2018 was a year of big transitions at the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society and 2019 will bring even more change! During the past year, two long-term leaders at the organization moved on to other challenges and retirement. We thank Steven Dostie for 38 years of service as the organization’s Executive Director, shepherding the shelter through significant change, including the building of the Strawberry Avenue facility, where we just celebrated our 12th Anniversary!

While change can be difficult, your local shelter is ready to expand and reach even more pets in need in our community and beyond. We’re excited to introduce three new leaders you’ll be seeing at the shelter and out in your neighborhoods -

Cole Leeman joined the GAHS family in December of 2016, but was promoted to serve as our Animal Care Supervisor in October of 2018, due to his hard work, knowledge and dedication to the organization. Cole is in charge of our Home to Vacationland transport program and assists with day to day management of shelter operations and animal care.

Brandon Castner was hired as the new Operations Manager in April of 2018 and has hit the ground running with policy and procedural updates to ensure the most humane treatment and ongoing care for all animals who come through our doors. A seasoned shelter professional, Brandon worked at shelters in Georgia, Pennsylvania and Montana, is also a trained wildlife rehabilitator and has worked internationally with bears in rescue sanctuaries.

Katie Lisnik joined the team as the new Executive Director in November of 2018. With over 20 years’ experience in the animal welfare world, including over 10 years at the national level, Katie brings a wealth of knowledge on all aspects of sheltering and animal care. She is eager to engage with our supporters and ensure that GAHS is an open, welcome and community-oriented organization providing the utmost in humane care.

In additional to welcoming new staff, you’ll also see some facility improvements with more to come in 2019. Check out the new Meet and Greet pens on our beautiful front grounds - a great place to meet a new doggie friend and maybe find your new family member! These pens offer some extra exercise space for our dogs, and allow visitors

Steven Dostie, Retired in June after 38 years of Service, Leadership & Vision

Big Changes at Your Community Shelter!
Continued from page 1...

to get to know the playful canines in a safe and spacious environment. Time for a game of fetch?

Following the success of our free Community Outreach events in Lewiston and Auburn for the past couple years, we’ll be expanding these important services to our other contracted communities in the greater Androscoggin County area. Wellness exams, vaccines and microchips should never be out of reach for families struggling to make ends meet. We’re happy to be able to offer these basic services to keep pets in our community happy and healthy.

We invite you to join with us to make 2019 a bigger and better year than ever before for animals in need. Keep an eye out for our newly designed website at www.SavingPetsInMaine.org and get involved with your community animal shelter!

**Celebrating a Special Person and her Sherry**

If you joined us at one of our walks or yard sales over the past two decades, you probably ran into Henrietta – a witty spitfire who, if you engaged in a conversation with her, would have undoubtedly told you about her dear cat Sherry. Whether it be an amusing story about one of Sherry’s antics or simply to state how fond she was of her girl she adopted at GAHS; within a few moments it was hard not to notice what a truly special bond they shared.

We all love our pets, but sometimes there is that one pet who you share an exceptional connection with, the kind of bond where it’s hard to explain in words. Often difficult to duplicate, almost like a secret only two souls are privy to. Henrietta and Sherry were blessed to share this very bond.

Henrietta lost her dear Sherry to old age in 2010. Even as Henrietta continued to volunteer as she turned 90, she mourned her dear friend; deciding to do something extra special to memorialize her sweet girl. Today, when you visit GAHS, we hope you step inside Sherry’s Solarium - a special space where kitties can frolic, wrestle with friends or lounge in the sunshine as they await adoption. While Henrietta never saw this beautiful room completed, we are happy to be able to look at what a truly special bond they shared.

**Savings Lives Knows No Boundaries**

Did you know that the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society transferred in over 400 animals from other shelters throughout the United States in 2018 through our Home to Vacationland program?

What is “Home to Vacationland”? GAHS’s very own transport program which seeks out shelters and rescue groups that are inundated with needy animals in other parts of the United States. We transport those pets’ north to Maine where they quickly get adopted into loving homes.

With the help of our Animal Care Supervisor, Cole Leeman, and van drivers Greg Marlett and Don Damour, we are aiming to help even more animals in 2019! To be as safe, humane and effective as possible, last summer Greg took part in a special training offered through the ASPCA in New York. It is important to note the animals transported undergo strict quarantine procedures both before and after transport, in order to ensure they are transported responsibly, and receive all the necessary vaccinations required of the State of Maine prior to departing for their trip north.

Why do we transport? It is simple, our community is able and willing to provide loving homes in our home state of Maine to those who need us most. Through vigorous spay/neuter programs, New England has seen decreases in the number of local dogs needing our help. While we still serve all local dogs in need, we’re happy to be able to look to other parts of the country still struggling with over-population, and to lend a helping paw. Without community support like yours, programs like this would not be possible. To learn more, go to our website www.savingpetsinmaine.org.

**2018 Accomplishments at a Glance...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>95% Overall Save Rate</th>
<th>667 Dog Adoptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,441 Cat Adoptions</td>
<td>93 Local Animal Adoptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,133 Spay/Neuter Vouchers Used</td>
<td>11,297 Volunteer Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,565 Sanitations Performed</td>
<td>735 Community Outreach Animals Helped</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Helping Hands Needed**

Have you ever thought about volunteering or fostering for the shelter? As we grow, we need more hands and homes to join us in helping our animals in need! The possibilities are just about endless - your time and talents can help us in so many ways, from graphic design experience, to fostering a litter of kittens, or assisting with an off-site adoption weekend - we’d love to connect with you! Please email Sandy at volunteer@gahumane.org or call 207-783-2311 ex 107 with your interest.