

TAILS



FROM KOREA TO VERMONT, A RESCUE TAIL!

Today Oonagh is a happy girl, often found napping on her favorite cat tree with her feline siblings or receiving pets from her doting human mom. A year ago Oonagh's life looked drastically different.

Oonagh's journey began on the other side of the world. She spent her first three years on a South Korean dog meat farm. Rescued through a network of transports, Oonagh made her way to NCAL on Valentine's Day, in search of love. Because of her history, Oonagh simply did not understand life as a pet. NCAL's most fearful and undersocialized intake to date, she hardly stepped outside her crate or allowed human contact. NCAL staff worked to help her gain confidence with support from a behaviorist. After four months, Oonagh still had a ways to go, but was ready to join the right family who would help her get there. Luckily, she won the heart of her meant-to-be human, Briana Bird, through a Facebook video. Briana says:

"I knew that with time, patience and love I could win her over."

Briana's gentle approach helps Oonagh come out of her shell each day. Briana can now pet her and pick her up! Oonagh and Briana's favorite pastime is reading. *"We both love story time. I think that was one of the things that first put her at ease."* Briana says she is glad to be a part of Oonagh's journey. *"It's rewarding to see her smiles and growing confidence - it makes me so happy."*

If Briana could give one message, it would be not to shy away from adopting a pet with special needs. *"It might take more time, but the bond you build and the love you receive back is so worth it."*

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STEPS TO ADOPTION

Step 1 - Search or Visit

Search adoption listings on our website ncal.com or stop by for a visit during open hours.

Step 2 - Questionnaire

If you see an animal you wish to meet, **submit an Adoption Questionnaire** to register your interest.

Step 3 - Schedule

After submitting your questionnaire, **schedule a Meet & Greet** with an available animal, by calling or emailing.

Step 4 - Meet

It's time to **meet the animals!** Meet & Greet appointments are 1-hour for dogs and 30-minutes for cats.

Step 5 - Adopt

If you **decide to adopt**, you may adopt that same day or place a \$50 deposit to hold the animal until the end of the next business day.

Pet Adoption Center Fully Reopens!

The start of fall brought welcome change. Our Pet Adoption Center was getting ready to fully reopen in the spring after operating under a limited access model during the past couple years of the pandemic. But another unexpected setback occurred. A canine distemper outbreak forced us to quarantine and fully close our dog kennels for nearly six months. By September, thanks to due diligence, all dogs were cleared of the virus and we were ready to start operating at a full capacity again taking in and adopting out dogs and cats. On September 17th, our Pet Adoption Center had its grand reopening with over 70 guests stopping by and 20 of the 43 animals in our facility getting adopted in four hours!



PET ADOPTION CENTER HOURS:

- Tuesday: 1-5pm
- Wednesday: 1-5pm
- Thursday: 1-5pm
- Friday: 1-6pm
- Saturday: 10am-3pm

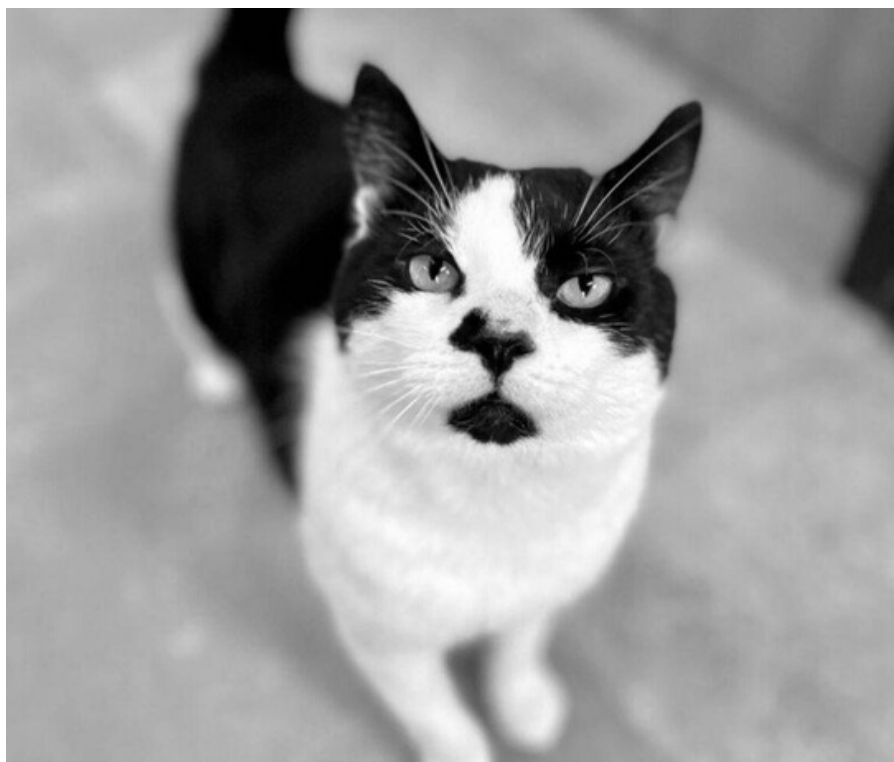
**Closed major holidays*

Which Pet Is Right For YOU?

Yay! You want to adopt a new furry family member! Asking the right questions will go a long way to decide on the right match:

- How much time do you have to devote to your pet every day?
- How much can you spend on your pet each year?
- How long a commitment can you make to the pet (keeping in mind that cats and dogs can live up to 15-20 years old)?
- How much time and energy do you have to exercise your pet?
- What is your lifestyle like?
- Who else lives in your home already?
- What changes do you foresee in your life in the next ten years?
- How clean do you like your home, and how much time are you willing to spend getting it that way?





A CHANGE IN 'CATTITUDE'

Feral Tomcat Becomes a Poster Boy for FIV+ Cats

Just nine months ago, Wallace was living in a feral cat colony, persevering with an injury and sickness as a matter of survival. Rescued during a local Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) mission, he was brought to NCAL, where he was discovered with a bite wound of unknown origin and quarantined for four months to ensure that he had not been exposed to rabies. Wallace received treatment to heal his wound and was also diagnosed with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). Often stigmatized, these three letters (FIV) give many adopters pause - until they learn that it is not as scary as it may seem. Yes, the virus can weaken a cat's immune system, but

FIV+ cats can live long, healthy and happy lives just like any other cat as long as they are well-cared for.

The big challenge for Wallace as an FIV+ cat was to give up his adventurous outdoor lifestyle. But thanks to a steady source of nutritious meals, a warm bed, TLC from humans, and toys to play with, this thrill-seeking tomcat became an affectionate indoor kitty and a poster boy for dispelling the stigma of FIV+ cats.

Fast-forward to today, he is bringing warmth and laughter to his forever home in Boston. This awesome guy, who is as loving as he is lovable, is now the apple of his forever mom's eye!

3 Tips to Care for Your Pet's Teeth

Did you know that the majority of our medical fund spending goes towards dental care for animals, especially seniors? Here's three things you can do at home to stay on top of your pet's dental health and oral hygiene:

1. Brush, brush, brush!

Brushing your pet's teeth regularly with a pet-specific, enzymatic toothpaste is the best way to combat plaque build up and gingivitis.

2. Make safe choices for chewers.

Chewing on items that are harder than tooth enamel (such as antlers and marrow bones) can result in a fractured tooth. Visit VOHC.org for safer alternatives.

3. Schedule a check up.

Your pet's teeth and gums should be examined at least once a year by your veterinarian to check for early signs of a problem and to keep your pet's mouth healthy.





WELCOMING KIM STINSON!

Kim Stinson joins as NCAL's first Equine Center Director with a diverse professional background in equine programs, animal rescue and nonprofit management. Kim's connection to NCAL goes way back. Kim grew up horseback riding, competing in the hunter-jumper ring before going to Johnson State College. At the time, she taught riding lessons at Mountain View Equestrian Center, now NCAL's Equine Center. After college, Kim worked at NCAL as an Animal Care Associate in 2002. She went on to build a rich career working with animals. 20 years later, Kim is excited to return to this chapter of NCAL's growth. Kim directs the Equine Center's operations, facilities, and programs. Kim says, *"I'm excited for the potential of the Equine Center to provide opportunities that engage the community through meaningful programs and build diversity within the equine industry."*



Congratulations Olivia Pembroke! Our Equine Care Associate & Instructor has just earned her PATH Certification to become a therapeutic riding instructor. We look forward to integrating Olivia's skills into our future program offerings.

Stay tuned!

How do Horses Communicate?

Ears: Forward ears mean they are alert and interested, or they may be nervous of something looming ahead. Floppy or droopy ears is a telltale sign of a relaxed horse, and ears flattened backwards mean they are angry. One ear forward towards you while another points elsewhere shows they are listening to you while surveying other noises.

Eyes: The eyes are a window into a horses' soul, just as with humans. When a horse is scared, their eyes are wide (the whites of the eyes may show), and when a horse is relaxed, the eyes are "soft".

Tail: Relaxed horses will have tails hanging low and limp. Scared or excited ones will carry their tails high.

Body: Tense horses carry their necks high; scared ones move theirs rapidly. Horses that are relaxed carry their heads low, and have nice, fluid movement.

Face: Spend some time looking at how horses' faces look when they are relaxed. Horses that are feeling unwell or irritated look tense in their faces, while happy horses look relaxed. *Fun fact: horses look at our faces when trying to read our moods, too!*



THERAPUTIC BENEFITS OF HORSES

The Raw-Yet-Unquantifiable Lessons Only Horses Can Teach

First-time riders at the NCAL Equine Center often start nervous. Sure, a horse is MUCH bigger and seemingly more intimidating than a regular household pet. But by the end of their first lesson, our instructors witness riders realizing that in reality, horses are soothing, gentle animals. That they may not talk, but they speak to us in a multitude of ways – their behavior is straightforward and their magic undeniable.

“Spending time with horses teaches trust, patience, intuition, the art of silent communication, responsibility, and leadership,” says Kim Stinson, Equine Center Director. *“Being around horses increases confidence, and provides opportunities for socialization with people too. Horseback riding is great exercise and releases a hormone called serotonin, which reduces stress. Our programs offer the opportunity to experience a meaningful connection with horses and acquire fundamental skills to build upon.”*



Take the mom-daughter duo, Jessica and Lili Spaulding, for example. Jessica began volunteering at the Equine Center in September after falling in love with the horses and the barn environment while accompanying Lili to her riding lessons. *“For Lili, working with horses has been balancing and calming,”* says Jessica. ***“Kids need an outlet. Being with horses allows her to transfer her energy in a way that benefits her. After being here with Lili, I thought this place was amazing and started volunteering. Every person is smiling because the barn exudes happiness. It gives Lili and I a chance to develop a relationship with the horses as well as with NCAL’s mission.”***

In no time, both Lili and Jessica have become regular faces at the Equine Center – a common theme for many who set foot in the facility. In the safe environment of the barn and under the guidance of our experienced instructors, clients develop practical horsemanship skills. But what is most important, is the raw-yet-unquantifiable lessons they learn... of facing their fears, becoming more self-aware based on how horses mirror their emotions, and consequently understanding how their behavior impacts others and the world around them.

Straight from Juju's Mouth

18-Year-Old Lesson Pony; 12.2 Hands Tall

“I may be the smallest member of NCAL’s horse family, but I am here with my big personality to prove that the best things in life do come in small packages. While I have a goofy side, I take my job as a schooling pony very seriously! My favorite students are the little humans, but I’m not picky. Whether I’m in the ring helping first-time riders build confidence, or working with more experienced riders as they learn how to jump, I’m willing to let anyone take the reins as long as they are ready to reward me with treats!”





A Few Reasons to Consider Monthly Giving

- Monthly donations are automatic, so you don't have to worry about forgetting to send a check or go online.
- For many, giving monthly is more manageable for personal finances.
- Smaller monthly gifts can have just as much impact over time as large one-time donations!
- Recurring gifts provide consistent funding to fulfill our mission, covering our animal care costs and other critical operational expenses.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: GRACE SAMSONOW

From cleaning kennels to feeding breakfast, Grace is always ready to help!

Grace works tirelessly behind the scenes, always going the "extra mile" to make a difference in the daily lives of homeless animals. Grace says, "It's been so rewarding interacting with animals and knowing I'm improving their lives.

Even spending a few hours at the shelter lifts my spirits and I always look forward to it.

My favorite moments are when I have seen an animal at the shelter for a while, who started out shy or scared, and I watch them slowly warm up and fully trust me. I have experienced this with a few of the cats and it always brings tears to my eyes when they finally come up and let me hold them."

Volunteer and BE the Difference!

We thank each of our amazing volunteers for caring deeply about our mission and making a tangible difference in the lives of the pets and people we serve! We have volunteer opportunities at our Pet Adoption Center, Equine Center, and with our community outreach efforts. We welcome volunteers across generations, from six-years-olds volunteering after school to retirees looking to get involved and give back. What all our volunteers have in common is their love of animals and a desire to help.

Want to join our team of volunteer superstars? Our next volunteer orientation is Thursday, December 8th, 5-6:30pm! Visit ncal.com/volunteer to learn more and apply.





NURTURING YOUNG MINDS WITH HUMANE EDUCATION

Kids explore all things furry, fuzzy, creepy, crawly, feathery and scaly!

What started in 2018 with children attending our Humane Heroes and Be a Vet camps, our Humane Education Program has grown by leaps and bounds! The longing to build relationships with animals starts early - especially with pets being beloved family members which lends itself to budding animal lovers aspiring to become animal advocates, equestrians and veterinarians. For kids who are passionate about pets, our programs demonstrate how they fit into the world of animals and how animals fit into theirs, while nurturing empathy and responsibility, building self esteem, and providing tools to advocate and care for animals.

"My favorite part about summer camps was interacting with the animals, especially helping to socialize the kittens," says 11 year-old, Arabella Lopez, who, among many other avid young animal lovers, attended multiple camps this year. "I also liked being able to handle snakes! But the most important thing I learned was how to do CPR on an animal at Be a Vet Camp because now I can help an animal immediately if they need it." She adds:

"I have always wanted to be a vet when I grow up and these camps validated that for me even more!"



Is a child in your life fascinated by animals? Do they adore their own pet or long to have one? Are they interested in working with animals one day? **Sign up for our e-news at ncal.com to be the first to know about program offerings in 2023!**

Scholarships are available for children from low-income families through our Amelia Scholarship Fund. Want to support the fund? Visit: ncal.com/donate

NCAL

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ANIMAL LEAGUE**

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MAKE LUNA'S HAPPILY EVER AFTER COME TRUE

Luna is a playful girl whose favorite game is tug-of-war, but she is just as happy snuggling up with her people. Found as a local stray, this diamond in the rough is looking for a forever family who will show her the ropes and help her unleash her best self. Thank you for ensuring animals like Luna can take as long as they need to be matched with the right home!

In the coming year, hundreds of homeless pets like Luna will come to NCAL for their second chance to find a loving forever home. They each deserve that chance. Can you help them?

To show your support for animals in need, please consider sending a year-end gift or becoming a monthly donor. Enclosed is an envelope to send a gift by mail or you can visit our website: ncal.com

