



MONADNOCK HUMANE SOCIETY

Winter 2013

Paw Prints



"The best shelter is...a humane community."

How an old dog taught us a few new tricks

By Kate Achilli, MHS Shelter Tech

There is just something about an older dog that touches our hearts here at MHS. Many times they come with a history, and sometimes not. Whatever the circumstances, when an older dog comes to us, we know they need to find a loving home soon. They are more fragile. They are at times misunderstood. They are on borrowed time. That time is precious – it is something to cherish.

Chester, a twelve-year-old, chestnut Labrador retriever, was surrendered to us after being adopted a few years ago. Unfortunately, due to a change in their lifestyle, his family could no longer care for him. When the staff learned that a senior dog had been surrendered to us, we became concerned about the likelihood of Chester being happy and comfortable in a noisy, fast-paced environment. So, staff and volunteers together made a special effort to make sure that Chester had the space, exercise, and quiet time that he needed by taking him for daily walks, taking him to shelter dog class, and allowing him to join the adoption staff at the front desk so he could have some company during the day. And if he needed some quiet time, Lisa, our Canine Coordinator would put him in her office so he could stretch out and relax by himself.



Eric and Chester.



Chester had a beautiful, mild-mannered behavior. He would greet everybody quietly with a tail wag as he gratefully accepted a scratch under his chin and a pat on the head. Never jumpy, Chester had a way of connecting with people by looking at them with his soulful brown eyes and sometimes even rewarding them with a "paw-shake." Chester loved to have someone near him, and he would lean on them, or lie at their feet when someone stopped to visit. Though generally quiet in nature, when Chester noticed a staff member or volunteer with his leash and harness, a charge of energy would flow through him and he would bounce and wag his tail knowing he was going to go for a walk. When Chester was put up for adoption it didn't take long for a family to fall in love with him. We all were so happy that Chester was finally going home again.

The summer season flew by, and we heard that Chester was coming back to the shelter. Due to a health concern in the family, they were no longer able to keep Chester in their home. They were very upset. He continued to exhibit his sweet personality, and was put up for adoption once again as a healthy senior dog. But this time, very few people were interested in adopting him. So he remained at the shelter for a long time. Chester became depressed and would barely eat. He was not connecting with people as much as he had before. Staff and volunteers were committed to keeping him as happy and comfortable as possible. In fact, Eric, a shelter technician, took him home at night so Chester could have a buddy to sleep with. We then decided to make Chester the *Pet of the Week* and published his story in the local paper and online. Shortly after, phone calls and interested adopters came pouring in for Chester. And because he was given the attention he needed, he began acting like himself again. Much to our joy, he was adopted again soon after by a loving family that understands him and cherishes their time together. To this day, we are still receiving phone calls for Chester.

While he was with us, Chester made us all pause for a moment during each day to consider what it means to be truly compassionate – not just for Chester, but for each other. We will miss you, precious Chester. We are so thankful to be able to help you find your way home! 🐾

Greetings from the menagerie...

It's been a year since I wrote my very first column for this newsletter and as I look back on the past year, I see a lot to be thankful for during this season of giving thanks. A few specific blessings:

Our staff: Day in and day out, the MHS staff provide loving care for both the animals and the people we encounter. It's tough emotional and physical work – performing 30 spay/ neuters in one of our public clinics, caring for a pack of 25 dogs in daycare, teaching owners how to best welcome a new puppy into their home in Puppy Kindergarten, providing a sense of security to a scared stray puppy found in a rainstorm or comforting a cat owner who can no longer provide the care her cat needs. Tears are shed, hugs are given, smiles and laughter are shared every day.

Our volunteers: No doubt, we would not be able to do what we do every day without the corps of volunteers who do so much for us. Kitten fosters, cat socializers, dog walkers, event organizers...we wouldn't exist without you here every day cleaning kennels, entering data and petting our bunnies.

Our donors: While I'd love to pay the electric bill in puppy kisses or cats purrs, the utility company does like to have cash. And our donors – from the estate gifts we receive, to the cash collected at a 9-year-old's birthday party and the checks that come in every day – are incredibly generous.

Our community: Families who adopt that older cat with a few medical issues, the law enforcement officers who bring us the lost yellow lab found wandering on a busy street, the Sunday School class who bakes dog biscuits and collects donations for us, customers who buy from our retail shop in support of the shelter...all help us promote and provide for the well-being of animals.

A year from now, I know I will have even more blessings to count – more volunteers working with our more challenging animals, stronger financial support from the broader community, and a deeper presence throughout the Monadnock region as we foster a compassionate community. I hope you'll join me in celebrating our blessings.

On behalf of the animals,

Michelle Thevenin, MHS Executive Director



Michelle and Dash accept handmade dog toys from Amee Abel of Monadnock Therapy Pets.

MONADNOCK HUMANE SOCIETY

101 West Swanzev Road, Swanzev, NH 03446
603.352.9011 • www.monadnockhumanesociety.org

Adoption Center Hours:

Wednesday – Friday, noon – 6:00 pm
Saturday – Sunday – 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Closed Monday and Tuesday

Administrative Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:30 – 5:00 pm



STAFF

Michelle Thevenin, Executive Director

Amee Abel, Trainer, MHS Training Center
Katherine Achilli, Shelter Technician
Margaret Atkinson, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator
Rachel Brostrom, Training Center Manager, Trainer
Duke Champney, Trainer, MHS Training Center
Galina Cornelius, Boarding/Daycare Technician
Kerry Cuevas, Small Animal Coordinator
Beth Doyle, Shelter Technician
Lisa Forbes, Canine Coordinator
Stephanie Frommer, Director of Shelter Operations/Field Services
Diane Gibbons, Trainer, MHS Training Center
Alanna Johnson, Shelter Technician
Emily Kerylow, Shelter Manager
Eric Knowles, Shelter Technician
Ashley Lang, Trainer, MHS Training Center
Carol Laughner, Director of Development & Marketing
Michelle Maillet, Vet Technician
Sam Mathewes, Customer Service Coordinator
Michelle Mello, Boarding/Daycare Technician
Bonnie Morris, Shelter Technician
Ashley Okola, Feline Coordinator, Shelter Technician
Alice Sears, Administrative Assistant
Peter Smith, Facilities Coordinator
Cynthia Stewart, Trainer, MHS Training Center
Linda Thompson, Boarding/Daycare Manager
Debra Watson, Boarding/Daycare Technician

VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Carey Dr. Kathy Reilly
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Dr. Ashton Kane Joyce Tilton
Adam Kossayda

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Dr. Carla Folkert Linda Guinane

OUR MISSION

To foster a compassionate community by promoting and providing for the well-being of animals.

HAPPY TAILS

JASPER the Cat

"Last October, my life changed forever. A year has passed since I found my forever home and I wanted you all to know how enormously happy I am. Me and my mumma's apartment is so cozy. I spend most of my time snuggled up next to my favorite unicorn pillow pet, watching Glee (I love to sing along!), investigating exciting noises and catching the occasional spider. I'm forever grateful for all your help and love when I was abandoned as a kitten and left at your doors when it didn't work out in my first home – especially because you led me to the best second chance at happiness I could ever have imagined. Thank you for all you do for helpless critters like I once was. You will never know how much me and my mumma appreciate that. We are the bestest best buddies and we both look forward to sharing many loving years together!" 🐾



ASLAN the Cat

We just took Aslan home a few hours ago! He fits right in, didn't bat an eye at our other cat or dogs he's awesome! 🐾
—Teri Smurthwaite



DELILAH ON BROADWAY (well, Keene Broadway!)

Remember Delilah and Bunker, the two Saints that were here at MHS this past summer? Both have gone on to wonderful new homes, and in addition to finding a loving family, Delilah has become an actress! Check it out – she starred in the Keene High play, Legally Blonde, this past fall! 🐾

BOB & HENRY

We adopted Bob and Henry in March and I just wanted to let you know the boys have adapted very well and are living the good life. Bob (left) is now a beautiful cat that is a healthy 14lbs and Henry (right) is doing very well too! 🐾



CHARLIE AND MISSY

We adopted Charlie and Missy nearly four years ago. They are so important in our lives – loving, gentle, beautiful. They travel with us and spend their summers at the beach with us. When my Mom was injured recently, they refused to leave her bedroom. Missy guarded her from a bedroom chair and Charlie slept at the edge of the bed. We are so fortunate to have them! 🐾 —Coral Grout

MOLLY the Dog & MARVIN the Cat

I wanted to share a pic with you of Molly a pup I adopted from you in 2011 and Marvin our new kitten we adopted last week. They have become very good friends and are very close. Really funny the way they have bonded! Thank you! 🐾
—Michael Newman



JETTA the Cat

Joe is thrilled to have his new best buddy! Thanks again for all of the help you gave to Joe. He is so excited. 🐾
—Larry Leech



BEAR the Dog

We love Bear! He is so cute, sweet and lovable (and still a little naughty). He is doing very well and is picking up on what he should and should not be doing... for the most part. This picture is at Fort Foster in Kittery, ME; his first ocean trip. 🐾
— Sheryl Duncan

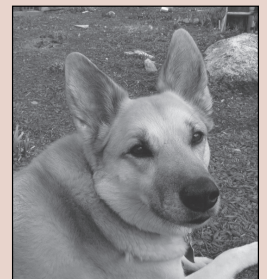


BRUNO the Wiemaraner

Bruno (aka, Jasper/Jazz) was adopted in October and we're told he's "fitting in" great! Here he is with his dad, Bruce Dunning, and Happy the Border collie and Max the English Setter – probably watching the Red Sox. 🐾

IN MEMORY KODA MAY VENEZIA

JANUARY 2004 – JULY 2, 2013
Thanks so much for giving us the best dog ever. She never let a day go by without letting us know how grateful she was. Her passing has left a huge void in our lives. 🐾
— The Venezia Family



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: new faces at MHS

GALINA CORNELIUS

attended Highland Canine School in Harmony, North Carolina, for dog training. She adds training experience to boarding and daycare. Galina has a “Doxie” named Axel Rose – a rescue dog. She enjoys wilderness adventure, and likes to sing. She attended Keene High School and previously lived in Canterbury. After high school, Galina spent three years dog sledding in Canada! Welcome Galina.



KERRY CUEVAS is our Small Animal Coordinator. She takes care of all our bunnies, gerbils, parakeets, mice, etc. with a real loving touch. She’s got more than five years of hands-on experience working with animals, and she has raised Nigerian Dwarf goats and Silkie chickens.

Kerry worked for the Lincoln Animal Hospital as a vet assistant, and was a volunteer at the Roger Williams Park Zoo (both in RI). She’s a real community-minded person – she’s served as a leader of the Girl Scout Troop of Alstead, a teacher’s assistant at the Orchard School, and a domestic caregiver with an emphasis in caring for children. Kerry is also a published writer! We’re delighted to have Kerry on board.



2013 EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

On Wednesday, September 25th, Michelle Thevenin, executive director, announced the winners of the MHS Employee Excellence Awards. Each year, this award is presented to recognize outstanding employees and their contributions to MHS. Any MHS staff member or volunteer is invited to nominate someone, giving their reasons as to why they feel that staff person is a candidate for the award.

This year’s winners are Michelle Maillet, Vet Technician; Debra Watson, Boarding/Daycare Technician; and Emily Kerylow, Shelter Manager.

Michelle Maillet, an employee for over 3 years, is known for demonstrating excellence in her daily work in the clinic. She always helps out – making sure instruments and linens are clean. Co-workers call her reliable, friendly, and always willing to learn. Most importantly, she has compassion for animals in our care as well as the staff.

Deb Watson truly embodies the MHS values. She provides an example of these values to all who encounter her. She projects caring and reassuring attitude to all of our customers, and demonstrates love and affection for their pets. She is sensitive to the feelings of our “pet parents” and always reassures them and gives them peace of mind. She is the “glue” that holds everything together at Boarding and Daycare, and she does so with grace and enthusiasm!

Emily Kerylow is passionate about animals, and has a compassion for people into every facet of her work here. She was formally named shelter manager only recently, though she had been taking on the responsibilities and displaying the leadership that go along with the job description long before it was made official. Emily simply keeps this place running. She is her staff’s and colleagues’ biggest champion and fiercest defender. She has been a valued sounding board and support for the rest of the shelter staff as well as managers in other departments. We are fortunate to have her here!



Left to right: Deb Watson, Michelle Thevenin, Emily Kerylow and Michelle Maillet.

community connection making a difference together

Girl Scout Troop Bronze Project

Remember we mentioned a Girl Scout troop in Swanzey that chose to help MHS for a Bronze Badge project they were working on? Well– they did it!!! They held bake sales, raised money and awareness for MHS, and found a carpenter to build this beautiful bench for our Catilion! The girls wanted make sure that the design/size allowed ample space for storage, room for cats to play/calm down, and seating for a person and a cat carrier. Come by and see for yourself – it's spectacular. (Pictured here is Girl Scout Bonnie Anderson with Shelter Manager, Emily Kerylow.)



connection with freshman students in their first semester. The students absolutely love having the dogs there! (Photo courtesy of the Keene Sentinel.)

C&S Wholesale gives MHS a \$5,000 grant

We were thrilled to receive a very generous grant from C&S this past fall. The grant will be used for our basic medical program for our adoptable animals and our public Spay/Neuter Clinics for cats. This grant makes so much possible for us and for the families in our community who need these services – thank you, C&S!



Girl Scout Troup 22125

The girls of this Hancock, NH troop decided they wanted to help the homeless animals and made beautiful toys and biscuits for our critters. These toys make such a difference for the animals! We also enjoyed them bringing their smiles and encouragement to us. Thank you, girls!

Circle K Service Club KSC helps MHS

Clean the Garage Thank you all so much for helping us do this – it's great to have an organized area again! (Pictured are Katherine Foley and Allison Picone.)



Keene Recreation Department

We had a great visit from the campers in August – they brought homemade dog and cat toys – Thanks so much for helping the animals. (Pictured are Jocelyn Pellerin, Ari Marie Santos, Jacob Brown, Courtney Bienvenue and Ben Meola.)

Rindge Congregational Church Sunday School

Let's hear it for these kids! They went out and collected all kinds of wonderful wish list items, and *made* us a bunch of dog biscuits! Talk about tails wagging – the animals here are very, very happy!



Portraits with

Santa at Dara's Paw Spaw in Peterborough. This past October, Dara Forleo, owner of the Paw Spaw, held a fundraiser for MHS. They collected all kinds of wonderful items for our wishlist,

as well as some monetary contributions for us! Thank you Dara, and to Ann Grummon, photographer (6 Acre Studio)!

Birthday Donations from Tessa Minahan

We are always so impressed when young people chose to help a charity by asking for donations in lieu of birthday gifts. Tessa and her friends brought in tons of wonderful wish list items for the animals to celebrate her birthday! Thank you, Tessa!



KSC Pause to Play

Keene State College teamed up with MHS and the Monadnock Therapy Pets group to create a program where therapy dogs visit the campus and provide much-needed



April Begosh who is our presenter for **Healthy Pets NH** has been presenting her Pet First Aid and CPR program here at MHS since 2010. She has generously donated over \$800 to MHS as part of her fundraising efforts.

Not only does a portion of each registered person go to MHS, she offers a steeply discounted rate to active MHS volunteers and staff to attend her workshop. She normally comes to MHS twice a year to provide our community with this training program. 🐾

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

"I wanted to get involved in the community around the Keene area, and I thought



MHS would be a great place to start because I really enjoy spending time with animals. Right now I'm helping out with the cats in both Boarding and Daycare and at the shelter- making sure their basic needs are met, as well as giving them attention, of course! There are lots of great cats here, and it's fun and rewarding to help out."

—Colleen Golrick

Volunteer Holiday Event

What better time of year to celebrate our wonderful volunteers than during this festive season?

MHS volunteers are invited to an evening of holiday cheer to be recognized and appreciated!



*Please join the MHS Family on
Wednesday, December 18th, 5:30 – 7:30 pm*

Therrien Community Room

MHS Adoption & Learning Center

101 West Swanzey Road, Swanzey, NH



Dinner will be served.

Yankee Swap! Bring a wrapped gift (value no more than \$10) if you would like to participate.

RSVP to Margaret at margareta@humanecommunity.org

Monadnock Humane Society's Handcrafted for the Holidays Craft Fair!

Saturday, December 7th 10am–3pm
at the MHS Adoption & Learning Center
in Swanzey (just past Market Basket on Route 10)

Bring Your Family and Friends for a day of Holiday Fun!

- ❖ Over 48 Local Crafters
- ❖ Amazing Bake Sale
- ❖ Special Adoption Offers
- ❖ Delicious Hot Lunch at Alice's Restaurant
- ❖ Holiday Pet Portraits
- ❖ Holiday Raffle
- ❖ Plenty of Parking
- ❖ Admission is FREE!



All proceeds from this event go directly to the care of the homeless animals!

101 W. Swanzey Rd., Swanzey, NH 03446, 603.352.9011, ext. 115
www.monadnockhumanesociety.org





photo Scott Hussey



photo Richard Forcier



photo Scott Hussey



photo Richard Forcier



photo Richard Forcier



photo Scott Hussey

2013 Hair Ball Memories – the Love of a Lifetime!

It was an evening to remember – the dazzling dresses, the beautifully decorated tables, the delicious food, dancing with Wyld Nightz, a lively auction...all to help our homeless animals! It was an extra special moment when Michelle Thevenin, MHS Executive Director, introduced Athena the Great Dane as our surprise guest. The event was dedicated to Bev Therrien, and a lovely tribute was made by Rick Smith, and David Therrien (her son).

We would like to thank everyone involved in making this event so successful (we raised over \$37,500, surpassing our goal!). A round of applause to the volunteer Hair Ball committee:

KATHY REILLY, CHAIR
KIM ABRAMS HALLIE LA ROCK
RICK SMITH ROBIN SMITH

Special thanks to Becky Pearson, Mark Carey, and Kate Carey for helping with set up and registration. And, thank you Bill Stevens, for being our guest auctioneer, and to Scott Hussey and Richard Forcier for being our roving photographers.

We could not have done this without the support of our local businesses and donors – those who attended, those who donated auction items and services, and were sponsors of the event. We are deeply grateful to you all for making this event such a success. Thank you!



photo Richard Forcier



photo Richard Forcier



photo Richard Forcier



photo Richard Forcier



photo Scott Hussey



photo Richard Forcier

MHS CALENDAR

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

► **Paws to Read to a Dog** – Kids: bring your own book or borrow one of ours to read to a registered therapy dog! Admission is free. No reservations needed. Make a donation in any amount and you'll receive a stuffed animal! Open to everyone. Saturdays - Jan 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8 and Apr. 12 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm, held in the MHS Community Room.

► **Live Pets at the Vet at the Cheshire Children's Museum** – Come and meet a furry friend and find out all about them. Open to the public, free admission. An ongoing program held every second Thursday from 10:30 – 11:00 am.

► **Public Spay/Neuter Clinics for Cats** – Affordable sterilization services for cat guardians who don't have a veterinarian or cannot afford to spay or neuter their cats. (please see our website for upcoming dates and more details)

EVENTS

► **Handcrafted for the Holidays Craft Fair** – Be a part of this holiday tradition, and plan to do a lot of shopping for your gift list! Over 50 local crafters and vendors offering a wide variety of gift ideas. One of the most popular craft fairs in the region. All proceeds go to the homeless animals of MHS. Saturday, Dec. 7th from 10 am – 3 pm in the Training Center and Community Room.

► **Holiday Adoption Day** – Adopt a pet on December 7th, and you'll get a cool bag of goodies for you and your new best friend! Enjoy a fun day while you're there – a bake sale, raffle, craft fair, hot lunch – fun for the entire family! Sponsored by Waterhouse Restaurant in Peterborough.

► **Holiday Pet Portraits** – Bring your pet to MHS for a holiday portrait! Saturday, Dec. 7th from 10am – 3 pm (during our holiday event). Local photographer Jo-Ann Gerde will be taking photos. Suggested donation of \$10 for a 4 x 6" color photo in a frame (please bring cats in carriers and have dogs on leashes).

► **Evening of Holiday Cheer with Our Volunteers** – A night to celebrate our wonderful volunteers during this festive season. Dinner. Yankee Swap. Fun. Wed., Dec. 18th from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. RSVP to Margaret: margareta@humanecommunity.org

► **The 26th Annual Walk for Animals – SAVE THE DATE!** Saturday, June 21, 2014. Held at the Keene Dillant-Hopkins Airport again this year, we're already getting psyched! If you are interested in joining the committee to help with planning, please contact Mary Dziedzinski: madzien119@gmail.com

2014 VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

We can't do what we do without volunteers. They assist us with everything from basic cleaning and animal care to board and committee work and advocating for MHS to the public. We need you! If you are interested, please sign up for an orientation session:

Saturday, January 4 2014 from 9:00am until 11:00 am
Friday, January 17 from 4:00pm until 6:00pm
Saturday, February 1 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am
Friday, February 21 from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm
Saturday, March 15 from 9:00 until 11:00 am
Friday, March 28 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

MHS GUINANE TRAINING CENTER

- **Special Holiday Fun & Games Dog Classes**, Sun, Dec. 8, 1:30 & 3:30
- **WCRL Rally Trials**, Sat/Sun Dec. 14-15, 9 am - 4 pm daily
- **Social Dogs Playgroups**, Sun Dec. 29, 1 pm and 2 pm
- **CDSP Obedience Trials**, Sun Feb. 16, 9 am - 4 pm



Monadnock Humane Society

101 West Swanzey Road

Swanzey, NH 03446

603.352.9011

monadnockhumanesociety.org

NON PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE
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NEW LONDON, NH

PERMIT #11

Doing your holiday shopping at Amazon?

Amazon will donate 5% of your purchase (items must be eligible, of course) to MHS thru their **AmazonSmile** program! It's easy – when placing your order, start by going to www.smile.amazon.com, name MHS as your charity of choice, then do your shopping as you always do! MHS will receive 5% of purchase price!



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MHS PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Shelter Dog Enrichment Classes

A well-behaved dog is one that's a lot more adoptable – which is why our canine coordinator, Lisa Forbes, paired up with Rachel Brostrom, our Guinane Training Center manager, to create this program. Powered by volunteers, the Shelter Dog Enrichment Class takes place every Wednesday from 2:15–3:15 pm in the Training Center in Swanzey. The public is invited and welcome to watch. In fact a few dogs have already been adopted as a result of having spectators! Come on over on a Wednesday afternoon to see adoptable dogs being put through the paces – you can learn some great techniques for your own pooch, and you might even find that new best friend!

