REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

July 2011 – June 2012
Our mission is to engage the hearts, hands and minds of the community to help animals.

Long journeys can be the most challenging ones. Our Bound for Home initiative is now a little more than two years old, and the success it’s had in improving the quality of life for animals in our community is more than most of us could have imagined. The task ahead of us now is to maintain our focus and our dedication as we continue striving toward our goal of finding loving homes for at least 90 percent of the animals that come through our doors.

Your commitment to our vision, and your generosity in supporting it, has brought us to this point. And your continuing devotion to the cause - with the perseverance of our staff, volunteers and board of directors - will be critical as the journey continues. We know that as we move closer to our goal, gains will be harder to achieve and the effort will require more fervency. But working together, we can get there.

Bound for Home has many aspects, all aimed at creating a more humane world for animals. The Kindest Cut affordable spay/neuter service, the Law of the Paw community awareness campaign, and an array of behavior modification programs are innovative ways in which we are working to engage and serve our communities of people and animals. Your support sustains all of those and more, and for that we are deeply grateful.

Janelle Dixon
President & CEO

Cyndi Lesher
Chair, Board of Directors
When he was adopted as a tiny kitten, this feline was already showing what a handsome, brilliantly orange cat he would grow up to be. Could adopter Sheri Nichols have named him anything other than Cheeto?
From foster home to new home

Less than 12 hours. That’s how long Mack was available for adoption before meeting his new family. It was the happy ending on a long road to recovery.

Mack arrived at Animal Humane Society with heartworm disease which X-rays revealed had caused extensive damage to his lungs. His poor respiration rate, persistent coughing and very thin frame had veterinarians concerned with how Mack would make it through treatment.

To ensure his best chance, an AHS employee agreed to foster him during treatment. To everyone’s delight, Mack thrived. After five months, his recovery was complete and he was finally ready for adoption.

“He’s my dream dog,” says adopter Melissa Stanley-Fulkerson. “Mack has this calming sweetness that I fell in love with instantly. I am so grateful for the care he received at AHS and that he was able to heal and be loved in a home setting.”

Social media provides a growing opportunity for AHS to connect and interact with animal lovers, showcase adoptable animals and keep the public informed about organizational developments. More than 21,000 people follow AHS on Facebook, and another 2,000 on Twitter. Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/animalhumanesociety and on Twitter at @Animal_HumaneMN.

More than 540 dogs went through our Adoption Preparation program, helping them to overcome shyness and fear to be more comfortable in new surroundings. This program uses techniques developed by our behavior and training experts to help dogs come out of their shells.
Stewie is a beautiful brindle Cairn terrier adopted by John and Ruth Huss. He was a shy guy when adopted, but training brought Stewie out of his shell and helped him become the cuddly canine he is now.
Jesse is a natural

When Holly Fitzenberger adopted a young lab/shepherd named Jesse, she had no idea his future would be as a therapy dog. But then a friend urged her to check out Animal Ambassadors, a group of AHS volunteers who, with their pets, provide animal-assisted therapy and activities to people in the Twin Cities.

While Holly knew that training, testing and registering an animal for therapy work takes a real commitment, she decided to give it a shot. And it didn’t take her long to see that Jesse was a natural for the job. “He just has a way about him,” she says. “He’s very calming.” When Holly takes Jesse on therapy visits to places such as hospitals, “he just seems to know exactly who needs what.”

Holly also found out how much she enjoys taking Jesse on those visits. “If I won the lottery, volunteering as a dog therapy team is what I would do,” she says. “It’s that rewarding.”

Did you know that rabbits and guinea pigs can become therapy animals? AHS has a class that teaches the skills needed for people to become a therapy team with their small animal. Through visits to seniors’ homes, schools and other facilities, these special animals bring comfort, learning and fun to people in the community.

More than 5,400 people participated in 292 AHS shelter tours at our five locations. We also presented another 90 programs on a variety of topics to Girl Scouts and other organizations throughout the communities we serve.
This striking calico's name comes from the 1920’s Parisian legend Alice B. Toklas. Stuart Applebaum and Jean King, who adopted and named Alice, say she’s very sweet but likes to be the boss. Isn’t that what cats are supposed to be?
“Very shy and fearful, please work with her to socialize.” That was the note written about Suzi a few days after she arrived at Animal Humane Society. There was no question as to why Suzi was so afraid — she was one of 107 dogs and two cats rescued from filthy, uninhabitable conditions.

Our recovery team had been summoned to a property near Bemidji, where they found the animals living among piles of garbage and feces. Once in our care, the animals found safe refuge. Our staff gave them the time and care they needed to recover from their physical and emotional wounds.

Suzi required surgery for bilateral cherry eyes and an umbilical hernia as well as the extraction of two teeth. She was also treated for a gastro-intestinal condition, an ear infection and kennel cough. With time, she gained confidence and was eventually adopted into a loving home where she is thriving.

Partner rescue groups assist us with special needs animals. More than 800 animals were released to 79 rescue organizations, giving these animals a chance to become beloved pets.

AHS humane agents received more than 2,300 reports of neglected or harmed animals. Working in 57 counties with local law enforcement officials, our efforts in humane investigations helped 5,344 animals, including 1,083 horses, 1,434 dogs and 1,023 cats.
Miggory Sow was part of a litter of guinea pigs born at AHS's St. Paul site, and Anne Ahiers fostered the lot of them. But this was the cute one she decided she couldn't live without, so Miggory now lives happily with Anne and her two other little pigs.
Going where the need is

When it became apparent to the ASPCA last winter that it was facing the largest cat seizure in its history, the organization knew Animal Humane Society was one place it could call for help. And AHS responded by sending a team to Jacksonville, Fla. to help remove hundreds of felines from an overwhelmed cat sanctuary.

“One organization can’t handle these large-scale seizures on its own, and we can be a valuable resource,” says Kathie Johnson, AHS director of animal services. “ASPCA knows they can rely on us to send professional, hardworking teams. We are very proud every time they contact us.”

The AHS team ended up caring for 672 cats while in Florida. “As sad and unfortunate as these situations are, it’s a chance for our team to use their talents to help animals outside our community,” Kathie says. “And they come back with a deeper appreciation for what we do as an organization.”

When other animal welfare facilities in Minnesota and elsewhere are too crowded or are unable to place animals, they call on AHS for help. More than 5,200 animals came to AHS from 95 organizations.

AHS assisted the ASPCA in the care of 102 small-breed dogs in Rowan County, Kentucky in late 2011. A team of five AHS staff assisted in the care, cleaning, feeding and socialization of the dogs.
Dr. Susan Lowum and Kerry Sarnoski knew when they adopted her that Misty had a medical condition that would require extra care. But special issues often make for special dogs, and this Labrador retriever mix is proof: Kerry and Sue say she’s the most gentle dog there could ever be.
Going the extra mile for Remi

If dogs could talk, Remi would have quite the experience to share. The German shorthaired pointer was missing for five months and traveled 150 miles before arriving at Animal Humane Society.

Found as a stray, Remi arrived severely emaciated and covered in wounds. “He was so friendly, I really believed he had a loving home before he was treated so poorly,” says AHS customer service representative Brittany Foley. “There had to be someone out there looking for him.”

She took her search online to Craigslist.com where she found an ad for a missing but very healthy looking German shorthaired pointer. “The photo looked very different from the dog we had,” says Brittany. “But I compared the markings and one by one they matched.”

Brittany was there for the joyful reunion of Remi and his grateful owner. “It made all the hours I spend looking for families of lost dogs worth it.”

Our lost and found online bulletin board helped people search for lost pets or post information about animals they had found, serving as a valuable resource to reunite lost pets with their families.

Last spring we launched Law of the Paw, a national movement to encourage pet owners to do three simple things to help reduce the number of homeless pets: adopt, spay/neuter and provide an ID tag for all pets. More information can be found at lawofthepaw.org.
Zoe is a bullmastiff mix that weighs 87 pounds, but adopter Jill Doescher says she's just a gentle giant who loves playing with Jill's Pug, Soprano – always with a soft touch.
Singing a new tune

“We hand-fed them every 20 minutes when they first arrived,” says Animal Humane Society wildlife veterinary technician Nicole Wallace. “They were very hungry!”

The tiny house finches were brought in by a family who heard them peeping loudly in their nest. Sadly, the mother finch was found dead nearby, leaving the babies orphaned. They were not injured, but they were weak and dehydrated.

Once stable, the birds were sent to a wildlife rehabilitator where they continued to be hand-fed until they could eat on their own. They were then placed in an outdoor aviary so they could acclimate to the sounds and smells of nature while they learned to fly.

Birds make up more than a third of the wildlife treated each year at AHS. With care from wildlife staff and volunteer rehabilitators, hundreds of orphaned songbirds are given a second chance at life back in the wild.

At our Golden Valley facility, staff cared for more than 2,000 wildlife that were brought to us – from squirrels and turtles to raptors and deer.

Rabbit owners love to get together at AHS’s Hoppy Hour program – a social hour for rabbits and their humans held every other Sunday at the AHS campus in Golden Valley. AHS also hosts other rabbit-related programs, including agility training conducted by the Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society.
Sarah Henely’s tabby is named for Winnie Cooper from “The Wonder Years.” She may be just as cute as her TV namesake, but this Winnie has her own unique character traits – like making herself comfy on any purse that Sarah happens to set down.
“Pawriscope” walks for animals

Shanna Haugland had participated in the AHS Walk for Animals for three years, but in 2012 she decided it was time to bring into the picture her animal-loving colleagues at Periscope, a pet-friendly Twin Cities advertising agency where employees often bring their dogs to the office. Fifteen of them joined Shanna on the Walk last May, clad in T-shirts bearing the name of their new corporate team – Pawriscope.

Team members walked to raise funds to care for the animals that come through our doors. But being creative types, they found plenty of other ways to help the cause, including an animal-themed drink sale and a baking event (puppy chow, anyone?) that featured treats for both humans and animals.

Shanna figures 2012 was just the start for Pawriscope. “We’re really excited to make it an annual tradition,” she says. “We were coming up with ideas for 2013 before last year’s Walk even ended.”
When Teresa Morrow met Ginger, the gentle German shepherd laid her head in Teresa’s lap. Ginger was a young, scared dog who was clearly in need of something she’d never had – a loving home – and Teresa was happy to give her just that.
Every surgery counts

When Kindest Cut’s spay/neuter truck pulled into the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, the crowd was already gathering. “Seeing people lined up with their pets so early was incredible; we knew right away it was going to be a busy weekend,” says Dr. Meghann Kruck, who operates Kindest Cut in partnership with Animal Humane Society.

Kindest Cut partnered with MnPAW and Leech Lake Legacy to host the first collaborative spay/neuter clinic at the reservation in March 2012. During the two-day clinic, they provided affordable spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations and microchipping for 91 pets.

“A lack of affordable spay/neuter has led to an overabundance of animals on the reservation,” says Dr. Kruck. “Every surgery we do makes a difference in reducing the number of unwanted animals.”

The clinic was so popular, residents were asking when they could return. “There is so much more work to be done and we can’t wait to go back,” says Dr. Kruck.

Providing spay/neuter surgery continues to be a core program of our organization. All previously unsterilized animals put up for adoption, nearly 10,200 last year, received this surgery at our five shelters.

The Kindest Cut mobile spay/neuter clinic, operating in partnership with AHS, performed 7,367 surgeries, providing a valuable service at reduced costs for people in need. That total included 4,078 animals sterilized through partnerships with 75 animal welfare groups.
Philip Henrichs says his pet has one overwhelming personality trait – he's not a “morning hamster.” Wyman is hard to wake up, and then is a bit grumpy until after he's had some time to move around a bit. Who said animals don't have human characteristics?
Figaro gets a fresh start

When it came time for Nancy and Darrell Spoors to adopt a new cat, they had some pretty specific preferences, including age and color. They hit the jackpot when they spotted Figaro on the AHS website – she even had the same name as one of the Spoors’ previous cats.

But what seemed meant to be almost wasn’t. Figaro was three years old, and had been surrendered because she wouldn’t use the litter box. Fortunately, she was enrolled in our new Fresh Start program to rehabilitate felines with litter box issues, and after staff was convinced they’d corrected the problem, Figaro was made available for adoption. The rest is history.

“We were told about the litter box issue when we got her,” Nancy says, “but she hasn’t had a single accident. Actually, the bigger problem was she was shy – but she’s over that now. We just love her to death.”
Nancy and Walter Sellman got the best of both worlds when they adopted Chase, a Manchester terrier mix. Chase is happy to wear down an older canine sibling with constant play, but is also content to just perch quietly on the back of the couch, watching the bird feeder on the other side of the window.
Cecil no longer the wallflower

Cecil was a beautiful dog when he came to AHS, and that’s why Kelly Kohlbacher decided she would be the one to adopt the year-old Australian shepherd mix. Cecil had to be happy too, because Kelly was willing to put in the effort to help him overcome his one apparent shortcoming – shyness.

Staff worked with Kelly on the best ways to bring Cecil out of his shell, and suggested he might benefit from our Wallflower program, a six-week course for shy or fearful dogs. After watching Cecil spend most of his day voluntarily in his crate, Kelly signed up.

“Wallflower was great for learning how to build his confidence,” Kelly says. “He’s made a lot of progress.” While Cecil might still retreat to his kennel when a guest arrives, instead of staying there, he’ll venture out to see what’s up. “I just want other people to see him as I do, as a great dog. And this has really helped us do that.”

Our training school attracted 1,126 participants, with another 351 participating in playgroups. We offer classes and socialization opportunities from puppy kindergarten to certified therapy animal programs.

AHS participated in the Great Minnesota Pet Together at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, sponsored by the Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare. More than 50 animals from AHS shelters were adopted during the one-day event.
Leo got his name because he looked so much like a lion cub, says adopter Bianca Fine. He's a Himalayan who likes to think of himself as the top cat in his houseful of animals – and the top dog, too.
Helping animals have “nice lives”

Annika Gutzke hasn’t yet found an Animal Humane Society youth program that she doesn’t enjoy. And the 11-year-old from Minneapolis has completed a lot of them, from the Unleashed summer camp to PetSet Youth Club, which meets evenings during the school year.

Sure, Annika likes the fun parts of the programs, such as making a “litter box cake” with Tootsie Rolls and meeting fellow students. “It’s easy to become friends because we all love animals,” she says.

But she also enjoys the educational aspects, including the chance to learn from AHS humane agents. “That’s cool because I’d like to help animals as a humane agent someday,” Annika says. Both Unleashed and PetSet help kids learn about animal welfare issues and PetSet also emphasizes development of leadership and community service skills. What it’s really all about, Annika says, is “educating us all so that we can help animals have nice lives.”

Our humane education programs are based on teaching compassion and respect for animals. AHS educators provided 147 school and off-site programs to 5,913 students.

A total of 84 Twin Cities kids took part in PetSet Youth Club activities. The club is for young people in grades 5-7 who want to focus on leadership, community service and advocacy.

A total of 126 kids held their birthday celebrations at AHS, with 1,884 people joining in the festivities.
Roger came to AHS as an abandoned puppy, but only a week later he had found a new loving home with Mary and David West. They say this Labrador retriever/Great Dane mix turned out to be a dog with a need for speed – he likes nothing better than to go for a good long run.
Finding Frankie

When Frankie was adopted from Animal Humane Society wearing a new collar and ID tag, Amy and Bryan Lake had no idea how important that simple form of identification would prove to be.

On a warm fall afternoon, Frankie was enjoying the day outside in their fenced-in yard. When Bryan went to check on him, he discovered Frankie had jumped the fence and was gone.

Bryan panicked and gathered a few neighbors to help. As they were searching, Bryan’s cell phone rang – a woman had found Frankie several blocks from their house near the railroad tracks.

“We feel so lucky she found him so quickly,” says Amy. “Trains come through our neighborhood often so this could have been much worse.”

All dogs and cats adopted from AHS receive a free collar and ID tag to ensure dogs like Frankie are able to safely find their way home.
A lot of cats are aloof, but not Nohea, says adopter Susan Rostkoski. He is Susan’s shadow when no one else is around, and when visitors stop by. Nohea can’t help gently pawing them. Susan says it’s his way of urging her guests to admire his silky coat.
She almost didn’t make it

“When I first lifted the sheet off the cardboard box she arrived in, I honestly thought she may not make it,” says Animal Humane Society veterinarian Dr. Erin Kuhn. She was there the day Gloria arrived, a 1-year-old cat found in a box at the end of someone’s driveway. “She was very underweight, dehydrated, was missing hair on half of her body and smelled very strongly of gasoline.”

AHS vet staff performed multiple tests to try to determine the cause of Gloria’s hair loss. They consulted with a dermatologist and determined that it was the result of contact dermatitis caused by Gloria being soaked in gasoline.

With constant care, Gloria rebounded and began gaining weight and maintaining her own hydration. Her hair began to grow back and she was spayed before making her way to the adoption center. She didn’t have to wait long – Gloria was adopted after only one day!

Volunteers are critical to our success. A total of 1,612 volunteers contributed 112,404 hours at all five of our sites to help AHS achieve its mission.

Nearly 13 percent of AHS volunteers work with our foster program, but those 299 volunteers account for 42 percent of the service hours for the organization.

AHS has 159 volunteers who have been involved with the organization for five or more years, and 26 who contributed over 500 hours in the course of the year.
Jo Schroeder says Tia, the miniature schnauzer she adopted, is a “little dickens” that makes her laugh every day. Even as an adult, Tia likes to end each evening running about, collapsing at Jo’s feet when she’s finally spent. Now it’s bedtime!
Siblings find a new home – together

When Animal Humane Society was asked to find a new home for siblings Parker and Windsor, it seemed a bit of a challenge. Because it was determined that the best thing for these guys would be adoption as a bonded pair, the predicament was finding someone willing to care for both of them – a total of 155 pounds of energetic canine.

What helped is that Parker and Windsor, a mix of Bernese Mountain dog and Old English sheepdog, are pretty irresistible [as you can tell from the cover photo of this report]. They were at AHS only a few days when Joan Rodman of St. Paul graciously decided to take them home.

She agrees that keeping the dogs together was the right decision. “They don’t like being apart,” she says. “They are bonded like glue.” And she knows her decision was the right one. “They’re extremely lovable. They’re big and strong, but as friendly as can be.”
Our Bound for Home initiative is now more than two years old, and the success it’s had in improving the quality of life for animals in our community is significant and very encouraging. Through a gradual transformation of programs and service delivery, efforts have been focused on reducing the number of animals coming into the shelter, increasing the rate of adoption in the community and reducing the number of animals that are euthanized. The implementation of a surrender by appointment process in January 2011 provides us with more detailed information about animals so that we can do our very best to ensure their best and most prompt placement. As a result, we have seen intake for companion animals decrease by 20%, the placement rate for animals increase to 80%, and the humane euthanasia rate decrease by 45%. The statistics shared below reflect the 12-month period July 2011 – June 2012.

**Animals that are euthanized at the request of their owner for end of life reasons are not included in this number.**

### About the animals

We are proud of our placement rates and with your help we remain committed to finding more loving homes for neglected animals and to reducing euthanasia.

### Outcomes for companion animals**

- **Placement**: 80%
- **Euthanasia**: 19%
- **Remained in care**: 1%

**Animals that are euthanized at the request of their owner for end of life reasons are not included in this number.**

### Animal intake

AHS receives both companion animals and wildlife that need care and assistance. Numbers below reflect companion animals only.

### Companion animals received by reason for surrender

- Owner surrender: 11,343 (47%)
- Stray: 4,447 (18%)
- Transfer from partner animal welfare agency: 5,265 (22%)
- Owner requested euthanasia: 2,837 (12%)
- Cruelty case: 316 (1%)

### Companion animals received by species

- Feline: 13,017 (54%)
- Canine: 9,305 (38%)
- Domestic critter/bird: 1,886 (8%)
Wildlife
In addition to domestic animals, AHS operates a wildlife program. Through our partnership with Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release, animals were treated and released back to the wild after rehabilitation. 2,004 wild animals received services through this program between July 2011 and June 2012.
### Animal Humane Society Statement of Activities

**FY 2012**  
For the 12 months ended June 30, 2012

**SUPPORT & REVENUES**

- Adoption fees and program revenue: $3,936,175
- Contributions: $5,249,388
- Wills and estates: $1,566,876
- In-kind contributions: $134,535
- Special events and promotions: $1,008,802
- Investment gain (loss): $13,588
- Dividend and interest income: $49,750
- Other: $142,728
- **TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES**: $12,101,842

**EXPENSES**

- Program services:
  - Rescue: $245,306
  - Adoption and surrender: $8,537,397
  - Pet services: $634,958
  - Outreach: $290,000
- Supporting services:
  - Management and general: $512,273
  - Fundraising: $2,583,455
- **Total supporting services**: $3,095,728
- **TOTAL EXPENSES**: $12,803,389

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**: $(701,547)

You can view our public tax documents, including Form 990 and full qualified financial statement, on our website at [www.animalhumanesociety.org](http://www.animalhumanesociety.org).

### Financials

- Program: 76%
- Fundraising: 20%
- Management & General: 4%

The Minnesota Charities Review Council’s Standards of Accountability state that at least 70% of an organization’s annual expenses should be for program activity with not more than 30% for management, general and fundraising expenses, combined. Animal Humane Society exceeded this standard by directing 76% of our expenses back into programming for the animals and our community.

### Geographic Area Served

Animal Humane Society serves animals and people from its facilities in Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington and Wright Counties. The Humane Investigations unit provides services throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin.
2012 Board of Directors

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Animal Humane Society Leadership

Janelle Dixon
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Partnerships

Animal Humane Society is a member of the National Federation of Humane Societies, Pet Shelters Across America and the Minnesota Alliance for Family and Animal Safety. AHS is a founding member of Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare (MnPAW), a coalition of animal welfare organizations in Minnesota, and the Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition. AHS collaborates with more than 90 animal welfare organizations in Minnesota, including the University of Minnesota Veterinary School, animal rescues in Oklahoma, Georgia, Alabama, Iowa and Indiana, private veterinarians, and municipal animal control authorities throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

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About this Report to the Community

Photography: Barbara O’Brien Photography
Design: Nancy Gardner
Can’t get enough of the animals featured in this calendar? Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/wallpaper for downloadable wallpaper.
Two is definitely better than one! Bernese Mountain/Old English sheepdog brothers Parker and Windsor are double the fun and double the love for adopter Joan Rodman. Learn more about these shaggy siblings on page 30.