No place to go
Bringing the story home
Inn good company
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.

locations

BUFFALO FACILITY
4375 Hwy. 55 S.E.
Buffalo, MN 55313-5236
(763) 390-3647
Pet adoption and surrender, memorial garden, microchip and nail clinics, pet loss services, youth programs

COON RAPIDS FACILITY
1411 Main St. N.W.
Coon Rapids, MN 55448
(763) 862-4030
Pet adoption and surrender, dog training, microchip and nail clinics, pet loss services, shelter tours, youth programs

GOLDEN VALLEY FACILITY
845 Meadow Ln. N.
Golden Valley, MN 55422
(763) 522-4325
Pet adoption and surrender, dog playgroups, microchip and nail clinics, pet boarding, pet training, shelter tours, wildlife rescue, youth programs

ST. PAUL FACILITY
1115 Beulah Ln.
St. Paul, MN 55108
(651) 645-7387
Pet adoption and surrender, microchip and nail clinics, pet loss services, youth programs

WOODBURY FACILITY
9785 Hudson Rd.
Woodbury, MN 55125
(651) 730-6008
Pet adoption and surrender, dog training, microchip and nail clinics, pet loss services, shelter tours, youth programs

NOW BOARDING
6002 28th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55450
(612) 454-4850
www.nowboardingpets.com
Pet boarding, grooming and dog training

hours

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
Incoming Animals: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Adoption Center: 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

SATURDAY
Incoming Animals and Adoption Center 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SUNDAY
Incoming Animals and Adoption Center 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact

MAIN PHONE NUMBER
(763) 522-4325

WEBSITE
www.animalhumanesociety.org

Tours of our facilities are available to students or other groups from first grade to adult by appointment. 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.

The Animal Humane Society is a founding member of the Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare (MnPaw) a coalition of animal welfare organizations in Minnesota committed to finding a home for every healthy and treatable companion animal in Minnesota.

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a message from Janelle Dixon

In this issue we contemplate what our community might look like should Animal Humane Society cease to exist and not be available to provide the programs and services that have come to be trusted and expected by the communities we serve. When considering that scenario, one tends to reflect on the way things work now.

Really, there are two parts to the equation. One of them is the Animal Humane Society. The other is the community as a whole—those who support our work on behalf of animals and those who use our services, particularly the core services of taking in unwanted, homeless and neglected animals, caring for them and finding them new homes.

Our work is not done in a vacuum, nor can the problems we face in animal welfare be solved that way. The nearly 35,000 companion animals we take in each year come from people unwilling or unable to continue to care for their animals. Close to 20,000 of these animals find new homes because people in the community look to AHS when they want a family pet.

As is apparent in the numbers, there is a disparity between the animals the community can no longer care for and those they give a second chance by adopting through AHS.

Did you know that only 18% of family pets come from humane societies or other animal welfare organizations? There are many options for people when they are considering adding a companion animal to their family—pet stores, breeders, friends and the humane society. However, when an animal is displaced there are far fewer options and AHS is often at the top of the list.

In the foreseeable future there will be many animals that need the services of AHS. The community will continue to rely on us to be there for them and the animals. In order to narrow this gap between the number of animals being surrendered and the number being placed, we ask the community to look to us when considering a family pet—and to consider giving more animals a second chance at a happy, healthy, life-long home.

We provide the services we do because the community needs us and trusts us to do so. AHS, in return, relies on the understanding and support of the community to ensure that we can continue to provide these much-needed services. Through this partnership, together we can work on a solution to the problem and positively impact more and more animals’ lives with each passing day, month and year.

Thank you for your support and commitment to caring for animals in need.

Janelle Dixon
CEO/President

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Companion cats and feral cats

Programs focused on feral cats are becoming more prevalent across the country. We at the Animal Humane Society have received inquiries about how our organization responds to feral cats.

At AHS our focus is on companion animals—placing healthy companion cats in new homes. This past year, more than 21,000 cats came through our five facilities. Only 500 of these cats were feral.

Cats that come to us are either strays or owner surrendered or feral. Strays are cats that have lived with individuals and families but have become lost and separated from their owners. Our objective is to reunite them with their owners or find loving homes for them.

Feral cats are different—they have lived in the wild with no shelter and have not known human care or contact. They are fearful, unsocialized and incapable of living in a home environment.

When a cat comes through our doors at the Animal Humane Society they are evaluated to determine if they are an owned, stray cat or a feral cat. Keeping feral cats in captivity causes immense suffering that will not subside with time—even with care, food, and shelter. They are not placeable as pets or prospects for adoption. In our experience, to kennel a feral cat any longer than absolutely necessary is cruel.

According to Minnesota’s animal welfare statutes, when there is a reasonable determination by a veterinarian that a feral cat is suffering and is beyond cure through reasonable care and rehabilitation, then an animal may be relieved of its suffering by humanely euthanizing it. In these cases, Animal Humane Society follows the recommendation of its veterinarians and makes that humane choice.

Our focus remains on companion animals. Each year, nearly 13,000 animals receive sterilization surgeries at our facilities prior to adoption. With the public’s help we are able to find homes for thousands of cats each year, but the reality is there are still not enough homes for the healthy and socialized cats that are in our care.

Our next effort is to find a way to offer affordable spay and neuter services to the public so that they can have their cats sterilized and not contribute to the overpopulation problem. Our desired outcome is fewer cats entering animal welfare organizations and greater proportion of surrendered cats being placed.

While we share concerns for the feral cats in the community our organization must look at our core programs and where we can have the greatest impact on the most animals in the community. Long-term, we envision programming that assists feral cats. Presently, finding homes for companion animals and placement of all healthy and treatable animals remains our number one priority.

Reading is fun, reading to animals is even better

Your child is sure to turn into a bookworm in February! Join us on February 7 and 21 for the Animal Ambassadors Reading Fun (AARF) program. AARF invites children to come and read to a registered therapy animal at AHS. Animals are the perfect reading partner—they’re fun to be around and they provide a non-judgmental environment for kids to improve their reading skills. Kids who read will receive a free book while supplies last. No registration is necessary. For more information please visit www.animalhumane society.org/animalambassadors or call (763) 489-2220.
Couples counseling for you and your pet

We’re committed to keeping pets and their owners together, especially in situations that can be resolved with a little guidance from knowledgeable AHS volunteers. If you’re in need of a little behavior help with your pet, leave a message on the AHS Behavior Helpline at (763) 489-2202. Our specially-trained volunteers will return your call and walk you through how to best handle your situation. And don’t forget about our online Pet Behavior Library located at www.animalhumanesociety.org/training/library. Take a moment to peruse the information available to you—many pet behavior problems can be solved by simply applying a few tried-and-true methods.

Finding a new pet just got easier

Interested in adopting a golden retriever or maybe a kitten? Need a little bit more information on that rabbit you’re considering? Navigate through the adoption pages on the AHS website and you’ll see that it’s become easier to find a new pet for your family. Search options now include specific breeds and age groups and each adoption profile provides you information that will help you consider all options when choosing the best animal for your family. See how much easier it is to find a new pet on the AHS website at www.animalhumanesociety.org/adopt.

Become an animal advocate

Can you imagine your pet(s) not having enough food and water or a warm, safe place to sleep? What if they weren’t given the opportunity to exercise or experience everyday interactions with humans? For many dogs and cats across the state of Minnesota those circumstances are the only ones they know.

In February, the Puppy and Kitten Mill Bill (Senate File 7/House File 253) will once again be heard by our state legislators. This very important bill will give the MN Board of Animal Health the authority to license breeders and hold them accountable to comply with existing applicable animal care standards under federal and state laws and regulations. We need your help in getting the message out across the state about the importance of this bill. Join us in our efforts by becoming an AHS Animal Advocate at www.animalhumanesociety.org/animaladvocates or calling (763) 489-2251.

Carnival for homeless and neglected animals

It’s amazing what kids can achieve when their ideas are sparked by the things that inspire them. Eleven-year-old Riley Christianson, 12-year-old Maya Charan and 9-year-old Spencer Christianson say that the work they do at an annual neighborhood carnival each year is because of the work done at AHS. “We all love our pets and think it’s great that the Animal Humane Society is rescuing animals that don’t have a home... and we want to give back.”

For four years, the trio has been putting on the Kellogg Carnival with friends from school and in their neighborhood in Edina, MN. Activities include a ring toss, a soccer ball kick game, a Frisbee toss and much more, extending from the front to the back yard at the Christianson’s house.

It was a record-breaking year for the kids. More people attended the event than in years past.
More than a token of their affection

By Tracie Jacobson

As we move through life we pick up many tokens along the way. A 26-year-old scar on your ring finger serving as a reminder that at one time you made the best mud pies in the neighborhood. The picture of you arriving safely on the ground after jumping out of an airplane at 13,000 feet that gives you inspiration to face your fears every day. Your stepson who is living proof that you have more love to give beyond your own children. Your dog whose place in your life is the only validation you need to know for certain that some things are just meant to be.

Many of the adoptions that take place at the Animal Humane Society provide such deeper meaning to families. The coming together of the family with their pet was not planned, it was happenstance or, at the very least, not part of the intended plans. Co-workers Jessica Teigen and Josh Sundby of Token Media in Minneapolis are part of two such families.

Every two weeks, Josh and Jessica visit AHS in Golden Valley to shoot video profiles of animals available for adoption for Comcast’s “Pet Adoptions On Demand.” Jessica is the producer and Josh is the photographer. After meeting hundreds of dogs along the way, both met a dog they couldn’t forget.

Jessica and her husband Allen already have Savannah, a chocolate Lab, at home and thought if they would ever get another it would also be a chocolate Lab. But last December, Jessica was convinced by Deb Balzer, the host of AHS’s On Demand segments, to look at a group of Plott hound mix puppies just arriving on the adoption floor. One of them immediately stole her heart. “I picked up that little puppy and I just knew. It was love at first sight. It was the same feeling I got when I tried on
Faces the media couldn’t resist

Each Tuesday morning Fox 9 highlights an AHS pet live on the air and each Friday on WCCO’s Noon Show, a lucky animal is brought to the station to get his moment in the spotlight, all in hopes that one will get adopted. But, it’s not only the viewers who fall in love with these pets.

Juli Jay is the traffic reporter for Fox 9’s Morning Show. On one Tuesday morning, Little Mocha, a scared Yorkshire terrier who had been abandoned in his home, was spotlighted as that day’s Pick of the Litter. Moments after the segment finished, Juli, who had lost her dog just months before, was visibly affected. She had fallen instantly in love with this little guy and the feelings were mutual. The next day, Mocha made another appearance on Fox 9, but this time as the new traffic dog. He now accompanies Juli to many AHS events.

Fox 9’s Morning Feature Reporter M.A. Rosko is well-known as a dog lover and her beloved silver-dappled miniature dachshund, Münte r, is often at her side. But one Tuesday, a big wiggly Lab named Frankie made his way to the studio for the morning segment and by Wednesday was appropriately renamed Red by his new owner who was thrilled to bring the handsome dog home. “I love him dearly,” says M.A. who adopted Red just one year ago. “I can’t imagine life without my #1 man, Big Red.”

Over at WCCO, Sonya Goins was producing the Noon Show and went back to the Green Room to check in with her guests. The tiny black kitten bouncing around the room waiting for her close up made quite the impression. After the show, Sonya quickly found her way to AHS to adopt the fuzzy feline who now goes by Dejaynay. As Sonya says “I adopted her for my kids, but she is my baby.”

Continued on next page.
Meanwhile back at the Token Media office...

Each time Josh left for the Comcast shoot at AHS, Matt Hunstad, a project manager at Token, would ask him to keep his eyes open for a young, female chocolate Lab mix. Last June, Josh came back with photos of Sophia. “He had a good feeling about her and told me to get there as soon as possible.”

After work that day, Matt and his girlfriend, Niki, went to meet Sophia. “While the other dogs were barking and crying, she just sat there calmly with an inquisitive look on her face,” Matt says. “We took her outside to play and loved her energy.” Immediately they had a “she’s coming home with us” feeling and took the card off her kennel and placed her on hold.

Sophia went home with Matt and Niki the next day and they have continued to fall for her. They’ve taught her all the basic commands from sit to heel. They hope to adopt another dog within the next year.

Having a second animal in the home was what drove Mariah Heck, another Token employee, to look at the AHS website—that and the fact that she’d already been on the website with Jessica and Josh as they pointed out the pets they met during the Comcast shoot. She wanted a companion for her Netherland dwarf rabbit, Esteban.

“One afternoon I checked the site and found Frida, a pretty female bunny with a jet black coat and cute, goofy antennae ears.” Mariah and her boyfriend, Louis, went to meet Frida and immediately set up a “bunny date” for her and Esteban with the help of AHS partner, the Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society. After two dates, Frida went home with the couple.

Now it could be said that Frida is a token reminder of how anyone, even a bunny, can take the good with the bad. She is a great companion for Esteban, but at the same time can be quite a handful for him. Mariah explains: “Frida is quite fond of... lettuce leaves she can steal from Esteban when he is not looking. She moves his toys and just takes over. He doesn’t complain too much, because if he did, Frida might sit on him for a little bit.”

Mariah and Louis with Frida and Esteban

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.
Snow Angels stocking stuffers
Give a gift of love

For the person or pet who has everything, a Snow Angels gift sponsorship makes a great gift for the holidays. Your sponsorship will help shelter, feed and provide medical care for animals in our care.

In appreciation of your support, the gift recipient will receive:
- a photo card of the pet to display all year
- a pet biography and certificate of care
- gift envelope – to mail or put under the tree
- warm fuzzies that last much longer than a gift card.

Sponsorships are available at $25, $50 and $100 levels. While the package the gift recipient receives remains the same at each level - the more you give, the more we're able to help all the animals that come to us in need.

Order your Snow Angels stocking stuffers with the form below and the enclosed envelope, online at www.animalhumanesociety.org/snowangels, at any of our 5 sites or by calling (763) 489-1589. A limited number of sponsorships are available, so order early to ensure your preferred choice.

Snow Angels order form

Choose an animal to sponsor (enter quantity):

☐ Melman (dog)
☐ Quincy (cat)
☐ Welles (dog)
☐ Stewie (guinea pig)
☐ Digit (cockatiel)
☐ Henry (puppy)
☐ Mavis & George (kittens)
☐ Sassy (cat)

Choose a sponsorship level:
☐ $25
☐ $50
☐ $100
☐ I would like to add an additional tax-deductible contribution of $______.

Total: $______

Payment Information:
Your Name:
Address:
City________ State____ Zip____
Phone:
Email
☐ A check is enclosed
☐ Charge my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmExpress ☐ Discover
Credit Card number ____________________ Expiration Date __________
Signature ____________________________

I would like my gift sponsorship(s) sent to the address below.

Name:
Address:
City________ State____ Zip____

From: (if different than payment information)__________________________
☐ I wish to send gift sponsorships to multiple locations. I have attached a separate sheet

Special Instructions

__________________________________________

__________________________________________
Du nbar,a two-year-old cat, was alone and suffering when a young woman found him and brought him to Golden Valley. His right rear ankle had sustained damage and it was clear he needed medical treatment...

A young Lab mix named Sunny needed a home. When he arrived at a Fergus Falls shelter, it was overcrowded and there was no space for him...

Peaches, a pit bull mix, was left to die in a kennel on the side of the road in rural Washington County. When the local sheriff found her, she was covered with burn marks and it was clear she had tried to chew her way out of the kennel...

Since 1878, AHS has been helping animals in Minnesota and the people who love them. But what if AHS didn’t exist? The communities in which we live could be quite different. And what would happen to animals like Dunbar, Sunny and Peaches?

By Bridgette Bornstein

Peaches

Dunbar

Sunny
Helping another rescue organization

What if... AHS couldn't help other shelters?

Many animal shelters in Minnesota with limited space or resources rely on AHS for assistance. Organizations in Red Lake, Willmar, Fergus Falls and Brainerd are among them. The relationship between AHS and Friends of Animals in Cloquet is one of many partnerships—the shelter brings eight to 10 dogs and a few cats to AHS every other month. According to Friends of Animals Executive Director Mike Licari this has been of great assistance in relieving the pressure on his organization. “We’re located in a rural area where many stray dogs come into our shelter, filling us to capacity. Often, they’re full of porcupine spikes or have been sprayed by skunks or in fights. If we didn’t have AHS to transfer some of these dogs to, I don’t know what we’d do.”

Some groups in Minnesota just can’t handle the volume in their regions and drive five hours or more to drop off animals at AHS, often bringing 30 or more at a time. That could be a full capacity for a shelter in certain parts of the state.

“We work with groups in other states because their shelters are overcrowded with dogs and we have the capacity to help.”

Some of the shelters we partner with have very limited space,” said AHS Community Programs Coordinator Jen Faehnrich. “For example, I talked to one last week that has only five dog kennels. They had just taken in two more dogs and had no room for them. If AHS didn’t exist, two of these dogs would have had to be euthanized regardless of their adoptability.”

It’s not just in Minnesota. AHS’s willingness to help now stretches across state lines. Frantic calls come from as far away as Oklahoma from desperate rescues needing room for animals on an emergency basis.

“We work with groups in other states because their shelters are overcrowded with dogs and we have the capacity to help here,” Jen said. “In Oklahoma, for example, they tell me they would have a 100 percent euthanasia rate if they could not get the dogs to other rescues. None of the agencies there can take them. We’re basically the last chance for these dogs.”

The relationships in Oklahoma began with a very small local rescue contacting AHS. Word spread and now more and more groups in Oklahoma are contacting AHS with their requests for help. “We are really fortunate to be in the position to be able to help so many animals and organizations,” said Jen.

Continued on next page.
What if? A world without Animal Humane Society

Even with the shelters open seven days a week, animals are still being left at our doorstep.

What if... AHS did not accept surrendered animals and offer adoptions?

Last year, AHS received 34,752 domestic animals and 2,910 infant and injured wildlife. Nearly 1,000 of those animals were left in AHS’s after-hours drop off. “Even with the shelters open seven days a week, animals are still being left at our doorstep,” AHS Director of Customer Service Cindy Johnson said. “So imagine what the number of abandoned animals would be if we weren’t here? I think the biggest population that would suffer would be the stray animals because so much of what we do complements the local animal controls.”

AHS’s five locations are open-admission facilities meaning that every animal surrendered is accepted regardless of age, health or temperament. Thousands of animals that otherwise have no safe refuge have found one at AHS. “So many people adopt from AHS. If we weren’t here, I think we’d see a greater proliferation of backyard breeding and puppy mills,” said AHS CEO and President Janelle Dixon. “Imagine the greater number of stray animals running at large. What would neighborhoods and communities look like if there were all these animals needing a place to go and no one to take them?”

Without a safe place like AHS, would animals be left in the streets or abandoned in the countryside? What would that look like in terms of numbers? As some AHS staff have hypothesized, the seats of the Target Center could be filled almost twice over with animals that were neglected, homeless, unwanted or abandoned—animals that would have normally come through AHS doors each year.

Although AHS is not the only shelter in the Twin Cities, it does have the ability to help more animals because of its resources and capacity. “Rescues and smaller organizations do a wonderful job, but they’re often limited admission organizations and may lack the resources to handle a large volume of animals,” Cindy said.

Some communities know first-hand what happens when there isn’t an organization like AHS. “Recently we were involved in an unfortunate situation in southern Minnesota,” said AHS Golden Valley Site Manager Bruce Kranig. “People were dropping off their animals to a man who lived in a
shack because they knew he would care for them. But he had little to no means to do so. He was giving them what he could as far as water and food but the reality is that they were living in filth and relied on the remains of other animals to survive. That’s what can happen when there isn’t a local option.”

AHS is also involved in disaster response, whether it’s providing pet boarding for fire victims in the Twin Cities or rescue services for pets affected by natural disasters such as Hurricane Ike and the Iowa floods in 2008. “Many folks have become aware that animals are a really important part of our community and we can’t address human health needs without also addressing the needs of the animals that are part of those human lives,” said University of Minnesota Director of Veterinary Social Services Jeannine Moga. “That is what the animal welfare professionals do, they fill the gap. If Animal Humane Society didn’t exist, we would really be missing a critical part of our public health team in our community.”

AHS’s impact on the community in 2008

34,752 companion animals in need of care and assistance were received by AHS. An additional 2,910 injured and orphaned wildlife animals were treated.

2,644 animals from overcrowded shelters around the region were taken in by AHS.

2,821 spay/neuter surgeries were performed by AHS’s two mobile surgical units for 25 animal welfare organizations without surgical facilities of their own.

22,207 animals were surrendered to AHS by owners who could no longer care for them.

1,771 lost pets were reunited with their owners.

22,783 animals received medical treatments (for illness and other medical issues while at AHS).

700 cases of animal cruelty and neglect throughout Minnesota were investigated by AHS’s two humane agents.

12,390 spay and neuter surgeries were performed to ensure that every dog, cat, puppy, kitten and rabbit was sterilized prior to adoption.
What if? A world without Animal Humane Society

What if... AHS didn’t have the loyal and generous support of donors like you?

While much of this story is focused on the impact that Animal Humane Society has in our community, the real impact comes from the tremendous and committed support of donors like you. We truly couldn’t do this work without you. Without you, AHS wouldn’t exist. Loyal donors have carried us through difficult times, have responded during periods of great need, and have supported us through constant change and growth. With your help, AHS has remained committed to an open admission philosophy where animals are accepted regardless of health, age, breed or temperament.

Through your support of our work, you are sharing your love of animals and the joy of giving with others. You have met the needs of thousands of animals who come to us looking for a safe refuge and new, loving homes. You have helped us expand our programs and services to include pet training, boarding and education. You have met the needs of animals requiring special medical attention. You have provided spay/neuter surgeries to help address the problem of pet overpopulation. You have supported AHS’s humane investigations work and helped rescue thousands of pets from cruelty situations and natural disasters.

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. But you may be surprised to know that adoption fees cover less than half of our costs. Approximately 60% of our budget comes from individual donors, our most important source of revenue. Every single gift makes a difference, regardless of its size.

Thank you for sharing our vision of a more humane world for animals. Thank you for making AHS a priority in your charitable giving. You have demonstrated your commitment to helping animals in need. You have invested in something you believe in. Thanks to you, the animals won’t ever have to experience “What if...”

Janelle Dixon
CEO/President

What if... animals couldn’t get the help they need?

A handful of local veterinary clinics donate some of the services available at AHS, such as dental cleanings and X-rays, so that strays and abandoned animals can get the care they need right away. “We might have a stray animal that was hit by a car and if that pet isn’t claimed by its owner we can work with our vet partners who can help make sure the animal receives the medical treatments it needs,” Jen said. “Our partnerships with breed rescue groups are also invaluable. When a dog has particular challenges and needs special care we can work with them to make sure its needs are met.”

On that same token, calls for assistance placed by AHS to smaller rescues are often met with a bittersweet response—the smaller rescue can’t take in any more animals because they are also overwhelmed with the number of animals in their care.

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control also relies on AHS when they have too many animals. “During the fall and winter months, AHS has been there to help us—taking in large numbers of animals, especially cats,” said Marilyn Fisher of Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. “If it weren’t for AHS and other rescue organizations taking some of these animals from us, then most likely euthanization would be the outcome.”

AHS also acts a central hub for people who have missing pets. The newly-launched Lost and Found Online Bulletin Board is a valuable resource to serve the Twin Cities. In 2008, AHS took thousands of lost pet reports and was able to reunite more than 1,700 animals with their families. If AHS didn’t exist, those happy reunions might not have happened.
AHS employs the only professional humane agents in Minnesota to enforce animal welfare statutes.

What if... AHS wasn’t there to protect neglected animals?

AHS employs the only professional humane agents in Minnesota to enforce animal welfare statutes. Humane Agents Keith Streff and Wade Hanson log thousands of miles each year assessing reports of animal cruelty inflicted upon domestic and farm animals in Minnesota. Their services are in high demand by municipalities and law enforcement agencies with limited resources. If AHS did not exist, law enforcement would need to provide training to their personnel for cases of animal cruelty, neglect, hoarding and torture—training that would also need to include caring for animals in fragile and compromised emotional and physical states. “Without humane agents, the condition of animals in abuse cases could become more acute before the animals receive the help they need,” said Keith Streff. “Many of those cases would never be investigated, those responsible would not be held accountable, and the animals would continue to suffer.”

According to Wade Hanson, AHS is also a resource for people who become overwhelmed in caring for too many pets. “Our role isn’t just about rescuing people’s animals. It’s also about educating them on the proper care of animals or helping them realize they have more animals than they can handle.”

AHS... from a nine-year-old’s perspective

By Sasha El-Hai

It all started when I met Indigo. I was looking out the window when I saw something. It was a deep brown. It wandered around my yard for a minute and then padded off. I told my mom, and we ran outside to see what was going on. It was a friendly chocolate lab that greeted us with a flick of his tail and a gob of slobber on my shirt.

There were plenty of tags on his collar. In fact, much too many to handle! They had telephone numbers of all different people: owners, humane societies. Everything. Finally, we found what we wanted, a shiny silver tag that read: Indigo. After many tiring calls we found the address.

If we hadn’t found Indigo’s home we would have brought him to the Animal Humane Society where they would help him find a home by letting people who want a pet dog be able to see and get to know him. He would have had a chance at a new home.

Without the Animal Humane Society, would the streets have more stray animals? They help taking in stray animals, treating them and putting them up for adoption. Without AHS strays would wander the streets where they can get hurt or get sick.

Animal Humane Society also rescues animals from places like puppy mills where helpless puppies are crammed into cages. They are abused and fed poorly. Without the Animal Humane Society more puppies would be stranded at puppy mills.

Another helpful deed AHS does is training dogs and preparing them to be around people and other dogs. Pet stores generally don’t do that. So, some animals might not be prepared to be around people without the Animal Humane Society.

They also rescue injured or orphaned wildlife but, without the Animal Humane Society, some might not make it. AHS gets them healthy again so they can return to the wild.

Kids that want to learn more about the Humane Society should go to Unleashed. It’s a summer camp that teaches children about animals and of course, AHS.

Since AHS does all of these helpful things to prepare our animals and rescue them I highly suggest it as a place to get a pet. 🐾

*Sasha El-Hai is a fourth grader at Kenwood Elementary in Minneapolis, Minn. She lives with her mom, dad, older sister and two beloved cats, Maisy and Pumkin. She hopes to be a professional writer someday.*
Animal welfare work also extends to the Capitol where humane agents are critical in helping to create effective legislation to help protect animals. “They play a key role in the development of the legislation because they would use it in practical application,” said Cindy.

Education of children to prevent abuse to animals is an important part of AHS’s work. Research indicates that young people who are abusive to animals are more likely to commit violent acts against people. AHS’s educational programs in the schools and at the shelters and partnerships in the community strive to address this link. As Tammy Noack, AHS education manager said, “We feel that teaching kids how to treat animals compassionately translates to teaching them how to treat other people respectfully.” AHS recently developed an anti-dogfighting program for high school students to help them better understand the impact of that type of animal abuse on the community.

**What if... all those animals weren’t spayed or neutered?**

The Animal Humane Society helps to reduce the animal overpopulation problem by spaying or neutering every cat, dog, kitten, puppy and rabbit prior to adoption. Last year alone it sterilized 12,390 animals in its care. Its mobile services unit (MSU) also provides low-cost sterilization to other rescue groups in need of this critical service. Last year, the MSU performed an additional 2,821 spay/neuter surgeries. Imagine if all those animals were still able to reproduce. If AHS didn’t exist, 15,211 animals could still be producing litters, many of which would become homeless and neglected animals.

AHS also provides affordable euthanasia for pet owners who decide it’s time to say goodbye to a pet because of health or behavior issues or end-of-life care. “It happens quite often that people wrestling with that decision simply cannot afford what the vet charges. So without affordable euthanasia, many pets would continue to suffer,” states Cindy.

*If AHS didn’t exist, 15,211 animals could still be producing litters, many of which would become homeless and neglected animals*
What about Dunbar, Sunny and Peaches?

When Dunbar arrived at AHS, veterinary services staff immediately started him on pain medication and antibiotics while waiting for his owners to find him. When they didn’t arrive, radiographs were taken of Dunbar’s leg to see if it could be saved. Unfortunately, the damage was beyond repair and the leg had to be amputated. Now fully recovered, save for a few more rounds of antibiotics, Dunbar has already found a new home. He’ll never again lack shelter or human companionship.

Sunny the Lab has gone beyond being man’s best friend—he’s now the companion and therapy dog of two autistic siblings, Ellie and Ben. The children’s parents, Kiersten and Matt, visited AHS in hopes of finding a dog they could train to be a therapy pet for their family. They met Sunny and loved his disposition. Since his adoption he has gone through several months of intensive training and is quickly proving to be everything his new family needs and more.

The evening Peaches was found she was cared for by a local animal control officer who became involved in her case. The officer brought her to AHS the following day where she received medical treatment for her wounds and was given time to heal. After just a few short days in our adoption center, Peaches found her forever home, one where she’ll never be hurt again.

All of these animals share one thing in common—their stories would be quite different if there had not been a place for them. They are the lucky ones to have found a safe place and a second chance because of AHS.

Animals give us so much and ask for so little. They enrich our lives and make our families whole. Where would we be without the animals in our lives? Where would they be without us? What about those yet to be helped? 🐾

Bridgette Bornstein is a Minneapolis-based writer with two cats: a bossy Himalayan named Buddy and a shy purebred Persian named Ollie. Both are rescue animals.

To learn more about Sunny watch the inspiring video online at www.animalhumanesociety.org/ATWinter09
The season of giving...

**make a difference for animals less fortunate than your own**

You know the feeling you get when you find the perfect gift for someone special in your life... that certain something you know they will cherish for years to come. There is nothing quite like the magic of making wishes come true for someone you love.

Every gift you give to the Animal Humane Society is like that – you help us provide care for homeless animals so they don’t have to worry about finding food, warmth, or even love. Thanks to you a stray cat will find a warm, safe place in our care this winter. An active Labrador retriever will find a new beginning with someone who appreciates his energetic nature. A horse suffering from cruelty or neglect will be rescued. Rabbits, guinea pigs, little critters and birds will all have wishes that come true because of you!

It’s been said that it’s better to give than to receive, but by making a tax deductible holiday donation to help homeless animals at the Animal Humane Society you can do both. Your generosity will provide a roof over their heads, food in their tummies and most importantly, tender loving care. To support animals right here in our community during the holiday season, visit [www.animalhumanesociety.org/holiday](http://www.animalhumanesociety.org/holiday) or use the enclosed envelope to make your gift today!

**There are also lots of other ways to include the animals in your giving this holiday season...**

**Company tribute gifts spread holiday cheer**

Some companies send out mugs, or candles in fancy jars, or poinsettias to clients at holiday time, but Shepherd Data Services takes the money it would use for client gifts and makes a donation every year to the Animal Humane Society.

The namesake for Shepherd Data Services is an Australian-German Shepherd mix named Sadie that the company’s owner Christine Chalstrom adopted in 2001. Sadie goes to work with Christine every day and is considered part of the staff – she even has her own couch at the office! Christine pledged that if her new company was successful, a portion of the profits would be donated to AHS each year.

“Animals can’t ask for our help. When they are suffering, it’s up to us to respond.”

— Christine Chalstrom of Shepherd Data Services with Sadie

**The holidays encourage us to dream a little... to believe that all the good things we wish for can come true. At the Animal Humane Society, we envision a more humane world for animals. You care about animals, too, and would like to make their lives better. Consider joining the Humane Leaders Circle by contributing $1,000 or more this year.**

For more information contact Debra Behrens, leadership giving manager, at (763)489-1576 or dbehrens@animalhumanesociety.org.

“By supporting AHS, we feel like we are making a difference in the lives of animals and people in our community.”

— Humane Leaders Circle member Michael Blum with Elizabeth, the Mission: Meow foster cat his family adopted this summer
Gifts of stock put cash in your stocking

With gifts of stock held more than 12 months, your investment earnings provide support for the animals and significant tax savings for you. Your gift will qualify you for a tax deduction based on the full market value of your stock – plus you avoid the capital gains tax that would otherwise arise from selling it. That leaves you with a little something extra in your stocking this holiday season!

If you would like to make a gift of stock, please contact Brie Geurink at (763) 432-4810. The broker does not automatically notify us when transfers are made.

“My husband and I prefer to donate appreciated stock rather than cash. It’s cheaper for us, but AHS gets the same benefit.”

- AHS donor and wealth advisor Ray DeBellis with daughter Ling and Kumo

Instructions for Stock Transfer
Brokerage Firm: Wachovia Securities
Contact: Abby Doty, (612) 342-0500
Name on Account: Animal Humane Society
Account #: 4547-5660
DTC #: 0141
Federal ID #: 41-0693842

Start the New Year with a renewed commitment to animals

Consider becoming a PAW Partner today to renew your commitment to helping animals in our community in the coming year. PAW Partners make contributions automatically each month through a credit card or checking/savings account.

You can become a PAW Partner at www.animalhumanesociety.org/paw or by calling Laura Minette at (763) 489-2213.

Add some wags to your holiday wishlist

In this season of giving we all know of the anxiety that comes with having to shop for that person who has everything. But what if you ARE that person? Animal Humane Society has come up with the purrfect solution! You set up your own personalized Holiday Wishlist on our website. There you can share why you want people to make donations to the animals on your behalf. It’s quick and easy to set up, simply visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/wishlist

To all of you
From all the animals
...thank you for all you do!
When you bring your pets to the Animal Humane Society’s Golden Valley boarding facility, you can trust they are in good company, surrounded by people who truly love animals and love the work they do.

Laurie Fosler, who has been with AHS for 27 years, was there when the boarding facility opened its doors on November 1, 2001. From day one and now as manager of the facility, she has been getting to know each of the animals and their owners.

“When you take care of someone’s pet, you are taking care of a family member,” says Laurie as she goes through a photo album of past and current clients. “We take pride in caring for the animals, whether it is walking a dog or brushing a cat, we do everything we can to make the pet’s experience here a positive one.”

“Our staff is very caring and attentive,” adds Laurie who is quick to point out that it is a team effort at AHS. “We are able to care for special needs animals—we provide medication and assist older animals in getting around. In fact, we are able to accommodate nearly any companion animal.”

On a recent Friday morning, Lexie, Edie and Mickey were all lined up with their people ready to be checked in for a weekend getaway.

Barb Lindberg has been bringing her beautiful golden retriever, Lexie, to the Golden Valley facility for five years. “Lexie loves coming here and knows exactly where the treats are kept.” As Barb signed in, Lexie sat patiently waiting for affectionate pets and treats, and she promptly received them.

“In Good Company

“Everybody loves Mickey here and it is the first boarding facility where he seemed content.”

– Latasha Watkins, Golden Valley Boarding customer
Boarding

For Carolyne and Joel Mueller, bringing their little affenpinscher, Edie, to board with AHS was a brand new experience but one which came easily. “We adopted little Edie in January and knew since she came from AHS, boarding her here would have to be good.” And being good is exactly why Latasha Watkins has been bringing her dog, Mickey, to board with AHS for two years. “I like the standard of care. Everybody loves Mickey here and it is the first boarding facility where he seemed content. That sealed the deal.” As Latasha got ready to head out, she turned to add, “He’s in good hands here.”

But boarding is not just for dogs. Cat, birds, rabbits, gerbils, hamsters, rats, and even pet chickens and bearded dragons are welcome. One of the staff favorites is Doug, an animated and beautiful sun conure that frequents the facility.

The AHS Golden Valley boarding facility is open seven days a week. Call (763) 489-2222 for more information.

Deb Balzer is on staff at Animal Humane Society. She has two dogs, rottweiler mix Abacus and shepherd mix Nikki, and two cats, Alex and Chloë. Three of the four were adopted from the Animal Humane Society.

Watch a video of the bird Doug enjoying his time at the Golden Valley boarding facility at www.animalhumanesociety.org/services/petboarding.
We are grateful to the community for your generous support of the animals through memorial and tribute gifts and have been pleased to acknowledge these gifts in this magazine. We are committed to providing quality content with information about our programs and services and want to ensure that your donations are directly supporting the animals in our care. We sincerely appreciate every gift made in honor or memory of a loved one or pet, however, starting in 2010 only pet memorials of $100 or more will be listed in this publication. All memorial and tribute gifts will be acknowledged on our website at www.animalhumanesociety.org and will be updated monthly. Thank you.

memorials and honorariums

May 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009
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open house

Saturday, Feb. 6
noon to 4 pm

We can’t wait to show you around!

Stop by for a tour and refreshments and find out why Now Boarding will soon become Spot’s favorite daycare and vacation spot.

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www.animalhumanesociety.org
Volunteer
If you are interested in helping with shelter activities or special events we have many opportunities for you to consider. Volunteers assist in many ways—with customers on our adoption floor, in our training school, surgery, education, special events and more. We request a minimum one-year commitment and approximately six hours per month. For more information, call (763) 432-4833 or volunteer@animalhumane society.org

Contribute to our wish list
We appreciate donations to our wish list. At this time we are in need of the following items: bath towels, newspapers, cat and dog brushes and combs, gift cards for animal and shelter supplies (PETCO, PetSmart, Cub, Rainbow), cat bedding (fleece fabric, rugs, blankets), cat toys, canned food (cats, dogs, puppy and kittens), food bowls, 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.

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 gifts. 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.

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 charitable giving information to help you learn more about which methods may be right for you. Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/plannedgiving, or contact Melissa Peacock at (763) 489-1575 or mpeacock@animalhumane society.org

With gratitude to our 2008 donors:

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**calendar of events**

**events**

**Open House at Now Boarding**
Stop by Now Boarding to see the pet boarding, doggy care and grooming facility that is getting rave reviews from two and four leggeds.
An affiliate of the Animal Humane Society, Now Boarding is open 24 hours and park and ride shuttle service is available to the Airport. 6002 28th Ave. So., Minneapolis. (612) 454-4850

**February 6, 12 – 4 p.m.**

**training**

**Introduction to Pet Dog Training Classes**
Find out about the dog training classes offered at the 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

- **December 2, 8, 17, Golden Valley**
- **December 3, 14, Now Boarding**
- **December 15, Woodbury**
- **December 16, Coon Rapids**
- **January 5, 7, 13, 21, 28, Golden Valley**
- **January 6, 26, Now Boarding**
- **January 12, Woodbury**
- **January 20, Coon Rapids**
- **February 2, 10, 15, 25, Golden Valley**
- **February 8, 23, Now Boarding**
- **February 9, Woodbury**
- **February 17, Coon Rapids**
- **March 2, 11, 18, 23, 29, Golden Valley**
- **March 4, 22, Now Boarding**
- **March 9, Woodbury**
- **March 17, 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. 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 information, visit www.akc.org or call our Training School at (763) 489-2217.

- **December 7, Golden Valley**

**Dog-Aggressive Dog Classes**
A specialized class for people seeking help with their dog-aggressive dogs will be starting soon at our Training School. This class is not for dogs that are human-aggressive or have a bite history. For more information and to be placed on a waiting list call the Training School at (763) 489-2217. Space is limited.

**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 held 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.

- **December 4, 11**
- **January 15, 29**
- **February 5, 26**
- **March 19, 26**

**Rabbit Agility**
This event is a great opportunity for caged and house rabbits to explore and get exercise and mental stimulation at the same time. For more information, please contact our Training School at (763) 489-2217 or rabbitagility@mn.companionrabbit.org. Classes are $25 for five weeks and held in Golden Valley. All rabbits must be spayed or neutered.

**Hoppy Hour**
A social hour for rabbits and their owners held at 1 p.m. on the dates listed below in Golden Valley. $3. For more information, please contact our Training School at (763) 489-2217 or rabbitagility@mn.companionrabbit.org. All rabbits must be spayed or neutered.

- **December 13, 27**
- **January 10, 24**
- **February 7, 21**
- **March 7, 21**

**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.

- **December 3, Woodbury**
- **December 14, Golden Valley**
- **January 7, Woodbury**
- **January 11, Golden Valley**
- **February 4, Woodbury**
- **February 8, Golden Valley**
- **March 4, Woodbury**
- **March 8, Golden Valley**

**Intro to Therapy Animals**
Are you interested in learning more about how you and your pet (dog, cat, guinea pig, rabbit, horse and more) can become part of a visiting 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 7–8 p.m. For more information, call (763) 489-2220 or email education@animalhumanesociety.org

- **January 21, St. Paul**
- **February 8, Golden Valley**
- **March 10, Buffalo**
tour, clinics and groups

AHS Tours
Ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at AHS? Join us for a tour of our Golden Valley location. You'll learn more about AHS and the animals we serve, and get a guided tour through the working areas of our shelter. Cost is $1 per person. Participants must be at least 6 years of age. Space is limited, and registration is required. All tours held from 7–8 p.m. on the dates below. Call (763) 489-2220 or email education@animalhumanesociety.org to register.

December 9 and February 9

Microchip and Nail Clinics
This event includes microchip (permanent identification) and nail trim clinics. Microchipping is $40 and nail trims are $12 plus tax. Clinics are held from 1–3 p.m. at the locations and on the dates listed below. Call (763) 522-4325 for more information.

December 6, St. Paul
December 13, Coon Rapids and Golden Valley
December 19, Woodbury
December 20, Buffalo
January 3, St. Paul
January 10, Coon Rapids and Golden Valley
January 16, Woodbury
January 17, Buffalo
February 7, St. Paul
February 14, Buffalo, Coon Rapids and Golden Valley
February 20, Woodbury
March 7, St. Paul
March 14, Buffalo, Coon Rapids and Golden Valley
March 20, Woodbury

Pet Loss Support Group
This support group 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 across from the Training Room in Golden Valley, Mondays at 7 p.m. For easy and convenient access, please park in the North parking lot. Call (763) 489-2205 for more information.

family programs

Pet Parenting Workshop
When you bring a new pet into your home, everyone in the family should be ready to share the joys, challenges, and responsibilities involved in caring for that pet. The Pet Parenting Workshop is designed to help families explore and prepare for pet ownership. Families will explore some of the myths surrounding pets, find out what local laws pertain to pet ownership, learn about and plan for daily pet care responsibilities, and more.

January 16 and March 20

youth programs

AAWF February Fun With Reading
Animal Ambassadors Reading Fun (AARF) invites children to come and read to a registered therapy animal at the Animal Humane Society. Animals provide a calm, non-judgmental environment for children to improve their reading skills. No registration necessary. Stop by our Golden Valley facility between 1 and 3 p.m. on the dates listed below. Children who read will receive a free book while supplies last.

February 7 and 21

Unleashed Express Mini Day Camps
Spend a no-school day with AHS at one of our mini-day camps! These one- and two-day Unleashed Express days include a variety of activities. Kids will learn about responsible pet ownership, create items to make shelter animals more comfortable, spend some time with shelter animals, and more. Camps are available for kids in grades 3–7 and run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Look for more information on our website at www.animalhumanesociety.org/unleashed-express or call (763) 489-2220.

February 15, Coon Rapids and Golden Valley
March 29–30, Golden Valley
March 31–April 1, Woodbury
April 5–6, Coon Rapids

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 5–8 and 9–12 in Golden Valley and grades 5–8 in Woodbury. PetSet groups meet twice a month. Look for more information on our website at www.animalhumanesociety.org or call (763) 489-2220 to register.
ANIMAL TRACKS

animal humane society

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PURINA presents
walk for animals
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GOLDEN VALLEY 2010

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