



Spring 2011

765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT

802-483-6700

www.rchsvt.org

Kitten Season

With the winter being an especially long one, we were all happy to see spring finally showing signs of arriving. At the same time, here at the shelter we brace for the influx of kittens. This year there is reason to think we are making progress against over-population.

When we looked at our numbers in 2010 the most outstanding statistic was our intake of cats. Cats are really good breeders; an unspayed female can have three litters of kittens a year and felines make up almost 70% of RCHS shelter residents. A few years ago we decided to get in front of the issue and spend more time and effort decreasing the number of kittens born without homes. Kittens coming into the shelter in 2009 totaled **518**. Last year that number dropped to **369**. In addition to this dramatic drop in number, the overall health of kittens entering the shelter was improved and 76 fewer kittens died due to illness and birth defects. Our efforts to spay and neuter more cats showed us dramatic results. Our clinics and outreach to farms and other areas with many stray cats paid off. As did the RCHS monthly transportation to the VT-CAN spay/neuter clinics and our Spay the Mom program. To learn more about the RCHS programs, please visit our website at www.rchsvt.org.



We'll still have plenty of adorable kittens available for adoption. Remember that the "free" kitten you get won't have his or her shots, be spayed or neutered or be eligible for a free veterinary examination. All our kittens have all the above.

To My Foster Mom

By A. H. Omeless Pett

There I sat, alone and afraid,
 You got a call and came right to my aid.
 You bundled me up with blankets and love.
 And, when I needed it most, you gave me a hug.
 I learned that the world was not all that scary and cold.
 That sometimes there is someone to have and to hold.
 You taught me what love is, you helped me to mend.
 You loved me and healed me and became my first friend.
 And just when I thought you'd done all you do,
 There came along not one new lesson, but two.
 First you said, "Sweetheart, you're ready to go.
 I've done all I can, and you've learned all I know."
 Then you bundled me up with a blanket and kiss.
 Along came a new family, they even have kids!
 They took me to their home, forever to stay.
 At first I thought you sent me away.
 Then that second lesson became perfectly clear.
 No matter how far, you will always be near.

And so, Foster Mom, you know I've moved on.
 I have a new home, with toys and a lawn.
 But I'll never forget what I learned that first day.
 You never really give your fosters away.
 You gave me these thoughts to remember you by.
 We may never meet again, and now I know why.
 You'll remember I lived with you for a time.
 I may not be yours, but you'll always be mine.

Spring and summer bring an average of 400 kittens through the doors of RCHS. If you are interested in helping RCHS care for them by becoming a foster parent, please email Jessica@rchsvt.org.

Fostering kittens usually requires a 2-6 week time commitment, a spare room or bathroom in your home, and a big heart. In exchange for this, you get the joys of kittenhood and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped save a life!

EVENTS

Three Tomatoes Trattoria Fundraiser for RCHS – Wednesday, June 15. Three Tomatoes Trattoria will donate \$1 to RCHS for each entrée ordered. The fundraiser will take place at all 4 Three Tomatoes locations in Vermont (Rutland, Burlington and Williston) and NH (Lebanon). For more details contact the RCHS Business Office at 483.9171 or visit www.rchsvt.org.

Killington Dog Days (including the games of Fido Fest and the Duck Derby) – Saturday and Sunday, July 16 & 17 from 10 AM – 5 PM at the Shelburne Library Fields on River Road in Killington. This two day event benefits RCHS. Watch Skyhoundz (disc dogs) and United Frisbee Dog Operations, play doggie games (such as the famous 50-paw dash, barrel racing, musical carpets and more!), visit with dog related vendors and watch dog related demonstrations. And our famous Duck Derby will take place on Sunday, July 17 at 3 pm. Adopt a duck and win cash prizes! Come on down and enjoy a day of doggie fun. Make sure to bring your favorite canine, too. For more information contact the RCHS Business Office at 483.9171 or visit www.rchsvt.org.

Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament – RCHS is hosting a Texas Hold'em to raise funds for the animals in our care. Saturday, August 20 at Bowlerama in Rutland. Visit www.vtpokerleague.com for more details.

Dog Days of Summer Pool Party – Sunday, August 28 from 1 – 3 pm at White's Pool in Rutland. Your canine will enjoy a last summer swim along with games, vendors and more. Check our website www.rchsvt.org for more details. All proceeds benefit RCHS. The Rutland Recreation Department is donating the use of the pool for the day with our thanks!

3rd Annual Dock Diving at the Lakehouse Pub & Grille – Join us for a splashing good time on Sunday, September 25 at the Lakehouse Pub & Grille in Lake Bomoseen for a dock diving competition to benefit RCHS. Check our website for more details as they become available.

Please check out the “News & Events” page on our website for more events as they come up throughout the Spring & Summer.

“Spring for the Animals” Auction

Our annual auction was a great success this year with more auction items and a greater number of bidders (both online and in person) than ever before! Those who donated items and bid all helped raise needed funds for the animals in our care and for our community programs. Our thanks to the Rutland Country Club, Woodchucks' Revenge for the music and our many volunteers who made the auction such a success. And a special thank you to everyone who donated items and bid to support the animals!

Furry Friends Photo Contest

RCHS hosted another photo filled (and fun filled) photo contest this year! Over 80 photos were submitted with adorable shots of our furry friends. When the final votes were counted the winners were Jaxx with 300 votes, Susanna with 155 votes, Henrietta with 152 votes and a tie for fourth place with Ghandi and Trozzy both with 125 votes. Look for them in our 2012 RCHS Wall Calendar. Our thanks to everyone who submitted photos, voted and supported RCHS. For more information about our calendar please contact the RCHS Business Office at 483.9171.

Wiggles & Wags, Purrs & Paws to:

Morgan Arsenault
 Ben Boggio
 Boy Scout Troop #122
 Castleton Village School Student Council
 College of St. Joe's Step Program
 Autumn Farmer
 Melissa Garrow
 Kiana Grabowski
 Head Over Heels
 Tanner Heath
 Heritage Family Credit Union Employees
 Mrs. Keith's 3rd Grade at Barstow Memorial School
 Eileen Koch
 John & Nancy Krupp
 Maya Mitowski

Middletown Springs Elementary School Grades 1 & 2
 OMYA
 Otter Valley Middle School
 Debbie Petroski
 Pittsford Business Community Group
 Pittsford Pack 110
 Proctor Junior-Senior High School
 Rutland High School National Honor Society
 Cameron Silloway
 Spartan Football Family
 Riley Spaulding
 Mrs. Tanen's 4th Grade Class at RIS
 Judy Taranovich & Proctor Gas
 Tractor Supply
 Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday School
 Wallingford Elementary School Student Council

We Get By With A Little Help From Our Friends

We try to acknowledge all the help we get from our community but donations are placed in the collection boxes at the local stores or in our Dog Banks and we don't know the donors. Other times needed items are dropped by the shelter when things are so crazy busy that donor information is missed. To all of you who put change in our banks, canned food, toys and bedding in donation boxes and in other ways make the lives of our shelter residents easier, thank you.

Another thank you goes to all the veterinarians in our community. Your support and expertise is always there for us to fall back on. We appreciate this more than you can know.

At RCHS we know when the animals need you, you are there. It's a comforting thought.



Every year, Miss Pat's Class at Little Lambs Early Learning Center raises money and collects animal care products for the Rutland County Humane Society.

This year the class brought in their donations and spent some time visiting with the animals.

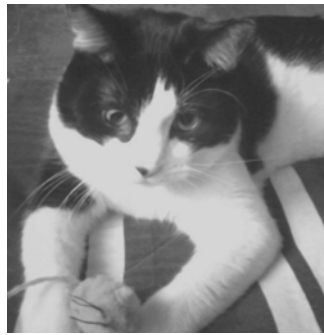
We think it's wonderful that Miss Pat and her colleagues start their students on humane education lessons early.

Thank you to Miss Pat, the parents of her class and everyone at Little Lambs for their support over the years.

Shown here are the students arriving at the shelter.



Saisha



Buddy



Molly



Casey



Lily



Cheerio



Tigger



Purdy (20 yrs old)



Dixie



Piper



Pogo

Raleigh & Izzy



Baby Girl



Murphy



Dexter & Sylvester



Gertie

From the Front Lines

By Jessica Danyow

I'd like to share an experience from a recent weekend in the garden . . . something we've waited a long time for this year. My husband was spreading compost and as fast as he could throw a shovelful, our dog was snuffling around snarfing it up! Disgusting, yes! As was the mess he made in our kitchen that night as he vomited a large pile of doubly composted compost! What we did not know is that this activity was also dangerous and potentially life-threatening.

The next day we noticed that our normally active and excitable dog was lethargic and shivering. A trip to the vet and we learned that dogs can become quite ill from ingesting rotting compost and the fungi and bacteria that thrive in it. A mild case, like our dog had, resulted in lethargy and low grade fever for a couple of days but in more extreme instances the toxins can cause seizures and require intensive veterinary intervention.

Our take home lesson was the need for a more secure compost bin and for some fencing to protect not only our vegetables from our dog but also our dog from himself! I hope by sharing it with you, I can save you the scary part! Happy Gardening!

Gone Missing

We get a lot of calls in the summer from owners or pet sitters about missing dogs and cats. Set up extra precautions when planning a trip either when taking your pet or leaving it at home. Make sure your pet has identification and that contact numbers are posted for pet sitters. Always call the local humane society if your pet goes missing. At RCHS we can take your information 24 hours a day and give you information about other resources to help you find your pet. Pictures of stray animals arriving at the shelter are posted on our website - www.rchsvt.org.

Finding a New Friend

At RCHS we obviously believe in making adoption the first option, but we understand that people, for a variety of reasons, will acquire dogs from other sources. We have recently received calls of concern about puppies - undernourished and flea ridden-being purchased "by the side of the road" and from a house in deplorable condition.

We are investigating the source of the dogs and will do what is in our power to rectify the situation. In the meantime, the case reminds us that part of our job entails educating people on what to look for when buying a dog.

Some basics that you absolutely want to insist on: visiting the premises where the dog was raised, spending time with the parent dogs, scrutinizing veterinarian records for parent dogs and puppies, checking that dogs are screened for any congenital diseases that might be common in their specific breed.

Ask lots of questions and beware of any vague or unsatisfying answers. . .remember, as much as you might want to save any one puppy who is living in troubling conditions, all you do by buying is encourage the production of more helpless lives!

Doing the Numbers

December 2010

Incoming: 45
Outgoing: 134
Placement: 63%

January 2011

Incoming: 81
Outgoing: 82
Placement: 83%

February 2011

Incoming: 59
Outgoing: 66
Placement: 89%

March 2011

Incoming: 79
Outgoing: 52
Placement: 92%

2011 Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Offerings

Once again this year, RCHS is partnering with Vermont Companion Animal Neutering (VT-CAN) to get Rutland County cats spayed and neutered. VT-CAN, a low cost spay/neuter clinic located in Middlesex, VT, is a long drive from Rutland County. To help out, RCHS and VT-CAN are working together to make it easier for cat owners. By dropping your cat at RCHS, volunteers will transport your cat to VT-CAN where he or she will be spayed or neutered and given a rabies shot, and returned to RCHS later that day. Our next scheduled trip is June 22 and there will be additional dates through the summer/fall. Prior registration is required and VT-CAN fees for services apply. To register please call RCHS at 483.6700. For more information about VT-CAN visit www.vt-can.org.

We will also be offering a one-day free Spay/Neuter clinic this year at the Brandon Senior Citizens Center on June 24. If you are interested in helping with this event or would like more information about eligibility, please contact Jessica at Jessica@rchsvt.org.

Lesli's Leash Lines

CONGRATULATION! YOU HAVE A NEW DOG! NOW WHAT?

1. Take it slowly! Of course you're excited! I'm sure Ralphie is too! But you and Ralphie have plenty of time to get to know each other. Avoid too much close or restrictive physical contact (don't hug when a pat will do!). Don't crowd Ralphie or overwhelm him with new people. Let him adjust to his new world at his own pace. He'll thank you!
2. Establish house rules and stick to them within reason. Nothing causes confusion more than inconsistency! If you don't want Rover on couches or beds limit his access to those room unless supervised. Let Rover wear a drag line so you can remove him easily from furniture without having to grab his collar (drag lines should only be on when your dog is supervised). Use gates to keep Rover out of restricted areas initially.
3. Introduce Freckles to resident pets carefully. Use gates and leashes to give them time to get used to each other without conflict. Take dogs for walks together rather than just letting them loose to wrestle in the living room. Give cats safe areas and don't let Freckles chase them. First impressions often set the tone for future relationships. Help your pets feel good about each other by giving everyone their own space for a while.
4. Get Molly used to a crate or a confinement area so that you can keep her out of trouble when you must leave her home alone. Freedom can be granted later on as she settles in. Consider taking a few days off when you bring her home, so you can get her used to being left home alone in small doses over several days before leaving her for a full work day.
5. Make sure your new dog has an ID tag on! Accidents happen. Leashes break, doors don't close properly... If Lucy gets loose she may be too excited or scared as she runs to remember where 'home' is!

ENJOY YOUR NEW DOG!

Lesli Hyland
Red Dog Solutions



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Adoption Counselor:

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MONEY HAS BEEN DONATED IN MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING ANIMALS:

Saisha Alderman-McGarr
Muffin Allan
Sheba Beavin
Timmy Cartier
Bowie Charlebois
Owen Clark

Kramer Dukeshire
Zipper Fors
Chipper
Freddie Cooper
Callie & Cyrus Hathaway
Muffin Hyland
Pumpkin Kostelnik
Punky Kostelnik
Cheyenne & Charles Kuban-Swanson

Nico Jones
Jake Ladabouche
Stumpy Ligori
Shadow Lurvey
Nez McCoy-Jacien
Tiki Mitchell
Hershey Moyer
Buddy Nanasy
Keiku Reichert
Molly Remsen

Suzy Roskopf
Lady St. Onge
Holly Stearns
Edwards Tate
Spike Thomson
Savannah Torrey
Fenway West
Bumper Whittaker

MONEY HAS BEEN DONATED IN MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Patricia Alexander
Phyllis Aronson
Ileen Anderson
Grace Blackbird
Michael Blaisdell
Jean Brien
Mary Brown
Jerry Calcagni
Mary Ann Casey
Ralph Clarkson
Elaine Curran
John DeLauri
Natalie Drew
Joe Eugair

Larry Flanders
Arnold Franzoni
Jack Grace
Grace Mildred Graham
Karl Haas
Francis Hanfield
Michelle Harris
Harold J. Harrison
Janice Haseltine
Anne Hart
Sally Hawkins
Naomi Hendee
Dorothy Hood
Christopher Jenkins
Jimmy the Greek
Rosemary Johnson
Sandra Josselyn
Curt Lamlein

Linda Lapenna
Lloyd Larock
Louise Lord
Thomas Lubinski
Jean Mattsson
Francis E. McLellan
Joan Michel
Regina Miller
Peter Mock
John B. Musetti
Philip Parent
Eddy Pawluch
Tommy Pollinger
Eddie & Joyce Pond
Jeannette Potter
Patricia Potter
Joanne Ray
Doris Revis

Virginia Roeckl
Karen Ruder
Frances Russo
Joanne Slattery
Ivy Smith
Marilyn Steinberg
Claudia Stellato
Vernon Stewart
John Saker
Norma Timpone
Barbara Tomlinson
Marion Toons
Robert Vale
Gertrude Wener
John F. Wilk
Ruth Wimett
Paul Woodbury
Tina Woods

MONEY HAS BEEN DONATED IN HONOR OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Louise Bianchi
Lorraine Brown
Marge Davis
Beatrice Howes
Louisa Jerome
John & Marilyn Jones
Mitchell Lescarbeau

Florence McIntyre
Cheddy & Fred Moller
Carol Roeckl-Smith
Hyde Ryan
Robert Schmidt
Martha Smith
Haley Veller
Doog
Christopher Zeoli & Charlotte Tate



RCHS Can Help with Stray and Feral Cats

Do you have stray, feral or abandoned cats near your home or workplace? Do you see them when you're out running errands and especially when you're out at night? Are you currently feeding stray cats? If so, the Rutland County Humane Society can help. RCHS is working with communities around the county to help identify areas where abandoned cats are living and to work with volunteers on a population control program called Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), in which stray and feral cats are humanely trapped, vaccinated against rabies and sterilized. They are then returned to their familiar habitats under the lifelong care of volunteers. If you know where these cats are living or want to learn more, please contact Jessica at 483-9171 or Jessica@rchsvt.org.

Summer Safety Tips for Cats and Dogs

Summer in Vermont does not often come with the extreme temperatures that other parts of the world see, but it does bring some safety concerns.

Overheating

It seems unbelievable that we even have to remind folks about not leaving their pets (or children) in cars that can quickly become dangerously hot. But it happens far too frequently even with all the warnings. Please leave your pet at home on hot days. Even on warm days a car can quickly become an oven if left in the sun. Even partially open windows cannot protect against the green house effect of the windows.

Proper outdoor shelter and water

Dogs kept outdoors need a shaded area and access to adequate and potable water. It's both common sense and the law. Dog leads and chains can get tangled and prevent the dog from getting to the shade or water with heat stroke or other serious consequences.

Monitor activity

Many of us have dogs that would fetch a ball or chase chipmunks until they collapse. Keep in mind that you need to do the thinking for your pet. Signs of heat stress are excessive panting, disorientation, anxiousness, staring or weakness. Bring your pet to a cool area, immerse paws in cool water or hose him down and call your veterinarian immediately.

Paw protection

Hot sand or asphalt can burn your pets' feet. Try to find grassy areas to walk your pet or do so early or late in the day when the sun is at its weakest.

Water safety

Many dogs love to swim but they aren't all natural swimmers. Never throw your dog into water. Work with him until you know his ability. Remember that swimming is hard work and dogs will often follow a boat until they are worn out. Strong tides can also trap a dog. Never leave a dog unattended in water.

Parasite protection

Heartworm, Lyme and other diseases are transmitted by insect bites. Talk you your veterinarian about protection. Check your pets for fleas and ticks when they come into the house.



765 Stevens Road
Pittsford, VT 05763

Phone: 802-483-9171 Fax: 802-483-6342
RCHS@RCHSVT.org

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