



August, 2020

Hello RCHS Supporter,

Wow, what a year 2020 has been so far!

We wanted to take a moment to say hello and update you, our loyal supporters and community members, about what we've been doing, how we are coping and how we are caring for ourselves and the homeless animals in Rutland County.

We started the year with a **large animal cruelty/neglect case** in Brandon. Working with various organizations, we were able to help with what started out as 40 dogs, cats and rabbits and soon turned into 129 animals who needed medical care, nutrients and love. We still have 12 rabbits waiting to be spayed/neutered and then adopted.

Six weeks later, **COVID 19 hit** and things changed quickly. We were able to find foster homes for most of our animals with current and new foster parents (thank you all!). This allowed the animals to be in a home environment during the quarantine requirement. At one point we had 148 animals being loved and cared for by foster families! Having fewer animals in the shelter enabled us to ensure many of our staff were home and healthy. We have implemented new cleaning protocols, social distancing guidelines and other policies to ensure the safety of our staff.



We have started to turn the corner with animals coming back from foster and being adopted (many by their foster families!). Adoptions are by appointment only in order to manage the number of people in the shelter at any one time. Everyone is required to wear masks and maintain social distancing. Appointments to surrender your animal are still required, and we ask people who find stray animals to call us once they arrive at RCHS. Every day we are adjusting to keep up with the latest requirements and guidelines.

Shelter operations have certainly changed during COVID 19, **along with our events and fundraising efforts**. Our **Kitten Noses and Yoga Poses** fundraiser, originally scheduled in April, will now take place via Zoom at participants' homes on August 13. Our annual May **yard sale** is rescheduled for August 22. This gives everyone more time to find items to donate! We hope you'll join us with masks and social distancing required. Our annual **Duck Derby** is **underway** with more ducks than ever being adopted! We're currently at **over 1800** ducks gearing up. Their race isn't until September 24, so there's time for them to train. We **have decided to cancel the** Dog Days of Summer Pool Party, Trails for Tails, Pints for Pets and the Blessing of the Animals. Change seems to be the new normal.

We are hoping to pick up the slack with our **Sit. Stay. At Home. Online auction!** We have donated items coming in every day and we have a great selection of items for the August 10 bidding start date. For two weeks there will be lots of online activity, all to help the animals. Stay home where it's safe and make a difference for RCHS. Before you know it, our **31st annual Critter Community Holiday Card** will be underway and printed in the Rutland Herald on December 24. We are going to have another year end matching challenge, so stay tuned for the details!

Nothing can put a smile on your face and a spring in your step quite like a **kitten** can, and it is **kitten season** here at RCHS! Kittens with moms, bottle feeding kittens, older kittens who are ready for adoption in all lengths of fur and color. Of course, we have adult cats too, and dogs all looking for their forever homes. If you're looking for a new pet to add to your family please consider adopting one from us!

We thank you all for your support and patience as we navigate this new world. We couldn't do what we do without your support and for that we are grateful. We know you are always there for us, and that means so much to us. We look forward to being able to safely welcome visitors and volunteers back, but until then we hope you are healthy and at home with your loved ones.

Be safe and be well.

Sincerely,

The staff at the Rutland County Humane Society

Beth

Heather

Sandy

Sue

Jess

Helen

Amelia

Cheryl

Robin

Kate

Lizzy

Priscilla