



The Happy Howl

The newsletter for the volunteers of
Cocheco Valley Humane Society

Winter 2010

Cocheco Valley
Humane Society

JC Penney Fundraiser a Big Success!

This year, with four additional weekends added to our annual holiday fundraiser outside of JC Penney in Newington, a total of \$7,110 was raised for the shelter! This more than doubles last year's total of \$2,900! There's no denying that the kissing booth dogs were our biggest attraction and, this year, we had 8 new dogs join us! Shoppers came back to our table week after week to meet the different dogs, which ranged from a Chihuahua to a Doberman! Many thanks goes out to all the volunteers (and dogs!) who generously donated their time during the holiday season!



Inside this issue:

Foster Care	2
Morning Volunteers	2
Thank you!	3
Upcoming events	4

***CVHS is now on Facebook! Visit our website
cvhsonline.org to learn more!***

Save the date!



The CVHS
Dessert Tasting
and Silent
Auction will
take place on
March 21st!

Bingo Volunteers Needed!



Are you looking to help the animals but can't make the commitment of one hour a week to help in the shelter? Consider becoming a Bingo volunteer! Bingo games are held every Saturday night at Seacoast Bingo in Somersworth to benefit CVHS. The games are almost entirely volunteer run, with volunteers making a commitment of at least one Saturday a month. Currently, we are in need of volunteers who are comfortable working with money. Anyone interested in volunteering at Bingo must be at least 21 years old with no criminal background. A separate application must be filled out and is available at the shelter, as well as at the Bingo game. Stop by Bingo any Saturday night to meet Bingo Manager Brenda Rose and learn more!

We're looking for foster homes!

This past year, CVHS experienced an explosion of cats throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Each year, "kitten season" lasts longer and longer, putting a lot of strain on the shelter. Thanks to a dedicated group of foster parents, the shelter was able to take in hundreds of cats during a short period of time. Now more than ever, with so many cats and kittens being surrendered to the shelter, we need more volunteers to join our foster care program. **On Thursday, January 21st, we will be holding an orientation session from 5:30-6:30pm at the shelter for all volunteers interested in becoming foster parents.** As always, current foster parents are welcome to attend to meet new foster parents and share their fostering experiences. New this year, ALL foster parents, regardless of how long they've been a foster parent, must sign that they've received a foster care packet or they will not be allowed to foster until they've done so. Foster packets outline foster care policies as well as what to watch for in your foster animals.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How old do you need to be to foster?

Foster parents need to be at least 21 years old. Children can help, but adults must be the primary caregivers.

How long does foster care last?

The length of time varies with each foster. Typically, animals sent into foster care are kittens too young for adoption. Kittens need to be at least 8 weeks old AND weigh at least 2 pounds to go up for adoption.

How often will I need to go to the shelter if I have foster animals?

Kittens and puppies need to return to the shelter every two weeks for vaccines. In addition, all animals need to return to the shelter for adoption.

I have pets at home - can I still foster?

Yes! Usually, the animals needing foster care are mothers with babies. Most mother animals will not care for your pets, so we ask that you provide a separate room for your fosters. This can be anything from a laundry room or bathroom to a bedroom. An enclosed area with no carpet works best.

Do you have questions about foster care? **Join as at the meeting on Thursday January 21st from 5:30-6:30pm at the shelter!** Contact Alaina at 603-749-5322 ext 111 or volunteerc@cvhsonline.org to RSVP.

Morning Volunteers Needed!

The shelter is still looking for morning help - especially in the dog room. The dog pens can only hold a portion of the dogs at one time, leaving a number of them in the kennels waiting to be let out. Morning dog walkers help get the dogs out as soon as possible. We are also in need of on call morning volunteers who can help clean when we find ourselves short handed. This is a great opportunity for volunteers who have a morning or two free but can't make a regular commitment to the shelter. On call volunteers would be contacted by 8:30am and would need to be available until 11am. Volunteers would be helping clean and feed the cats and/or walking dogs before we open to the public. Mornings are the busiest time at the shelter - especially with so many animals being brought in each week. Any help in the morning is greatly appreciated by both the staff and animals. If you are interested in making a weekly morning commitment, or if you'd like more information on becoming an on call volunteer, contact Alaina at volunteerc@cvhsonline.org.



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

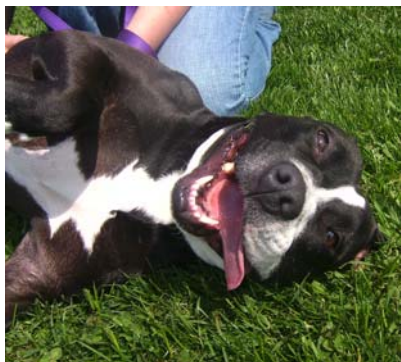
A huge thank you goes out to all our volunteers who have made another year of adoptions possible!

Kitten season was overwhelming this year, but thanks to a group of dedicated foster parents, we were able to take in hundreds of cats throughout the spring and summer. A special thank you goes out to all of this year's new foster parents who came to the rescue when we needed help the most!



We attend a surprising amount of events this year, including a farmer's market, the Somersworth International Children's Festival, and Putting for Paws. Some months, we literally had events scheduled for every weekend - with more than one event scheduled per day! No matter how many events we had, though, volunteers were always willing to sacrifice a few hours out of their Saturdays and Sundays to help man the CVHS booth. Also this year, our kissing booth has grown tremendously! At this point, our kissing booth dogs are becoming quite famous - people are remembering the dogs from event to event and are requesting them by name when our booth doesn't feature a dog!

Bingo continues to be our largest fundraiser. Every Saturday, Bingo is run almost entirely by a group of dedicated volunteers. **This year, the roughly 30 regular Bingo volunteers have donated over 3,000 hours and have helped raise \$150,000 for the animals at CVHS!** Thank you so much to all the volunteers who give up their Saturday nights to the animals!



As of August 1st, all the animals adopted from CVHS have been spayed or neutered. This has been made possible by a small group of volunteers who help transport the animals to and from their vet appointments. Since vet drop offs are usually during morning cleaning time at the shelter, these 8 volunteers are priceless!

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to everyone who has helped with the day to day operations of the shelter, from office work and laundry to cleaning cages and training the dogs. **In 2009, volunteers donated nearly 12,000 hours - plus, the Great Pets Training Program volunteers have donated 815 hours** to working with the shelter dogs and preparing them for adoption!

Thank you! 

Cocheco Valley Humane Society

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Cocheco Valley Humane Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the humane treatment of animals. The Society's mission is to provide quality, compassionate care and shelter to our animals, in partnership with educating the community concerning animal treatment and welfare.

Upcoming Events

January 21st - Foster Parent Orientation

Join us from 5:30-6:30pm at the shelter for an information session on our foster care program. Current foster parents are encouraged to attend to share their experiences with new foster parents. Contact Alaina at (603) 749-5322 ext 111 to sign up for this session.

January 23rd-24th - NHFF Cat Show

10am-5pm on Saturday and 9am-4pm on Sunday at the Dover Middle School gymnasium. Stop by and cheer on a CVHS shelter cat entered in the competition!

February 20th - Paws 4 a Cause Snowshoe Trek

12pm-1pm at the Madbury Town Hall. Dogs and their humans will make a loop through the woods. Event benefits the animals at CVHS

March 21st - Dessert Tasting and Silent Auction

1pm-4pm at the Regatta Room in Eliot. Mark your calendars! The Dessert Tasting requires a lot of volunteer help with everything from registering guests for the silent auction to setting up the chocolate fountain! For tickets, contact Laura Clark at 603-749-5322 ext 113.

