



Tails

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



Every Buddy Deserves a Chance

Meet Buddy. Buddy is a small dog with a giant heart. Being the young Jack Russell that he is, Buddy dreams of burying bones, chasing his tail, and running after squirrels. Unfortunately, these things have not been a reality for him – it seems that Buddy has lived the majority of his life in chronic pain.

Buddy doesn't have a voice to share his story, so we know little of his life before. Buddy was abandoned at the door of NCAL in the early morning of August 8th, 2016. He was found cowering in the corner, confused, scared, and in intense pain - so much that it made his body tremble and muscles seize. We knew that we needed to do everything we could to help him.

Unfortunately, when an animal is abandoned at our door with no relinquishment of ownership to us, that animal is put at risk. Buddy was not legally our property. By law, the Animal Control Officer must be informed, and temporary possession of the dog is taken by the Town for a one-week hold time at the Town holding facility to determine if the rightful owner will show up. After the hold time, the Town is responsible for determining the dog's future.

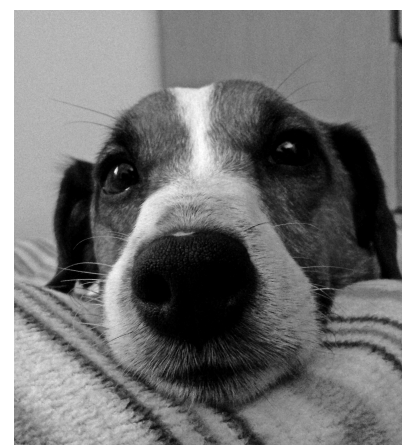
With the amount of pain Buddy was in when we found him, we knew that it would be in his best interest to remain at NCAL, and to be cared for and treated by our staff during his hold. Luckily for Buddy, Morristown's ACO, Brian Kellogg, agreed. In addition, Kellogg received approval from the Selectboard to allow us to x-ray Buddy and administer pain medication to help him get through the week.

Buddy's owners never showed up, and after the week, ownership was transferred by the Town to NCAL. We went to work immediately to determine the cause of Buddy's pain and begin treatment. Buddy, we soon learned, suffers from Intervertebral Disc Disease, the degeneration of one or more spinal disks causing pain and neurological problems. If left untreated, this disease, in severe cases such as Buddy's, can cause chronic pain and lead to permanent paralysis.

Buddy received three weeks of drug therapy, which had little-to-no effect due to the severity of his condition. On Memorial Day weekend, Buddy's situation worsened. He began losing more neurological functioning and his pain level was intolerable. The only solution for Buddy at that point was an immediate high-cost surgery to decompress the spinal cord at the site of his injury and herniation of his disk material. With a successful surgery, it was expected that Buddy would make a full recovery, allowing him to lead an active life, free of pain. Without surgery, due to his chronic pain, he would need to be euthanized.

NCAL is fully committed to each of the animals in our care, and to ensuring that they receive the treatment necessary for them to lead a fulfilling life. It simply was not an option to euthanize this dog knowing that this surgery could cure him, despite the expense. We

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TAILS is published by NCAL and welcomes all letters and questions from its readers.

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

We would be happy to schedule special appointments after hours.

Letter From Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Autumn is upon us, my favorite time of year! This dramatic change of the seasons is a reminder that - much like the squirrels - we should always be prepared for change, and that transition is a natural process. It is a rule of thumb at NCAL to always expect the unexpected. Each new day brings new challenges and successes, and we are constantly adapting to the ever-changing environment of an animal shelter.

As I write this, it has been two months since I joined NCAL as Executive Director. In this short time, I have been deeply touched by the animals that have come to us in need. I have witnessed animals abandoned at our door or surrendered by their owners, transports arrive from high-kill shelters all over the country, and local strays we have taken in that were in high need of medical attention. I have watched and celebrated as we placed 100 of these animals in their forever homes. Especially the 'long-timers' like Goldie, Moo, and Bear. I am humbled by the staff and leadership that has come before me, who have dedicated much of their lives to this great work.

It is Buddy's story, in particular, that has opened my eyes to the incredible support we receive from our community. Witnessing a community step up and stand behind this little abandoned dog, and help provide him with the immediate medical care that he needed, was truly remarkable.

In this newsletter you will find a long list of donors and supporters who have contributed to North Country Animal League in some way this year. It's a very impressive list - one that demonstrates our community's values and commitment to animal advocacy. We hope that you will continue to support our work - whether it is through volunteering, adopting, donating, or by being a voice for the animals that have none. Thank you all for supporting NCAL and our orphaned animals!

Best Wishes,

Tracy Goldfine
Executive Director



Letter From The Board President

Hello!

As the fall approaches and we enjoy the last few warm days of summer it's hard to not look back at the amazing work that has been accomplished at our shelter by our amazing staff, dedicated volunteers, and our new Executive Director, Tracy, over the last couple of months. Summer is a busy time for NCAL, with families looking for new best friends to adopt and work being done around the shelter while the weather is warm. Tracy jumped into the NCAL team with enthusiasm and a very keen ear for listening to the needs of our staff and our community, and continues to evolve and update many strategic programs within our shelter. We are grateful to her for her enthusiasm, and grateful to our generous supporters who help us move forward as we work to increase our annual adoption rate, ensure local stray animals are cared for and placed into loving homes, and our ears open to what our community tells us they need from NCAL. I am very excited for the months ahead. Thank you for participating in our ongoing work, and as always, I appreciate any feedback you may have - please email me at jrussell@ncal.com. Thank you, and Happy Fall!

Jess Russell
Board President



(continued from cover)

immediately set up a GoFundMe page and began raising money. In addition, the kind folks at Burlington Emergency & Veterinary Services (BEVS) agreed to significantly discount the surgery as they, too, were touched by his story.

Once the word was out seeking support for Buddy, we received an outpouring of support from both our local and social media communities. Within 24 hours we were close to reaching our goal, when Buddy became chosen as the Featured Pet on GoFundMe.com and his story went viral - reaching hundreds of thousands of animal lovers from across the country. View the campaign at www.gofundme.com/buddysurgeryfund.

While supporters of Buddy's Surgery Fund realized that we had, by then, exceeded our goal, hundreds continued to give in Buddy's honor to help the many other homeless animals we care for in need. Buddy quickly gained a social media following, with many of his fans looking forward to regular updates on his progress. During this time, NCAL was flooded with phone calls, and emails in support of Buddy.

Thanks to this outstanding show of support from our local community and beyond, Buddy received the life-saving surgery he needed and is now on the road to recovery. Despite the discomfort he is in after such a major surgery, it is far less than the pain he had been living with for so many years, which was evidenced by the quantity and calcification of disc material removed from his spine. Buddy is in a loving foster home until he fully recovers and is well enough to be considered for adoption.

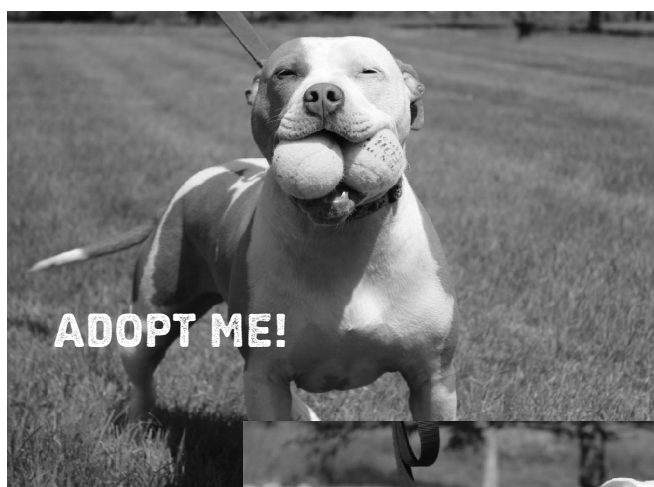
Buddy's story has touched a note with so many, and has made a lasting impact. The funds that Buddy's story has allowed us to raise will go on to support the needs of the homeless animals in NCAL's care, now and for years to come - allowing us save many more lives in Buddy's honor.

Maybe it took a little homeless dog in need to remind us that everyone deserves a chance and that no Buddy is ever truly alone. Thank you, Buddy.

Legacy Giving

NCAL's Legacy Circle friends are individuals who have chosen us by naming NCAL as a beneficiary of their will or estate plan. By including NCAL in their plans, Legacy Circle friends have elevated NCAL to the level of "family". We are honored by their commitment and very appreciative of the value they have placed on NCAL's presence in the community.

We sincerely thank our Legacy Circle friends, those who have notified NCAL, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous, for their trust and investment in our future. If you have remembered NCAL in your will or estate, please let us know so we may personally thank you and acknowledge your intended gift. Please call Tracy Goldfine at 802-888-5065 x 106 for more information.



Donors 2016

North Country Animal League would like to thank all of our donors. The donors listed are from September 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017. If your name is omitted or spelled incorrectly, please contact Tracy at (802) 888-5065 x 106 or email tracyg@ncal.com so we may correct it. Thank you for your support!

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Annual Meeting

We held our Annual Meeting on August 31st at the Green Mountain Inn in Stowe. The evening was spent celebrating our 2015 achievements (including the 600 animals we placed in their forever homes!), sharing current news from the Shelter, and recognizing our dedicated staff, volunteers, and the tremendous support we receive from our business community.

This year, we honored two of our long-time staff members, Schae Wolff and Jessica McLeon. Both Schae and Jessica have been extremely dedicated to NCAL and the animals, and have always stepped up to help out whenever they're needed.

NCAL could not operate without the help of our volunteers. Our volunteer award this year went to Kim Rushford who has been volunteering for several years, helping walk dogs, tabling events, fostering kittens, and anything else we ask of her.

Sequist Veterinary Hospital (SVH) was honored as our 2015 Business of the Year. SVH and Dr. Loh have long supported NCAL by providing veterinary care and also sponsoring our weekly radio spots on WLVB, where we feature our adoptable animals.

Our guest speaker this year was NCAL's new Executive Director, Tracy Goldfine. Goldfine spoke about the importance of humane education in a community, and how animals teach us empathy and compassion. It was a celebratory and informative evening enjoyed by all who attended!



Coin Can Business Spotlight

Amid the array of attractively-packaged dog treats that adorn the counter of The Dog and Cat, located on Mountain Road in Stowe, sits an NCAL Coin Can. Owner Chris Wright opened his unique business six years ago. He prides himself on researching and stocking high-quality pet foods and accessories for local and visiting dogs and cats.

Chris not only displays our NCAL Coin Can, but has been a Menagerie Silent Auction donor as well.

The Dog and Cat is one of seventy-eight businesses, located throughout eleven communities that proudly display our tall, circular coin cans on their counters. Ten committed volunteers collect the funds on a regular basis. The funds collected are critical in helping meet the operational expenses of NCAL's Pet Adoption Center.

According to data compiled by The Chronicle of Philanthropy, a rising number of people are choosing to give anonymously. Are you an anonymous giver? If so, the NCAL Coin Can Program exists for you!

Regularly Needed Items

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

Thank you!

- Gift cards to Pet Food Warehouse
(where we can purchase items at a discount!)
- Healthwise dog and cat food
- Dog and cat treats
- 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
- Postage Stamps (Forever)
- Dog and cat toys (new, please!)

8 Great Reasons to Adopt a Senior Pet

1. Older pets have manners. Unlike puppies or kittens, many adult dogs have lived with a family and have been socialized to life with humans. Many have received basic obedience training and are already house trained.
2. Senior pets are less destructive. Most older adoptive pets are well past the search-and-destroy phase. You don't need to worry so much about finding your favorite pair of shoes or a table leg chewed to shreds!
3. What you see is what you get. A senior pet holds no surprises as to how big he might get, what color his adult coat will be, or what his temperament may be. A senior pet comes with their own history, which makes his future much more predictable than that of an 8-week old puppy or kitten.
4. You CAN teach an old dog new tricks. Adult dogs can focus on the task at hand (unlike many of their much younger counterparts), and are more attentive than puppies. If your adopted older pet needs to learn a few things in her new life with you, not to worry. Enroll her in an obedience class, contact a trainer, or pick up a training book at your local library and do it yourself!
5. Senior pets are great company for senior citizens. Many elderly people find the calm presence of an older pet comforting. They appreciate having a companion that is content to move through life at a slower speed, and a partner to share their golden years with.
6. Older pets are relaxing to hang out with. Senior dogs and cats have all the basics down and aren't full of wild energy to burn. Because you're not constantly chasing around or cleaning up after your older pet, you have a lot more time to spend finding fun things to do or just relaxing together.
7. Adopted senior pets are grateful for your kindness. Somehow, older pets seem to know you gave them a home when no one else would. Many new owners form a close bond very quickly with their senior dog or cat, because the pet shows them a level of attention and devotion that is unique to older adopted animals.
8. You can be a hero to a deserving dog or cat. Almost without exception, people who adopt older animals feel a special sense of pride and purpose in opening their heart to a hard-to-place pet. Doing a good thing really does make you feel good!



Cali, the Senior Cat

What started out as a need to find a quiet foster home for one of our elderly, arthritic cats, turned into a story of love and rejuvenation. Cali was found in the dead of winter, abandoned behind an apartment building in upstate New York. When she arrived to NCAL on transport from the rescue, she was severely arthritic, wouldn't eat much, and slept the days away curled up in a ball in the back of her kennel.

As the weeks passed, there was little interest shown in Cali by potential adopters. Unfortunately, she came to us at a time when we were experiencing a wave of 'kitten season' - and as we all know - those little guys steal all of the attention! We knew that it would be difficult to find a home for Cali - one where she would be comfortable and live out her days - which at that point seemed limited.

Luckily for Cali, just the right person came along at just the right moment. Joan Cnossen, of Waitsfield, felt that Cali deserved a home of her own. She offered first to foster Cali and provide a warm, caring home for her to rest. Joan, a retired school teacher, animal lover, and active volunteer in her community, was willing to provide Cali with a forever home if the situation worked out well with her other two pets - also both rescues.

Once Cali got used to her new home with Joan, she came out of her shell and her true personality began to shine through. "This is not the same cat I met at the Shelter," said Joan, "Cali has woken up, and has actually been playful!" Joan has shared that Cali is now always eager for dinner time, and follows her everywhere she goes. She loves to watch the birds out the window from her favorite seat on the couch, and has a quiet spot for the times when she needs to rest.

There was also an unexpected benefit of adopting this older cat for Joan, "She has filled my life, and I can't imagine my home without her." A sweet, loving cat who always purrs - Cali seems eternally grateful to finally be home.



Welcome New Staff!

NCAL is thrilled to welcome three new staff members to our team! Jason Valade joins us as our new Customer Service Manager. Jason has been serving as a court officer in Washington County Family Court for over a decade. He is also a passionate musician and animal advocate. We are happy to have him on board.

Kelly Condrón is our new Canine Supervisor. Kelly has an impressive background in animal care, handling, training, and adoptions. Kelly comes to us all the way from Long Island, NY where she has specialized in working with dogs in adoption centers and shelters. With her pleasant demeanor, skill set, and superb customer service, Kelly is a valued addition to our staff.

Abby Armstrong recently joined our team as a Shelter Associate. Abby has a true passion for animals, great work ethic, and a multitude of skills that she has developed through her years as a personal care assistant, making her a valued new member of our team.

As always, all of our staff members are happy to assist you with any questions you may have, or in helping you find your next best friend!

Paws to Thank

Dr. Connie Riggs for providing our spay/neuter surgeries and vet care. • **FixPC** for always being there when we need help with our computers. • **Sequist Animal Hospital** for sponsoring our weekly radio segments on WLVB that we use to promote our adoptable animals and upcoming events. • **Green Sleeves Landscape Design** for providing our mowing, landscaping, and plowing. • **Sally Stetson** for designing our newsletters, mailings, posters, invitations, and greeting cards. • **Robb Wills of Donald P. Blake, Inc.** for keeping our building in shape and always being available. • **Pinky's Photography** for taking amazing photos of our adoptable animals. • All the businesses who donated items for our Menagerie event. • Our foster families and shelter volunteers who walk dogs, cuddle cats, help with animal laundry and cleaning – we couldn't do it without you! • All the businesses who support us by allowing us to display our coin canister on their counters. • **Robert's Landscaping** for keeping our gardens looking amazing. • **Ken & Bunny Libby** for donating fleece coats to all our dog adoptees. • **Lamoille Lock & Key** for always coming to help when we call. • **Wolcott Garage** for helping us keep our van in tip-top shape. • Our wonderful community who answer the call when we put out special pleas for much needed items. • NCAL's neighbor, **Garth Walker**, for overseeing the year-round maintenance of our roadway.

Unique Ways to Give...

Bricks: A permanent tribute to animals and animal lovers, engraved bricks create the walkway leading into the shelter. Can be given in memory or in honor of a person, pet, or an upcoming occasion. We will be taking orders for the bricks this winter and the next set will be laid next summer. Each brick is \$75.

Guardian Angel Program: Your sponsorship will help provide food, medical care, and toys for the orphan animal in your kennel. The recipient of your gift will receive an announcement card and pin, a card placed on the front of a cat or dog kennel (your choice) inscribed with their name, and at the end of the guardianship they will receive a letter and pictures of some of the animals who stayed in their kennel. Sponsorship is \$70 for six months or \$120 for one year.

Available Shelter Naming Opportunities:

Dog Kennels - Where people and dogs meet to find their new best friends. \$10,000 each

Puppy Kennels - The place where puppies can stay healthy and comfortable until they find their new best friend. \$6,000 each

Cat Wellness Room - When you're sick, a special place to get well. \$10,000

Cat Kennels - Where people and cats meet to find their new best friends. \$2,000 each

Administrative Offices - Where all the "t"s are crossed and the "i"s are dotted. \$10,000

Dog Wellness Room Kennel - A dog's very own space to rest when they're sick. \$3,000

Cat Wellness Room Kennel - A cat's very own space to rest when they're sick. \$1,000

Amazon Smile - Simply shop at smile.amazon.com just as you would on Amazon, and .5% of your purchase is donated to the organization of your choice.

Download the Walk for a Dog app on your phone, choose NCAL as your shelter of choice, and we will receive a donation based on how many miles you walk with your dog. Download the app at wooftrax.com.

Plan an Event - organize a bake sale, lemonade stand, birthday party, office or corporate event in support of NCAL. Raising money for the animals can be fun!

Please contact **Tracy Goldfine** at (802) 888-5065 x 106 or tracyg@ncal.com for more information on any of these giving opportunities.



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Our Community Cares

Thank you to our creative and generous community of animal lovers who continue to show their support of our mission!

- SunCommon held their first annual Sunflower Sale to benefit NCAL. Employees grew and sold these beautiful flowers at an event in Waterbury this spring to raise money for the animals. Thank you, SunCommon!
- Burt's Irish Pub in Stowe donates the proceeds of their Rip Tickets to NCAL. Thank you, Janet!
- An ambitious and creative group of kids from Waterbury has done it again this year! Daisy, Sawyer, Gabriel, Max, Julia, and Sabine held a bake sale and sold brownies and lemonade to benefit the animals at NCAL. Thanks once again, kids!
- Pet Food Warehouse in Burlington donated \$.25 for every dollar at their Wag It Forward event to participating rescue groups. Thank you, PFW!
- Agents at Coldwell Banker in Stowe donated a percentage of their commissions for the animals. Thank you, Coldwell Banker!
- Johnson State College's Department of Residence Life held a fundraiser and collected pennies (\$324.70) for the animals! JSC's Arthur Hall also held their own fundraiser and donated \$500! Thank you, JSC!
- Caroline and Grace sold vegetables from the garden and donated all of their earnings to NCAL. Thank you, girls!
- Addy had a birthday party and instead of presents, asked for items on NCAL's Wish List to donate to the shelter. Thank you so much, Addy!

We wish we could list everyone who has given their time and energy to plan a fun, creative event in support of the animals. Follow us on Facebook, 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!

We had a blast with
"Hattitude" at 2016 Menagerie
Save the Date for Menagerie 2017
Join us in costume on February 4th
as we celebrate "Purple Rain"!

