

The logo features the text "VOICE FOR ANIMALS" in a white, serif font against a green background with a sunburst effect. Below the text is a horizontal line with several green icons: a bird, a paw print, a leaf, a diamond shape, a paw print, a leaf, and a paw print. To the right of these icons is a large green leaf.

# VOICE FOR ANIMALS

*Voice for Animals (VFA) is grass roots, non-profit and no kill organization established in 1987 and originally headquartered in York, Maine.*

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## **The Voice 2022**

### *President's Message*

Voice for Animals has so far made good on its goal to provide on-going humane education to schools in the Seacoast area. Going forward we intend to increase the number of districts and schools receiving it and that takes money. VFA would welcome your participation with time and money to help us grow this very important project.

Also, you will see that VFA is trying to give more and more information about projects that are in place to prevent road kills with the input of Sarah Haggarty of Maine Audubon.

There is always more to learn about ways to help animals. You will find some here. Pass them on-share with others. You never know what life you may save. If you move or change your email address, please let us know. We would like to continue sending our information to you. And finally, if you are receiving these newsletters through the mail but have an email address, please share it with us. It saves us money and allows us to spend more on the animals who need us.

*For all the animals,  
Caryl McIntire Edwards*

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## KIND NEWS 2022

*The following was taken from an issue of Kind News.*

In 1987, Caryl (“Car-ol”) McIntire Edwards founded Voice for Animals (VFA) in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. Their mission? To alleviate animal suffering and overpopulation, educate the public, and promote sensitivity and caring toward all animals. For years, they focused on rescuing adoptable animals and helping the many feral cats in the area through Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) initiatives. Now, VFA’s priority is humane education: educating children about how to treat animals with kindness and compassion. Caryl says, “I have a background in education—I was a special education teacher for over 30 years. However, I was always discouraged that humane education wasn’t happening very often. **When I discovered Kind News, I thought it was a great way to bring this valuable information about animals to kids who could really benefit from it.**”

Voice for Animals serves animals and people in Maine and New Hampshire. When she began reaching out to schools about Kind News, Caryl purposefully targeted schools on both sides of the Piscataqua River, which separates the two states. “I initially started out by calling the principals in elementary schools on either side of the river, where Voice for Animals has always done spay/neuter, rescue, and much more. I told them about the benefits of Kind News and how we’d love to bring it to their schools. The principals would pass the information on to their teachers. One teacher would tell another teacher, and the list grew. “ And grow it did. In just 5 years, Voice for Animals has increased the number of sponsored classrooms from 8 to 72 for the upcoming school year – including 8 school districts in 2 different states! Due to VFA’s tireless efforts and generous supporters, over 2,000 students will now have access to cool facts about animals, pet care tips, and inspiring rescue and humane hero stories. Caryl does not want to stop there, though. She hopes to raise awareness about Kind News through her local media to bring in more funding and reach more children: “I dream of students organizing food drives to provide an ongoing supply of pet food to food banks; that they will begin to volunteer with a local shelter or rescue; and coming up with ideas of their own... I believe that kind people do cruel things to animals simply because they have not been educated. Think of what a different world it would be if everyone was given the opportunity to understand animals and how to treat them!”

I hope that you are well? :) I have been meaning to email and thank you for all of those KindNews magazines! The kids and teachers are loving them.

A message from an area school.

Thanks again,

Jen Greenlaw & the Lebanon School

## Never Turn Your Back on an Animal in Need

Sometimes people find animals (particularly an issue with cats who want desperately to come inside but are not let in for a number of reasons including: “Maybe the cat will go home.” “I am allergic to cats. “should realize that if an animal wants to get inside that badly it needs protection.

Obviously, the cat needs to come inside. If you leave the cat outside it may succumb to that which it was afraid of. An article in a local paper asked readers to post about the wild animal caught on a man’s wildlife cam. The man who posted it said his cat had been on top of his truck because he was afraid of something. (Why did he not get the message and let the animal inside?) Now the cat has been missing for several weeks but the wild animal is still there.

If a cat desperately wants to come in you can do any of the following to protect the cat and perhaps other inside animals that you have: Put the cat in an unused room with a litterbox, food, and water or use the bathroom or put the cat in the basement. In any one of these scenarios the cat will be inside and safe if you are looking to find a possible owner and won’t be mingling with other animals in your home.

If towns have chosen not to deal with its cat situations (feral and stray) these animals are in great need, as well. **Don’t turn your back on them.**



## Tributes

Lucky Edwards aka “Kitten on the Keys.” He crossed the Rainbow Bridge on the afternoon of November 8, at the ripe old age of 17. He loved every visitor who ever came in the house and often asked for a seat on their lap.

You will be missed, sweet boy. Until we meet again... Caryl McIntire Edwards

A younger Lucky with wonderful Buddy. I know they are together again now.



## **Furry Words December 2022**

Hard to believe the year is coming to a close and I'm so honored to have read your pups and loved ones in heaven. When I do a psychic reading, I connect with the spirit or energy of a living or deceased soul, which allows me to do it remotely and still dial in even if we're on opposite sides of the world. I think the furthest calls I've had this year were in Belgium and Saskatchewan, Canada, with the closest being in my hometown of Conway, NH. Psychic insight is never a replacement for licensed medical care, so if you do book a session please consult with the professionals if any medical messages come through.

One of the harder calls I had was for a woman who rescued a dog who had been with his owner when he passed and was locked in the home with the body for a few days before he was discovered. The client wanted to know if this had traumatized the dog and what she could do to help him best adjust to the new living arrangement. I was just as curious because this is not an everyday call for me! He said that he was not really traumatized at all, which shocked both of us. He said that he was aware that his owner had passed, but that it was also somewhat peaceful sitting with the body. He was relieved his owner was out of pain and knew that he had completed his journey with him, and was now excited for his new home. I think we were both surprised and definitely relieved!

Another dog was sort of an accidental reading. I had just finished an afternoon of readings at a local shop when the owner came out to show me a picture of the dog they were about to adopt. It was a giant Mastiff mix puppy that had huge paws. They asked what I got on the pup but before the dog spoke the owners' father popped up instead. Ugh. Some people don't realize I read people, too, so when their animal brings through people in heaven and I know it can catch them completely off guard. In an effort to give him a fighting chance I asked if his dad was in heaven, to which he replied he was and added a "Thank God." Here's what I told him. "Your dad was not a nice man. He acknowledges that and apologizes for how rough he was." He then said that he was the reason they stumbled upon the dog online and that he wanted his son to show him how much love he has and infuses into his life, which he clearly didn't learn from his dad. I looked up and there was a look of shock and comprehension. He asked me how I knew his dad was there so I described him and he said, "Yup! That's him alright!" Sometimes dogs show up when we're ready for our souls to heal and evolve, and this was a late gift from his father to him. Another reading was for a woman's dog who had severe anxiety. I was at Four Your Paws Only in North Conway, NH for their Howl-oween party, so there were plenty of people and pets shopping all around us, but her sweet little pup jumped up on her lap and sat there staring at me the entire time. She couldn't believe it because the dog is normally a hot mess in busy places! I laughed and told her that I started my business about fifteen years ago by going to dog shows and pet stores, so I had to create a nice little energetic bubble that was all mine. Before I start for the day I imagine light and love flowing around me, my table, chair, space and pop up tent if I have one. I do Reiki energy work so it's a great way to set the stage for a peaceful visit. The dog relayed to her that it wasn't really anxiety but the feeling of everyone else that made her shake in public. She LOVED being with her and being seen, but she asked me to teach the mom how to create a safe space that the two of them could be in. She promised to try it and I watched the little pup confidently prance away when we ended. I love that!

Finally, I want to remind you that all pets are at peace in heaven. Only once in my time doing this did a dog announce she was angry about death, but when I asked her why she said her owners never let her have puppies. They were crushed, but said that they had to get her spayed as soon as they got her because she had a massive infection. If they hadn't done so it would've killed her. She said, "OHHHHHH! Well then, I'm fine!" And that was that. I have read thousands if not hundreds of thousands of animals and that is the only one who left here with a regret, which became a misunderstanding, and is now fully at peace. Take that with you and be comforted by it please. They love you dearly and are grateful for all you do, even on your bad days.

I am a psychic for people and pets located in Conway, NH. You can schedule a private reading, book a party or event and learn more at [www.enlightenedhorizons.com](http://www.enlightenedhorizons.com) and by following me on Facebook at Sara Moore Enlightened Horizons.

Sarah Moore  
Enlightened Horizons

## Stream Smart Road Crossings Aren't Just for Fish!

Have you heard of Stream Smart? It's a program designed to reconnect stream habitat by replacing old, undersized culverts with bigger road/stream crossings that allow fish to move up and down stream, while also protecting our roads. Based on the U.S. Forest Service's "Stream Simulation" program, Maine Audubon first developed Stream Smart in 2011 to bring an ecological approach to road/stream crossing design in order to "let the stream act like a stream."

When Stream Smart was first developed, the goal was to restore streams for fish to move freely throughout Maine. And since Maine has the very last wild populations of Atlantic Salmon (a federally Endangered species) in the whole country, and the best and most extensive wild Eastern Brook Trout habitat in the U.S., connected streams are really important here!

But in the last few years, we've been working to include more terrestrial wildlife in our designs as well, by focusing on creating good streambanks inside the new road/stream crossings. This will let mink, turtles, foxes, and other wildlife cross under the road without swimming in the stream or going up and over the road and risking becoming roadkill. To encourage road professionals to include good streambanks in their road crossing designs, Maine Audubon and partners have developed a new video—due out this fall—showing how to create streambeds and streambanks inside Stream Smart crossings. With over 25,000 road/stream crossings in the state, providing wildlife passage through as many of them as we can could really make a difference in reducing roadkill!

We're also spreading the word across the Northeast—the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, working as a Stream Smart partner, is training their staff from New Hampshire to Virginia in the Stream Smart principles, and encouraging staff to train their partners as well. Our next step is to encourage using native plantings of grasses, flowers, shrubs, and even trees on the land that has to be cleared when a new Stream Smart crossing is put in, rather than just riprap. This will provide a more natural landscape with cover for wildlife so they can come and go through the crossing and still be safe from predators.

Slowly, one culvert at a time, Maine Audubon and partners are working to improve the landscape for fish and wildlife in Maine and beyond!

Sarah Haggarty  
Maine Audubon Society



**Road Crossing Before**



**Road Crossing After (notice the nice streambanks!)**



**Another undersized crossing**



**What it looks like now**



**And looking downstream from the new Stream Smart crossing. Notice how the new streambanks connect to the existing streambanks outside of the crossing.**

## Animal Healing

### ***35 year old horse recovers from night terrors – no drugs, no euthanasia!!***

What would you do if your senior horse suddenly started having such extreme night terrors that he kicked at the wall and screamed for hours every night?

The horse in this experience is off the track, he was rescued 18 years ago from the most traumatic event ever imaginable. To protect him energetically, he changed his name to Incognito. It is still somehow a shock to me that human beings can be so thoughtless, heartless and treat another living being with such violence for their own gain..... And then again, it happens every day, as we all know!

Last week, October 4th, 2022, I was scheduled to meet with Deb and her horse to do a check in and see if there was anything he needed as he moved forward in his life. This horse is under the most amazing care with the support of a holistic veterinarian in Virginia, a clean and healthy meal plan, and the ability to be offered and choose the herbs he might need on an ongoing basis. He has a beautiful life on green grass pastures with a companion, in a beautiful setting in NH.

When I arrived to see him, we sat outside at the bench under the trees and talked more about the focus for our time together. It was then that Deb shared the night terrors that her horse had been experiencing and we began to dissect the situation on every level imaginable. It was clear to me that the man who had been integral in the atrocities, had died, and was returning to 'visit' with the horse at night. I have often found that these Spirits return to apologize thinking their new 'form' may shift the healing. What clearly was happening for Deb's horse was that he was replaying his night of terror when the Spirit showed up. Screaming and kicking to be gotten out of the stall, his fear was palpable! Something clearly had to be done to remedy this situation. As I looked out in the paddock at the horse, he was incredibly content, peaceful and grazing in this sanctuary he loves so much. So, we ruled out that this was his time to transition, regardless of age, injuries and current concerns. We ruled out the need to drug him, and keep him quiet at night as he was clearly expressing that something was very wrong – this was NOT a time to squash the emotions and shut him down so the problem would appear to be 'fixed' when it would only be band aided!!

We went to his stall – immediately there was the sense of fear coming from the back corner, and a sense of broken boundaries from a Spirit who was bringing attention to himself in a very clear way. And imagine also how emotionally stressful this experience is for all the other horses in the barn who are so connected to each other and yet spent hours listening to their paddock buddy in such distress. I began to use my rattle to break up the energy in the stall and clear it out and in to the earth. The rattle is a great tool for resetting and breaking up blocks of stuck or stagnant energy. As I rattled, I set intent that this stall was to be cleared. I used essential oils to reset and raise the vibration, and a homeopathic spray to bring calm and peace back to the stall to recreate a safe haven for the horse when he came in at night. Then we sat in the stall as I invited the man to find his own peace by shifting from an Earth bound Spirit to transitioning fully to the LIGHT. I welcomed in those who would bring him over and showed him the way to a place where he would be able to continue to heal himself and to leave this horse alone, never to return here again. We used tobacco to facilitate in this process. The man fully transitioned to the LIGHT and peace was restored.

We returned outside to the horse and went in to the paddock to see what clearing and resetting the horse needed so he too was not carrying any history that was detrimental to his wellbeing. As humans we love to hold on to stories..... for ourselves, for the animals we rescue, for many reasons.

There is a strong and connective energy to these stories and they can prevent healing from happening completely keeping a thread back to the story. This was the case here – and the connection was being kept open and active because of the horse's name, which is the one used on the track. As we talked, Deb also realized that she still had the original stall sign with his name on it – “I need to burn it, right?” She asked. “YUP! Ideally”. “Done” she said! In this process all connections to his track days were being eradicated and the horse was being freed up, shackles being released and connections removed. We did some clearing work on him and made sure there was nothing else he needed in this process of finding peace again when inside after dark.

This was a powerful session that reminded me to always stay open to why I am being called in to see an animal – the reason from the human perspective, and the true purpose from the animal's vision, can be very different. To stay open, with no agenda or expectation allows me to be a clear conduit to whatever is needed, at whatever level, in whatever dimension to best serve the animal in front of me. This day was no exception to the way I have been taught, by the animals, to show up for each and every appointment.

I shared with Deb that her horse may need to realize that the stall is now clear and asked her to update me that night on how her horse reacted after dark. It brought tears to my eyes when she shared that he kicked once...and the rest of the night was completely peaceful. I checked in every night for a few nights to see how he was doing – not a peep, not a kick, not a scream – and she said he is sleeping better now than he has in a year! This horse is bringing to all of our attention that sudden behavior changes, discontentment, violence is not to be ignored or dumbed down to make it go away. Our horses are deeply divine spiritual beings who we would benefit from honoring and being students around. Their lessons run deep and are very profound. I invite you all to open to the two way conversation that they invite us to be a part of every single day that they are in your lives. The Soul healing that I witnessed and was in ceremony with, for Deb AND her horse will carry for a long time between them – transformational, life changing work!

In Gratitude and Honor  
Michelle Lowry

For more information on how to become more deeply and spiritually aware around your animals, check out my book **“The Rock – Destiny Through the Eyes of a Horse”** channeled to me by my horse Echoe – a **21 year journey of Self Discovery, and the upcoming 2-day Equine Clinic, in Deerfield NH** - “Your Soul's Transformation through the Eyes of Your Horse”  
[www.nikoenaturaltherapies.com](http://www.nikoenaturaltherapies.com) ~ [nikoetherapies@gmail.com](mailto:nikoetherapies@gmail.com) ~ 207 289 0009



## Live and Let Live Farm Rescue and Sanctuary

Like so many animal rescues and sanctuaries, Live and Let Live Farm Rescue and Sanctuary's donations are down as our need to help the animals is increasing. Many things have contributed to this including the pandemic. Costs of items have increased tremendously and these impact individual families trying to deal with the animals in their care-including large ones. Some people have surrendered their animals to us but come every day to care for them. We provide the home and allow the people who love them to still be there for them. Donations allow us to continue to do this.

Beautiful, but scared, pony, Twix, came to Live and Let Live Farm Rescue along with his paddock mate, a young male Nubian goat, after their human mom, only in her forties, passed away. With no known information on their training and vaccine history, their trust in us had to be earned in order for us to care for their hooves, their dental needs, and provide overall veterinarian care. Just two days later sheep and goats arrived needing help after the human who had loved and cared for them had passed away.

Since we care for smaller animals as well, it has become apparent to us that there has been no break in the kitten season this year. The first cat who came to us gave birth right after being found. Our second pregnant cat arrived this week. And a litter of four-week-old pups, who were found deserted in a rural area, arrived here at the same time. Thankfully the pups have now gone to a wonderful foster home.

We do our very best to help all animals who are brought to us and all donations to help us care for them are welcomed

teahorse@aol.com

Live and Let Live Farm Sanctuary and Rescue



## Delas Farm Sanctuary

Delas (Down East Large Animal Society) is one of only two farm sanctuaries in the state licensed by the Maine Department of Agriculture to take in abuse cases. Animals thrive there. Check them out on Facebook and for more information contact DELAS at P.O. Box 485 Cherryfield, Maine 04622 or contact Debbie McLaine at 207-638-3006. Volunteers and visitors are always welcome but call ahead to make arrangements.

DELAS Farm Sanctuary

## The purpose of the York County Animal Response Team (YCART)

YCEMA (York County EMA)

The purpose of the York County Animal Response Team (YCART) is to respond to community pet needs during disasters and to provide community education prior to disasters. When responding to a disaster our team members may assist in the transport of domestic animals or set up co-located shelters for animals, which includes a reunification process for strays found during a disaster. The team is comprised of community volunteers who love animals, animal professionals, and first responders.

Prior to hurricane season, YCART completed an exercise on setting up a co-located shelter to practice procedures on how to respond to hurricanes. While we did not deploy to the recent Hurricane Ian, the team was prepared, and York County Emergency Management Agency was on standby to send people if needed to assist. Team trainings typically focus on operational response to disasters. The team also trains on animal handling and behavior, disease prevention, and shelter protocols during our monthly meetings. Trainings for the rest of this year include training and exercise on incidents impacting livestock, reptile handling, and pet first aid.

Another focus of the team's monthly meetings is community education on pet preparedness. Recently, team members have been attending community events to provide community members with accurate pet preparedness information. The team attended Sanford's 3rd of July block party and Maine Emergency Management Agency's Maine Prepares conference. The information provided at these events stress the importance of making a plan, building an emergency kit, and staying informed. Even if the plan is to shelter in place during a disaster, an emergency pet kit is vital to keep pets comfortable and happy. These kits should include, if possible: several days of food, one gallon a day of water per pet for several days, pet medications in a waterproof container, vet records, first aid kit, collar with ID tag, harness, leash, travel bag or carrier, grooming items, towels, blankets, cleaning items, litter or puppy pads, a picture of you and your pet for reunification, toys, treats, and comfort items. Our team is always looking for more volunteers and outreach ideas. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact our office at 207-324-1578.

Caitlin Lipert  
YCEMA Training and Response Coordinator and YCART Member

Megan Arsenault  
Deputy Director  
York County Emergency Management Agency  
Office: 207-324-1578 | Cell: 207-468-0098  
Arthur W. Cleaves Director



NH is in the middle of restructuring NHDART (New Hampshire Disaster Animal Response Team), so there really isn't much information to publish at this time.

### Animal Legal Defense Fund Once Again Ranked Maine as the Best State for Animal Protection Laws 2021

- 1, Maine
- 5. Rhode Island
- 6. Massachusetts
- 13. New Hampshire
- 16. Vermont
- 29, Connecticut

For more information on ratings of all the states go to <https://aldf.org/project/us-state-rankings/>



## River Valley Animal Advocates

PO Box 628  
Canton, ME 04221



November 2022

Thank you so much for including us in your annual newsletter. It is always a pleasure to update The Voice group with our recent River Valley Animal Advocates' activities. My name is Becky McDonald and I am the President of the RVAA. We are currently in our 13th year as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) animal rescue group, with our major focus being the spay/neuter/ shots/medical needs of cats in our area. The RVAA would never have been formed without the support of VFA in 2009. We were also introduced to Don McLean, DVM (thanks to the VFA) who has been a life saver to our group from the very beginning! I would like to say thank you to VFA and to let you all know how the ripple effect of your support has helped us to help the animals locally.

I live in Oxford County; Maine and the local area is basically from Andover to Turner with Rumford & Mexico being the largest towns there. There was and continues to be a HUGE need in this area for economical spay/neuter as there are many low income, elderly, and disabled animal owners (90 % of the people that call us), as well as feral or community cat colonies. We have been doing monthly spay/neuter clinics (with Dr. McLean & his assistant/ wife Martha) here at my home in Canton since 2015, where we have set up a clinic. We pick up cats in the local area and bring them here at night as many that we help have no transportation. In 2020 we had to cancel a few of our clinics in the spring due to the outbreak of Covid but we were soon able to restart. We were able to end the year (2020) with 10 clinics (134 cats) having been done by year's end. In 2021 (with a really long waiting list) we were able to ramp up our clinics and did 22 clinics, helping over 300 cats. That was our biggest year ever and we are hoping to do even more this year. The need never seems to go away. Dr. McLean & Martha have so far worked throughout the pandemic. The reason we're able to help so many people and do so many cats was that the State of Maine Fix-Me Program sent us 176 vouchers to be used in the clinics instead of each individual person having to get one themselves. The Maine program has now been shut down since August 2022 as they make some changes in it. Needless to say it has really hit us hard as we are a small group with a small budget. Starting at the end of August we decided to just accept what people could pay, with the RVAA making up the difference in funds, for as long as our money held out. It almost seems like a miracle that the animal rescue group Spay Maine/Marion's Dream, has stepped up to help us and has started to reimburse our funds spent on the cats! This will enable us to continue helping local people and their cats using the same money over and over. We can't thank them enough for the "hand up" at this difficult time. I would also like to mention a number of other animal rescue groups that we have had the pleasure of working with over the last few years. Fairy Tails Rescue has come into our area and taken litters of street cats and strays, as has Community Cat Advocates, giving them a new chance at life. Western Maine Cat Coalition has also worked with our group. So great to see the new rescues coming into being and so wonderful that we can all work toward the same goals of changing the lives of animals! Voice for Animals was one of the first and they have been an inspiration to encourage (the ripple effect thing) others to get involved. So great to see us ALL working toward the same goals and making real progress!

Rebecca McDonald  
President, RVAA



## The Vegan Corner

### Winter Squash Soup

3 cups cooked winter squash (butternut, acorn, etc.)	1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
2 1/2 cups vegetable stock or water	2 tsp. salt
1/4 cup chopped onion	1 tsp. basil
1 lb. fresh spinach, chopped (optional)	1 Tbsp. nutritional yeast

Saute onion in water until tender. Blend or puree cooked squash in batches and put all ingredients except spinach into soup pot to simmer until tender. Add spinach, if desired. Simmer, stirring occasionally until mixture is heated through about 15-20 minutes. Serve piping hot.

### Native American Cornbread

1 1/2 cups whole-wheat pastry flour	1/2 cup soy milk
1 Tbsp. baking power	2 Tbsp. toasted wheat germ
1 cup yellow cornmeal	1/3 cup maple syrup
1/4 cup apple juice concentrate	1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
2 tsps. egg replacer	1/c cup walnuts
1 cup cooked pumpkin puree	

Preheat oven to 350°. Oil a 9-inch round or square pan with liquid lecithin or soy margarine. Stir all ingredients together just until combined. Add more water if batter is too dry, or more flour if too moist. Batter should be pourable, not runny. Spoon batter into prepared pan. Bake 20-30 minutes until knife inserted into center comes out clean.

## **Indian Pudding**

3 1/2 cups soy milk

3/4 cup corn meal

1 Tbsp. soy margarine

1/2 cup maple syrup

1/2 cup molasses

1 tsp. ground ginger

1 tsp. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 325°. Oil a 1 1/2 quart baking dish with soy margarine. In saucepan bring soy milk to a boil, adding corn meal slowly and stirring constantly until mixture has thickened and is smooth. Add cornstarch, 1 tsp. mixed in a little water, if too thin. Remove from heat and add margarine. Let cool for about 10 minutes. Beat in remaining ingredients until well blended. Pour into baking dish and bake for about 50 minutes or

## **Cats and Towns**



Did you know that towns can decide not to deal with the stray and abandoned cats who are found there? And they don't have to tell you! If you believe your town has made that decision recently or long ago and can prove it VFA has petitions that can be used in any state to be sure that cats there are humanely dealt with.

Contact us at [voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com](mailto:voiceforanimals.1987@gmail.com).

## Voice for Animals of Maine and New Hampshire Against Puppy Mills

Education and legislation at the state level and town and city level of the puppy mill industry is key to stop the pipeline to our state of New Hampshire and of course all states. Maine has a bill that passed as well as California, Maryland, Illinois, Washington State and recently New York. New Hampshire had HB 1318 that did not pass a couple of years ago and then Covid hit us. Our next move right now is to bring another state bill to our legislators... this requires patience and building a solid bill which will win.

Right now I am still protesting when able in Hudson and Nashua NH and I am working closely with multiple organizations with like minds as there is strength is in numbers: NH Animal Rights League, Bailing Out Benji, and Harleys Dream. I have been working with the Director of the NH Humane Society of the United States this past year; Kurt Ehrenberg and I have actively been asking volunteers to submit a warrant article for the public to vote on. Currently we have seven towns that passed this warrant and they are Amherst, Hampton, Newfields, Belmont, Dunbarton, Rindge and Rye. We need more volunteers in the state of New Hampshire to champion this grass-root cause to end the pipeline of mill pups coming into the state. So please help us! We need your time and connections. Please feel free to contact me at [citizen canine99@gmail.com](mailto:citizen canine99@gmail.com)

Kathryn Davis Varney

Voice for Animals of Maine and New Hampshire Against Puppy Mills



## Animal Legislation in Maine

The 2022 Maine state legislative session was primarily limited to budgetary and emergency bills, but there were still many animal welfare issues addressed. The Humane Society of the United States worked closely with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to pass a bill providing approximately \$350,000 of additional funding for the important work of the Animal Welfare Program. The new law also provides for a long overdue increase to the daily compensation for shelters caring for seized animals from cruelty cases.

The HSUS also worked closely with stakeholders on the passage of a law that seeks to improve the administration of the state's low-income spay and neuter "Help Fix ME" program. There is still much to be done, but we're working with the Animal Welfare Advisory Council on the process for instituting the changes.

Additional bills passing the legislature included an expansion of a veterinary medicine loan forgiveness program to help with the state's veterinarian shortage, implementation of process to address civil trespass by hunting dogs, and the Pet Insurance Act which establishes requirements for the sale, solicitation, negotiation or offer of pet insurance in this State.

In early September, Maine welcomed the transport flight of the very last 100 of nearly 4000 beagles removed from a Virginia facility breeding dogs to be sold to labs for animal testing. In collaboration with our shelter partners, these pups started the next chapter of their lives in the loving homes they so deserve! These beagles are the lucky ones and ambassadors for the nearly 60,000 dogs, just like them, used in laboratories for medical testing across the country who we will keep fighting for.

Additionally, to ensure a voice for non-lethal wildlife management options we secured a seat on the state's furbearer management planning steering committee, which is a multi-year process focusing on 13 species. Participating in these discussions and continuing to build relationships is key to promoting peaceful coexistence, protecting natural habitats, and putting an end to unsporting practices like wildlife killing contests.

We're looking forward to the 2023 legislative session during which we anticipate numerous animal welfare bills will be taken up. It is very important for your elected officials to hear from you. So be sure to call, write, and meet with your representatives, as well as attend public hearings to speak on behalf of those who can't speak for themselves. If you'd like to learn more and get involved with our work, please contact me at [maine@humanesociety.org](mailto:maine@humanesociety.org).

Katie Hansberry  
Maine State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States  
Beth Gallie Maine Animal Coalition

**VOICE FOR ANIMALS**

Voice for Animals

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