



LAKES REGION

HUMANE  
SOCIETY

*The little shelter with a big heart!*

October, 2023

Fall Edition

## New England Animal Welfare Faces A New Challenge

The New England animal welfare community is facing an unfortunate challenge this year, and the Lakes Region Humane Society (LRHS) is no exception. Animal shelters are full and adoption rates are low. The housing crisis, pet restrictions for rental properties and cost-of-living increases have exacerbated the number of owners needing to surrender pets. Meanwhile adoptions, which were steady, have slowed. Shelters can't take *more* animals unless the ones we have are adopted. This presents a frustrating challenge for owners in need and shelter workers alike.

*"According to PBS NewsHour, nearly 1 in 5 American households adopted a dog or cat in the first 14 months of the pandemic. It is possible that adopters from three years ago may still have their pet(s) and have no room for another animal."*

During the pandemic we saw a spike in adoptions which, while PAWsome at the time, left us contemplating potential post-pandemic consequences. We hypothesized that this spike may lead to an influx of pet surrenders when things returned to "normal" and families realized that they didn't have time for a pet. We also suspected there may be more pets suffering from separation anxiety and under-socialization issues due to years of social distancing. It took longer than we expected for the bottom to drop but it appears to be happening now.

We've also seen more stray cats coming through, which is likely due to the increased expense of spay/neuter surgeries and the inability of pet owners to afford them. Likewise, protective custody holds for animal cruelty/neglect/hoarding cases has doubled in our area, which is bittersweet. It's good because animals are being removed from terrible situations but, on the other hand, it limits our ability to admit other animals for extended periods of time while ownership is battled in court.

**Let's work together to mitigate these concerns!**

If able, please **DONATE** in response to this newsletter to provide medical care, enrichment, nourishment, and support for the pets who are forced to stay in shelters for these extended periods of time. **ADOPT** if you have secure pet-friendly housing and the funds to provide for it. **SPAY/NEUTER** your pets; visit LRHS.net for a listing of affordable options. **DON'T WAIT** if you need to rehome your pet; start asking trusted friends, family, and animal rescues as far in advance as possible. **GET DOGS TRAINED** early; don't let minor behavioral issues grow so overwhelming that you feel you must surrender your pet. **UTILIZE US** if you're struggling to provide for your pet; visit our FREE pet pantry to stock up on supplies. The pantry is open Tuesday – Saturday from 11 am - 4 pm.

Please use the enclosed remittance envelope to give what you can to this worthwhile cause OR scan the QR code at the top left corner of this page to donate online.

*Save a pet, donate today!*

## YOOHOO! CINDY LOU WHO NEEDS YOUR HELP

Cindy Lou Who has spent HALF her life at LRHS... Like so many animals before her, this situation is NOT fair, and it's NOT her fault.

Cindy was brought to LRHS by Effingham Animal Control last November after someone abandoned her on the side of a road in Effingham. Upon admission to the shelter it was clear that this sweet girl, who was practically a puppy herself, was a milking mother. We assumed someone sold her pups to make a quick buck and dumped her when she was no longer useful to them.

*If you've ever wondered why shelters are always advising owners to spay/neuter their pets, THIS is why.*

Twenty-four hours after Cindy was found, 4 of her pups were abandoned in the same location. They were about 4-weeks-old and were promptly reunited with their mother at LRHS. Cindy cared for her pups until they were 8-weeks-old and could be adopted. Six months after Cindy was found, a couple walked in needing to surrender two dogs. As it turned out the two dogs they surrendered were ALSO from Cindy's litter and had been SOLD to them (rather than abandoned roadside, as their siblings were).

Despite her tumultuous beginnings, Cindy is a chipper gal. She is playful, energetic, loves to run, fetch, go on car rides, and go for walks. She's almost 2-years-old and is quite healthy. She is spayed, microchipped, and current on her vaccinations.

Try as we may, a shelter is not the best place for dogs to live, long-term. Cindy needs more exercise, training, and attention than we can provide. She deserves to be in a home where her needs are met, and she is doted on.

We are publishing her story in the hopes that the right person will read it and decide that they need a sweet, beautiful, and active dog to accompany them on their adventures.

Cindy can be dog selective, but our seasoned staff are happy to assist with dog-on-dog meet and greet appointments for approved adopters.

We don't recommend Cindy for a home with cats or young children due to her exuberance and lack of training. We are happy to answer any questions you may have (603) 539-1077.

*Visit [LRHS.net](http://LRHS.net) to submit an online application for Cindy today!*



**AD  PT  
DON'T SHOP**



## A SHOUT OUT TO OUR FOSTER SUPERSTARS

Our Spring Newsletter cried out for foster assistance and boy did our community deliver! Our team of foster homes worked tirelessly to keep LRHS from drowning in the waves of kittens that rained down upon us this year.

Alice and Charles Briggs (and family) accepted back-to-back groupings of stray kittens all season long. Sometimes, as they were returning a litter to us for adoption, we'd send them packing with a fresh group of kittens in need of immediate care. They even took on a litter of 5 kittens who were brought to our doorstep at only a few hours old. These kittens required bottle feeding every 2-3 hours, around the clock! Each kitten returning from the Briggs' has proven well socialized and ready and eager to be a part of a family.

Rachael Potter is a strong and loyal foster mom who has been at our beck and call for years. She's our go-to guru for cats in need of medical care such as pregnant mother cats or chronically ill kitties. Recently, she cared for a cat named John Wick as he recovered from having his jaw wired shut. He needed to be syringe-fed every few hours. She came through in a big way for him and we are thrilled to report that he is fully healed and has been adopted!

From providing dog training assistance to their willingness to take in foster kitties, Kym and Greg Lagois have been great resources for our shelter pets. Most recently, they accepted a momma and her newborn kittens, helping the mom raise well-rounded and affectionate babies.

Janet Carp is our newest foster mom. She just experienced her first round of kittens and did a wonderful job. We can't wait to work with her again!

Without this dedicated network we would be unable to provide the quality of care that these particular cats need to survive and thrive. On behalf of our staff, adopters, and animals, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*Story compiled by Animal Care Coordinator, Catherine Kopera & Animal Care Technician, Sandra Boyle.*



## MANY THANKS TO OUR TRANSPORT SPONSORS



Jill Boyle



Jackie's Boutique



Adelle Garvin

January - Barbara Dionne  
February - Linda Williams  
March - Carol Gartland, Exit Realty  
April - Don & Karen Irving

May - Maxfield Real Estate  
June - Jill & Bob Boyle  
July - Jackie's Boutique  
August - Adelle Garvin

September - Roger & Francine Jean  
October - Don & Karen Irving  
November - Bill Sommers/Sandra Black  
December - George Warshaw

## “HADES”, GREEK GOD OF THE UNDERWORLD FINDS HIS ANGEL

Last Valentine's Day, Hades, a sweet, marmalade-colored cat was surrendered by his owner. He had been diagnosed with diabetes and his owner couldn't afford his treatments. Upon intake his hind legs were practically immobile and his blood sugar levels were out of control. Hades was evaluated at the Kindness Animal Hospital and subsequently prescribed Vetsulin injections twice daily, coupled with weekly glucose testing, and a glucose management diet, none of which stabilized his glucose levels.

His irregular mobility led Doctors to believe he had neurological issues which meant he could not safely endure a Rabies vaccination. Rabies vaccinations are required by law. Without one, we could not place Hades in a home or in a room with other cats. So we gave him his own cat room and prepared to keep him at LRHS indefinitely.

Later, doctors re-diagnosed Hades with a rare and fatal disease called Acromegaly. This disease causes the pituitary gland to over-excrete growth hormones which enlarges organs to the point of failure. This disease mimics diabetes, which is why it's tricky to diagnose. We braced ourselves for the day Hades indicated that he was suffering from this disease, but throughout his 7-month stay he remained happy, friendly, and pain-free.

We observed minor improvements in Hades mobility which led doctors to rule out neurological issues. This meant Hades *could* receive a Rabies vaccination and we *could* place him in a home! Our next hurdle was to find someone willing to take on a cat who requires two injections a day, has limited mobility, and is diagnosed with a fatal disease.

**What human is capable of baring their heart to an animal that they know will break it so quickly?**

Marc Mover, that's who! If Marc's name rings a bell, it's because he was recognized in our Fall 2021 Newsletter after adopting a cat named Mittens who had grade 3 mammary adeno carcinoma.

Jackie, of Jackie's Boutique in Moultonborough, is a friend of Marc's and supporter of LRHS. She happened to be delivering a donation when Hades became available; so we introduced her to Hades and asked her to forward video of him to Marc to see if he might consider another hospice adoption.

Marc adopted Hades the very next week! Folks like Marc are hard to come by. We are grateful to call him a friend of LRHS and a friend of special animals, like Hades, who are in dire need of love.

***Left, Marc shared this photo of Hades, beaming with pride, after making his way up onto the couch at his new home.***



***Marc Mover and Hades pose for their adoption photo on Aug. 18th***



## HOW WE CAN HELP

**Free Pet Surrenders** - there is no cost to surrender your pet or a stray to LRHS for residents of Wakefield, Wolfeboro, Tuftonboro, Effingham or Ossipee.

**Free Pet Adoptions for Veterans and Military Personnel**

**Free Lost & Found Pet Assistance** - call, email, or message us to report a found or missing pet, we help reunite pets and owners.

**Free Vetted Barn Cats** - submit the "barn cat application" to get on the barn cat waiting list.

**Free Pet Pantry** - pet food & supplies to those in need.

**Pet Meals on Wheels** - free pet food and supplies will be delivered to current Meals on Wheels recipients.

**Nail Clippings** - by appointment, \$15 per pet.

**Low cost carriers/crates** - \$10 cat carriers, \$25 dog crates.

**Havahart Trap Rentals** - \$50 refundable deposit.



## PET POINTERS



**Keep dogs leashed** when off your property. This will reduce the chances of Fido becoming lost, injured, getting quilled, sprayed by skunks, or getting into fights with other dogs. Even if YOUR dog is friendly it can still encounter unfriendly dogs and fights may occur. PRO TIP: a long leash is a great way for a dog owner to stay in control of a dog while allowing it to run and explore.

**Outfit Fido with a *snug* fitting collar featuring a current rabies tag, town license tag, and a tag with YOUR address and phone number.** This will ensure if Fido goes missing, he will be returned to you ASAP. Unless he slips his collar...

**Update your pet's microchip information regularly** so they can be reunited with you if they go missing.

**License your dog with your respective town.** Towns will require a small fee (\$5-\$10) and proof of a current rabies vaccination.

Spay  
Neuter  
Love ♥

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



**Even with discounted medical rates, LRHS spends about \$10,000 per year on spay/neuter procedures.**

Of the 400+ animals seeking refuge at LRHS, 100+ require spay/neuter surgeries. These surgeries vary in cost depending on an animals' species, sex, and weight and are key to reducing the homeless pet population.

## MATCHING GIFTS

1. YOU DONATE.
2. THEY MATCH.
3. DOUBLE THE IMPACT.

**Inspire others to give by proposing a matching gift challenge\* during one of our upcoming fundraisers:**

- 1) #NHGives online day of giving in June
- 2) Spring issue of the LRHS newsletter in April.
- 3) #GivingTuesday global online fundraiser in Nov.

You may remain anonymous or use this opportunity to share why you believe in supporting shelter pets and/or dedicate the challenge to a loved one.

**\*Suggested challenge amounts \$5,000 - \$10,000**

Call 603-539-1077 or email  
mwilliams@lrhs.net for more about  
giving opportunities.



Non Profit ORG  
US POSTAGE

**Lakes Region Humane Society**  
**PO Box 655**  
**Ossipee, NH 03864-0655**

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## WISH LIST

Canned dog food - chicken  
Canned cat food - chicken  
Litter, unscented, clumping  
Mr. Clean magic sponges  
Paper towels  
Dawn dish soap  
Bleach  
Laundry detergent  
Contractor trash bags  
Printer paper  
Baking soda  
Chicken pill pockets  
Cheese wiz  
Peanut butter

Shop Online:

[lrhs.net/lrhs-wish-list/](https://lrhs.net/lrhs-wish-list/)



@lakesregionhumanesociety



@lrhs\_pets\_and\_friends

## HELP PROMOTE PETS

YOU can help shelter pets find homes by sharing their stories with your friends and family.

The more people who see their posts, the sooner they will be out from behind bars and snuggled up on couches where they belong.

It's FREE and it only takes a second of your time.

Follow us on the socials below for updates and simple share options.

## SAVE THE DATE

*Annual Holiday Dinner*

Sunday, December 3rd  
O Bistro Barn, Wolfeboro



@LRHumaneSociety