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2009, the first full year in our new facility, was a very successful and rewarding year at Northeast Animal Shelter. Our programs have grown and will continue to expand.

### **Rescue Programs:**

We placed a record number of 3,671 homeless dogs, puppies, cats and kittens in permanent loving homes.

Because of our expanded space, we are now able to accept and place more dogs and puppies. In 2009, we saved a total of 1,893 dogs and puppies, 777 more than in 2008 – a 70% increase!

NEAS accepted 273 dogs and puppies from local residents who could no longer care for their pets, and 55 dogs and puppies from local animal control officers. Not surprisingly, we have experienced a significant increase in private surrenders due to the poor economy.

NEAS' **Puppies Across America Program** saves dogs and puppies from states where spaying and neutering are not common practice and unwanted litters are common. This program has grown tremendously. Now we routinely receive homeless dogs and puppies from Georgia, West Virginia, South Carolina, Indiana, Tennessee, Illinois, Virginia, Nebraska, and we are also working with new organizations in Ohio and Texas. Most of these dogs were facing euthanasia, and they are now adopted members of loving New England families. In 2009, our Puppies Across America Program saved 1,169 dogs and puppies from the following rescue groups:

- 32 Dogs and 143 puppies from Old Fella Burke County Animal Rescue in Waynesboro, Georgia, an all-volunteer no-kill rescue group, committed to increasing the quality of life of unwanted and homeless animals by seeking suitable homes through adoption.
- 103 Dogs and 316 puppies from Monroe County Animal League. MCAL, located in Union, West Virginia, is an all-volunteer rescue group dedicated to address their local pet overpopulation problem.
- 63 Dogs and 13 puppies through our partnership with Canine Express's transport program, working with 14 high kill shelters in Indiana, Tennessee, and Illinois.

- 194 Dogs and 6 puppies from the Aiken County Animal Shelter in Aiken, South Carolina. The Aiken County Shelter currently takes in 5,000 to 6,000 cats and dogs each year, and 90% of those are euthanized.
- 21 Dogs and 32 puppies from the Alleghany Humane Society in Low Moor, Virginia, a shelter and local pound for Alleghany County and the surrounding area.
- 24 Dogs from Hearts United for Animals, a national no-kill shelter, sanctuary and animal welfare organization in Auburn, Nebraska. Some were puppy-mill rescue dogs.
- 10 Dogs and 190 puppies from the Nelson County SPCA in Lovington, Virginia.
- 1 Dog and 2 puppies from Young County Humane Association in Texas.
- 12 Dogs and 4 puppies from Save R Strays in South Carolina.
- 3 Dogs from Humane Society of Ohio.

Our **Sato Rescue Program** saves street dogs (Satos) from Puerto Rico. We work with eleven rescuers in Puerto Rico, who care for and foster homeless dogs until they are transported to NEAS by airplane. We pick these lucky pets up at Logan Airport in our van, give them some extra love when they arrive at our shelter, and after a 2-day rest in our isolation rooms they are ready to be adopted by loving families. After living on the streets and scrounging for food, these dogs must think they are in paradise because they shower their new families with affection at every opportunity. In 2009 our **Sato Rescue Program** saved 396 dogs and puppies.

On August 15, 2009, we hosted our annual Sato Reunion. We were joined by some of our Sato rescuers from Puerto Rico and many of our Satos and their adopters. It was wonderful to see the rescuers reunite with their Satos and to meet their new families. The day's festivities started with a "meet and greet" the rescuers, which was tremendously informative.

Our dog and puppy transport costs doubled in 2009 to \$70,063. While an increase in costs is generally undesirable, in this case it is good news indeed. It means that through our Puppies Across America Program and Sato Rescue Program, we are transporting so many more pets. We plan to expand this program even more in 2010.

In 2009 we formed a **Dog Team**, consisting of five NEAS staff members, who are dedicated to placing our special needs canines who have physical, medical or behavior issues. Our Dog Team provides special training, acquaints our dogs with loving, human contact and assists with their placement.

Our **Feline Rescue Program** saved 1,778 kittens and cats in 2009. Because of feline illnesses, including upper respiratory infections, we did not see the increase in kitten and cat adoptions we had anticipated. We are working to improve treatment and control of feline illnesses so we can increase our feline adoptions.

The majority of our cats and kittens are surrendered by local residents. We work with the MSPCA in Methuen, Habitat for Cats in New Bedford, C.A.R.E.(Center for Animal Rescue & Education) in New Bedford, and other private feline rescue groups, accepting homeless cats and kittens for adoption at NEAS. NEAS accepted 110 cats and kittens from the MSPCA , 317 cats and kittens from Habitat for Cats, 37 kittens from C.A.R.E. and about 200 cats and kittens from other shelters, local private rescue groups and local veterinary clinics. In 2009 44 cats and kittens were abandoned at our door during non-operating hours.

We formed a **Cat Team**, consisting of five NEAS staff members, who are working with new rescue groups, as well as helping special-needs felines find permanent homes.

Our **Cat Enrichment Team** consists of 10-15 volunteers and 2 staff members who have been given special training to interact with our felines, giving each cat individual attention. The Team enriches the lives of our shelter cats, working with them to overcome their fears and playing with them to reduce their stress. They handle, pat, cuddle and show affection to the cats, so the cats feel more comfortable and secure.

Last year, we started our **Senior Cats for Senior Laps Program**, which allows senior citizens age 65 years and older to adopt cats age 7 years and older for a reduced adoption fee. Our mature cats make wonderful companions, and they give their senior adopters many years of joy, affection and unconditional love in return for warm laps and loving homes. In 2009 we placed 30 senior cats with loving senior citizens.

This program is named the **Hazel Ford Senior Cats for Senior Laps Program**, in memory of Hazel Ford, who passed away leaving a generous provision for NEAS in her will.

### **Animal Care Programs:**

All Northeast Animal Shelter pets are spayed or neutered at the appropriate age. If a pet is younger than five months old, or if an unaltered pet is adopted shortly after its arrival, we provide the adopter with a spay/neuter certificate that is honored by our network of 32 local veterinarians who perform the surgeries at a reduced cost. In 2009, our **Spay/Neuter Program** cost was \$70,750. Because of our increase in adoptions, this cost was 18% more than in 2008.

To reduce feline over-population, NEAS provides free spaying of a mother cat when her kittens are brought to us for adoption. During 2009, NEAS paid for 22 mother cats to be spayed through our **Feline Mother Spay Program**. When each kitten is adopted, we provide low cost spaying or neutering when the kitten is old enough for the surgery, ending the cycle of feline over-population.

As well as being one of New England's largest no-kill shelters, NEAS is set apart from many other shelters because we are committed to providing comprehensive medical care for our cats and dogs. The need for our **Medical Intervention Program** has increased dramatically in 2009. Our medical supplies and vet fees for 2009 were \$113,597, as compared to \$69,013 in 2008. We are willing to spend thousands of dollars in life-saving medical care so an animal can be restored to good health and adopted by a loving family.

Our **Foster Care Program** has 54 active foster care providers who volunteer to open their homes to care for pregnant and nursing cats and dogs, newborn kittens and puppies, and special needs or sick cats and dogs until they are ready for adoption. Following NEAS-funded surgery, most of our cats and dogs are cared for in foster homes until they are ready for adoption. In 2009, our Foster Care Program cared for 102 cats and kittens and 12 dogs and puppies.

While some of our dogs have been living in foster homes prior to arriving at NEAS, for others living inside with humans is an entirely new experience. These dogs require **Canine Behavioral Training** before being adopted. They may be afraid of people; have never been in a home environment; have never walked on a slippery tile or hardwood floor; or have never been on a leash. In fact, many of our puppy mill rescues have lived in a wire bottom cage for their entire lives! We work with experienced professional trainers and behaviorists to help correct behavior flaws, ease our animals' fears, and get these pets ready to become members of loving families. Professional trainers volunteer at NEAS to teach our staff and volunteers training techniques, so they can tutor our dogs, preparing them for their new family lifestyle.

We offer training sessions at the Shelter, working with local professional trainers and animal behaviorists. We recommend all of our puppies and dogs receive some level of training to ensure they will be well-behaved, life-long companions.

In November we hosted an informative event at the Shelter to discuss pet behavior problems and their solutions. We were joined by Jo Jacques, a wonderful animal behaviorist, who answered our adopters' and donors' questions, and provided many successful training techniques for dogs and cats.

### **Community Programs:**

Our **Senior Visits Program**, bringing dogs to area nursing homes, senior centers and assisted living facilities, is expanding and has served groups of up to 64 individuals at a time during the past year. Our visits bring comfort and companionship to seniors. This year our staff and volunteers made about 50 visits to local seniors at Putnam Farm in Danvers, Woodbridge in Peabody, Brooksby Village in Peabody, Lynn Home for Elderly Persons in Lynn, Devereux House in Marblehead, Sisters of Notre Dame in Ipswich, Salem Senior Center in Salem, and New England Home for the Deaf in Danvers. We also received visits at the Shelter by groups from Brooksby Village and Greater Lynn Senior Services, where they enjoyed touring our facility and meeting some of our furry friends.

Thanks in part to our new facility, we have expanded our **Humane Education Program** to teach responsible pet care and the humane treatment of animals. While many adults could benefit from this program, we are focused on educating children. We have hosted or visited more than 55 youth groups and schools, including Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, All About Animals Club, Access STARR Program, the Tower School in Marblehead, the Saltonstall School in Salem, the Carlton School in Salem, the Phoenix School in Salem, the Horace Mann School in Salem. NEAS is committed to community outreach, and our staff and volunteers are eager to speak at events or conduct humane education classes at the Shelter and offsite.

In an effort to promote our Humane Education Program and foster future volunteerism, we started to host children's **Birthdays at the Shelter**, with a suggested donation. Our staff provides a fun and educational tour of our facility, goodie bags and a visit with a few furry Shelter guests. These special events have been very successful in 2009, with 13 children celebrating a special memorable birthday with their friends and our animals. Most of the children ask for gifts for our animals, instead of gifts for themselves.

NEAS believes it is very important to be a part of the North Shore community, and to promote our Shelter and our mission. Some community events NEAS has sponsored included an annual pet visit with Santa at the Shelter, Blessing of the Animals at the Shelter, and a dog walk in Salem Willows Park, which will become an annual event. In 2009 we participated in Swampscott's July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, and we hosted numerous Catmobile (low cost feline spay/neuter) visits. We were thrilled to be sponsored by Cesar Millan at his Live Packpower Tour on December 13 at Boston University, and we were very grateful to be the beneficiary of a number of community based events including Vettes for Pets (a Corvette show at the Shelter,) Comedy Night (a fun night of comedy in Salem,) North Shore Belly Dance Association's Spring Equinox, the Danvers Dog Show, and a dog walk in Beverly.

### **Support Programs:**

NEAS depends heavily on the participation and enthusiasm of a large team of volunteers. Our **Volunteer Program** currently has 198 active individual volunteers. On an average day, our kennel staff is assisted by between 20 – 25 volunteers. We also encourage student volunteers, who earn community service credits toward school and religious projects.

Volunteers attend a group orientation (usually between 10-15 participants) or a one-on-one session prior to the start of their training. Initial training sessions take place individually or in small groups, followed by a "shadow" session, where the new volunteer is paired with either an experienced volunteer or a kennel staff member for an entire shift. Once this has been completed, new volunteers can officially assume their duties independently, and usually come in for one 3-4 hour shift each week.

In addition to our 198 individual volunteers, we also work with several disabled volunteer groups, including Triangle, Bridgewell, North Shore Education Collaborative, New England Academy, North Shore Education Consortium and New England Home for the Deaf. These groups make sure all our animals have enough water, clean up empty food bowls, tidy cat cages, fill out our adopter follow-up post cards, log adopter names so we receive pet food that is donated by Nutro, and socialize cats and kittens. Some groups help sort newspapers, set up cages for incoming cats and help with laundry. Triangle of Lynn, for example, comes to NEAS twice a week for about an hour-and-a-half each visit. They have 2 – 4 volunteers and one Triangle staff member. Triangle is the headquarters for Ablevision, a television program run for and by the differently-abled community. They are currently working on a documentary that will include their volunteer efforts at NEAS.

We anticipated the need for increased paid and volunteer staffing at our new state-of-the-art facility, due to our increased admissions, adoptions and the fact that we are open to the public seven days a week. NEAS currently has 18 full-time employees and 26 part-time employees.

Our **Gold Collar Society** recognizes donors whose 2009 gifts total \$500 - \$999, and has 176 members. Our **Platinum Collar Society** recognizes donors whose 2009 gifts total \$1,000 or more, and has 56 members.

NEAS' **Forever Friends Legacy Society** is very important to us. We are grateful to friends of NEAS who have pledged their continued support of NEAS through their estate plans. Our Forever Friends Legacy Society now has 33 members. In 2009, we received 29 bequests.

Because we receive no federal, state or local funding, we are dependent on private donations. Our major source of income continues to be our direct mail program. In 2009, we received 46,742 individual gifts. Included in that total are approximately 1,400 Monthly **Pledge of Love** donors, who commit to a monthly gift that provides us with dependable income. We received 3,038 individual donations online.

As well as cash donations, we receive many gifts-in-kind, including pet foods, pet toys, blankets and towels. Most of our pet food is donated. In addition to private gifts-in-kind donations, Nutro Products regularly donates high quality pet food to us.