So when I walked into CVHS over a year ago and first saw Kaine, curled in a ball, hiding in the back of his kennel, looking at me with the world's saddest eyes, I knew he needed to come home with me. I asked about adoption, but was told he was not available at the time. I left my information anyways, but when I never received a phone call, I assumed he was off living his best life.

Months passed and I stumbled upon the #KindnessforKaine Facebook posts. I remembered those eyes and knew I couldn't ignore him, so I reached out again. Fast forward a few months later, we finally welcomed Kaine to our home as a foster.

At first, he had a hard time transitioning into our home, but we learned to understand him, and remained patient. After just a short time together, we earned his trust and then his healing process began. Today I can confidently say he has transformed from the outside in-- almost unrecognizable to the shelter pup we took home!



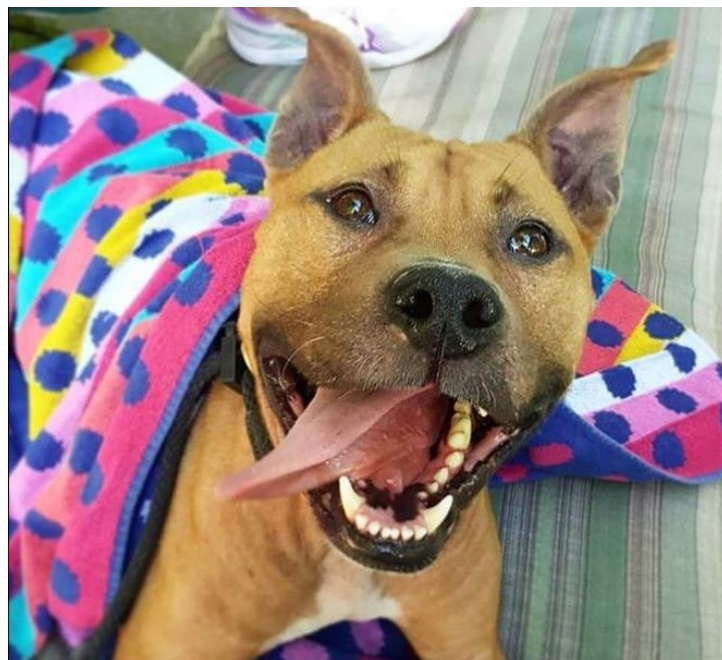
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## #KindnessforKaine Update, cont.

Now he enjoys running and playing, with toys and with his friends, but his real passion is still cuddling! He simply loves to snuggle, hug you, and just be loved, and that is something he will never again be without!

I ask myself how it's possible to endure so much suffering by the hands of humans and yet still be so willing to forgive, love, and trust them. Now I realize that although he was once hurt by them, he also was saved by them. To the people at CVHS, I simply can't begin to express my gratitude for all you have done for Kaine, and all you continue to do for those like him.



## Long-Term Resident: Hemingway

Hemingway has been at CVHS for a combined total of nearly 200 days. This lovable guy originally came from a situation of neglect and abuse. Hemi loves to play, and you can find him tossing his toys around the room when there's no one else to play with! He also loves his snuggle time, and will climb right into your lap if you let him! Hemi requires a



## Pet Dental Health

by Sarah Proctor, DVM

### Bad Breath, Bad Teeth, Bad Disease, Oh My!

Dental disease is the most common disease of dogs and cats. By age 3, 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have dental disease. So, what's the big deal with a little bad breath?

First, oral bacteria cause plaque to form. That's the yellow stuff you might see on your pet's teeth, and the fuzzy stuff you feel on your own teeth if you forget to brush. If the plaque isn't removed often, it hardens into a substance called tartar that can't be brushed off. Bacteria under the tartar are then protected, and can burrow along the tooth root. As the bacteria get deeper, they break the tooth away from the jawbone and can also access the bloodstream. This whole process is called periodontal disease, and causes teeth to become loose, painful, and infected. In advanced cases pets can have missing teeth and even broken jaws. Bacteria entering the bloodstream can damage vital organs like the kidneys and heart. To make things even worse, pets often don't show signs of dental pain. Obvious signs like pawing at the mouth, drooling, or not eating are not common. Many pets act and eat normally with very painful teeth.

You can prevent periodontal disease in your pet with daily brushing. Most people fail in brushing because they rush the process.

How to successfully brush your pet's teeth:

1. Have your vet examine your pet's teeth. If they have bad dental disease, brushing may be painful. Your pet may need a professional cleaning first so that any painful areas can be addressed. Once your vet gives the ok, you can start!
2. Get pet toothpaste – made specially for pets so it doesn't get foamy, is safe to swallow, and has a pet-friendly flavor.
3. Get a toothbrush – any kind will work but infant finger brushes are nice and soft. Long handled pet brushes are nice for dogs with long snouts.
4. Offer your pet toothpaste on your finger. Make sure they like it! Do this for a few days.
5. Put toothpaste on the toothbrush and offer your pet the paste off the brush. Do this for another few days.
6. Put paste on the brush and place it on your pet's top front teeth. You may lift their upper lip so you can see what you're doing. If they tolerate this, try brushing back and forth a little. Let them lick as you go and don't worry about actually brushing much. Do this for a few days.
7. As days pass and your pets tolerates brushing of the front teeth, try to move towards the side day by day until eventually you can brush the fronts, the sides, and all the way to the back of top and bottom teeth. The key is not to move further along until your pet is comfortable with each step. Be patient.
8. You don't need to brush the inside surfaces of the teeth in most pets. If you can keep the outsides of the teeth clean, the insides will likely stay clean too.
9. Brushing once daily is the ideal, but your pet can still benefit from brushing 2-3 times per week. Aim for 30-60 seconds of brushing each day, but some is better than none!

Other solutions (like dental treats, water additives, chew toys, etc.) don't work as well as brushing. Without brushing, some pets will need veterinary cleanings periodically to keep their mouths healthy and comfortable.

Keep in mind that there are other tooth problems that can't be prevented by brushing. Be sure to get your vet's recommendation before starting a brushing routine. February is Pet Dental Health month and is a good time to get a consultation. Many vets offer discounted dental screenings or cleanings in February to promote dental health.

For more information on pet dental care (including videos and a self-quiz) see:  
<https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Pet-Dental-Care.aspx>



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## Volunteer Spotlight

Carolyn and Marlene are two of our most faithful volunteers.

Together, they visit the shelter twice a week, dedicating all their time to reducing the stress of the rescue pups in our care by exercising their brains with enrichment activities and basic skills training.

Carolyn and Marlene facilitate lots of fun activities to help the canines of CVHS stay active and keep their minds engaged. They teach the dogs tricks, play games, and set up puzzles for them to solve!

Carolyn, who has been a volunteer at the shelter for more years than she can count says, "The greatest pleasure for me is when I see it click with the dogs... they not only get it but love it! On my next visit they actually try to drag me into the room to work their brain... it is so much fun for them."

Marlene, who has been helping at the shelter since 2016 says, "I love seeing how much the dogs enjoy using their brains to learn new things and using their noses to find treats. I take my volunteering at the shelter seriously and try to do the best I can to help."

Thank you, Carolyn and Marlene, for all that you do to improve the lives of our dogs and helping to make their stay at CVHS more meaningful!

*(They are pictured here with our spotlight pet, Fergus!)*



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](http://cvhsonline.org/donate)!

## Save the Date

**Feb 20:** Sonny's Tavern Dining-out Fundraiser

**Jun 2:** Tails to Trails Dog Walk and 5K Run

Go to [cvhsonline.org/events](http://cvhsonline.org/events) for more information.



Thank you to **D.F. Richard** for offering to match donations up to \$10K during our holiday appeal in December. And many thanks as well to the numerous generous donors who helped us to meet that matching goal!

## CVHS Winter Wishlist

- ✿ Limited Ingredient Treats
- ✿ Non-clumping cat litter
- ✿ Pet-friendly ice melt
- ✿ Benebones & Nylabones
- ✿ Kongs
- ✿ Bleach
- ✿ Contractor trash bags
- ✿ Purina One dog food
- ✿ Purina One cat food
- ✿ Plush dog toys
- ✿ Pet supply store gift cards