

*Meatball, adopted October 2024*



# Annual Report 2024

Humane Society of Chittenden County · 142 Kindness Court, South Burlington, VT 05403 · (802) 862-0135

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's my pleasure to introduce the Humane Society of Chittenden County's 2024 Annual Report and myself! I've been on the job since late January after spending most of my career in leadership at community media nonprofits. In my brief time at HSCC, I have been amazed by the work that happens within these walls. The dedication shown by our staff and volunteers, and the deep commitment to the animals in our care (and their humans) is truly inspiring.



As you dig into our 2024 report you'll see that, like many other nonprofits, we were not immune to the financial pressures impacting our community. Despite this challenging environment, we were able to increase services - particularly low-cost veterinary care through our Community Pet Clinic. We grew our Spay the Mom program, nearly doubled the number of families supported through our free Pet Helpline, and reduced the average length of stay at HSCC by nearly half (55 days in 2023 vs. 28 days in 2024).

Our focus in 2025 will remain solidly on our mission to ensure every animal has a loving home and to offer support to their humans to help make that happen. With this in mind, the Community Pet Clinic is now open 5 days a week, and we continue our commitment to education programs like Camp Paw Paw. We are also working to expand resources to address local cases of animal cruelty, abuse, hoarding, and neglect - deplorable situations for which HSCC has become a critical safety net.

It goes without saying that this life-saving work would not be possible without the generosity of this community. Donors, volunteers, fosters, and adopters like you are essential to our ability to provide care for thousands of animals each year, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

*- Jess Wilson, Executive Director*

## HSCC'S COMMUNITY PET CLINIC

2024 was a big year for HSCC's Community Pet Clinic! Since opening in 2021, the CPC has grown substantially, and a lot of that growth took place last year. In January of 2024, we absorbed the Old North End Veterinary Clinic and its space in Burlington, allowing us to increase our wellness services from one day per week up to five days per week. We expanded our medical team to increase community spay/neuter services and accommodate more emergency surgery requests. On top of all that, we obtained an annual grant allowing us to provide free dog spay/neuter for low-income community members - making this vital service accessible to those most in need. The whole CPC team looks forward to continuing to grow our services and assistance to the community in 2025.



*Vet Tech AJ with a CPC surgery patient*

[Learn more about the Community Pet Clinic: hscvt.org/Clinic](https://hscvt.org/Clinic)

## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



*Morning Animal Care volunteers Jeannine, Bella, Lucy, Sue, and Laurie*

HSCC's triumphs would not be possible without the volunteers who work tirelessly throughout our shelter! From walking dogs to judging pet costume contests, our volunteers show up for us. In 2024, volunteers logged a whopping 7,789 hours of volunteer service (equivalent to nearly four full-time staff)! These include 5,749 hours spent in animal care, 653 hours in the adoption center, 208 hours in the Community Pet Clinic, and an incredible 1,179 hours of help with general shelter help and maintenance (which is essential to our daily operations). All of us at HSCC are so grateful to all of our volunteers for the work, dedication, and compassion they continue to show our animals and staff.

***Interested in volunteering at HSCC?***

*Learn more about our volunteer program and apply at [hscvt.org/Volunteer/](https://hscvt.org/Volunteer/)*

**1,080 adoptions**

785 cats & kittens  
140 dogs & puppies  
155 small animals



**94.4%**  
live release  
rate

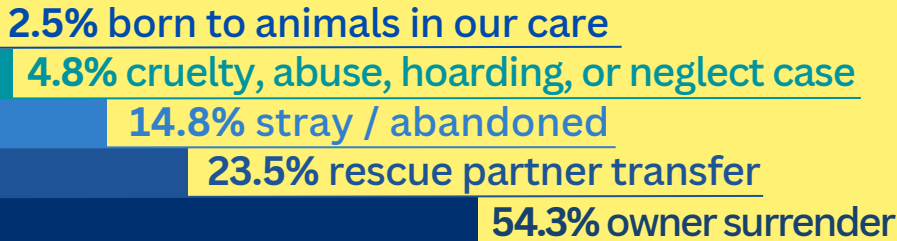


length of stay  
average:  
**28 days**

**125 pet owners**  
supported  
through our  
free pet  
helpline



**where did our animals come from?**



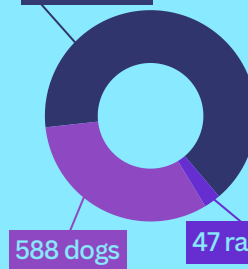
**5,543**  
vaccines

provided to shelter  
+ community pets



**1,365**  
wellness exams for  
local pets at our  
**Community  
Pet Clinic**

1,207 cats



588 dogs

47 rabbits

**1,842**  
animals  
spayed/  
neutered

**\$46,000** in medical  
care grants  
awarded to local **low-  
income families**



**54** families & their pets aided  
with **emergency services** from our  
**Rainy Day Fund & Good  
Neighbor Program**



**122 community  
cats & dogs**

spayed/neutered, vaccinated  
and microchipped through  
our **Spay the Mom** Program

**7,788 hours**  
logged by  
volunteers



@hscvvt



/chittendenuhumane



hscvvt.org

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

2024 was a productive but challenging year for HSCC. Over 1,000 animals found new homes through our adoption services. Our Community Pet Clinic expanded its reach, conducting over 3,000 low-cost surgeries and wellness visits for community and shelter animals. Our surrender prevention and humane education initiatives continue to thrive, including Camp Paw Paw, our popular summer program.



HSCC also encountered a more difficult operational and financial backdrop in 2024 than we have experienced in recent memory. Driven by high rates of medical and behavioral issues, the resources required to care for animals in the shelter, particularly dogs, have increased significantly. This, combined with a tight labor market and higher inflation, has driven up costs and created new budgetary challenges that required a greater reliance on our endowment. The Board and leadership team are working together to navigate this new environment without sacrificing the standard of care that makes HSCC so special.

Despite the headwinds, our focus remains squarely on our mission. Fueled by the unwavering support of our donors and the dedication and skill of our incredible staff and volunteers, we are confident HSCC will continue to be a tremendous resource for our community and the animals who count on us.

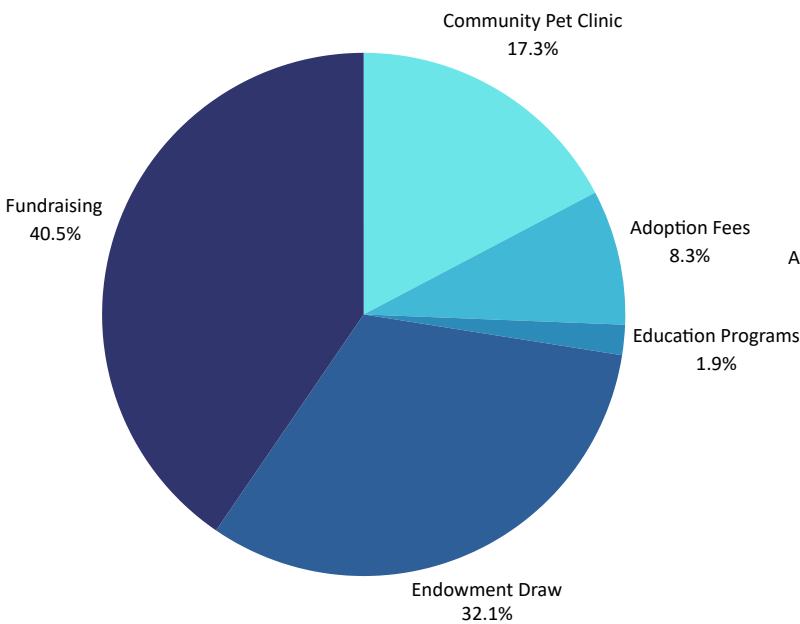
- Josh Kruk, Chair

## 2024 HSCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

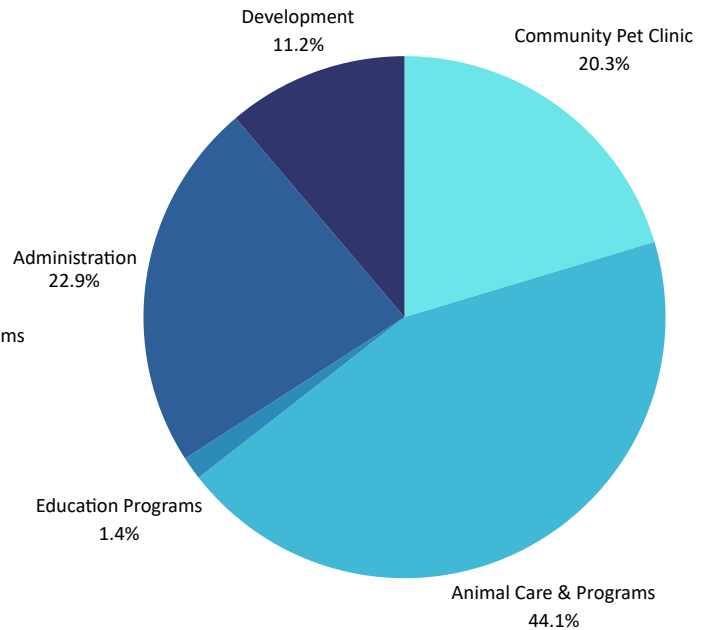
Josh Kruk, <i>Chair</i>	Annemarie Daniels, <i>Secretary</i>	Dr. Sandra Steingard	Sarah Lenes
Tim Ashe, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Sarah Schmidt, <i>Treasurer</i>	Dr. Christine Wojewoda	Caroline Canning
Sally Adams, Esq., <i>Immediate Past Chair</i>	Dr. Catherine Stanger	Yvonne Lockerby	Jennifer Meyer

## 2024 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2024 Revenue Total: \$2,527,531\*



2024 Expenses Total: \$2,483,542\*



Adoption and Clinic fees cover only a fraction of the cost of providing care for thousands of animals each year. **That's why we rely on your generous support!** When you donate to HSCC, you help strengthen vital community programs and services that help pets and people alike. If you want to support our mission, you can [make your gift today at hscvt.org/donate](https://hscvt.org/donate).

\*These numbers are undergoing audit and are subject to change.

## HAPPY TAILS FROM HSCC ALUMS

### The Purr-fect Pair: How Sox's Foster Became Family

Last April, Sox was brought to us as a stray. After seeing how shut down he was in the shelter, **we found a patient foster home**. At first, Sox wouldn't come out from under the bed. Eventually he emerged, but didn't know how to engage with humans. His foster mom said, *"He seems to want to sit on my lap but also doesn't quite understand how that works...I think he needs cat lessons!"*. Sadly, he was also in physical pain, with **severe dental disease and stomatitis**. He had surgery in June, and had 18 teeth removed, but his gums remained swollen and painful.



Finally, **after 9 months in our care**, Sox was ready to find his new family. **But as luck would have it, he'd already found them!** Sox's foster *pawrents* finalized his adoption in December!

*"Sox was actually adopted out by another adopter but was just so fearful of his new environment that he soon made his way back to us. He immediately jumped up onto the couch, assumed his favorite position of curling up on my chest, and fell asleep. It was like he was saying, "this is where I want to be!" And we couldn't imagine trying to send him anywhere else after that."* – Sox's Owner

### All You Need is Love...(and a Special Medical Diet)



Sweet senior stray Mary Jane (MJ) **came to HSCC with a bunch of medical issues**. While easy to love, it took a while to figure out how to treat her many health issues (*she absolutely detested vet visits!*). Our med team removed her mammary mass, which was thankfully benign, spayed her, and set to work figuring out why she had such severe allergies. Finally, **with a special medical diet, ear flushes, and regular baths, MJ was ready to meet her new family**. Despite her charming personality, her health needs deterred most adopters.

**After nearly 8 months at HSCC**, the right family came along and fell in love. Today, MJ is healthy and thriving in her new home!

*"We continue to see new sides of MJ unfold as she gains trust and confidence in her loving human pack. Managing MJ's health and overall wellness requires daily attention and interventions, but we are finding our routine. She tolerates her daily foot soaks and regular ear flushes knowing that many tasty treats come as part of the package. Without a doubt, MJ has enriched our family, and we can barely remember life without her in it."* – MJ's Owner



Can't get enough Happy Tails? Visit [hscvt.org/Happy-Tails](https://hscvt.org/Happy-Tails) to see more adoption updates from HSCC alums!

# SAVE THE DATES!

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Calling all paw-parazzi! HSCC's **7th annual Fabulous Feline Foto Contest** pounces off **April 7 - 21!** Don't miss the opportunity to show the world how fabulous your feline is and win *pawsome* prizes, all while raising vital funds for cats in need.

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The paw-ty of the year is back this June! Save the date for our third annual **Black Tie & Tails Benefit on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at Hula**, and join us for a fun and fabulous evening while supporting animals in need. *Ticket information coming soon!*

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*Get unleashed* this summer at **Bark & Brew 2025!** Join us at HSCC on **Thursday evenings from August 21st - September 11th** to enjoy local brews and snacks with friends while your canine companion socializes in our dog yard. *Stay tuned for our full brewery line-up!*

*Learn more about upcoming events at [hsccv.org/News-and-Events](https://www.hsccv.org/News-and-Events)*