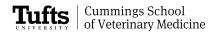


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Your support helps faculty, students, and staff provide exceptional veterinary care for animals throughout New England.



<<Joanne>>, with your help, we are creating a healthier world.



**Tuffts** Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

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ALASTAIR E. CRIBB. 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.

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.



## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK Behavior therapy brings a healing

**N OUR NEIGHBORHOOD,"** says John Gier, "dogs are "We have no idea what a rescued dog has been through," " everywhere," and the presence of companion anisays John, "and it's hard to know what might trigger anxmals contributes to the cohesiveness of the whole iety or aggression." That unpredictability is straining for community. John and his wife, Mary, share their home on both pets and owners, which makes Cummings School's Boston's Beacon Hill with Gretchen, a 4-year-old German behavior clinic an invaluable resource. shepherd-hound mix who came to them through a rescue With help from his family and the behavior team, Sammy organization. Though Gretchen is a loving companion and also overcame his fears, becoming a service dog, known to a star at doggy day care, she can be overprotective when the Giers' congregation as "the minister of healing." meeting unfamiliar people and dogs. The Giers decided to bring her to Dr. Stephanie Borns-Weil, a veterinarian For John and Mary, leadership support of the Cummings at Cummings School's animal behavior clinic. Thanks to Veterinary Fund is a natural way to give back. In addition "Dr. Stephanie" and the behavior clinic, they report that to Cummings Veterinary Medical Center's compassionate Gretchen's calm demeanor and confidence are growing. care, they value its world-class training and research. Their She's even become a certified service dog. primary motivation, however, is love: "It starts with our love for animals," says Mary, "and our wish to help them as best The Giers have seen this transformation before, with their we can. Given what Cummings School has done for our aniprevious dog, Sammy. Like Gretchen, Sammy was a rescue mals, we want other families to have that opportunity, and with complex behavior issues and a heart of gold. to expand that loving care to as many animals as possible."

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

"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."

## transformation for Gretchen and Sammy