

# Tails

**A newsletter promoting  
compassionate and  
responsible relationships  
between humans  
and animals** 

## Emergency Help for Acorn

Can you imagine being all alone in the world with no one to rely on? No one to keep you safe and warm, no one to feed you (or help you find food), people always trying to catch you? That's what life was like for Acorn, a tiny kitten living under the porch at Lost Nation Brewing in Morrisville. On top of being scared and hungry, Acorn also suffered from a broken front leg and could barely get around. The odds were definitely stacked against him!

Our mission is to help, first and foremost, the stray animals in our community who have no one to advocate for them. When we accept a stray dog or cat into our adoption program they receive basic medical care such as vaccinations, dental cleaning, flea treatment, de-worming medication, microchipping and ear cleaning, and, of course, they are all spayed or neutered. Each animal is given a warm, safe place to sleep,

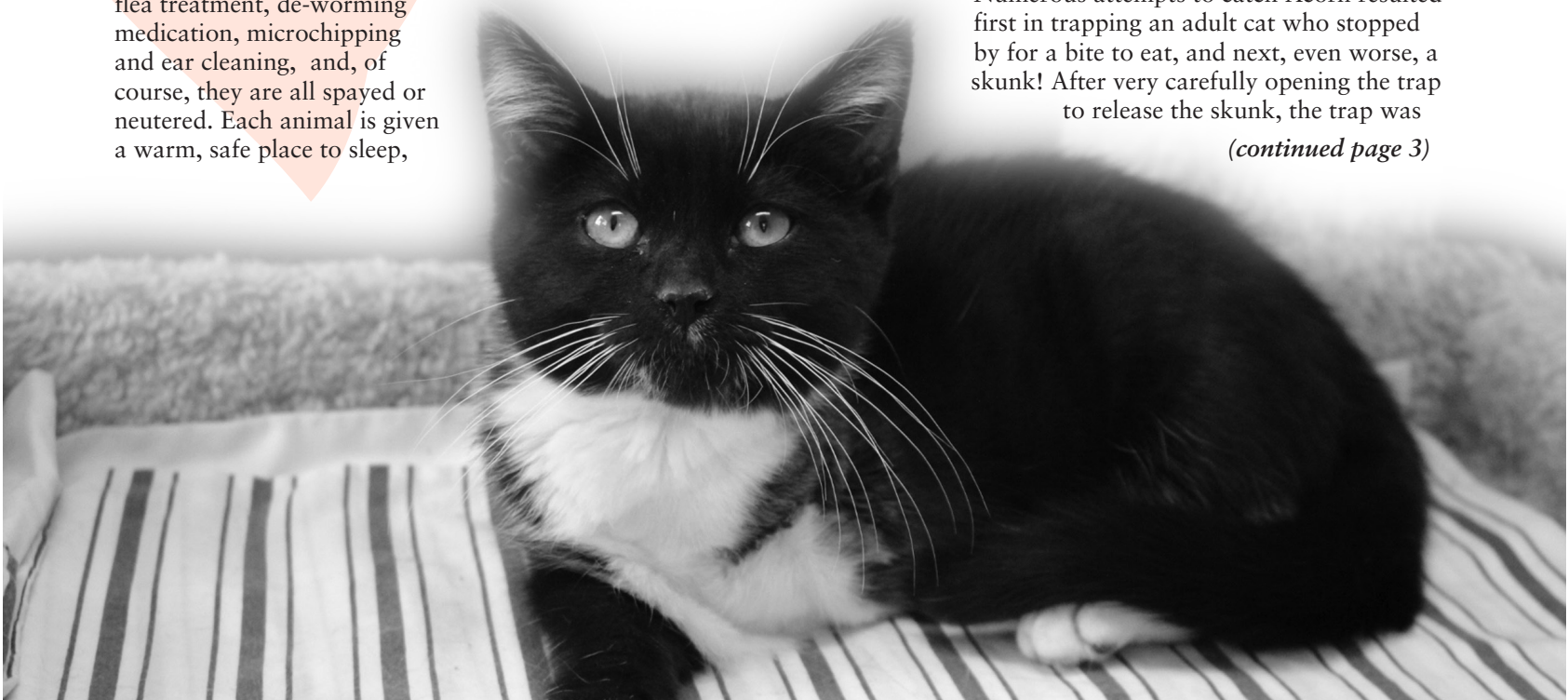
regular meals, training, and lots of TLC. And, just like any small non-profit organization, we do all of this on a very tight budget.

So what do we do when we take in a stray dog or cat who has needs that far surpass our budget for basic care? We turn to our Emergency Medical Fund (EMF). This fund is kept replenished by donations that we raise to help when we take in an animal, like Acorn, who is in immediate need of emergency medical attention.

When we received the call from Lost Nation, we were in the midst of one of the worst kitten seasons we have experienced since opening our shelter. Stray kittens were turning up everywhere! Lost Nation staff had noticed Acorn hanging around and had been putting food out for him, but he was too scared to allow them to catch him. We grabbed one of our Havahart traps and headed over.

Numerous attempts to catch Acorn resulted first in trapping an adult cat who stopped by for a bite to eat, and next, even worse, a skunk! After very carefully opening the trap to release the skunk, the trap was

*(continued page 3)*





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16 Mountain View Meadow Road  
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(802) 888-5065 phone (802) 888-4408 fax  
ncal.com

Shelter Hours  
Tuesday – Thursday: 11:00 – 4:30  
Friday: 12:00 – 6:00, Saturday: 11:00 – 4:30  
Closed Sunday & Monday

To schedule an after-hours appointment,  
please contact our Pet Adoption Center  
at (802) 888-5065 x 101.

## Letter From Executive Director **Dear Friends,**

Lately I've been giving a lot of thought as to what North Country Animal League stands for and how we can best meet the needs of homeless animals and our community and I keep coming back to one simple idea: People helping animals and animals helping people.

NCAL is so much more than an animal shelter. It's a center where, for a variety of different reasons, people come together to connect with animals. It is through these visits that the stray and abandoned animals that we provide a safe haven for become the catalyst for change - providing therapy, teaching empathy, instilling altruism, and promoting kindness and compassion for all living things. In these ways, animals - especially those here who have faced adversity - can be the best teachers.

In the nonprofit world, success is often based on facts and figures. In this newsletter, you will read about the stories behind the data - an abandoned kitten who needed us in the midst of one of the worst kitten seasons in NCAL's history. A young girl who learned to love reading through helping a special cat who was rescued from a life of neglect. A dog, so deserving of a home, who spent nearly a year in our care before the day finally came when she found the perfect family, and more. These stories are the true markers of our success.

These days, the need is greater than ever for us to provide programming to help instill compassion, empathy and a true appreciation for sharing the earth with each other and our animal friends. Our work is just as much about people as it is animals.

Of course, we never lose sight of our goal of saving as many lives as possible through adoption. Through our transfer program, we are able to keep our shelter full by reaching beyond Vermont's borders to help deserving pets who are at high risk in other states where the homeless pet epidemic is rampant. With your support, we are on track to increase our adoptions over last year and save even more homeless pets.

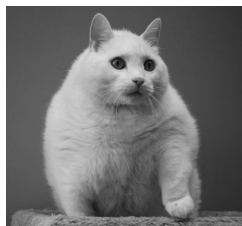
Thank you for your continued support, and for whatever the reason may be, we hope you come visit us soon!

*Best Wishes,*

Tracy Goldfine  
Executive Director



## Friends Available for Adoption



### **BOO**

Boo is a big boy with an even bigger heart! This senior cat has a personality larger than life and is looking for a home that will shower him with love and affection! Is there room in your heart for Boo?



### **ARUBA**

Aruba is a young hound puppy who is ready to live a life full of excitement! Aruba will be your go-to buddy for walks, hikes, or runs! Come meet this sweet pup!



### **WILLARD**

Willard is one of the coolest cats in town! After coming to us with 21 of his feline friends he quickly stole our hearts and became a staff favorite! Come meet him today!

**To see other adoptable dogs and cats, visit [ncal.com](http://ncal.com)**

(continued from cover)

## Emergency Help for Acorn

set for a third time. After a few days, hunger eventually won out, and Acorn was finally trapped and brought back to the shelter.

At first, poor Acorn was so frightened after being caught that we thought he was feral. Then, with a little time and patience (and a constant supply of food!), he began to trust us and turned out to be very social and affectionate.

Sadly, the injury to his leg was not repairable and his leg had to be amputated. Amputation can be a scary experience, but don't worry, it hasn't affected Acorn one bit! The very next day after surgery he was playing in his kennel, using his litterbox, and was as active as any other kitten. One week after his surgery, he was running around his foster home playing with other kittens. We quickly realized that nothing is going to slow this guy down! Acorn is now healthy enough to find a family to adopt him and there has already been great interest!

Without the EMF, we would have been unable to help Acorn and the many dogs and cats like him who come to us in extreme need. Thanks to our supporters who donate to the EMF, they ALL get a second chance at life!

## Mutt Strutt



### Mutt Strutt - A Pawsitive Come Back!

Mutt Strutt was back this summer and better than ever! Taking place on International Homeless Animals Day, August 19th, the walk and festival for the animals brought animal lovers and their pets from near and far to celebrate and help raise awareness and support for the homeless pets at NCAL. A parade of nearly 50 dogs of all shapes and sizes swept through Stowe Village and trekked back to the Events field where festivities, food, and fun contests awaited. Thank you to all who joined us and we look forward to seeing you next year!



## Welcome Kim!

You may have recently noticed a new face behind the front desk when you visit our Pet Adoption Center. In September we happily welcomed Kim Rushford to our team as our new Customer Care Manager. Kim will oversee all aspects of our customer service in our adoption department, helping adopters find their next best friend. Carlee Brion moved on from the Customer Care Manager role when she was promoted to Adoption Center Manager back in May. While Kim is new to this role, she is certainly no stranger to us! Kim has been volunteering at NCAL now for over 2 years and was recognized as our Volunteer of the Year for her dedication to serving our mission at our 2016 Annual Meeting. Beyond her love of animals, Kim brings years of experience in customer and community service. She enjoys spending time outdoors, essential oils, and is the proud mother of two boys. She and her husband share their home with their 10-year-old dog, Toby (an NCAL alum!). Please stop by and say 'hello'!



## Annual Meeting

At our Annual Meeting in May we celebrated our hardworking staff, dedicated volunteers, committed board members, incredible community, and, of course, our 532 animals who found homes through NCAL in 2016! The volunteer award was presented to our wonderful volunteer, Glenn Cover, who has been volunteering for NCAL now for over 5 years and has made such a difference with our dogs. The business award went to our veterinarian, Dr. Connie Riggs. Riggs provides the spay/neuter surgeries and vet care for our animals. Our staff award went to our Adoption Center Manager, Carlee Brion, for her hard work and dedication to NCAL and the animals. B.J. Rogers from the ASPCA joined us and spoke on the evolving role of the modern-day animal shelter. Thank you to all who attended!



## Reading Buddy Spotlight



Oliver has been coming to read to the animals ever since we launched the Reading Buddies program at NCAL in March. Just a few days ago, Oliver, who is 6-years-old, became the first Buddy to reach the 25 visit mark! Many cats and kittens have come and gone through our doors since March (over 200!) and their time here has been enriched by Oliver's weekly visits with them. We feel so lucky to have such dedicated young volunteers helping the animals. We had some questions to ask Oliver about being a Reading Buddy at NCAL, here's what he had to say:

**What do you like most about coming to NCAL to read to the animals?** I just like seeing and being with the kittens and cats.

**Do you have a favorite story that you like to read when you are here?** I don't have a favorite story, but I like to read stories about cats that look like the NCAL cats.

**Do you have a favorite animal that you have read to?** I like all of them. My favorites are the kittens.

**What do you think the animals enjoy most about being read to?** They like laying on the books!

**How does visiting NCAL and reading to the animals make you feel?** The kittens are really funny. It makes me feel like I want to adopt them so much!

Thank you, Oliver! We think that what you do for the animals is pretty great!

## Hurricane Harvey Dogs

This September brought one of the worst hurricane seasons in recent history. We are so grateful to the rescue groups who responded first-hand to the crisis saving thousands of animals from the floodwaters. These groups worked non-stop to help reunite lost animals with their families and provided shelter and care for those who were unclaimed, injured, or stray.

Even before Harvey, Houston, TX experienced a very serious homeless pet epidemic. NCAL has partnered with rescue groups in Houston now for several years, regularly transferring dogs up to our Adoption Center in order to find them loving homes here in the North Country.

The first group of dogs who were affected by Hurricane Harvey arrived at NCAL in late September. Our community welcomed these dogs with open arms. We know that these events will have a long-term effect on the stray animal populations in these areas and will continue to partner with rescues to help in any way we can.



A puppy who just arrived on transport to NCAL finds comfort with staff.



## Will You Play With Me?

Playing with your dog not only creates a strong bond between owner and dog, but is a fantastic training tool and is just plain fun! Dogs get constant positive reinforcement when they engage in games with other dogs or with toys. Unfortunately, many owners can be a bit boring to their dogs. We do not spend a lot of time building up a play history with our furry companions. Owners need to teach their dogs to play with them just like they need to teach basic obedience and manners. Here is one of many games to get you started:

**FETCH-** Find a ball or other object that your dog will chase and pick up. Now have two or more of the same objects in your hand (we will use a ball for our example). Show your dog one of the balls and throw it a short distance while you say "get it" or some other cue. When he picks up the ball, encourage him to move towards you by showing him the next ball that you have in your hand. At first, even a couple of steps back towards you is great. Wait for your dog to drop his ball, then throw the ball in your hand, cueing "get it". While he is distracted chasing the next ball, you pick up the ball he dropped, so you are ready to go again. Encourage him to come back closer and closer with his ball before you throw the next one. You will soon have a dog who is racing back to you with his ball so he can chase the next one. Be fun, silly and light-hearted, and your dog will become more and more engaged in playing the game and in playing with you! Tip: If your dog already does the "keep away game", start with your dog leashed so that you can prevent him from running off as you train him. He will soon realize that it is more fun to come to you than to run away with the ball. Happy Training!

## A Round of a Paws...

- SunCommon for holding your second annual Sunflower Sale to benefit NCAL!
- Girls on the Run in Waterbury for collecting food and toys for the animals!
- Bellwether School in Williston for raising money for the animals during your Winter Solstice event!
- Lemonade stands and bake sales hosted by many young local animal lovers!
- Janet and Burt's Irish Pub for donating the proceeds of your Rip Ticket sales to NCAL!
- Jamie, Mark and friends at Plate for donating a week's percentage of proceeds from the bar to help the animals!
- Stowe Jazz Festival for naming NCAL as your Charity of Choice for your inaugural year!
- North Country Credit Union for hosting your Shed & Shred event to benefit NCAL!
- Johnson State College's Vegan Club for hosting a delicious vegan dinner to benefit the animals!
- Johnson Elementary School's 3rd grade students for learning the mathematics of an animal shelter and raising money to provide three months of food for one of our dogs!
- Mountain River School for warming our hearts and selling hot chocolate at the Stowe Mountain Resort to support the animals!
- Dr. Connie Riggs for providing our spay/neuter surgeries and vet care!
- Sequist Animal Hospital for sponsoring our weekly radio segments on WLVB that we use to promote our adoptable animals and for helping us with our emergency veterinary needs!
- Burlington Emergency and Veterinary Service for assisting us with our emergency veterinary needs!
- Sally Stetson Design for our beautiful newsletters, mailings, posters, invitations, and greeting cards!
- Donnie Blake Jr. Construction for keeping our building in tip-top condition!
- Brooke Kaltsas and TruckieLoo Photography for amazing photos of our adoptable animals!
- All of our Menagerie 2017 Business Sponsors!
- Green Sleeves Landscaping LLC for providing our mowing, landscaping and plowing!
- Stowe Rugby Team for volunteering manpower (and many laughs!) for Mutt Strutt 2017!
- Our foster families and shelter volunteers who walk dogs, cuddle cats, help with laundry and cleaning - we couldn't do it without you!
- All of the local businesses who display our NCAL coin cans!
- Jess McLeon and Pinky's Photography for providing amazing photos of our adoptable animals!
- Ken & Bunny Libby for donating fleece coats to all of our adopted dogs!
- Our wonderful community who generously donates items from our Wish List!
- Mort and Frank Butler and FixPC for always being there when we need technical support!
- VT Web Marketing for design and ongoing support with our website!
- Alario Tech for fundraising and providing technical support!

*Thank you to our creative and generous community for continuing to support our mission and for your love of animals! We wish we could list everyone individually who has given their time and energy to plan a fun, creative event in support of NCAL. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram where we post these events regularly. We urge you to visit the above businesses who share your values and help support our community and the animals in need!*



*Above: Kid's Adventure Games Sportsmanship Award winners Hannah Crawley and Annika Green present NCAL with a check from Clif Bar Company.  
Left: Waterbury Girls on the Run collected a truckload of supplies for the dogs and cats at NCAL last spring.*





## Cat Tips From Thomas

*Thomas is NCAL's resident cat. You can follow Thomas on our Facebook & Instagram pages!*

You know that old saying, "A cat's work is never done"? No? Well, even if you haven't, it's the story of my life. I'm responsible for many things at the shelter including taste tester, kitten observer (super important this year with the crazy kitten season we had!), front desk greeter, staff trainer, but the most important job is dog tester! Yes, that's right, if you've adopted a dog from NCAL in the past 11 years that you were told could live with cats, I've been the one who gave them their "Cat Tested" stamp of approval.

Remember, though, every successful relationship, even a cat and dog relationship, needs to start with a proper introduction. Cats are territorial and need to be introduced to other animals very slowly in order to give them time to get used to each other before there is a face-to-face confrontation. Slow introductions help prevent fear and aggression problems from developing. Remember that a dog's behavior is very different from a cat's and they interact in ways that may scare the other species and can result in injuries to either the cat, the dog, or the human!

There are some great websites that explain the best ways to introduce pets to each other. Three of my favorites are [www.paws.org/library/cats/home-life/introducing-cat-to-dog/](http://www.paws.org/library/cats/home-life/introducing-cat-to-dog/), [www.bestfriends.org/resources/how-introduce-dog-cat](http://www.bestfriends.org/resources/how-introduce-dog-cat), and [www.americanhumane.org/fact-sheet/introducing-dogs-to-cats/](http://www.americanhumane.org/fact-sheet/introducing-dogs-to-cats/). All three have very important tips and guidelines that I'm sure you'll find helpful.

Even if your dog has lived with cats before, it is important to remember that each dog and each cat is an individual and, therefore, each introduction is different. Trust me, I know about these things!

## Fostering Saves Lives

Would you consider opening your heart and your home to an animal in need? NCAL is often in need of foster homes for mothering cats with kittens, orphaned kittens, and mothering dogs with puppies. We also seek qualified medical fosters for animals in extreme need. The more homes we have, the more lives we can save. Without the help of foster caregivers we would be forced to turn away many pets that need our help!

NCAL will provide everything you need to take care of your fosters during their stay - food, litter, bedding, vetting and support from our staff. You provide the most important thing of all - love.

For more information or to apply to become a foster parent, please call us at (802) 888-5065 x 101 or email [adopt@ncal.com](mailto:adopt@ncal.com).



## Regularly Needed Items

**Can you help? These are the items we use most.**

**Thank you!**

Dog and cat treats *(soft preferred!)*

Cat litter

Paper towels

Peanut butter

Dishwasher liquid

8 ½ x 11 copy paper

Laundry detergent *(HE only, please!)*

Bleach

15 & 30 gallon trash bags

Gift cards to Pet Food Warehouse *(where we can purchase items at a discount!)*

Pronature dog and cat food

Postage stamps *(Forever)*

Dog and cat toys *(new, please)*

## How You Can Help

There are so many things you can do to help the animals in need in our community. Visit [ncal.com](http://ncal.com) to learn how!

### Monetary Donations

North Country Animal League relies heavily on private donations to help care for our animals and fund our programs.

### Monthly Donations

Monthly donors support our work throughout the year with recurring monthly gifts. Please contact Tracy at (802) 888-5065 or email [tracyg@ncal.com](mailto:tracyg@ncal.com) to set up your monthly gift!

### In-Kind Donations

To help reduce cost, we rely on donations of supplies to care for our animals. Please visit our Wish List online at [ncal.com](http://ncal.com) for regularly needed items.

### Memorial Gifts

A gift that will help an orphan pet in need is a wonderful way to remember a special person or pet. We will send a personalized card notifying the recipient of your gift.

### Engraved Bricks

Engraved bricks are a permanent tribute to animals and animal lovers that create the walkway leading into our Pet Adoption Center. Please contact Sallie Scott at [adopt@ncal.com](mailto:adopt@ncal.com) to learn more.

### Guardian Angel Sponsorship

Sponsoring a shelter animal is a wonderful way to be a part of their journey to find a forever home. Your sponsorship helps cover the cost of care for your chosen dog or cat during their stay at NCAL, including their medical expense, daily care, healthy diet, and lots of TLC.

### Honorary Gifts

A gift to help an animal in need is a great way to celebrate and honor a special person or event. We will send a personalized card notifying the recipient of your gift.

### Planned Gifts

Including North Country Animal League in your will or trust will create a lasting legacy to help pets in need for years to come. If you have remembered NCAL in your will or trust, please let us know so we may personally thank you and acknowledge your intended gift. Please contact Tracy at (802) 888-5065 or email [tracyg@ncal.com](mailto:tracyg@ncal.com).



## Other Ways to Help

### Volunteer

Our work depends on the support of our dedicated volunteers. Many opportunities are available for youth, adults, and groups in our programs and events. Visit [ncal.com](http://ncal.com) for more on our volunteer program and upcoming orientations.

### Corporate Partnership

If you are a corporation or local business looking to make a big difference in your community as well as in the lives of animals, please consider supporting the animals through an annual sponsorship or event sponsorship. There are several levels of sponsorship. Contact Tracy Goldfine: (802) 888-5065 x 106 or email [tracyg@ncal.com](mailto:tracyg@ncal.com)

### Become a Foster Parent

Some of our animals need time in a loving, comfortable home before they are ready for adoption. We are in need of more volunteers willing to open their homes to these homeless pets. Contact Carlee Brion: (802) 888-5065 x101 or email [carleeb@ncal.com](mailto:carleeb@ncal.com).







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## Menagerie Makes Purple Rain

We had a blast at our annual dinner/dance/auction event at the Stoweflake this year. The theme “Purple Rain” brought a creative assortment of Prince attire, rain slickers and wellies, and even purple royalty! It was raining cats and dogs at the Stoweflake in February! Our silent auction full to the brim with amazing items. Peter Davis was the emcee for our exciting live auction that included fabulous trips, original art, and even an antique trail sign. We had a wonderful time with everyone! Thank you to everyone who attended and to all of the generous businesses that supported the event and donated auction items. What a huge success for the animals!

**We invite you to join us February 3, 2018 when Menagerie Goes Honky Tonk!!! Grab your hats and polish your buckles for a night of boot-stomping fun to benefit the animals!**



**Training Classes - NCAL offers  
Puppy Kindergarten & Basic Manners/  
Obedience classes! Visit [ncal.com](http://ncal.com) or call  
(802) 888-5065 x 101 to register!**