

NORTHEAST ANIMAL SHELTER

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES 2010

2010 was a very busy and successful year for Northeast Animal Shelter. On August 30, we placed our 100,000th pet in a permanent, loving home. As of December 31, 2010, NEAS had saved 101,600 homeless cats and dogs since our founding in 1976. Our programs continue to grow, and we are committed to saving more lives each year.

Through our **Saving Pets Across America** initiative, we placed 4,002 homeless dogs, puppies, cats and kittens in forever homes in 2010.

Our **Canine Rescue Programs** saved 2,103 dogs and puppies, 210 more than in 2009.

In 2008 we moved into our new facility, and since then we have dramatically increased the number of adult dogs (in particular, large adult dogs) we save. In 2007, we placed 326 adult dogs. In 2010, we placed 1,061 adult dogs – a 225% increase! We have also dramatically increased the number of puppies we save. In 2007, we placed 417 puppies. In 2010, we placed 1,042 puppies – a 150% increase!

NEAS accepted 210 dogs and puppies from local residents who could no longer care for their pets, and 41 dogs and puppies from local animal control officers.

NEAS' **Puppies Across America Program** saves dogs and puppies from states where spaying and neutering are not common practice and unwanted litters are common. Most of these dogs were facing euthanasia, and they are now adopted members of loving New England families. NEAS usually pays for transportation and reimburses the sending organization for vaccinations and spay/neuter costs. This program continues to grow. We routinely receive homeless dogs and puppies from Alabama, Georgia, West Virginia, Virginia, Indiana, South Carolina, California, Tennessee, and Texas. In 2010, our Puppies Across America Program saved 1,483 dogs and puppies from the following rescue groups:

- 72 Dogs and 172 puppies from Escambia Humane Society, a high-kill county shelter located in Brewton, Alabama.
- 104 Dogs and 253 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.
- 139 Dogs and 253 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.

- 23 Dogs and 218 puppies from the Nelson County SPCA in Lovington, Virginia
- 67 Dogs and 4 puppies through our partnership with Canine Express's transport program, working with 14 high kill shelters in Indiana, Tennessee, and Illinois.
- 91 Dogs and 16 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.
- 22 Dogs and 9 puppies from the Alleghany Humane Society in Low Moor, Virginia, a shelter and local pound for Alleghany County and the surrounding area.
- 21 Dogs from Kinder 4 Rescue in Studio City, California, through their Flying Chihuahua Program.
- 4 Dogs from P.E.T.S. in Waverly, Tennessee. P.E.T.S. works with a large network of foster volunteers, rescuing dogs and puppies from high-kill shelters. Our program with P.E.T.S. will grow dramatically in 2011.
- 6 Dogs from Hearts United for Animals, a national no-kill shelter, sanctuary and animal welfare organization in Auburn, Nebraska.
- 9 Dogs from Young County Humane Association in Texas.

Our **Sato Rescue Program** saves street dogs (Satos) from Puerto Rico. NEAS works with eleven rescuers in Puerto Rico, who care for and foster homeless dogs until they are flown to Logan Airport, where we pick them up in our van. The Satos' transport is dependent on flight space availability, and each group must have a human sponsor on the flight. In 2010 our **Sato Rescue Program** saved 376 dogs and puppies.

Our dog and puppy transport costs increased in 2010 to more than \$77,000. We anticipated this cost increase, and plan to further expand these programs in 2011.

NEAS' **Dog Team**, consisting of five NEAS staff members, is 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 1,899 kittens and cats in 2010.

We have dramatically increased the number of adult cats we save each year. In 2010, we placed 835 adult cats – 45% more than 2007! 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 72 cats and kittens from the MSPCA , 287 cats and kittens from Habitat for Cats, 127 cats and kittens from C.A.R.E. and about 120 cats and kittens from other shelters, local private rescue groups and local veterinary clinics. In 2010, 53 cats and kittens were abandoned at our door during non-operating hours, a practice we frown upon because we are given no information as to a pet's background.

NEAS' Cat Team, consisting of five NEAS staff members, 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.

The Hazel Ford Senior Cats for Senior Laps Program 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 2010 we placed 20 senior cats with loving senior citizens.

This program is named in memory of Hazel Ford, who passed away leaving a generous provision for NEAS in her will.

Animal Care Programs:

As well as being one of New England's largest no-kill shelters, NEAS is committed to providing comprehensive medical care for our cats and dogs. The need for our **Medical Intervention Program** increased dramatically in 2010. Our medical supplies and vet fees for 2010 costs were \$167,560, plus \$13,365 for incoming canine admit exams. We willingly spend thousands of dollars in life-saving medical care so an animal can be restored to good health and adopted by a loving family.

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 2010, our **Spay/Neuter Program** cost exceeded \$85,000. Because of our increase in adoptions, this cost was 13% more than in 2009.

To reduce feline over-population, NEAS provides free spaying of a mother cat when her kittens are brought to us for adoption. During 2010, NEAS paid for 10 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.

Our **Foster Care Program** has between 50 - 60 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. Many of our staff members also provide foster care to our needy pets. Following NEAS-funded surgery, most of our cats and dogs are cared for in foster homes until they are ready for adoption. In 2010, our Foster Care Program cared for more than 300 cats, kittens, dogs and puppies. We usually care for between 20 – 25 pets in our Foster Care Program at a time. Last summer, however, we had more than 60 cats and kittens being cared for in our Foster Care network at the same time. Some of our pets require specialized Foster Care for more than 8 weeks.

While some of our dogs lived 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. 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 and prepare 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.

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 75 individuals at a time during the past year. Visiting pets bring comfort and companionship to seniors and this event is often the highlight of a senior's day. This year our staff and volunteers made about 85 visits to local seniors at Essex Park in Beverly, Aviv Center for Living in Swampscott, 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 Wellspring, Brooksby Village and Greater Lynn Senior Services, where they enjoyed touring our facility and meeting some of our furry friends.

Thanks to the many generous contributions from friends and family of Christopher Cutler Rich, our Humane Education Program is now named the **Boo Rich Humane Education Program**. We continue to expand this program, which educates children about responsible pet care and the humane treatment of animals. We have hosted or visited more than 55 youth groups and schools, including Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts, 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, as well as offsite.

In an effort to promote our Humane Education Program and foster future volunteerism, we started to host children's **Birthday Parties 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 2010, with 19 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. We participated in local school career fairs and volunteer recruitment fairs. Some community events NEAS has sponsored included an annual pet visit with Santa at the Shelter and our annual Furry Friends Fiesta and dog walk at Salem Willows Park. We sponsored a Cat Adopt-A-Thon and two blood drives at our Shelter, in addition to hosting numerous Catmobile (low cost feline spay/neuter) visits. Our volunteers regularly staff adoption information centers at our local Petco stores, and we participated in the Boston Fitness Expo.

We were very grateful to be the beneficiary of a number of community based events including DogFest 2010, sponsored by Porter Square Veterinary Hospital in Somerville; Vettes for Pets (a Corvette show at the Shelter); an Animal Spirit Communicator Benefit, dog shows and many more events hosted by our friends.

Support Programs:

NEAS depends heavily on the participation and enthusiasm of a large team of volunteers. Our **Volunteer Program** currently has 205 active individual volunteers (184 kennel volunteers, 12 office volunteers, 6 senior visit volunteers, and 24 special event 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 205 individual volunteers, we also work with several volunteer groups with special needs, including Triangle, Bridgewell, North Shore Education Collaborative, New England Academy, North Shore Education Consortium, New England Home for the Deaf, and the Danvers and Marblehead High Schools' special education programs. 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, and socialize cats and kittens. Some groups help sort newspapers, set up cages for incoming cats and help with laundry. The Essex County Sheriff's Department routinely volunteers, assisting with outdoor clean-up and snow shoveling.

Our new state-of-the-art facility requires increased paid and volunteer staffing to support our increased admissions, adoptions and the fact that we are open to the public seven days a week. NEAS currently has 17 full-time employees and 37 part-time employees.

Our **Gold Collar Society** recognizes donors whose 2010 gifts total \$500 - \$999, and has 185 members. Our **Platinum Collar Society** recognizes donors whose 2010 gifts total \$1,000 or more, and has 65 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 2010, we received 30 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 2010, we received 45,998 individual gifts. Included in that total are approximately 1,300 Monthly **Pledge of Love** donors, who commit to a monthly gift that provides us with dependable income. We received 4,664 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.