Walking for animals!
All about pet training
From strays to superstars
All you need is love
The Animal Humane Society is the leading animal welfare organization in the Upper Midwest dedicated to engaging and serving local and regional communities of people and animals. Our mission is to engage the hearts, hands and minds of the community to serve more animals. Through comprehensive programs and services, the Animal Humane Society provides resources that compassionately serve all the stages of an animal’s life.

As a private non-profit organization, we receive no federal, state or government funding and rely totally on private donations, merchandise sales and adoption fees.

**ANIMAL TRACKS**
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Tours of our facilities are available by appointment to students or other groups from first grade to adult. Maximum group size is determined by location. Golden Valley also offers evening volunteer-led tours on the first and third Wednesday of the month by appointment.

To schedule a tour at any of our locations call the education department at (763) 489-2220.

The Animal Humane Society is a member of Pet Shelters Across America, a consortium of humane organizations throughout the country that raise funds to care for animals in local shelters.

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When we bring an animal into our lives we are filled with expectations. They’ll be perfectly mannered, obedient and potty trained. We have a vision of what our lives together will be like—long walks in the park, snuggling on the sofa, a best friend for our children, vigorous games of fetch and long naps together on the bed.

We usually benefit from all of that and more with our animal companions. But along with the anticipated comes the unexpected—barking, jumping, digging, clawing and a host of other maddening behaviors that are perfectly natural for the dog or cat but undesired by their human companions.

The Animal Humane Society began providing services through our Training School in response to the unexpected challenges people were facing with their animals. When developing the program we looked at why animals were being surrendered and modeled a program that would aid people and animals in addressing those challenges.

Nationally-known Trainer and Behaviorist Tamar Gellar has called our program “the best training school in the country.” AHS is innovative in providing levels-based classes that allow people and their pets to move at their own pace plus the flexibility to fit training into already busy lives. We were also one of the first to offer a progressive program to help people with dog-on-dog aggression issues.

One of the secrets to our success is that we are not only facilitating the training of the animal, we are also training the person. It is all about realistic expectations and mutual understanding. Our pets learn to understand what is and is not acceptable behavior, and we learn what to realistically expect and how to positively and consistently reinforce those behaviors that are desired.

When we are successful, the life we envisioned with our companion animals becomes a reality, and we and our pets benefit from the unconditional love and human-animal bond that grows and develops.

There is no better place to show off our well-behaved and sometimes frisky animal friends than at the Animal Humane Society’s Walk for Animals. This event exemplifies the love and friendship that exists between people and their pets. More importantly, it raises funds to help the animals that have not been so fortunate. It is a relatively short journey to Golden Valley to walk in an event that goes a long way to helping the animals we care so much about.

Please step up and step out to help the animals on May 2nd. We can’t do it without you!

Janelle Dixon
CEO/President
Making the tough decisions when it comes to all animals

In February the Animal Humane Society made the difficult decision to euthanize 120 cats that were surrendered from a home in St. Anthony, MN where the cats had been living in deplorable conditions and were victims of animal hoarding. This action prompted some criticism and community discussion about whether there were options other than euthanasia.

The factors driving this decision are significant. In their examinations of the cats the AHS veterinary staff saw evidence of upper respiratory infections, herpes virus, ringworm and feline immunodeficiency virus. The animals suffered from multiple physiological issues, compounded by major socialization challenges. Of great concern was the fact that the health of the other animals in AHS’s care would be jeopardized by the probable spread of diseases. There were also health implications for people and animals outside of the shelter where these cats might be placed. Because of all of these factors, the painful decision was made to humanely euthanize all of the cats to end their suffering.

Typically, animals in these situations are held for evaluation for a longer period of time; however, in this case and because of the types of illnesses and the potential risk to other animals in the shelter, the decision was made to not prolong their stay. On this particular week in February there were 180 healthy cats just at AHS’s Golden Valley facility.

Because of the illnesses witnessed, assistance was not sought from other organizations. To put these severely compromised cats in the community in multiple locations and in foster homes would pose a public health risk to animals and humans. The offers from three organizations to take some of the cats came to AHS after the cats had been euthanized.

The decisions each of us might make concerning a personal pet are quite different from those faced by an animal welfare organization that must use its resources to ensure the best interests of the many animals in a shelter environment. In this case, it would have taken three to six months in our shelters to treat and place these cats. Taking this course would have jeopardized the lives of healthy animals for which space and resources would not have been available.

Fortunately, there are dozens of large scale cases each year where AHS’s intervention in animal neglect and abuse has resulted in happy endings where animals receive another chance at a loving home. That is the hope for each and every one of the hundreds of cases investigated every year.

This was undeniably a heartbreaking case for the Animal Humane Society staff who weighed the implications for people and animals outside of the shelter where these cats might be placed. The offers from three organizations to take some of the cats came to AHS after the cats had been euthanized.

The Animal Humane Society cares for more than 38,000 animals every year. We consistently strive to do our best for the animals. In our 131-year history of helping animals AHS has earned a high level of trust from the community and our supporters. We appreciate the many kind letters we have received from you. We’d like to share a few with you. Thank you.

How difficult it must have been to determine that the sickly, infected cats had to be euthanized. Thank you far having the strength to make such a tough but necessary call. I donate to you yearly and feel better about my donation knowing that the funds aren’t being wasted on animals that are contagious, sickly and potentially dangerous to human beings. That’s not what I think good stewardship involves. Let’s hope the people out there realize it is not about you being the bad guys but about individuals taking personal responsibility as pet owners.

Jeanna

I work with a no-kill shelter in Mankato and I am an advocate of no-kill. I am fairly experienced in cats and shelter workings and all the diseases, etc. I am not speaking for my organization, just for myself but I THINK YOU DID THE RIGHT THING with the 120 cats, and I know what a horrible decision it must have been to make. Given the situation, the disease and inbreeding, there would have been nothing but trouble down the road for those cats and adaptive families. Stand your ground—you did what you had to do.

Mary

Walk this way

If you are interested in volunteering at the Walk for Animals on May 2 AHS can sure use your help in Golden Valley. This event could not happen without the assistance of hundreds of volunteers who help with registration, food service, games and activities, traffic control and pre-event tasks. You’ll receive lots of barks and meows for your good deed. Contact walkvolunteer@animalhumanesociety.org or call (763) 432-4834 for information.

Twice as nice

Now you have two options when it comes to boarding your pet. Choose either AHS’s Golden Valley pet boarding facility (named by Minnesota Women’s Press as “the best place in the Twin Cities to board your pet”) or Now Boarding. AHS’s newest facility located adjacent to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport and open 24 hours with park and ride shuttle service to the airport. Either way, your pet will have a great getaway and you’ll feel good knowing about all of the other animals you’ve helped by supporting AHS’s pet boarding facilities. For more information call (763) 489-2222 (Golden Valley) or (612) 454-4850 (Now Boarding).
Unleashed: where it’s just fine to act like an animal

Registration is now underway for Unleashed, the Animal Humane Society’s summer camp. Packed with animal-related activities for kids in grades 3-12, Unleashed is the perfect camp for kids who love animals. This summer, Unleashed is offered at all five AHS locations. For more information or to register your child visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/unleashed or call (763) 489-2220.

Reunited and it feels so good

After nearly two years on his own, Bob the cat is back at home and resting peacefully after a little investigative work and perfect timing made possible by Facebook.

Bob was brought into the Animal Humane Society’s Coon Rapids facility in early February after getting acquainted with a friendly member of the community. He was scanned for a microchip upon arrival and one was found. Unfortunately the contact information on file for the chip was outdated.

AHS Customer Service Lead Amber Wallin in Coon Rapids was committed to reuniting the cat with his owners and tried to find them by alternative means—Dex online, Google searches, and more. When those avenues didn’t work, she set out to make one last attempt and logged on to Facebook, the social networking website. A brief search provided her with a match to the names assigned to the chip. She sent a message to Shane and Nicole Meide hoping the name match would result in a connection with Bob’s family.

A few hours later she received a response. Bob’s owners were found.

Bob went missing in April 2007. Since then the Meide family had moved from East Bethel to Champlin, MN and had since acquired a new cat. They thought they’d never see Bob again.

Shane and Nicole had just created their Facebook pages days before. Had they waited just a few days more, Bob would have been past AHS’s standard five-day stray hold and on his way to the adoption floor to find a new family. Instead he went home.

A bill to help animals

At press time, the Minnesota Puppy and Kitten Mill Bill, Senate File 7 (authored by Senator Don Betzold) and House File 253 (authored by Representative Tom Tillberry) was being heard in the Minnesota Legislature. The Animal Humane Society, the National Federation of Humane Societies, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and 32 Minnesota animal welfare organizations are proponents of this bill.

The Puppy and Kitten Mill Bill will regulate dog and cat breeders to ensure that all breeders meet specific standards of care. The bill gives the State of Minnesota the authority to license cat and dog breeders, to inspect facilities, to enforce laws and regulations and to impose civil and criminal penalties.

Minnesota is among the top producers of puppies and kittens in the United States. While many breeders in Minnesota act responsibly, there are reports of breeding facilities housing more than 1,000 animals. Puppy mills are very different from licensed dog breeders. Many of the animals live in horrific conditions—cages stacked on top of one another in unsanitary conditions, inadequate food, water and veterinary care, and animals receiving little or no exercise or socialization. The breeding dogs are bred continuously with no chance for human companionship. Many of the puppy mill breeders sell through the internet or classified ads in publications.

Your calls to your representatives are needed now more than ever. If you haven’t already done so, please contact your State Representative and State Senator and tell him/her of your strong support of H.F. 253 (the Tillberry bill) and S.F. 7 (the Betzold bill).

To find out who represents you and to get their phone number, call (651)296-2146 (House Public Information Services) if you’re in the metro area. Out of the metro area, call (800) 657-3550. The ‘651’ number is the House switchboard and they will connect you directly to your Representative’s or Senator’s office. Thank you for your support.

petcetera

It’s more than the cookies

Calling all Girl Scouts. AHS is the place to earn your Pet Care Badge.

A two-hour Pet Badge program is offered to Girl Scout Juniors (grades 4-5) and Cadettes (grades 6-8) and includes all the activities required to earn the pet badge. Programs can be scheduled on weekdays, weeknights, or Saturdays. $10 per scout (includes badge). Contact the education department at education@animalhumanesociety.org or (763) 489-2220 for more information.
To know Marley is to know the meaning of the classic Beatles song “All You Need is Love.” One might think the tune was written to accompany her on her personal journey. The song follows her around every turn… and turn she has. Over the past eight months, Marley has experienced the kindness of many different people. Kindness that proves when times are tough, all you need is love.

Marley was brought to the Animal Humane Society last July because her previous owner could no longer afford to keep her. For many cats, arriving at AHS is the beginning of the final chapter in their journey to find a lasting, loving home. For others, it is one step in a series to get them where they’re meant to be.

There’s nothing you can do that can’t be done

In 2008, AHS launched Mission: Meow, a foster program providing adult cats a home for six months during a time when kittens overwhelm its adoption floors. This time is better known as “kitten season.” During the season, adult cats are overlooked and experience extended stays on the adoption floor.

AHS doesn’t have the space to accommodate the thousands of cats that flood its facilities during this time each year. The program was designed to combat that problem and give adult cats the love and kindness they deserve during their time of need.

Nowhere you can be that isn’t where you’re meant to be

Two-year-old Marley moved from AHS to a Mission: Meow foster home last August.

“She was the ugliest thing when we got her,” said Alexia Hitchings. “Her coat was a mess. I think because of the stress she was under not having a home.”

Alexia and Eric Hitchings of St. Louis Park, Minn. came across the Mission: Meow program on the AHS website. They had been considering adopting a dog, but knew they didn’t have the room and chose to foster an adult cat through the program. That’s when Marley joined the couple and their two-year-old cats, Milo and Nala, adopted from AHS’s Golden Valley location.

“I slept downstairs with her, when everyone else was upstairs, while she adjusted—and then one day it was like a light switch went off. All of a sudden she was comfortable with everyone and everything,” Alexia said. “Marley has added a lot to the family.”

Now boasting a shiny coat and a healthy weight gain of six pounds, Marley never disappoints with her antics. According to Alexia, she plays with such energy that it sounds like elephants are in the next room. But that is because she’s hard at work gathering gifts for them. Throughout the night, Marley will flush out her toys and drop them one-by-one in a pile next to the bed for the couple to enjoy in the morning.

Fifteen minutes before they wake up she’s up on the bed staring at them and purring, as if to say, “It’s a new day! Let’s eat!”
Help save a cat’s life

The Animal Humane Society’s incoming feline numbers exceed 2,000 each month from early summer through the fall. We take in thousands of kittens resulting in a dramatic decline of adult cat adoptions. Join us in our mission to find these adult cats a home.

The mission is simple: Become a Mission: Meow foster parent.

Take an adult feline houseguest into your home this summer and bring him/her back at a time when he or she has a better chance of being adopted.

Foster periods run a minimum of six months with start dates in June, July and August. Cats will be returned to AHS at a time when customers historically consider adopting an adult cat and there are fewer kittens needing homes. Each cat is vaccinated, de-wormed, spayed/neutered and microchipped prior to joining your family.

We’ll provide the food, toys, litter and litter box — you provide the love

If you're interested in becoming a Mission: Meow foster volunteer, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/missionmeow to complete an application. If you do not have internet access you may leave a message at (763) 498-4826 and we will send you an application. Applicants will be contacted by a member of the Animal Humane Society Volunteer Services department to schedule an interview. After the interview and upon approval, you will be informed of the workshop dates for a brief training session. All processing of applications will begin on May 1. Thank you for your patience through the application process and for your interest in helping an adult cat in need.

“All you need to give the cat is attention and love. It’s the easiest thing ever.”

— Alexia and Eric Hitchings, 2008 Mission: Meow foster parents

Tracie Jacobson is on staff at the Animal Humane Society. She lives in Minneapolis and is the proud owner of Moose the cat and Kate, a boxer mix adopted from AHS’s Coon Rapids facility.
Years ago, Paula Zukoff came home to find her collie Dante delirious, lying in a pile of rice and pasta and eating graham crackers. That event gave proof to two disciplines taught at the Animal Humane Society Training School: 1) We need to control the environment our pets live in, and 2) Don't sweat it. These things happen to the best of us.

Paula is the lead trainer and manager of the Training School and has been with AHS for eight years, but her training started long before that time. It started back when Paula was an analytical chemist and she brought home her first puppy as an adult.

She knew the importance of getting the dog trained and began attending training classes with her new friend. She really enjoyed the training process and began volunteering at the training school. That volunteer position eventually evolved into taking any obedience class, seminar or course she could find. Those courses and the wealth of knowledge she gained led her to get certified by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers. At that time, Paula was one of 10 people in the state of Minnesota and one of only a handful in the country to be certified by the APDT.

Knowing about her background, one might ask how Paula responded to Dante’s cabinet caper antics. She controlled his environment and put childproof locks on all the cabinets in her house. And they’re still there to this day.

Whether you’re a lead trainer or the proud owner of your first puppy, we all need some guidance and quick tips on how to navigate through the predicaments we find ourselves in with our pets. I sat down with Paula and asked her to give us advice on some commonly asked pet training questions.

*This may seem like a simple question, but what are the benefits of training your pet? Why do we take ourselves down that path?*

**PZ:** We train our pets because the behaviors we find unacceptable in them are their natural behaviors. They don’t know what they should or shouldn’t be doing; dogs would be nearly impossible to live with if we didn’t train them. Teaching and rewarding preferred behavior is the key, as dogs naturally repeat behaviors that benefit them.

More importantly, training your animal will create a bond between the two of you. People always end up closer to their animals because of training. It provides a different kind of relationship that allows them to enjoy their pet.

*Let’s start from the beginning. How do you get your puppy to stop biting while he’s teething?*

**PZ:** The idea is out there that putting your fist in his mouth or holding his mouth shut is the answer. That couldn’t be further from the truth.

The puppy is not trying to hurt you. He’s simply exploring his world with his mouth. He’s also learning how to use his mouth before his teeth get bigger and his jaw gets stronger. That’s why they have small teeth and their jaws are weak as puppies. We’re supposed to use that time to teach them good bite inhibition and the best way to do that is to ignore them.

When your puppy bites you with those needle-like teeth, pull your hand away and make a loud noise—“Ow!” This will teach your puppy that teeth on skin makes playtime stop. It’s our job to let puppies know that people are wimps and they can’t put any pressure on them with their mouths.
A lot of animals are brought to the Animal Humane Society because of house soiling. How do we get our dogs to wait for the great outdoors?

**PZ:** This is a good example of a natural pet behavior that doesn't work in our world. Until you teach them, dogs don't know they're not supposed to go to the bathroom in the house.

First, never take your eyes off of the puppy! If he starts to potty, distract him and take him outside. Never punish, especially more than 3 seconds after the fact: he won't make the connection between the mess and your anger.

Dogs will typically have a “tell” when they have to go to the bathroom. Many will start sniffing around the room or circling. Once you see them doing that, take them out on a leash. Direct them where to potty and when they do, throw them a party. Give them a special treat they only get when they potty outside. A small crumbled piece of bacon works really well. They'll soon learn that “If I go inside, I get nothing, but if I find someone to take me outside, I get a treat!”

Now, if they do have an accident in the house, get a newspaper, roll it up and hit yourself in the head. You forgot to keep your eye on the dog at all times. Typical times to take them out are when they wake up, during playtime, if they're chewing, after they eat and drink. Consistency is the key. You need to continue the process until they understand what is expected of them.

*Continued on next page.*
Training

Animal Humane Society Training School

The Animal Humane Society Training School is designed to fit pet training into your life, not the other way around. Our program is a progressive, go-at-your-own-pace Levels program focused on being flexible, pet-oriented, and meeting the needs of your busy schedule.

**We’re family friendly:** Our Training School is one of the few that encourages full participation by all family members, including your children.

**We’re dog friendly:** Our program teaches real-life skills you can use with your pet, rather than stylized obedience drills. We use a combination of lure/reward and clicker training.

**We care for animals:** Your class fees support homeless animals at our five locations and help support the programs of AHS.

**We’re flexible to fit your life:** Each week we offer more than 40 classes at our Coon Rapids, Golden Valley and Woodbury locations and at our new Now Boarding location near the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport. Purchasing a 2- or 4-month pass gives you access to any class at any location and allows you to move through the program at your own pace.

Students can miss a week or move into a different class time if they have schedule conflicts without worrying about falling behind.

All the dogs in each level are working on the same skills, and you’ll know what you need to master before advancing to the next level.

**Watch Paula in action**

Tune to the Fox 9 Morning Show to watch Paula in action. Her common-sense approach to pet care and easy pet tips airs every Sunday at 9 a.m.

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ask the trainer

Continued from previous page.

Let’s switch gears for a few questions. How do you get your cat to make it to the litterbox?

**PZ:** It’s interesting you ask that because more than 90% of the calls we receive on our Behavior Helpline are about cats not using the litterbox. Right away I want to tell you that if your cat suddenly stops using the litterbox and urinates elsewhere in the house, get it to the vet immediately. There could be a bigger problem and you have to act fast. Most cats will get as close as they can to the litterbox even if they’re not using it.

If your cat gradually stops using the box or goes just outside it, you need to consider what may be bothering the cat. Could he be stressed due to stress you’re experiencing? Has something changed in his environment? Was the litterbox moved? Is it not clean enough? If you can smell the box, he probably won’t use it.

Start by confining the cat in one room with his litterbox and work through the possibilities. Provide playtime and a structured schedule to minimize stress, move the box back to its original spot, clean it, etc. Once he starts using the litterbox again, you’ll know the reason why he stopped and can work around it moving forward.

If the problem is stress, I suggest using a synthetic pheromone like Feliway. The pheromone is released in cats when they rub their faces on people or things. Surfaces marked with this pheromone are familiar to the cat, creating a comforting and calming effect on them.
Okay, let’s get these two pets together. How do we introduce our dog to our cat?

**PZ:** These introductions are always interesting, but it can be done! To start, keep the animals separate. They need to get used to the idea of another animal in the house before you let them have a face-to-face introduction. You can do this by keeping a door between them; the dog in one room with the cat in another. Gradually feed the pets closer and closer to the door separating their areas until both pets are calm while doing this. By doing this, you’re allowing the pets to get used to each other’s scent in a positive way. Review control skills with your dog before the introduction—sit, down and stay.

The first face-to-face meet-and-greet will need to be kept short. Have one person hold the dog on a leash while another person holds the cat in their lap or on the other side of the room. Reward both animals for calm behavior with tasty treats and lots of praise. We always strive to reward the behavior we want.

After some time you can start gradually bringing the cat and dog closer together. Doing so will allow them to investigate each other. It will depend on the individual pets how many sessions it takes to get to this point.

If all is going well you can let them both loose. I recommend that the dog wear an indoor dragline (a small leash line that keeps them within close range of you) and that the cat has an escape, somewhere to go that is impossible for the dog to follow. Do not let the dog chase the cat. Use the dragline to control this.

Now that these pets are familiar with each other and on their way to being fast friends, how do we get them to stop counter surfing together?

**PZ:** Animals are hardwired as opportunistic scavengers. It’s hard to teach them to “stay out” because if it’s there, they’re going to eat it. That’s part of being a dog or cat.

This is where we need to learn to control our pet’s environment. Set up your world so they can’t get themselves into trouble and create predicaments for you and your family. When it comes to counter surfing, the answer is simple: Don’t leave anything out on the counter and, if you have to, don’t allow the animal in the kitchen.

The same rule of thumb works for animals that get into the garbage. Get a heavy can with a lid for the kitchen, put the bathroom wastebasket under the sink and put the garbage on the counter so it’s not within reach when you’re not home.

If you make a mistake and your pet gets into a forbidden area, your management system needs to be improved. In the meantime, gently take forbidden items away from your dog (no yelling, please!) and calmly take him to his crate. Clean up the mess and let your dog out after he’s been quiet for a while. This will teach your dog, over time, that certain behavior makes a wonderful thing – you – go away. Just remember that if you do have to repeat this method frequently, your management plan might need further improvement!

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Let's get back to just dogs. How do you keep one from barking at the mailman, the neighbor and the cars driving down the street?

PZ: This is a tricky one because how you treat it depends on why they're doing it. Are they scared, bored or being territorial?

For a fearful dog, it's best to broaden their horizons so they're not frightened by everything they come across. Give them good experiences with different people, places and things and get them into a Gentle Leader. It builds their confidence and helps control their barking. It's also helpful to give them a job. Have them sit for everything. It will let them know that that is their only job. They don't need to worry because when they sit great things happen and you take care of the thing that has them scared.

Dogs that are bored need more exercise and something to do. When it comes to dogs, a few words to live by are "a tired dog is a good dog." Get them out to play, take them to the dog park or go for a walk. You can also teach them tricks with positive reinforcement and give them a job. Have them put the socks away, put dirty towels next to the laundry basket. These things will stimulate their mind and leave them with less time to hang out and bark.

When your dog barks when anyone approaches your home or anytime he's outside, territorial aggression may be the cause. The best way to handle this is to fit him with a Gentle Leader, which is useful for both indoor and outdoor situations. The first time he barks at someone outside, immediately take him back into the house. Don't let him practice barking at people, because he'll get really good at it! If it happens while inside the house, lift up on the Leader to close his mouth. Stay consistent and repeat this until he stops.

Territorial barking can be hard to eliminate because it is frequently—and unintentionally—reinforced. When the mailman approaches, the dog thinks he's putting on the greatest performance of his life. "Watch me get this guy out of here with just a few barks!" The mailman approaches, the dog barks. The mailman deposits the mail and walks away. The dog's barking worked!

Rabbits are the third most adopted animal at the Animal Humane Society. What can you tell us about training them?

PZ: People are always amazed that you can train a rabbit, but you can train any animal. You just have to know their limitations and work with them consistently.

Training a rabbit is very rewarding because it provides an opportunity for you to bond with a pet that would otherwise spend a lot of time in a cage. Training allows the rabbit's personality to come out and will help them live a longer, happier life.

I recommend clicker training your rabbit with small tidbits of fruit or vegetable as a reward. If you keep the treats small, you can have several training sessions a day, which means more time out of the cage for your rabbit.

One skill you'll want to teach is how to follow a target. Get yourself a "target stick"—a pencil or chopstick will do. Start in a small area to increase the likelihood she'll touch the target. Place the target stick close to her and keep it still, you can even set it on the floor. If she starts to approach the stick or even looks at the stick, click your clicker and give her a treat. Continue doing this and soon she'll be approaching the stick. Click and treat each approach, look or nose touch.

A nose touch is what you ultimately want the rabbit to do. Once she is touching the target only click and reward for actual nose touches. When she consistently touches the target, say the cue "touch" as she touches it. A few sessions later start saying "touch" right before she touches the target. Move the target so that she has to reach or move to touch it. Start clicking for her moving toward the target and then for following the target. Once she is a champ at following and touching the target your imagination is the only limit to what you can teach her.

Teach her to go through a hoop, over obstacles and through a tunnel to reach the target stick. You can even teach your rabbit a trick such as a High 10 by holding the target stick above her so that she must stand to reach it. Teach her to help out around the house by using targeting to help her learn to shut cupboard doors. You can even teach her to come when called for those times when you lose track of her in the house.

What are a few rules of thumb that people can live by when working with their pet?

PZ: Remember that consistency is the key, you need to control your pet's environment, a tired dog is a good dog, and you need to ignore the behavior you don't want and reward the behavior you do.

Tracie Jacobson is on staff at the Animal Humane Society. She lives in Minneapolis and is the proud owner of Moose the cat and Kate, a boxer mix adopted from AHS's Coon Rapids facility.
Training animals is a unique and interesting path many animal lovers take in life. We asked a few of the trainers on staff at the Animal Humane Society Training School about some of the experiences they've had along the way.

“I was the middle child in a family with eight children, and being the only girl in the family and in the neighborhood, my dog Rex was always my best friend. When I was 10 years old, I taught him a lot of tricks just for fun, figuring out on my own how to do it. We would go around town showing off our tricks and many people wanted me to teach their dogs tricks too. Later I joined 4-H and won a blue ribbon at the State Fair for my dog training demonstration.”

– Mary Malone, All sites

“In animal training, most of the time we’re actually training people, not pets. Aside from dogs, people are my second favorite "animal" to work with. I like that the same learning theory we use to train dogs applies to people as well. My next project could be training my husband. Oh wait... I’ve already done that!”

– Julie Humiston, Golden Valley and Now Boarding

“We get a lot of interesting requests from people. I once had someone inquire about how to get his dog to burp on cue. I warned him of the ramifications, but he still thought it would be pretty cool.”

– Noah Silver, Coon Rapids

“I adopted my dog Ailin from Animal Humane Society Golden Valley in 2005. Even with his good looks and my quick wit, we both needed a lot of training. We came to the Training School and fell in love. It turned out he had separation anxiety and I needed all the help I could get. The school gave me that and I ended up volunteering and was later hired to train.”

– Anathac Alberda, Golden Valley

“I’m mostly involved with shelter, rescue or foster dogs... and it never gets old. Helping someone deepen a relationship with their pet or teaching them a skill that was previously thought to be unattainable is very rewarding.”

– Michol Langlett, Now Boarding

“I really enjoy cats. Many people think they can’t be trained, but the laws of animal learning are the same for them: reward the right behavior, prevent/ignore the wrong behavior. One individual I worked with was happy that her cat would use the window seat, but she wasn’t happy that the cat used off-limit furniture to get there. I recommended training the cat to jump right into the seat, which involved luring him to the location with treats, then only giving him treats in the window seat provided he didn’t use the other pieces of furniture.”

– Kate Varns, All sites

“The most memorable pet I worked with was a cow I had growing up. Her name was Paula and I swear she was a dog inside a cow body. She knew how I was feeling, what I needed and when I needed it. She also liked to eat a lot. I showed cattle in 4-H and, unfortunately, she got a red ribbon at the State Fair because she was too fat!”

– Carol Enderson, Golden Valley

“I find satisfaction working with “Wallflower” animal students and people who stay in my classes as they go through the levels of the Training School. I enjoy seeing the progress of both people and dogs. Wallflower dogs are quite shy with people, especially strangers. It is fun to see them come out of their shell and begin to trust people.”

– Susanne Wollman, Golden Valley

Animal Humane Society training services are available at its Coon Rapids, Golden Valley and Woodbury locations and at Now Boarding, a new pet boarding facility located adjacent to the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport.

Above left: Kate Varns with Sandy
Right: Mary Malone with Iggy
sat. may 2nd, 2009
golden valley
minutes from downtown Minneapolis

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Registration and Activities

10:30 a.m.
Walk Begins

It's time for the 35th annual Walk for Animals — your chance to help animals less fortunate than your own. Animals also suffer the effects of tough times and this is exactly the time when our commitment must be at its strongest.

More than 38,000 animals depend on the donations you generate on this one day!

It's a short walk that goes miles and miles and miles for animals — animals that absolutely need us and love us absolutely.

www.animalhumanesociety.org

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see us at the walk
meet the walkers

Walking with a purpose

by Lynne Olson

This spring marks the 35th anniversary of the Walk for Animals, the Animal Humane Society’s major fundraising event of the year and a high-spirited celebration of our animal companions and the folks who love them.

Each year thousands of people raise funds at the Walk for Animals to support AHS. Last year, more than $1 million was contributed from individuals and teams. Here are three stories that reflect the passionate and dedicated people who devote their time and energy to the “first Saturday in May.”

Walking with a purpose

For the love of dogs

For the last seven years Larry Gardner has made the Walk for Animals an important part of his life. From the loving act of including his late brother Matt’s 95-pound yellow lab, Buddy, in the day’s festivities to devoting two months to fundraising, Larry has been a faithful participant ever since he began walking dogs at the Animal Humane Society’s St. Paul facility.

“I’ve loved animals as long as I can remember,” Larry said while reminiscing about the pet Labradors he has known since childhood. It’s this passion—and the need to get a lot of exercise—that resulted in his becoming a volunteer dog-walker.

Larry has Prader Willi Syndrome, a diet-oriented disability that is managed by a combination of restricted calorie intake and a lot of exercise. He lives in a group home in Mounds View and gets his exercise guidance from Joell Tvedt, a personal trainer who teamed up with him eight years ago. She has been his exercise and fundraising companion ever since. Besides pool and gym time, they do various 5K race/walks each year. “The Walk for Animals is definitely Larry’s favorite because he gets to bring a dog,” she said.

In addition to walking Buddy, Larry’s favorite part of Walk for Animals day is seeing the different breeds (he’s partial to Great Danes and Mastiffs) and visiting with the animals. “Last year Buddy was head-butted by the goat,” she recalled with a smile. “He handled it well.”

When he receives his fundraising materials, Larry starts knocking on doors in his group home and in his childhood and parents’ current White Bear Lake neighborhoods, and he also makes phone calls to family and friends. “For two months, fundraising runs my life,” he said. Last year Larry raised $2,858 ($1000 more than he ever has) from approximately 100 donors, surpassing his goal by quite a bit. “This year I hope to get to the $3,000 mark, if not a little more,” he said. “The key is to get people to give more than they did before. I also send a thank you to anyone who gives $25 or more.”

As is probably the case for many of the Walk’s participants, it’s Larry’s obvious love of dogs that seems to fuel his continued commitment to being a part of the Walk for Animals. “Dogs are loyal and affectionate—they really are man’s best friend,” he said.

Larry Gardner with Buddy
Thanks for the memories

It was April 1996 when Megan (“Meegan”) Bartell first learned about the Walk for Animals. She was at the Golden Valley facility adopting her puppy (Eli, her Black Labrador mix) when she saw the brochure. A month later, she was walking with Eli’s Rottweiler-German Shep ard “brother” Leo, while carrying the mostly sleepy Eli in her arms. “I raised $200 that first year,” she recalled and has kept doing it because she’s committed to the cause and she knows she can raise the contributions.

Through 13 walks, Megan has raised more than $25,000. Last year she raised $4,000. It’s a duty she doesn’t shrink from, believing strongly in the Animal Humane Society’s mission. “I’d feel terrible if I didn’t do it,” she said. While Leo came to her through another source, she found Eli and then Bandit, a German Shepherd-Husky mix at the Woodbury facility. “I wanted to adopt orphan dogs and it didn't occur to me to go anywhere else," she said.

“Each year, I [usually] walk in memory of a dog that has passed," she said. In 2005, she walked for Leo who had died of bone cancer; in 2007 she walked in memory of Martha McPhee, the late Animal Humane Society CEO.

This year, Megan, her ten-year-old daughter Frances, and six-year-old Bandit will be walking in memory of Eli who died of a brain tumor last September (“I miss him bad," she said). On Walk day Megan claims that Eli felt he was the star of the show—always carrying as big a stick as he could find, a stick that other dogs would try to take away. “Sometimes the sticks were almost as big as a log," remembers Megan.

Before Megan takes a March vacation, she writes a special fundraising letter to family and friends. When she returns, she's excited to discover how many pledges have arrived—either by mail or on her customized Animal Humane Society website, which she thinks is particularly great for immediate and last-minute donations. If people don’t respond, she does follow-up calls and emails. Megan enjoys her fundraising ritual, admitting that even though it’s hard to harass people, she’s good at it. “I do feel like kind of a nag, but it’s for a good reason.”

After she turns in her contributions on the day of the Walk, Megan feels that her job is done and now the fun can begin. She and her family enjoy the whole day's festivities and its fair-like atmosphere. Above all, there’s the Walk with its usual nice weather and the multitude of dogs that don’t fight. “It’s amazing how all those animals can hang out together!” she said.

Continued on next page.
 meet the walkers

Friendly competition pays off

They say a little competition is a good thing and the staff at All Paws Animal Hospital in St. Louis Park would probably agree. In 2007 they saw a neighboring clinic in southwest Minneapolis finish with the Walk for Animals Top Vet Clinic and Most Team Members honors. “We were really close,” said All Paws co-founder Dr. Lisa Lindesmith of their 2007 second place finish to the Westgate Clinic.

Coming in second was the push that the All Paws staff needed to step up their fundraising and client participation. (“You can't be afraid to ask,” said Dr. Lisa.) It paid off with great results. In 2008, All Paws Animal Hospital raised $10,645 to win the Top Vet Clinic trophy and their 17-member team won Most Team Members honors. Although friendly competition is a fun incentive, “We walk for the animals that need our help and to support the work that the Animal Humane Society does,” said Dr. Holly Hamilton, the clinic’s co-founder. “It’s also a great bonding experience for our staff and our clients.”

As long as there has been an All Paws Animal Hospital there has been a team representing the clinic at the Walk. It started with humble beginnings eight years ago when a team of only two, Dr. Lisa and a vet tech, participated because of the clinic’s Saturday hours. Since then, their team has grown and, last year, seven clients joined the fun. They made last year’s $10,000 happen mostly by expressing their excitement about the cause during client visits.

The opportunity to create customized web pages through AHS’s online pledge-raising option allows them to also reach out far and wide to family and friends. “We’re in the right profession for knowing people who love animals,” said Dr. Holly, who was excited to learn at last year’s walk that the Internet made it possible for AHS to receive donations from people in every state.

On Walk day, Dr. Lisa brings her 8½ year old Golden Retriever, Cedar, who she adopted from the Animal Humane Society, while Dr. Holly walks Roscoe, her rescued 9½ year old American Bulldog. Both vets enjoy all the animals and the day’s festivities, including the treats, the dog bone zone, doggy “swimming pools” and the parade-like atmosphere. “It’s a fun, social event for the dogs,” said Dr. Holly. “They get to sniff the other dogs and check out what’s going on in the world. What more could a dog want? 🐾

Lynne Olson is a freelance writer/editor who delights in the joyful presence (and antics) of the many animals that grace her life.
from strays to superstars

Service dog trainees recruited from AHS

*by Bridgette Bornstein*

**Cher: in training**

For most dog owners, teaching “fetch”, “rollover” and “heel” is a great feat. What a thrill to see your canine learn and cooperate. But for a black Lab named Cher, those words are just the elementary level in her long vocabulary of commands. This young, rambunctious former stray is nearing the end of her rigorous training to be a service dog. She is one of the superstars, flying through the instruction with great success. And like so many before her, Cher was plucked from the adoption floor at the Animal Humane Society. That’s where many of the assistance dogs trained at Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota (HSDM) are discovered.

In the past 20 years, nearly 60 dogs from the Animal Humane Society have been placed as hearing and service dogs for people with disabilities and for children with autism. Staff from Hearing and Service Dogs regularly walk through the AHS Adoption Centers to assess dogs and see which may be good picks as service dogs. “They’ll have smoke alarms, squeaky toys, toy phones that ring and other tools so they can get a sense for how the dog will respond to sound,” AHS Director of Customer Service Cindy Johnson said. “If they feel the dog is a good candidate, we transfer ownership from AHS to their organization with no fee.”

It turned out that former stray Cher had even more talent than first thought. She trained for three months in a special program at Faribault prison where inmates teach obedience and retrieving. And, to their surprise, she wowed them with her love of retrieving. That means she could be a hearing dog, but also a service dog which requires excellent retrieving skills. Cher finished the prison program, and now is back in Minneapolis finishing her training at HSDM’s headquarters in the Minneapolis Seward neighborhood.

On the day we visited, Cher was practicing commands with two trainers in a large gymnasium. We watched her tug at a rope to open a desk drawer and retrieve a cordless telephone. Cher had to learn to pick up metal, plastic, paper and other various items without destroying them. Many clients use wheelchairs and can’t lean over to pick up a dropped object, so that’s where a service dog can be a big help. Cher seemed so proud to successfully complete each task, and so serious about paying attention and performing as she’s been taught.

For Cher and all the other candidates, the screening process is thorough and starts with a couple of weeks in a foster home for some basic assessments. Then the dog goes through medical and temperament tests. About half of the dogs don’t pass those initial steps and return to the Animal Humane Society to be adopted by others. For those that do continue, there’s a great deal of training and ongoing assessment. You might think that puppies would be great picks for this training, but they’re not. The best prospects are about a year old so that doctors can get accurate readings on their x-rays. That’s important to help identify any potential problems with joints or other body parts that could make all the work tough or painful.

Temperament is the other important measure of a prospect. Some dogs may be great at commands, but impatient or nervous in crowd situations. “We have very high standards for our dogs and it has to be that way because they will go through rigorous training for a very important job,” HSDM Trainer Julianne Larsen said.

Just eight months ago, Cher was brought in as a stray at the Animal Humane Society. Now she is just a few weeks away from finishing her training as a service dog. Soon she will be matched with a human companion in need. “With Cher, I really see her adding an element of joy to someone’s life with her enthusiasm and her bright personality. She’s going to make things fun for her partner. It’s remarkable that just about a year ago she was a shelter dog and look at her now,” Julianne said.

Above: Julianne Child with Cher at Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota

*Continued on next page.*
from strays to superstars

Frankie and Hunter: best buddies

As Cher begins her career, veteran service dog Hunter has about five years of experience under his collar. Hunter was surrendered to AHS six years ago by a family with many children who couldn’t handle the responsibility of a dog. Now he’s the best buddy and companion to 19-year-old Frankie McNamara.

As Frankie chats with us about his active life as a college student, Hunter paces around Frankie’s wheelchair and presses his large Labrador body against Frankie’s legs. It’s part affection, part protection. This dog is so dedicated. “He’s my buddy,” Frankie McNamara said. Frankie has Duchenne muscular dystrophy and needs help opening doors and picking up anything that falls to the floor.

Hunter is excited and playful until it’s time to work. “Get dressed,” Frankie says. That means Hunter needs to sit still while someone straps on the service dog vest. It’s as if his personality changes instantly, like a superhero changing into a cape. Hunter is suddenly serious and attentive.

Over the years, Frankie has been surprised by some of the things Hunter can do. “I went to get some stuff at Best Buy and Hunter stood on his hind legs and pushed the items on the counter toward the cashier. I didn’t know he could do that,” Frankie said. He has been so fascinated by Hunter’s talent that he researched and presented an award-winning Minnesota History Day project on the first guide dogs trained by a Minnesota man after World War I.

Hunter does help Frankie do some of the things he can’t do for himself, but he is also a constant companion so Frankie can be more independent. “When we’re out at the mall and we get separated or Frankie wants to do something on his own, we have the confidence that they can just go off alone. We don’t worry so much,” Frankie’s father Patrick McNamara said.

Thankfully, Hunter hasn’t had to respond to emergencies, but there are times when Frankie needs help. He says the command “get help” and Hunter will run to the nearest person, touch his nose to their hand, and then lead them to Frankie. “It’s not like it’s a constant fetching for him or waiting on him. For Frankie I think it’s more of just a feeling of security so he knows that, in an emergency, Hunter can get help,” Frankie’s mother Brenda Child said.

“AHS has been so supportive of our work by continuously providing quality animals for our program and alerting us when good prospects become available. The staff is so helpful.”

— Alan Peters, Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota Executive Director
When people see the cute Cavalier King Charles Spaniel with Mary Jo Dircks, they're floored that a dog that small can be used as a hearing dog. Potter has sympathetic eyes, long, floppy ears and an unwavering dedication to Mary Jo. He was surrendered at the Animal Humane Society a few years ago because of soiling issues. He was adopted by Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota, and that’s how he ended up as Mary Jo's companion. With a little training, he has turned out to be a “top dog” as a hearing assistant. “Lucky me that I got this dog,” Mary Jo said. “Someone gave him up and he means so much to me. He’s always by my side, keeping me safe.”

Mary Jo is hard of hearing, so Potter will touch her and bring her to the door if someone rings the doorbell. He also does that for the phone. He'll stand on Mary Jo when the alarm clock goes off. In case of emergency, Potter springs into action. “The other day I was cooking and I had a piece of popcorn under the burner,” Mary Jo said, “and it sort of smoked up the house. I knew that it was smoky and I was there when it happened, but I guess I didn't realize the smoke detector was blaring until Potter started barking to get my attention.” In public, Potter wears a vest identifying him as a service dog. Mary Jo says he is a little attention-magnet. She likes that because it helps educate people about hearing and service dogs and how nearly any size or breed can be trained to do the job.

Cher, Hunter and Potter show us that the stray of today may be the superstar of tomorrow.

For more information on hearing and service dogs visit: www.hsdm.org

Bridgette Bornstein is a Minneapolis-based writer with two cats: a bossy Himalayan named Buddy and a shy purebred Persian named Ollie. Both came from shelters.

“The partnership between the Animal Humane Society and Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota is such a special one for us. It is gratifying for us to see our shelter dogs not only find a home for life, but it is a bonus to see them become service animals that perform important functions for their human partners.”

— AHS CEO/President Janelle Dixon
memorials and honorariums

September 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

We are grateful to the community for its generous support of the animals through memorial and tribute gifts. We have been pleased to acknowledge these gifts in print. Unfortunately, the space required to print this ever-growing list has grown too large. Although we sincerely appreciate all donations made in honor or memory of a loved one or pet, effective January 1, 2008, only individual gifts of $75 or more will be listed in future issues of Animal Tracks. Thank you.

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Catherine Salzberg

John Mathis

SUE WINKINS  
Valerie Argabright

Pookie and Em

PATRICIA WINTER  
Scott Winter

WENDE WISKIRCHEN  
Judith Cameron

WYLIE & OLIVE  
Shannon and Tom Trimmel

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Friends

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...  
Recognized by...

TROUBLE & PUDDING  
Anne Chenette

CONGRATULATIONS ON  
YOUR BAR/BAT MITZVAH...  
Recognized by...

MADDY LERNER  
Family and Friends

JONAH ROTHSTEIN  
Family and Friends

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...  
Recognized by...

ABBBOTT & ALLIE  
Brett and Shannon Burford

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Douglas Reid

CRAZER  
Julie Mushkin and Peter Yoo

MOLLY  
Joanne Shremoff

MOLLY ROSEN  
Susan W. Donovan

STEPHANIE STREETER  
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HAPPY CHANUKKAH TO...  
Recognized by...

MOM  
The Heilicher Family

HAPPY HOLIDAYS &  
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO...  
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Quinn & Dana Terry

Christine and Patrick Woods

Jeff Tropp

Elizabeth Murray

Lynn & Jason Verden

Libby and Chris Rapp

Thank You to...  
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Polly Caprio

Grant Guccisberg

Jenni Neack

Norn Sabe

Jody and Steven Cohen Press

Jeanne Weigum

Jody and Steven Cohen Press

Congratulations to...  
Recognized by...

Sarah Gaskillin & Dominica La Piazza

Dennis G. Olivercke

Owen Hand & Kevin Salter

Family and Friends

Mueffelman/Winkel's

Wedding

Tasha Mueffelman

and Brian Winkel

Gloria Reif & Tim Cassidy

Kathleen D. Targus

and George P. Seifert

Linsey & Jeff Schad

Benjamin and Victoria Schad

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Like to shop with your dog? Find dog-friendly stores in the Twin Cities that welcome you both! Visit www.sidewalkdog.com.

Sidewalk Dog supports animal welfare organizations like AHS who are helping animals that cannot speak for themselves.

The Animal Humane Society thanks Sidewalk Dog for its support

Dedicated to creating books with a message that inspire, uplift and touch your life.

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Purina ONE feeds all of the Animal Humane Society's cats, dogs, kittens and puppies.

Enter AHS in the “Promo Code” field when you sign up at FetchDelivers.com and Fetch will donate a portion of every purchase to AHS!

The Animal Humane Society thanks Fetch Delivers for its support

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thank you

The Animal Humane Society gratefully acknowledges the help and support of the following:

- All Pets Animal Hospital
- Blaine Area Pet Hospital
- Blaine Central Animal Hospital
- Blue Cross Animal Hospital
- Capitol City Animal Hospital
- Carver Lake Veterinary Center
- Chuck and Don’s Pet Food Outlet
- Cottage Grove Animal Hospital
- Edina Pet Hospital
- Globe University
- Grand Avenue Veterinary Center
- Heritage Animal Hospital
- Hudson Road Animal Hospital
- Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital
- Dr. Robert Larocca, Animal Eye Specialty Center
- Medtronic
- Midwest Veterinary Specialty Group
- Minnetonka Animal Hospital
- Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society
- Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation
- Minnesota School of Business
- North St. Paul Animal Hospital
- Oak Knoll Animal Hospital
- Parson’s Dental
- Dr. Lara Rasmussen
- Dr. Peggy Root
- Shamrock Animal Hospital
- TLC Veterinary Hospital
- The Veterinary Technician program, Minnesota School of Business, Plymouth campus,
  for help with radiographs and surgery.

Your Generosity Makes It All Possible

Is your gift in good hands?

The Animal Humane Society received an exceptional rating from
Charity Navigator.”
-KSTP TV

The Animal Humane Society was awarded the
Charities Review Council (CRC) “Meets All Standards” Seal.

Please consider making a gift to the Animal Humane Society.

You may use the envelope in this magazine or make a contribution online at www.animalhumanesociety.org

On behalf of the 38,177 animals we served last year,
we thank you.

animal humane society
www.animalhumanesociety.org
how you can help

Ways you can help the Animal Humane Society

Make a gift in honor or memory of someone special  A gift in tribute of a person or animal is a wonderful way to show you care about them and the animals at the Animal Humane Society. If you wish, a personalized card can be sent to the honoree acknowledging your generosity. To make a tribute donation, call our development office at (763) 432-4838 or send your gift and the name of those you are honoring to the Development Department at the Golden Valley location. Gifts of $75 and more are listed in this magazine.

Make a gift online  The easiest and quickest way to help the animals is to make a donation online. You can even make honor or tribute gifts to a loved one or a pet. We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express. Online gifts are an easy way to make last minute tax-deductible donations before year end. Your transaction is safe and secure, and your tax-deductible donation will be acknowledged immediately.

Volunteer  If you are interested in helping with shelter activities or special events we have opportunities for volunteers who can spare a minimum of six hours per month. Volunteers assist staff in our exam, adoption, development and education departments. For more information call (763) 432-4833 or volunteer@animalhumane.org

Contribute to our wish list  We appreciate donations to our wish list. At this time we are in need of the following: newspapers, cat and dog brushes and combs, gift cards for animal and shelter supplies (PETCO, PetSmart, Cub, Rainbow), cat bedding (fleece fabric, rugs, blankets,) bleach, spray bottles, Timothy hay, Kleenex and paper towels. We gladly accept donations at any of our five campuses.

Become a foster parent  We need individuals to provide temporary loving homes to dogs and cats still nursing their babies or litters of kittens and puppies too young for adoption. The required time commitment may be a few days or several weeks. For more information contact Kelly Anderson at (763) 489-2228 or kanderson@animalhumane.org

Join our PAW program  One of the simplest and most cost-effective ways to support our work is to enroll in our Planned Account Withdrawal (PAW) program. Through PAW, you can budget your giving across the year by making your giving automatic. You choose the amount and the frequency – once a month or once a quarter – and your gift is automatically deducted from your checking account or credit card. You can stop your gifts or change the amount any time. For more information, contact Laura Minette at (763) 489-2213 or lminette@animalhumane.org

Become a member of the Humane Leaders Circle  Demonstrate your humane values by joining the Humane Leaders Circle with a gift of $1,000 or more for our annual fund this year. As a leadership donor, your commitment to our work will set a generous example for others and will help us respond with kindness for every animal that comes to us in need. You will also be a valued partner in our efforts to combat the problems that create animal homelessness, neglect, and cruelty. For more information about joining the Humane Leaders Circle, please contact Debra Behrens at (763)489-1576 or dbehrrens@animalhumaneorganization.org

Donate your car through Wag & Wheels  You can help animals get their tails wagging by making a tax deductible donation of your used vehicle. We accept cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles and more. The donation process is quick and easy and we offer free towing in all 50 states. Tell all your family and friends! For more information contact Brie Geurink at (763) 764-3424 or bgeurink@animalhumaneorganization.org

Double – or triple – your gift through a corporate match  Hundreds of companies will match the charitable gifts made by their employees or retirees. Both large companies and small businesses match. Simply completing a short form from your employer’s human resources department can mean another gift to the Animal Humane Society. Learn more about matching gifts by contacting your employer’s human resources department.

Make a gift of appreciated stock  Making a gift of appreciated stock can benefit you as well as the animals. Donating stock you’ve held for more than 12 months avoids capital gains taxes on the increase in the stock’s value and allows you to receive its full, fair market value on the date of the gift. This is an excellent vehicle for stock that has appreciated substantially in value. Proceeds from the sale of your donated stock will be used by the Animal Humane Society to care for the animals. Learn more by contacting Brie Geurink at (763) 764-3424 or bgeurink@animalhumaneorganization.org

Include the Animal Humane Society in your estate plan  Making a gift to the Animal Humane Society through your will or estate plan can be a rewarding way to show you care. Your generosity will ensure that we remain a force for good in the lives of animals and people for years to come. Our website has a link to a charitable giving site that will help you learn more about which methods may be right for you. At our website www.animalhumaneorganization.org, visit “explore planned giving options” Or contact Melissa Peacock at (763) 489-1575 or mpeacock@animalhumaneorganization.org

Become a corporate or business partner  When your company supports the Animal Humane Society your business can reap solid corporate benefits while demonstrating that it believes in the human-animal bond. Get a return on investment while showing that you care. Learn about marketing and sponsorship programs by contacting Amy Rosenthal at (763) 489-2231 or arosenthal@animalhumaneorganization.org

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special events

Walk for Animals
Saturday, May 2, registration 8:30 a.m.; Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. Golden Valley
Join us at the 35th annual Walk for Animals to help animals less fortunate than your own. This event is the Animal Humane Society's major, stand-up-on-your-hind-legs-and-bark fundraising event. More than 38,000 animals depend on the donations you generate on this single day in May. For more information, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org or call (763) 439-4841.

training

Introduction to Dog Training
Find out about the dog training classes offered at Animal Humane Society. People only at this first session please. All classes are held from 6:30 – 8 p.m. on the dates below. No registration necessary. For information call (763) 489-2217. For a complete schedule of all our dog training classes, visit: www.animalhumanesociety.org
April 15, Coon Rapids
April 2, 6, 16, 20, Golden Valley
April 7, 23, Now Boarding near the Airport
April 14, 28, Woodbury
May 20, Coon Rapids
May 5, 13, 21, 25, Golden Valley
May 7, 19, Now Boarding near the Airport
May 12, 26, Woodbury
June 17, Coon Rapids
June 2, 10, 15, 25, 29, Golden Valley
June 4, 18, Now Boarding near the Airport
June 9, 23, Woodbury
July 7, 21, Woodbury
July 8, 14, 20, 29, Golden Valley
July 9, 23, Now Boarding near the Airport
July 15, Coon Rapids

Canine Good Citizen Test
A certification program designed to reward dogs with good manners at home and in the community. The program stresses responsible pet ownership for owners. All classes held Mondays at 8:15 p.m. in Golden Valley and Wednesdays at 8:15 p.m. in Coon Rapids on the dates below. For more info, visit www.akc.org or call our Training School at (763) 489-2217.
April 6, Golden Valley
April 15, Coon Rapids
May 4, Golden Valley
May 20, Coon Rapids
June 1, Golden Valley
June 17, Coon Rapids
July 6, Golden Valley
July 15, Coon Rapids

Dog Aggressive Dog Clinic
This clinic is a private consultation with behavior specialists for people seeking help with their dog-aggressive dogs. Sessions are by appointment only. Call our Training School at (763) 489-2217 for more information and to schedule an appointment.

Yappy Hour!
Well-behaved dogs are welcome with their dog-loving owners at this event. Admission is $10 for the public and $7 for enrolled Training School students. Dog owners need to bring vaccination records (rabies, bordetella, distemper, and parvovirus). Two sessions are on each of the Fridays listed below at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in Golden Valley. For information call (763) 489-2217.
April 3 and 17
May 8 and 22
June 5

Intro to Therapy Animals
Are you interested in learning how you and your pet (dog, cat, guinea pig, rabbit, and more) can become part of a visiting animal therapy team? Join us to find out more about what therapy animals do, what training you and your animal will need, and how to become a registered therapy animal team. This session is free, but registration is required. All sessions held from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Golden Valley education training room on the dates below. For more information, call (763) 489-2220.
June 10
August 10

Hoppy Hour
A social hour for rabbits and their owners held every other Sunday at 1 p.m. $3. Rabbits must be spayed/neutered. For exact dates, please contact the Training department at (763) 489-2217. or training@animalhumanesociety.org.
Bunny Basics Class
This is a class for people interested in getting a rabbit or those who already have one and want to know more about their care. (Please, no rabbits in class.) The class is free, but donations to the Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society are welcome. Register by calling (763) 489-2234. All sessions are held from 6:30 – 8 p.m. on the dates below.

April 2, Woodbury
April 13, Golden Valley
May 7, Woodbury
May 11, Golden Valley
June 4, Woodbury
June 8, Golden Valley
July 2, Woodbury
July 13, Golden Valley

Rabbit Agility
Exercise with your rabbit. Together you learn how your body language and verbal cues can direct your rabbit through an intricate obstacle course. You both build confidence and skill as you progress through the band levels. Can you imagine your rabbit jumping a 12-inch fence and turning either right or left on command? A great social time for you and your pet!

For exact dates and times, please contact the Training department at (763) 489-2217 or training@animalhumanesociety.org. Classes are $25 for five weeks.

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<th>BUNNY TOURS</th>
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Pet Loss Support Group
This is an ongoing, informal support group led by a trained facilitator for those dealing with the grief caused by the loss of a pet. There is no admission charge. The group meets in Conference Room D near the Training Center in Golden Valley on Mondays at 7 p.m. For easy and convenient access, please park in the North parking lot. Call (763) 489-2205.

miscellaneous events
Flint Hills International Children’s Festival
Saturday–Sunday, May 30–31, Rice Park, St. Paul
This event is great fun for the whole family. Look for the Animal Humane Society’s booth at this performing arts festival presented by the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. For more information, visit www.ordway.org/festival.

Twin Cities Pride
Saturday–Sunday, June 27–28, Loring Park, Minneapolis
Look for the Animal Humane Society’s booth at this annual celebration of the GLBT community. For more information, visit www.tcpride.org

youth programs
PetSet Youth Club
Register now for the next semester of the PetSet Youth Club! Club members learn from animal experts, examine animal-related current events, develop community service projects to help animals, and more. Groups are available for grades 5–7 and 8–12. PetSet groups meet monthly at our Golden Valley and Woodbury locations. Email education@animalhumanesociety.org or call (763) 489-2220 for more information or to register.

Unleashed! Summer Camp
Unleashed is the Animal Humane Society’s animal-themed summer day camp for kids in grades 3–12. Campers spend a full week immersed in animal-related learning activities, animal interactions, visits from special guests and adventurous “research trips” into the field. Campers also complete service projects to benefit the animals of AHS. Camp sessions available at all five AHS locations. For more information or to register your child, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/unleashed.

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Saturday–Sunday, May 30–31,
Rice Park, St. Paul
This event is great fun for the whole family. Look for the Animal Humane Society's booth at this performing arts festival presented by the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. For more information, visit www.ordway.org/festival.

Twin Cities Pride
Saturday–Sunday, June 27–28,
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