

SPRING FUNDRAISERS WRAP-UP

NH GIVES 2020

Thank you to all the donors that made this year's NH Gives online event the tremendous success that it was! We were fortunate to have a donor step forward and provide a \$5,000 match challenge which was met in the first 2 hours! This precipitated another match challenge for \$2,500! Both were made in honor of all US Veterans and current Military Personnel. In addition, donors from the NH Charitable Foundation offered a match as well. We were able to get some of that match. A total of \$31,926 was raised, \$10,000 over our goal!

VIRTUAL WALK/RUN/BIKE

The first annual Pets 2 the Rescue walk/run/ bike was held from May 8 through June 15. 63 people registered and made donations. A total of \$1,475 was raised. Thank you so much to those who participated!



THANKS AND BEST WISHES TO TWO OF OUR LONG-TIME VOLUNTEERS

Danielle Letarte and Alex Booth have been dedicated volunteers for over 6 years, coming every Saturday morning to clean, feed, and provide enrichment for the cats in our care. They have shown love to all our cats, but have had a special place in their hearts for those who end up spending a longer time at the shelter--the seniors, those with special needs, and those who are especially fearful. During the past couple of years, they led cat care training sessions.

They have not only been generous with their time, but they have also given monetary donations for general operations and supported the capital campaign. They have contributed in many ways to enrich the environment for our cats, including donating an Amazon Echo speaker to play soothing music and providing a large "catio" enclosure for the cats to enjoy.

We are sad to share that they left in May, but we are happy for them as they start a new adventure in Colorado. In recognition of their support and to honor their spirit of care for our cats, we are formalizing a Cat Enrichment Program. Thank you, Danielle and Alex, for your generosity and love for our feline residents. We wish you the best!



SAYING GOODBYE TO BELICHICK

It is with great sadness we say goodbye to one of our longtime volunteers. Belichick was one of our humane education dogs.



Belichick and mom, Jessica Dugas, joined the humane education team in January 2015. Since becoming volunteers, Belichick and Jessica helped educate children and the community about animal safety and animal care. Most recently Belichick and Jessica helped pioneer the children's reading program at the Berwick Public Library. With her ears propped up Belichick would attentively listen as the children would read their favorite books to her each month. Even as her time grew short and the rainbow bridge nearer, she was still wagging her tail. You will be missed you big, goofy, lovable yellow lab!



Pope Memorial Humane Society Cochecho Valley

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S INSIDE:



MEET OUR SPOTLIGHT PET: ODESSA

Odessa is a 6 year old, 70 lb, spayed female, mixed breed who is always happy to be with her humans! She has been in the shelter for a combined total of over 130 days. Odessa originally came to the shelter as a stray and not much is known about her. She was adopted out for about a year, but her family was moving and unable to take her. She is now looking for a true forever home. She is an active dog who is looking for an active owner. She enjoys daily

walks, play time, and car rides. Odessa must be the only animal in her home (no dogs, cats, or small animals) and it must be adults only, age 16 years and up. Unfortunately, she is not suited for apartment/condo living, but would thrive in a home setting, in a quiet neighborhood, with very little dog traffic. She would hit the jackpot with a secure, fenced in yard! Odessa is looking for a very specific home, but we know it is out there! She waits patiently!

DRIVE THROUGH RABIES CLINIC A HUGE SUCCESS

COVID-19 CHANGES PROTOCOL FOR RABIES CLINIC

On June 13 we held a drive through rabies clinic where owners drove up and stayed in their cars while staff got the dogs out and brought them into the community room to see the vet. 67 dogs received their rabies vaccinations. The dogs were much more relaxed than they usually are since they waited their turn in the security of their car with their owner.



NEXT RABIES CLINIC WILL BE SATURDAY JULY 25 FROM 9 TO 11 AM. IT WILL BE A DRIVE THROUGH CLINIC FOR DOGS ONLY; RABIES SHOTS WILL BE \$20 EACH AND MICROCHIPS WILL BE \$25 EACH.

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT PMHS-CV

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Do you have a special person, animal lover or pet that you want to honor or memorialize? Remember them with a memorial brick placed in the brick patio. Small bricks are \$500 and large are \$1,000. For more information email dshelton@popememorialcvhs.org or call 603-749-5322 ext. 106.



Paint Night Event, August 29 at Cochecho Country Club 7 to 9 pm \$40 per person

August 15 Road Toll Fundraiser from 10 am to 2 pm at the intersection of Central Avenue and Oak Street in Dover.

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INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS (IRAs) AS CHARITABLE GIFTS

There are many ways to leave a legacy and ensure your support for the animals will continue well into the future. By making a gift of a traditional IRA, appreciated stocks, establishing a charitable gift annuity, leaving a bequest to the animals in your will, or naming Pope Memorial Humane Society - Cochecho Valley as the beneficiary of your life insurance, trust, or estate--you can truly make a difference in the lives of animals and be certain that PMHS-CV will be here for future generations.

An wonderful gift option is the IRA Charitable Rollover. It provides you with an excellent opportunity to make a gift during your lifetime from an asset that would be subject to multiple levels of taxation if it remained in your taxable estate. You must be 70.5 years or older, and transfers must be made directly from your IRA account to PMHS-CV. The amount can be up to \$100,000.

As you plan your required distributions for this year, if you do not need the money the government is requiring you take, consider using it for a charitable gift using the IRA Charitable Rollover.

Important: Be sure to check with your financial advisor to determine whether this provision is right for you. This information is not meant as tax or legal advice.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

ESTATE GIFTS

VOLUNTEER MILESTONES AND VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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COVID-19 AND YOUR PET AND FIREWORKS, THUNDERSTORMS AND TERRIFIED DOGS

PETS2THERESCUE VIRTUAL WALK/BIKE/RIDE UPDATE

NH GIVES UPDATE

WAYS TO SUPPORT PMHS-CV

COVID-19 AND YOUR PETS: FAQs AND A SUMMER OF FUN? FIREWORKS, THUNDERSTORMS AND YOUR DOG

By Sarah Proctor, DVM

Can my pet get sick from COVID-19?

There are only 4 confirmed cases in the world of a pet infected with COVID-19, and only one of those animals even had symptoms. That pet made a full recovery. None of these cases were in the US. Some small studies suggest that dogs, cats and ferrets are susceptible to the virus, but dogs were much less likely to become infected. These studies did not mimic living conditions in a home, and we don't currently believe that pets are a risk for illness from COVID-19.

Can my pet spread COVID-19?

There is no evidence to date that pets can spread COVID-19. The virus does not linger on pet fur long enough to make transmission possible. However, the virus could remain on collars, leashes, clothing, kennels, beds, and other inanimate objects, so it is best to wash your hands and these objects if you or your pet are exposed to a COVID-19 patient or a high-risk location.

Can I take my pet on a walk, to the vet, or anywhere else?

Use the same precautions for your pet that you do for yourself. Stay home when you can and stay 6 feet away from others when you go out. Most vets are requiring owners to stay outside while they treat the pet, but many are still providing regular services. You should contact your vet to find out how they are operating and discuss what is best for you and your pet. In general, do the same for your pet as you would for yourself, with the exception of masks.

These FAQs were adapted from the AVMA's guidelines for pet owners which can be found in full here: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/covid-19-faqs-pet-owners#1>



SUMMER OF FUN???

Summer can be the worst time of year for dogs who are afraid of loud noises. The unpredictable bangs of fireworks and the sights and sounds of thunderstorms can make these dogs tremble with fear and destroy the home in their panic. We call this condition noise or storm phobia. Other signs of noise phobia include drooling, hiding, or not wanting to move. Even those mild signs tell us dogs are scared, and if not addressed, the behaviors can worsen with time. Fortunately, the options for treating noise and storm phobias are better than they used to be. We can help these dogs with a combination of training methods, therapeutic products, and medications.

Training

You can desensitize your dog to scary sounds by gradually introducing the sound over time. You can find free sound recordings on YouTube. When the dog is calm, play the least scary part of the sound (like just rain) at a very low volume for 5-10 minutes. As long as the dog stays calm, the next time you turn it up a bit. You might do a session every day, slowly increasing the intensity, volume, and duration of the noise. Over several weeks, the dog should get used to louder and scarier sounds without fear. If you see any signs of stress, you should instead stop the session and the next time return to what you did the last time, the lower exposure that he could tolerate. You may need to go even more gradually if that happens.



To make training more effective, pair the dog's relaxed behavior while listening to the sound recordings with a reward like a treat or toy. This conditions the dog to think of good things when he hears the scary sound, making it less scary over time. This conditioning works best in puppies or dogs who don't yet have noise or storm phobia.

Environment/Medications

Hiding places. Simply providing your dog a place where he feels safe may help.

Pressure. You can use a product like the Thundershirt, which pressures the dog's body like swaddling a baby and provides a sense of security to some dogs.

Pheromone products. These stimulate a dog's own scent and can provide reassurance to anxious dogs. Adaptil pheromones come in a collar, a spray, and a plug-in diffuser.

Medications. These are not like the drugs of the past that made dogs sedated and often didn't work very well. Talk to your vet about drugs like trazodone and Sileo that can be given on days when storms are expected, or around the July 4th holiday.

Each individual dog will respond differently to these methods. Discuss the options with your veterinarian and be prepared for some trial and error to find out what works best for your dog.

CELEBRATING A MAJOR VOLUNTEERING MILESTONE!

They may not wear capes, but these three amazing people are all superheroes at PMHS-CV! Pam, Joe, and Marcie have all passed an incredible milestone, each individually giving more than 2,000 hours of service! It's a big number but in reality, the time and compassionate care they give to our animals, is immeasurable.

Pam Thompson is a human dynamo! She has been volunteering at the shelter for a couple of years, and has quickly become one of our most dedicated and consistent volunteers, working Monday-Friday with our cats and many of the most challenging dogs. In addition to working on multiple fundraising events, Pam provides most of the wonderful videos of adoptable animals posted on our Facebook page. Lucky for us, she is also a key member of our Volunteer Mentoring team, helping to orient and train future dog walkers. Whether cleaning cages, sitting in a playroom helping socialize a cat or giving a dog a day trip away from the shelter, Pam always goes the extra mile to improve the lives of the animals.



If it is after 2 pm, the staff and dogs know it must be "Joe time!" For over 5 years, Joe Somers has been coming to the shelter every afternoon to walk the dogs, putting a smile on everyone's face and setting tails wagging. Every day, Joe helps the dogs in his care to just "be dogs", providing them a chance to walk, explore, play, and get loads of love and attention. The life of a shelter dog can be full of stress, but for two hours every day, Joe provides a friendly familiar face, consistency, and a daily routine that can transform a dog's experience. Joe's work and dedication is a priceless gift for all of our dogs.



There is barely a week that's gone by during the past two decades that Marcie Price has not been providing loving care to the cats at the shelter. A volunteer since 2001, Marcie is our longest serving and most experienced cat care volunteer. She has spent countless hours working with our cats, providing them comfort, a soft gentle voice, and vital socialization. She has been instrumental in finding ways to reduce stress, creatively expand each cat's living space, and improve the day-to-day experience for the cats. As a Volunteer Mentor, Marcie continues to pass on her knowledge and experience to our new cat care volunteers. Her devotion, passionate advocacy, and gentle care has made an enormous difference for thousands of cats who have passed through our shelter. Thank you, Pam, Joe, and Marcie for being our superheroes. Your compassion and dedication is inspiring.



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We are grateful to DF Richard Energy for their generous support of the animals by agreeing to match the first \$10,000 raised for our Holiday Appeal this December. Their match for the past five years has helped to raise over \$100,000! Thank you for truly making a difference in the lives of the more than 1,000 animals that pass through our doors each year looking for their second chance and the opportunity to find a loving forever home.

COVID-19 IMPACT MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OBIE BARKER, JR.



The new year is something everyone looks forward to: a new beginning, a fresh start, a chance for being creative. It was no different for us, six months earlier we had celebrated the opening of a much anticipated new facility. We were getting ready to roll out new programs, a new structure on caring for animals and more community involvement. The first few months even provided us hope financially, that this was going to be a banner year for us;

Then just like a March blizzard, our whole world turned upside down.

It all started with the Stay at Home Order passed down by the Governor. As we heard rumblings of this being a possibility, we had to have a plan in place to address the needs and safety of our animals; how would they be cared for if we were not designated an essential workplace?

Our team quickly jumped into action to secure foster homes for the animals that were healthy with little or no behavioral problems. Within 24 hours we were able to place in excess of 30 of our 40 animals in a welcoming environment and from there our industry changed.

Like the rest of society, we are doing business as we have never done before; the shelter is closed to the public, operating by appointment only. Because of this, with limited access in house, and a low inventory of animals, we had to layoff a dozen workers and furlough a few more. Additionally, it has impacted our volunteer base of over 100 eager animal lovers, restricting the number of people coming into our facility.

It is a top priority right now to maintain a safe workplace and implement practices to protect the health of our community, staff, as well as, our animals. It has not been an easy decision for us to close.

As we tried to look ahead financially, we were forced to start canceling or postponing various fundraising endeavors that are an integral part of our financial structure; our budget has been reduced by 35-40%. This continues to impact staffing levels through reduced hours, salary cuts and more layoffs.

Because of health concerns, we had to start restricting various donations. All blankets, sheets, pet toys, etc. had to be cleaned and specially wrapped before we would bring them inside the building. People could no longer just drop off donations in our outdoor box, yet another appointment was needed just to deliver donation products.

We have started to refine our skills and learn how to conduct meetings and fundraisers virtually. With people confined to their homes we are making an attempt to have a larger presence on social media, getting the word out about Pope Memorial Humane Society - Cocheco Valley.

The bright spot during all of this cloudiness, has been the support of our donors. They continue to have it in their hearts to see to it that the animals are still getting the care they need.

When the Stay at Home order is finally lifted, we will still be operating on a restricted basis, with a variety of new protocols in place for the betterment of all.