



Healing animals. Helping humans.
TRANSFORMING GLOBAL HEALTH.

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Tufts UNIVERSITY | Cummings School
of Veterinary Medicine

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<<Joanne>>,
with your help,
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ALASTAIR E. CRABB, DVM, PHD
DEAN AND HENRY AND LOIS
FOSTER PROFESSOR

A Message from the Dean

This has been a year unlike any other. For Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, the COVID-19 pandemic presents unique challenges, as well as new opportunities to protect and care for the animals we love.

Over the past several months, I have been reminded of the vital links between animal and human health, as well as the powerful connections we have to one another in the Cummings School community.

In these historic times, your leadership support matters more than ever. Thank you.

You make a difference to many families in the Cummings School community, including John and Mary Gier and their dog, Gretchen, whose story is shared on the next page. Helping pets like Gretchen overcome behavioral challenges through specialty veterinary care is wonderful work, and we couldn't do it without you.

The veterinarians, students, and staff at Cummings School have devoted their lives to animals. Your leadership support enables them to give exemplary care to every patient.



“Given what Cummings has done for our animals, we want other families to have that opportunity, and to expand that loving care to as many animals as possible.”

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

Behavior therapy brings a healing transformation for Gretchen and Sammy

“I **N OUR NEIGHBORHOOD,**” says John Gier, “dogs are everywhere,” and the presence of companion animals contributes to the cohesiveness of the whole community. John and his wife, Mary, share their home on Boston’s Beacon Hill with Gretchen, a 4-year-old German shepherd-hound mix who came to them through a rescue organization. Though Gretchen is a loving companion and a star at doggy day care, she can be overprotective when meeting unfamiliar people and dogs. The Giers decided to bring her to Dr. Stephanie Borns-Weil, a veterinarian at Cummings School’s animal behavior clinic. Thanks to “Dr. Stephanie” and the behavior clinic, they report that Gretchen’s calm demeanor and confidence are growing. She’s even become a certified service dog.

The Giers have seen this transformation before, with their previous dog, Sammy. Like Gretchen, Sammy was a rescue with complex behavior issues and a heart of gold.

“When Sammy first came to us,” Mary explains, “he was afraid of almost everything. At first, he just hid behind the bookcase.”

“We have no idea what a rescued dog has been through,” says John, “and it’s hard to know what might trigger anxiety or aggression.” That unpredictability is straining for both pets and owners, which makes Cummings School’s behavior clinic an invaluable resource.

With help from his family and the behavior team, Sammy also overcame his fears, becoming a service dog, known to the Giers’ congregation as “the minister of healing.”

For John and Mary, leadership support of the Cummings Veterinary Fund is a natural way to give back. In addition to Cummings Veterinary Medical Center’s compassionate care, they value its world-class training and research. Their primary motivation, however, is love: “It starts with our love for animals,” says Mary, “and our wish to help them as best we can. Given what Cummings School has done for our animals, we want other families to have that opportunity, and to expand that loving care to as many animals as possible.”

YOUR GIFT, COMBINED WITH THOSE OF OTHERS, IMPACTS EVERY ASPECT OF CUMMINGS SCHOOL.

25,326

WITH COVID-19 PROTECTIONS IN PLACE, THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS (AND COUNTING) TREATED DURING THE PANDEMIC.