

“HOW CAN WE HELP?”

In September, three families lost their homes to an apartment fire. The Valley News showed images of people standing outside the smouldering building clutching their pets. The UVHS team immediately went over with pet food, other supplies, and business cards. We told anyone there that we can help more, just call and we will give them anything they need for their animals. One of the Hartford firefighters came over and asked for a couple of cards because he didn't know that we did this. Maybe we hadn't before, but we do now!

A few weeks ago, our Executive Director, RayLynn, and her dog, Ben (our ED, “Executive Dog”) had the opportunity to present to members of the Upper Valley Regional Emergency Services Association.

This was a great opportunity to share what resources we have available in hopes of getting them to the people and animals that need them most.

Every day, we step in during some of life's hardest moments. We provide emergency boarding for pets belonging to individuals experiencing homelessness, those who need hospitalization, and families who



Sophie Caulfield and Denver Ferguson sit with their pets, Ricky the cat and Lucy the dog, as their apartment burns in White River Junction, VT, on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025. All occupants of the building were able to exit, although several pets were likely lost. (Valley News-Jennifer Hauck)

have lost their homes to fires, but were fortunate enough to have their pets survive. In those moments, keeping pets safe isn't just about animal care—it's about giving people the ability to focus on rebuilding their lives.

This work matters—but we cannot do it alone.

Your donations directly support the team that makes this possible. They allow us to provide food, medical care, safe shelter, and love to pets in uncertain situations. They allow us to say “yes” when someone has nowhere else to turn.

Ben, joined our Executive Director, RayLynn, at the Upper Valley Regional Emergency Services Association meeting in April to talk about the resources that UVHS has available to share.



We don't just serve animals—we serve the people who love them. We support compassion, dignity, and community in times when they're needed most.

What began as a simple “pet food” pantry has also grown into a “pet supply” pantry for people in crisis. When families lose everything, we can provide whatever they need—pet food, crates, beds, toys—as well as towels, blankets, pillows, and sheets for the humans who are starting over. Everything is given free of charge, because the last thing anyone in that situation should have to worry about is how to afford basic comfort.



Fire & Rescue responds to the house fire in Wells River, VT.

March 30th, in Wells River, VT, before the sun came up, George H. and his family awoke to the smell of smoke in their home. Within hours, it was gone, their home burned to the ground with everything they owned in it. “We all got out safely,” George said, “and that’s what matters most.”

“The community has really stepped up to help us out. We can’t believe how many people wanted to help us - clothes, supplies, even a GoFundMe. We appreciate the (Upper Valley) Humane Society because we didn't have anything at all for our dog; people don’t think about that as much.”

George said he and his family are starting to make plans for a new start on their property in the coming months.

None of it happens without you.

Your support ensures that when the next call comes in—whether it’s from a first responder or a family in crisis — we can continue to ask, “how can we help?”

THE MANY WAYS TO GIVE

DONATE NOW!

- ♥ **Constant Companion - Give Every Month**
- ♥ **Give in Memory or Honor of a Person or Pet**
- ♥ **Give from a Company / Corporate Sponsorship**
- ♥ **Give from Estate, Will, or Charitable Trust**
- ♥ **Give Items from our Wish List**
- ♥ **Give Stock**
- ♥ **Give from IRA or 401K**
- ♥ **Volunteer / Foster / Adopt**



ROCK BOTTOM TO ROCK STAR

Last October, in a red clay lot in Alabama, among bags of trash and broken appliances, a mother dog huddled over her litter of pups. A badly broken leg and puppies too sick to sell, she was discarded alongside waste. She never gave up, though, how many people passing by had she limped after, seeking help? Ignored each time, she returned to the shade to nurse her puppies. She was not wanted.

She was not loved.



Unable to put weight on her broken leg, housed in a small pen, she still had a tail that rarely stopped wagging.

Eventually, Walker County Animal Control was contacted to pick her up and The RUFF Fix, one of our transfer partners in Alabama, accepted her into their rescue program. Her puppies were too ill to survive the first few nights and her leg needed to be amputated to give her a chance at any quality of life. Yet, she never lost that light in her eyes and gentle wag of her tail.

Mid-January, this resilient young lady was transferred to the Upper Valley, amid a snowstorm, in search of a new life - she didn't have to wait long.

Four days later she had what was no doubt the first of many "best days of her life."

"There are always reasons not to do something. It could be time, stress, the dishes piling up in the sink... My family was well aware that every front has a back. With this being said, the decision was made to travel to UVHS to meet a beautiful (could tell that much from the photos), young dog, now known to us as C.K. (after Carol Kaye, the famous rock bass guitarist).

When she first made her appearance, she approached me immediately without fear or concern. This level of immediate, non-negotiable affection is rare and beautiful. I, of course, took as many of those confident hugs and kisses as I could. My son, being nobody's fool, did the same.

My daughter (who missed the first minute or so), made her appearance and was greeted with a soft, one-legged hug and she KNEW.

The love that we experienced in those first minutes has only grown stronger as she has proven to be a being with an inexhaustible desire for closeness, an inspiring athlete and a lovable "frienemy" to our cats. Our much older dog has found newfound energy and strength as both companionship and annoyance can be powerful motivators. Her impact cannot be overstated.

She is loved."

- Eric L., C.K.'s Dad

C.K. and her family on adoption day.



GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

UVHS Board

Jennifer Riccio - Chair
 Sylvia Racca - Vice Chair
 Anne Page - Treasurer
 Pat Tivnan - Secretary
 Bonnie Reid Martin
 Jerry Liebrand
 Brittany Brown
 Caitlin Kohl
 Julie Doherty
 Sandra Haynes
 Debbie Brown

General Shelter Support

- Wednesday 6/17 10am
- Saturday 6/20 10am
- Wednesday 7/15 10am
- Saturday 7/18 10am
(1 hour)

Dog Handling 101

- Saturday 6/13 10am
- Saturday 6/27 10am
(2 hours)

WE'RE HIRING

Join Our Team Full-Time
 Enjoy a career with
 purpose
 & great benefits!



Snickers - 1.5y - Female -
 Smooth Brain, Big Heart

- Veterinary Technician
- Volunteer & Community Engagement Coordinator
- Animal Care & Adoption Technician
- Intake & Placement Coordinator

Visit uvhs.org/employment for more information!

ADOPTION ADVOCATES NEEDED

Adoptions January 1-April 30, 2025 : 78

Adoptions January 1-April 30, 2026: 160

We have not only increased the quantity of animals that we can help, but the quality of care has improved with enrichment, training and an average length of stay 1/3 shorter than it was a year ago (that's a BIG deal)!

We need your help to keep it up!

We have a few dogs that have been overlooked for too long. All of the pets featured in this newsletter want to be part of a family and have a home to call their own. Please share their information with anyone in your circle who may be looking for a dog - hiking clubs, sports teams, coworkers - we know "the perfect fit" is out there for these pups, we just need to find them!



Saco - 1y - Male - Cutie-Patootie

WANT TO STAY IN THE LOOP?

Join the UVHS mailing list for email updates, heartwarming stories, and more!

SUBSCRIBE on our website:
uvhs.org

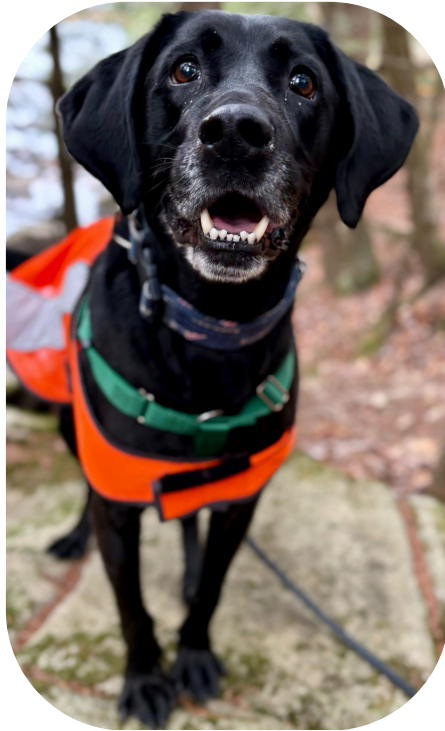
WISH LIST

Training Treats, Hot Dogs & String Cheese

Soft, smelly, and small - these treats are great for keeping active minds engaged and teaching important life skills while dogs await adoption. We ***easily*** go through 4, 16 oz bags of treats and a package of cheese or hot dogs every week!



**Chartreuce - 3w -
Female -
Available in 5ish
weeks**



Axel - 6y - Male - Hiking Buddy

Non-Clumping Clay Litter & Canned Kitten Food

Kittens love to play the game "Is This Food" as they're learning about the world around them. For this reason, it's important the litter they're given won't clump in their bellies. We currently have **over 40 kittens in our care** and in foster homes.

Stamps

Less than 10% of our budget is paid for by adoption fees. We are almost entirely funded by the donations from our generous community. Mailing newsletters helps keep our supporters informed about how your donations are helping and what more can be done to improve the lives of Upper Valley pets and the people who love them!

Jenkins - 12y - Male - House Panther



Dry Dog Food - Large & Small Bags

We supply 5 local food pantries with pet food and supplies, **help dozens of families directly from the shelter, and provide support to other local rescues** when they need it. The smaller bags are easier for senior citizens to carry.

Maeve - 1.5y - Female - Smarty Pants, Velcro Pup



Rocco & Ricci - 1y - Male - Cuddly Bean Bags

Bleach, Laundry Detergent & Dryer Sheets

We have 2 industrial washers and dryers and run an average of **15 loads of laundry a day. We use over 4 gallons of bleach a week for laundry alone!**



More Wish List items can be found on Chewy, Amazon & our website www.uvhs.org

SUCCESS STORIES

Evelyn

Evelyn was hours away from euthanasia when one of our transport partners saw those soft eyes and the one freckled ear and knew this couldn't be her fate. We know a few people who are so grateful that they did: "Willow (formerly Evelynn) loves being an office dog (after a good long walk/romp to get nice and tired) and did really well with kids coming in today. She is really just the best ever. As suspected, she's been loving the couch!"



Rumplestiltskin & Newt

Rumpelstiltskin was super scared when he first came to UVHS, but with extra space and sooo many treats, he's really opened up! His new mom reports, "Since bringing Newt home, Rumpel has made strides! He is now sleeping in bed with me and Newt, allowing for much more petting, he's meowing and purring all the time... I'm not sure if Rumpel quite loves his little brother yet, but baby Newt has been the magic elixir for him."



Maria

"Smart and full of puppy energy" is not a great combination for a long stay at any shelter and Maria had both! We are fortunate to have community partners like Woodcrest Kennels in Orford that let Maria play with puppy friends as she waited for the home of her dreams! As the adoption photo shows, there was an immediate connection and we're happy to hear it didn't stop there: "Here is Maria and her brother Ötzi! They LOVE each other, it is so cute! Thank you again!"



Sorbet

Sorbet has show stopping looks, but was more of a wall flower in the shelter. We knew he needed some time for rehabilitation in one of our most experienced foster homes. This individual care set him up for success when it came time for adoption! "We changed Sorbet's name to Aslan. He is doing wonderful! He was timid at first but we were just calm and respectful of his boundaries and he opened right up that first day. He's a sweetie!!

