Cats in crisis
Get ready! The Walk for Animals is May 1
Tales of a happy camper
In the "Wright" place
In this issue we once again open the doors to the cat overpopulation issue being faced in communities across Minnesota and throughout the United States. This is not the first time we’ve written about the crisis, and it won’t be the last. However, if we continue to build awareness and take measures to correct it together, we will soon begin to make a difference in the lives of thousands of homeless felines found in our local communities each year.

In this issue, we pose the question, “Why are there so many cats without a home and why aren’t we doing more to help them?” One definitive answer is that cats are perceived as second-class citizens in our communities. They are viewed and treated differently in so many ways—ways that contribute to the crisis we face as a community.

Consider the way we approach bringing a cat into our home. It’s different from the way we choose to get a dog. It is most often by happenstance—a friend’s cat accidentally has a litter of kittens and we take one; an ad in the paper for free kittens draws our attention and we bring one home; a stray wonders into our yard and three months later is sleeping in our bed every night. We get a cat with little forethought or planning.

When it comes to dogs, we put forth great effort. We deliberate whether we have enough time, what size would be best, which breeds don’t shed and so on. We spend hours researching breeds, visiting online postings of adoptable animals, talking to our friends and family about the decision—months can pass and then we make a purposeful choice about exactly which dog we will make a member of our family.

Once the dogs are in our homes the disparity continues:

- Cities require that dogs be licensed, but not cats.
- Dogs are more likely to be spayed or neutered; cats are less likely to receive the important surgery and medical treatments of people and animals.
- Dogs are more likely to receive regular veterinary care, including annual examinations and vaccinations; cats are much less likely to get the same care.
- Dogs are more likely to be spayed or neutered; cats are less likely to receive the important surgery and contributory more significantly to the overpopulation problem.
- Stray dogs are more likely to be claimed and have a higher rate of return to their owners.

Although cats are loved and adored in homes across the country, we continue to see the above trends everywhere. These trends and behaviors which lead to overcrowding in shelters threaten the very lives of the animals we love. Sadly, there are more cats surrendered to shelters annually than there are families willing to adopt them.

This is a community problem and you can be part of the solution. We need to work together to change current trends and behaviors to provide a better quality of life for felines and reduce the number entering shelters each year. Please read “Cats in crisis: Why so many are homeless and how we can help them” to learn more.
locations

BUFFALO FACILITY
4375 Hwy. 55 S.E.
Buffalo, MN 55313
(763) 290-3642
Pet adoption and surrender, memorial garden, microchip and nail clinics, pet loss services, retail area, shelter tours, 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, retail area, shelter tours, youth programs

GOLDEN VALLEY FACILITY
850 Meadow Ln. N.
Golden Valley, MN 55422
(763) 527-4325
Pet adoption and surrender, dog playgroups, microchip and nail clinics, pet boarding, pet training, retail area, shelter tours, wildlife rescue, youth programs

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

NOW BOARDING
4002 18th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55450
(612) 454-4850
www.nowboardingpet.com
Pet boarding, grooming and dog training

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.
Closed Easter, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.

our services

ADOPTION
Let an animal choose you! Cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, ferrets, guinea pigs and small critters are available for adoption at our five locations. View the animals available today at www.animalhumaneociety.org.

SURRENDER
No animal is ever turned away at any of our five open admission locations where we provide safe refuge for thousands of animals each year. Visit www.animalhumaneociety.org/services/surrendering.

PET BOARDING
We offer two options for pet boarding. Our facility in Golden Valley (763) 489-2222 and Now Boarding near the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport (612) 454-4850.

PET TRAINING
We speak fluent animal. More than 40 classes are offered weekly at our Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, Woodbury and Now Boarding locations. Check out www.animalhumaneociety.org/training or call (763) 489-2217.

PET FOOD AND SUPPLIES
Purina One dog and cat foods and treats as well as Tidy Cat litter, collars, leashes, toys and grooming supplies are available at our five adoption centers. Used goods are for sale in our Golden Valley Boarding lobby.

HUMANE INVESTIGATIONS
Our humane agents work with law enforcement and respond to thousands of reports of animal neglect and cruelty each year. Visit www.animalhumaneociety.org/prevention.

YOUTH PROGRAMS
From Unleashed Summer Camp to PetSet Youth Club and our extensive programs in the classrooms, there is a lot for kids at AHS. Call (763) 489-2220 or visit www.animalhumaneociety.org/services/youth.

MICRO CHIP AND NAIL CLINICS
Microchip and nail trim clinics are offered at our locations. Check our website for specific times.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES
Have your birthday party at an AHS location and invite up to 15 guests. Call (763) 489-2220 for more information.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION
Injured and orphaned wildlife are treated at our Golden Valley location. For information call (763) 489-2223 or visit www.animalhumaneociety.org/services/wildliferescue.

LOST AND FOUND ALL
We offer a lost and found online bulletin board for you to post missing or found pets. Also, review stray animals in our care at our facilities at www.animalhumaneociety.org/lostfoundpet.

BEHAVIOR HELPLINE
Have a question regarding your pet? Call our helpline at (763) 489-2202.

ONLINE LIBRARY
Visit our online library for help with pet training and behavior at www.animalhumaneociety.org/training/library.

THERAPY ANIMALS
Animal Ambassadors, AHS’s animal-assisted therapy teams visit hospitals, schools and nursing homes. For more information call (763) 489-2220.

TOURS
Tours of our facilities are available to students or other groups 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 AHS Education department at (763) 489-2220.

PET LOSS
Humane euthanasia and cremation services are offered. Call (763) 489-2203 or visit www.animalhumaneociety.org/services/lossofpet.

PET loss support groups are offered on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. in Golden Valley.

MEMORIAL GARDEN
Visit the peaceful memorial garden at our Buffalo location where past pets are honored with memorial plaques throughout the garden. For more information visit the www.animalhumaneociety.org/services/lossofpet.

contact

MAIN PHONE NUMBER
(763) 527-4325
WEBSITE
www.animalhumaneociety.org

SUPPORT THE
PUPPY & KITTEN
MILL BILL

Being a voice for animals
Over the years, Animal Humane Society has rescued thousands of animals from inhumane breeding facilities. AHS is also working hard to pass the Dog and Cat Breeder Bill, also known as the Puppy and Kitten Mill Bill (S.F. 7/H.F. 253), that will provide licensing and inspections of dog and cat breeding facilities in the state of Minnesota. AHS continues to investigate cases of neglect and cruelty found in inhumane breeding facilities.

In early January, Animal Humane Society’s Humane Agent Keith Streff was called in by authorities to assist in ceasing operations of a commercial breeding facility in a rural Minnesota county. The call came in after authorities there responded to three different calls about the operation. At this facility, a large number of dogs of various breeds were found living in deplorable conditions. Streff convinced the owners to surrender the animals into the care of Animal Humane Society to ensure they would be provided a safe and healthy environment. He and others from Animal Humane Society rescued 51 dogs from the facility.

Animal Humane Society staff worked tirelessly to get the animals into new homes. Within weeks, they were available for adoption at AHS or with Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare (MnPaw) partners for special treatment and care.

Double the Love is back
In 2009, Animal Humane Society launched a new program called Double the Love. The program was developed to help cats find a new home during the busy summer months when more than 70 cats come into AHS facilities each day. Such a success, Double the Love is back this year and will now be an ongoing program of the organization.

Customers can adopt one cat at the regular adoption fee with the fee waived for the second cat. The first feline can be a cat or kitten of any age with the second cat being one year of age or older.

Double the Love is one way potential adopters can help Animal Humane Society overcome the cat overpopulation crisis that exists in our communities. By bringing two cats home, you not only bring a companion home for your new pet, you also create an opportunity for two other homeless felines to be placed in the adoption centers so they can find new homes too.

Adopt a new friend... at the zoo
The Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare (MnPaw), of which Animal Humane Society is a founding member, is partnering with the Como Zoo and Conservatory to help animals find homes—and not the lions and tigers and bears you’re used to visiting at the zoo.

On Saturday, September 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., companion animals from Animal Humane Society and other MnPaw organizations will be at the Como Zoo to meet you! Stop by and meet your new best friend—perhaps a sweet and gentle golden retriever or a cute and cuddly tabby cat.

The event is sponsored by Pedigree. For more information, call (763) 487-8229.

Act like an animal
Youth programs at Animal Humane Society could throw your animal-loving child into their next happy dance. From PetSet Youth Club to Birthday Parties, they’ll never run out of exciting adventures at Animal Humane Society

PetSet Youth Club

Embark on a fine dining journey to help animals
In its 12th year, the Animal Humane Society’s annual Fall Wine Dinner will once again be held at The Saint Paul Hotel. On Friday, November 5, join us for this epicurean journey through six courses prepared by some of the best chefs in the Twin Cities have to offer. Each dish will be paired with wine selected by Ray Zemke of The Cellars Wines & Spirits.

Funds raised at the event, including the live auction portion of the evening, support the programs, services and animals of Animal Humane Society. Seating is limited. Please make your reservations early to guarantee your seat at this premier Twin Cities event. For reservations, call (763) 432-4842 or email events@animalhumanesociety.org.

Whisker Whirl moves to new digs, new time of year
Save the date and tell your friends—the next Whisker Whirl will be held at The Depot in Downtown Minneapolis on Saturday, February 19, 2011!

The best news is, you don’t have to leave your best friend behind—this is still the only gala in town where you can party with your pup. Winter is the perfect time to have a fun reason to get out and mingle with your dog and fellow animal lovers. We’ll provide everything you need to make the most of your evening… a gourmet meal for you and your dog, experienced dog sitters and plenty of fun for everyone. You won’t want to miss it.

Don’t have a canine friend? No worries! If you love animals, you belong at Whisker Whirl. We promise you a memorable evening and your support will help provide for animals in need. For more information, please call (763) 432-4842 or email events@animalhumanesociety.org.

PetSet Youth Club

Happy Birthday!

Your animal-loving child can party like an animal at Animal Humane Society on his/her birthday. AHS birthday parties include a shelter tour, educational activities, animal-themed games and crafts and a visit from a special animal guest. Participants may also make a toy or other item to donate to a shelter animal. Parties can be scheduled for ages 6+ at any AHS location four to six weeks in advance of your party animal’s special day.

Call (763) 489-2220 for more information.

www.animalhumanesociety.org • ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY MAGAZINE • SPRING/SUMMER 2010
Hi I'm Josie. I'm 9 years old and this is my second year at Animal Humane Society animal camp. I live in Indiana but come for the camp because it's so fun and I get to know more about animals which is so great. The first day of camp is the craziest. Everyone is getting to know each other and there's a lot of stuff to do. You get a water bottle and a bag and a t-shirt. It's so much fun doing what you love and meeting new friends.

Day 1 – Monday
Today was the first day of camp. I got to meet new friends and make crafts. It was so much fun playing with the animals. Our camp teachers told us so much about them and tips about taking care of your pets. We played all these fun games like frogger and lots more. We went to two parks and had lunch. Earlier that morning we had a snack we also had a snack after lunch. Later we did a critter clue every time you answer it.

Day 2 – Tuesday
Today was the second day of camp. We went on a field trip to a farm where there were cows, sheep, goats, rabbits, bulls, horses, dogs, cats, and all these different kinds of beautiful birds. It was so much fun. We also made bird seed feeders and rabbits. Then we walked to the park to play. The teachers showed us how to play a really fun game. It’s where you either get a spoon, tweezers, scissors and clothes pins then you had to get different objects into your cup using only the spoon, tweezers, scissors, and clothes pins. Then we did critter clues and then went home.

Day 3 – Wednesday
Today we went to a cool nature place where we saw dogs, German Shepherds mixed with wolves, huskies mixed with wolves, wolves, coyotes, bears, skunks, and all these other cool animals. We got to see an owl close up. It was so cool. Sometimes the mom wolves or coyotes are starting to be bad mothers and stalking them so they have to put them in different cages. Then they let German Shepherds come in and be like a mother. The other thing the dogs do is they run up and get the wolves and coyotes exercised. Then we came back to the shelter and ate lunch while watching a movie about mischievous animals. Then we did a craft and went outside to play. After that we did a critter clue and then went home.

Day 4 – Thursday
Today we went to the zoo. We saw a lot of animals. There was a speech about animals that we went to see. Then we went to a show about a seal. It was time to go back so everyone got all their stuff and we left. When we got back to the shelter it was time for lunch. After that we made a craft. We got to have our pictures taken with animals at the shelter. Later we played a game where you pick a category and answer a question to get points, my team came in second. After that we made tie-dye bandanas. Then it was time to go home so we got our stuff and left.

Day 5 – Friday
Today was the last day of camp. Everyone was so sad to be leaving each other. We had Dog Day today. We got to walk the dogs and play with them. After that we went to the park. Then we played a game where you find your color and once you’ve collected all seven of them you put them into a word. Then we went back to make dog treats, it was so much fun. Later we had lunch and watched a movie. Then we played bingo. After that we made puppy Chow, it’s for people with chocolate. Did you know you have to be careful with chocolate and dogs? It is poison to them. Then we made picture frames so we could put our picture with an animal we picked to get a picture with in the frame. I picked a rabbit named Bailey she was really nice. I wish I could convince my mom to let me take her home. After that we all got our picture taken together and said goodbye and then it was time to leave.

Thanks for reading. Can’t wait for next year!

Josie Brickley is in fourth grade and lives in Valparaiso, Indiana where she attends Jackson Elementary School. She lives with a goldendoodle named April, a reptile named Spike, two fishies, Pumpkin and Orange Crush, and two frogs, Mina and Pina.

Josie’s top 10 things at Unleashed
1. The animals of course!
2. All of the different activities we get to do
3. Learning stuff about animals that I didn’t know
4. Field trips
5. Seeing all the places at the Animal Humane Society where other people can’t go and learning about it all
6. Crafts and making things
7. Walking the dogs
8. Snilliness
9. There are nice people there
10. Playing with the animals

It’s not all cats and dogs at Unleashed
Bandana Day at Unleashed

Unleash your child’s love of animals

Unleash the inner veterinarian, the wildlife advocate and the animal imagination in every kid. At the Animal Humane Society, we believe that putting the “humane” in “humane society” starts early and lasts a lifetime.

Unleashed is an animal-themed summer day camp at the Animal Humane Society’s five locations.

There are sessions for students in grades 3-5, 5-7 and 8-12

Unleashed campers spend a full week immersed in animal learning and fun. Each week includes animal-related educational activities, animal interactions, visits from special guests, adventurous field trips and more. Each camp is led by one of the Animal Humane Society’s professional humane educators.

Registration for summer camps is now underway! For a full schedule and online registration visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/unleashed or call (763) 489-2220.

Full-day camps: Run Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration fee for full-day camps is $300.

Half-day camps: (offered only for some sessions for grades 3-5) Run Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Registration fee for half-day camps is $150. Half-day camps do not include field trips.

Your camper’s registration fee includes: Five full days of camp, plus all field trips (full-day camps only) and materials, including a T-shirt, water bottle, string backpack, and snacks. Campers are required to bring a bag lunch each day.

Please note: While shelter animals are an important part of Unleashed, time in our adoption center is very limited and closely monitored. Students will have daily opportunities for contact with a variety of animals, including shelter animals and visiting guests, but should not expect to spend significant amounts of time with animals waiting for adoption.

To watch Josie’s experience at Unleashed view video online at www.animalhumanesociety.org/ATSpring10.

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Cats in Crisis

Why so many are homeless and how we can help them

By Tracie Jacobson

In the fall of 1998, a small orange and white kitten emerged from the woods lining the northern edge of an established Minnesota farm. Despite being so small he could fit into a coffee cup, he made his way into the barn and latched on to a mother cat as she nursed her recently born litter of kittens. He became just another one of her offspring.

Days later, a young college student arrived at the farm. She was interested in taking home one of the kittens mentioned in an ad the farm family had run in the local newspaper. As she was invited to meet the kittens, her eyes immediately went to the diminutive orange and white feline. His size was a stark contrast to that of the kittens who had already welcomed him into the fold. She picked up the petite and fragile kitten and knew he was the one.

Hours later and back at the apartment she shared with her best friend from high school, she considered what she would name the new family member. Days were spent and countless titles considered until her friend suggested giving the kitten a name to counter his small stature, something big. The tiny kitten who emerged from the woods seemingly out of nowhere was fondly named Moose.

Most cats aren’t given the opportunity to walk so effortlessly into good fortune. For years, cats like Moose have been coming out of the woodwork, roaming our communities and filling shelters across the country one after another. And although they’re met at the shelter door with care and concern, these cats face two cumbersome hurdles—they are viewed with a limited perceived value in our communities and there are thousands upon thousands of felines competing for a limited number of homes.

Some people may question if cats are truly seen with lesser value after experiences they have with those who hold cats in a higher regard. Not unlike dog lovers, if you talk to any cat lover you’ll be provided with a front row seat to tales of intelligence, kindness and even hilarity about their feline. Tales providing evidence that a cat makes a good pet.

Considering the results of a survey of pet owners conducted by the Humane Society of the United States from 2007 to 2008 may also leave one to question if cats face those hurdles. The survey shows that although more households have dogs, there are more cats in homes across the country—88 million compared to 75 million dogs. But the reality is there are still millions of other cats in need of homes.

“We are experiencing a crisis in the United States that very few people outside of animal welfare are aware of,” says Janelle Dixon, president and CEO of Animal Humane Society. “Cats are being born at such an incredible rate each year that all five of our facilities struggle to keep up—and we’re just one organization of thousands in this country overwhelmed by the cat overpopulation crisis.”

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Cats in Crisis

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When considering that 88 million cats already have homes and millions more are waiting for one, we, as a community, need to ask ourselves: Why are there so many cats without a home and why aren’t we doing more to help them?

Barbara Carr, executive director of the Erie County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ECSPCA) in New York and a 25-year veteran in animal welfare, agrees. “We have to come out of the closet about what cats in this country are facing: Each day 10,000 children and 42,000 kittens are born in the U.S. When we consider that 88 million cats already have homes and millions more are waiting for one, we, as a community, need to ask ourselves: Why are there so many cats without a home and why aren’t we doing more to help them?

A common consensus is that we’ve been conditioned to value cats less. “There are just so many, which contributes to them being undervalued.”

“This view has led to family cats disappearing, being injured and often-times losing their lives due to severe weather, wildlife attacks or being hit by a car. It also leads to millions of cats and unwanted litters of kittens being cared for in shelters. Animal welfare organizations in both rural and urban Minnesota are replete with cats and kittens, almost throughout the entire year. However, there is one time of year, known as “kitten season,” where an average of 70 cats per day arrive at Animal Humane Society’s doors—and that is just one animal welfare organization of hundreds in the state. Kitten season has historically resulted in a surge of cats and kittens beginning in May and continuing to October, but that period is lengthening year after year. Laura Johnson, the founder of the Strey Cat Rescue Association of Minnesota, says they were still taking in litters of kittens at Thanksgiving last year, something of a rarity in years past. She believes the reason for the extended season goes back to people letting their cats outside—cats that haven’t been spayed or neutered.

*It’s shocking the number of house cats abandoned outside,* she says. *There are just so many, which contributes to them being undervalued.*

The flood of cats arriving at shelters takes a toll on the cats and the people caring for them. The stress of being housed with hundreds of other animals can wear down any healthy animal, especially during kitten season. Add to that the extended period of time cats spend in shelters—again caused by the number of homeless cats far exceeding the number of homes—has an impact on their health.

If you walk into any examination room at Animal Humane Society’s five facilities in the summer months, you’ll gain a visual understanding of the crisis our communities face. Shelves lining the walls of the room are filled to the brim with cats and kittens in receiving kennels—an older male cat recently brought in from the summer heat, a mother cat already in labor and another who just gave birth to a litter of eight; some are strays, many are brought in by owners because a lifestyle change no longer accommodates a feline.

*Kitten season is overwhelming, crowded and very hectic. I can be examining one cat and there will be 10 or more waiting for me with more coming in one after the other on the other side of the exam room door,* explains Christa Raymond, a lead veterinary technician Animal Humane Society’s Coon Rapids facility. *It’s never-ending and it affects the cats. They pick up on the stress we feel.*

Another person on the front lines of the issue is Kit Belcher, executive director of Beltrami Humane Society in Bemidji, Minn. “We are always telling people about spay/neuter. The responsibility starts the day the animal is born, but many don’t accept the responsibility. When they decide they don’t want the pet anymore, they take it for a ride and leave it out in the country, only contributing to pet overpopulation.”

“We as a community need to change old habits. The way people acquire cats—often “free to a good home”—and the fact that an incredible number of cats are available contributes to this “disposable” mentality. When it comes to dogs, we are diligent and purposeful in the animal we select. We research different types of breeds and plan for when the animal will be in our home. With cats it is different. There is very little planning or intent. Carr of the ECSPCA found in a survey that 67% of cat owners never planned to get the cat they have today.

*If you want to make an analogy, you can compare the way we bring dogs into our homes to the way we purchase a new television,* explains Dixon...
Continued from previous page.

There is a disparity between the number of cats being brought to Animal Humane Society and the number of adopters taking cats home.

at Animal Humane Society. “We research and select the model that best fits our desires, but cats are different. Cats are the DVD we pick up on the way out the door with little forethought or consideration.” Looking at how we regard dogs today in Minneapolis-St. Paul, it’s surprising that we once had an overpopulation issue with dogs. Now we spay and neuter dogs to make them better household pets, but more intentionally we do it to prevent that first mistake litter. We have managed the population of dogs so well that with leash and licensing laws, ample opportunities for dog training, and a long list of dog parks, there are now far fewer dogs surrendered to shelters or turned loose to fend for themselves. As a result, Animal Humane Society is able to help other communities still facing dog overpopulation. Dogs from other Minnesota communities and from shelters as far away as Oklahoma are being transported to AHS to find homes.

We can get to the same place for cats. “We need to encourage our cities to require and enforce cat ordinances and everyone in the community needs to provide an ID tag and collar for their cats or have them microchipped,” explains Kathie Johnson. “We also need to encourage everyone we know to provide affordable spay/neuter services to the public works. Over the last 13 years the organization has made a concerted effort to tame the cat overpopulation crisis in their area, in one of the poorest economic areas in the country. They concentrated their efforts on sterilizing each animal adopted from their facilities and providing subsidized spay/neuter to their community. As a result, Animal Humane Society is able to help other communities still facing cat overpopulation. Cats in Crisis: Fromirsch says, "We looked at fixing overpopulation as finding the solution to a math problem," explains Dixon. "It's going to take all of us working together to solve the cat overpopulation issue. You can help by doing any one of the following—and asking your friends and family to do the same!"

Adopt a cat—Providing a home to a cat from AHS will help more than just that one cat. It also provides another homeless cat the opportunity to find a new home. Cats love to have a playmate at home and Double the Love is a great opportunity to help a cat in need and bring home his best friend too.

When customers adopt one cat at the regular adoption fee, the fee for a second cat will be waived. Millions of cats find themselves at animal shelters around the country each year; nearly 11,000 of those cats find themselves at AHS. Double the Love and help them find their way home.

Adopting a cat helps all of the animals at AHS.

Spay or neuter—Spaying or neutering your cat is critical to reducing the number of cats and kittens flooding animal shelters and rescues throughout the state each year. According to Spay USA, one unspayed female, her unsterilized mate and all of their offspring can produce 11,801 kittens in just five years!

Microchip and ID—Many of the cats that make their way to shelters are strays. They don’t make their way home again because they weren’t identifiable. Increase your cat’s chances of returning home by having him or her microchipped and identified with an ID tag and collar. AHS offers low-cost microchip clinics at each of its locations every month.

Keep them safe indoors—Despite popular belief, cats can be happy indoors. Keeping your cats inside removes them from the dangers of traffic, other animals and those who don’t have their best interest at heart.

Turn to AHS before you surrender your cat—At AHS, we’re here for all the stages of your cat’s life. We offer a variety of services from our Behavior Helpline to therapy animal classes that can help you live a happier, healthier life with your cat.

To learn more about Cat Overpopulation, watch video online at www.animalhumanesociety.org/AHSpring10.
Jeff Passolt — FOX 9 News

“I participate each year because it’s just fun being part of what has really become a spectacle...the variety of pets, people and activities...and it’s all to support a great cause!”

Tom Butler — FOX 9 News

“My girls and wife and I love the Walk for Animals! It’s always great to get outside with fellow animal lovers to help bring the focus on pets that need homes.”

M.A. Rosko — FOX 9 News

“If you want to know how much Twin Citians love their animals, just go to the Walk. The endless variety of large and small dogs, cats, lizards, birds, bunnies—even a pony—remind you that many of us rely on our animals for love and companionship. I can’t help but think that for every pet you see there, there are a dozen you don’t see who are abused or homeless. And that’s why we walk.”

Juli Jay — FOX 9 News

“Each year, the Animal Humane Society takes in a mind-boggling tens of thousands of animals—sometimes from extremely bad situations and conditions—and literally nurses them back to health while seeking to place them in good adoptive homes with their new forever family. It simply cannot be done without the support of animal lovers like me and you. I guarantee there is something for everyone.”

Lee Valsvik — Cities 97

“I walk for so many reasons. I walk for my own pets, but I also walk to stop animal abuse and I walk for the pets who need a good, safe home.”

Deb Hopp — Mpls. St. Paul Magazine

“At Mpls. St. Paul Magazine, we love telling our readers about all the good stuff in the Twin Cities, and that certainly includes the Walk for Animals. It’s a feel-good event for a wonderful cause that puts a big, happy smile on the face of everyone who joins in the fun. Congratulations. We want everyone involved to know we are honored to be a small part of such a huge success.”

PJ — Radio Disney

“On a personal level, I love the Animal Humane Society’s Walk for Animals because I’ve rescued dogs from AHS and think it’s a great cause! As a representative from Radio Disney it gives us a chance to connect with our target audience. And it’s very rewarding to meet the families that come out and make the event special!”

Our media partners weigh in on the Walk for Animals
Walk for Animals 2010

Walking the talk

Why these folks do the Walk for Animals

The main reason we walk is for our grandmother. Her love and compassion for animals was inspiring. She fed outdoor animals to help them get through the cold Minnesotan winters and gave every one she could a warm and happy home.

When she left us two years ago, she left a very generous donation to our annual Walk for Animals effort since she was so proud that we fundraise for this worthy cause and that we truly enjoy participating in it. We miss her every day, but are proud to carry on her love and dedication to helping animals. It makes me proud to fundraise in her honor and to have our former shelter kids by our side.

— Amy Lynn Eggers

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— Amy Lynn Eggers

We have participated in the last three Walk for the Animals, raising over $1000 in each of our last two walks. We feel very strongly about a global need for the increased awareness of the terrible plight of the exorbitant numbers of animals. Donating to the AHS is one of the most productive and cost effective ways to ensure that at least a small portion of the suffering animals of the world are finally receiving the attention that is so badly needed. We are extremely vocal about the goodness of the Animal Humane Society, for we will constantly be proponents of such a fine organization, dedicated to the well-being of our non-human friends.

— Carrie Orr

For two years I have taken my ferret, Moxy, to the Walk for Animals. I go for several reasons: I have adopted several cats from AHS who became very loving (and beloved) members of my family. Also, I do the Walk as a way to help AHS do what they do to help thousands of abandoned, neglected or otherwise homeless animals find new loving homes. When I go on the Walk, I am inundated with people (and kids!) who are curious about ferrets. Moxy absolutely loves people and animals, and loves all the attention he gets, and is a very good ferret ambassador. I also love meeting and talking with all the people there and seeing all the different animals they bring.

— Barb Mikkelson

Last year was my first year raising money and participating in the Walk for Animals. I have always wanted to do something for animals in need and I didn’t know where to start. When I heard about the Walk for Animals, I knew right away that this was for me. I had a great time with the fundraising process. The Animal Humane Society has come up with a unique website that tracks your fundraising progress and also lets your sponsors know where you are at with your progress. The walk itself was really fun!

— Kristi Ronallo & Ska-zi

The reason that I do the Walk for Animals and bring a friend with me is for those loving faces and soulful eyes. When you look deep into their eyes you can see the hope and intelligence in them. The animals need our help. We are a voice for those who cannot speak words and I take that with me every day. As long as my feet will carry me, I will participate in the Walk for Animals. I would double the walking distance if it meant more donations for AHS.

— Carrie Orr

In the wake of the tragic death of my brother last April, I made a last-minute decision to fire up and go on for my second year at the Walk for Animals. Reeling from his untimely death, I hadn’t been sure if I could put one foot in front of the other. But my last-minute appeal started just days before the Walk began to reap rewards in just minutes. I sat before my computer screen in the first hours after sending my emails to receive one pledge after the next. In the midst of my misery, I was clapping with glee over the money rolling in, I wound up being one of your top fundraisers. Walking in honor of my late brother gave me new strength. I walked with one of his military coins, his obituary and a memorial card in my pocket. Walking alongside me and also raising funds was my daughter, accompanied by our dog Tamber, my sister, and a close friend and her daughter who is best friends with my daughter.

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— Dean LeDour

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— Dean LeDour

To learn more about why folks walk watch video online at www.animalhumanesociety.org/ATSpring10

www.animalhumanesociety.org

www.animalhumanesociety.org
Their hearts are in the “Wright” place

By Lori-Anne Williams

An alternative headline to this story could be:
Separated at birth: Long lost littermates
find families, love and happiness!

And that part would be true.

The Wright family of La Crescent, Minn. includes Cindy and her husband Tom and their two children, daughter Amanda, 14, and son Adam, 19.

There’s also five-year-old Benny, a golden retriever/shepherd mix, four-year-old Reggie, a shitzu/poodle with special needs, and Eddie, a four-year-old goldendoodle, and of course their two papillons, Jacques and Hollie, who have a sweet story all their own.

“We’re dog lovers,” says Cindy Wright of her family. Apparently so.

In 2006 they acquired a papillon puppy from a reputable breeder who was leaving the business. The Wright family went to visit the puppies and took pictures of the litter—one female and two males playing together. Amanda, who was looking for a small dog she could cuddle with fell in love with the runt of the litter—the female who had crooked teeth and a loving demeanor. “We knew right away that she should be part of our family,” Cindy remembers. Amanda named her Hollie after a favorite teacher.

In the same year, the Wrights added to their family with Reggio, who had a brain injury from a rough birth, and Eddie, who also needed a safe refuge. At this point Cindy was certain they were finished adopting and rescuing dogs. “We’ll continue to help out at area shelters, but enough!”

Cindy was curious, and wanted to know more. “I thought, ‘Could this be Hollie’s brother?’

Although the Wrights were not interested in acquiring another dog, Cindy couldn’t get the picture of that cute little guy out of her head. So she inquired about him at the shelter. It turns out he had been surrendered a month before and his history indicated that he had two previous homes, both within an hour of the Wright home.

Cindy knew then she had to meet this dog and see if he could really be Hollie’s brother. She pulled out the the pictures of Hollie with her littermates. One of the puppies looked very much like the photo of the shelter dog. “It really struck me because papillons can look really different and this one looked identical to Hollie,” says Cindy.

When Cindy called the shelter to find out more information she was told that several dogs, including this papillon, had been moved to AHS where he would have sterilization surgery and a chance of being adopted more quickly. Shelters throughout the Upper Midwest often rely on AHS to help them when they have too many animals to care for. Some 3,100 animals came into AHS last year from overcrowded shelters. Although this papillon pup was now more than two hours away, that did not stop Cindy.

She contacted an adoption center staff member at AHS to seek more information. “The person was so helpful,” Cindy says. “The dog had come in with 12 others from the Iowa shelter and she was able to provide me with the birth month and approximate location of where the dog was born. She had gathered so much information for me and I was really impressed.

We found out he had the same birth date and was from the same area as Hollie. We were even more certain he was her littermate.”

The next day Cindy drove to Minneapolis. She wanted to see that dog! Her son Adam attends school in the Twin Cities so he joined her at AHS. “He had the same mannerisms and personality as Hollie. He immediately jumped into Adam’s lap and it’s like he said ‘I’m coming with you, I am out the door with you!’ I knew he was a member of Hollie’s family and that he’d soon be a member of ours.”

Cindy says the decision to take in another dog is not one that they take lightly. “When there are so many dogs that have had a rough life and need a home, it is a commitment we make very seriously—to give something back and to be there for them the rest of their lives.”

The Wrights decided to name him Jacques. Once home they introduced him gradually to each dog. At first Jacques was a bit nervous after having been moved several times in his life. When Jacques and Hollie were reunited, Hollie was a little hesitant, but that did not last. “I am not sure they remember they are littermates but they do have a special bond and a deep fondness for each other,” Cindy says. “And it is like they are bookends,” she explains. “They move the same way, they stand the same way.”

These days Hollie and Jacques are inseparable. She’s a bit more playful and assertive, he’s more of a lap dog, but they complement each other—playing and sleeping together and hanging out with the other dogs in the family. The Wrights live out in the country so there is plenty of room for all of the dogs.

Five dogs may seem like a lot, but the Wrights knew Jacques had to be one of them. Cindy calls Jacques “the most personable, loved dog that I’ve ever seen.” To her, he needed to be a part of their family. “Shelter dogs always have a special story. You don’t always know the whole story, but when you can provide a good home there can be a happy ending. Plus it’s amazing what they can do for your life.”

Lori-Anne Williams is a writer with a dog named Bailey who is a two-year-old Pekinese/poodle mix.
Foster volunteer since 2007
You been a foster volunteer for three years. What are the different kinds of animals you have fostered?
I have been lucky enough to foster a wide range of pets, including cats, birds, bunnies and now mostly dogs.

Do you fall in love with the animals you foster?
There hasn’t been a single animal that I have not considered adopting during their stay at my home. It is hard to not fall in love with them all! It is always hard to say goodbye but I always try to picture the happy family that is about to take home their lucky new pet.

Any surprises?
When I fostered bunnies, I learned that they are nocturnal, messy and love to chew! I quickly found out that holding bunnies on my lap was pre-
demanding. When I fostered mother cats and their kittens, I learned how maternal instincts are shared across species.

What else have you learned?
Getting to know, first-hand, how precious life is, even when it can be so fragile. Not every foster pet survives. Yet some little creatures can be incredibly strong, even when they are sick, I feel such pride when I help a foster animal get well.

Do you have any pets of your own?
Yes, Hailey my six-year-old Labrador.

What are the benefits of being a foster volunteer?
The unconditional love that I receive from the animals, the feeling that I am doing something good that is also fun, and the ability to further a cause that I care about. Foster animals need a warm, caring home to recover in and a place to heal. I feel a sense of satisfaction knowing I helped to save a life, or at the very least, help make a suffering creature feel loved.

What are the silliest things your cats do?
Who was your first pet, and do you have any pets now?
Our kitties give us comfort and strength. When Jim was saying goodbye to his Dad for the last time, I would call him and he’d describe something cute the kittens had done. It’s the little things that keep us going and give us hope. Making sure the Animal Humane Society is available for everyone is our mission—that’s no better feeling knowing you saved a family with a pet.

What is the silliest thing your pets do?
Silly, a tiny 2 lb. boy was my first pet. Now I have Allie, a female miniature poodle from AHS.

What are the cutest things your cats do?
Malik is fearless going to the vet but if he gets a raindrop on him watch out—he’ll head for the back door! Hazel’s eyes are crossed, so some days it is really hard not to laugh at her expressions.

What would you like to do differently?
I took Matty out of the cage and knew within five minutes she was going to love me.

Who did you decide to adopt?
I was looking in a magazine and saw something about doing a fundraiser, so I decided that I would like to do that for AHS. My mom had done carnivals with her friend when she was my age and I thought it would be a good and fun way to raise money.

What inspired you to support AHS?
It is hard to not fall in love with them all! It is always hard to say goodbye but I always try to picture the happy family that is about to take home their lucky new pet.

What were you first connection with the Animal Humane Society?
The adoption of our first cat. I don’t think Jim and I realized how our lives would change! Jim was not too keen on the idea. He was a farm boy and always said they belonged outside in the barn, but he finally agreed.

Who do you decide to adopt?
I took Matty out of the cage and knew within five minutes she was going home with us. Within a short amount of time, we were inseparable. She was a princess! We took her for walks on the bike trail in front of our house and inspired our neighbors to try walking their cats on leashes, too. We were so fortunate to spend 12 beautiful years with her.

What do you have any pets now?
Allie is really hard not to laugh at her expressions.

How do you know when you have a good pet?
When Jim was saying goodbye to his Dad for the last time, he would call me and I’d describe something cute the kittens had done. It’s the little things that keep us going and give us hope. Making sure the Animal Humane Society is available for everyone is our mission—that’s no better feeling knowing you saved a family with a pet.

What do you love most about animals?
Yes, Hailey my six-year-old Labrador.

What are the silliest things your cats do?
Sometimes when Allie is very riled up being outside, she will run in and race around the house, jumping on and off the furniture, going nuts until she is too tired to go anymore, when she abruptly stops, panting at our feet.

What is the silliest thing your pets do?
I was looking in a magazine and saw something about doing a fundraiser, so I decided that I would like to do that for AHS. My mom had done carnivals with her friend when she was my age and I thought it would be a good and fun way to raise money.

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memorials and honorariums

September 3, 2009 through December 31, 2009

We are grateful for your generous support of the animals through memorial and tribute gifts and are 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/mem/trib and will be updated monthly.

Your Generosity Makes It All Possible – Thank you!
memorials and honorariums
memorials and honorariums

To make a memorial or tribute gift, you may:

- use the donation envelope provided in the centerfold of Animal Tracks
- visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/donate and select the Honor/Memorial option
- call (763) 439-4841 or email donation@animalhumanesociety.org to set up an e-play donation from your checking or savings account
- visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/tributes

...Continued on next page.

special events

Investing for Retirement Seminar
Thursday and Saturday, April 8 and 10
Erica Whittington will share her expertise with other Animal Humane Society donors on how to assemble an ultra-low-cost, “no-brainer” portfolio, guarantee retirement income for life, save on taxes now and in the future, and determine how much you can safely withdraw from your portfolio. As an aid supporter of AHS, Erica can also demonstrate how you can develop a financial plan with your humane values in mind. Join us on Thursday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at AHS in Golden Valley or Saturday, April 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the Como Park Lakeside Pavilion at 1360 Lexington Parkway North, St. Paul. There is no charge for the seminar, but space is limited. RSVP to giving@animalhumanesociety.org or (763) 432-4525.

training

Introduction to Pet 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. No registration necessary. Classes are available in Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, Woodbury and Norcross. For exact dates and a schedule of all dog training classes, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org or call (763) 489-2117.

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 tests are held at 8:15 p.m. on the dates below. For more information, visit www.aki.org or call our Training School at (763) 489-2117.

Walk for Animals
Saturday, May 1, registration 8:30 a.m. Walk begins at 10 a.m., Golden Valley
You love animals. You know what a difference they have made in your life. You also care about animals less fortunate than your own. The Walk for Animals is your opportunity to help the thousands of companion animals that will come through Animal Humane Society’s doors this year. Begin raising pledges now and get ready for the best stand-up-on-your-hind-legs-and-bark event of the year!

For more information, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/walk or call (763) 439-4841.
Dog Aggressive Dog Class
A specialized class for people seeking help with their dog-aggressive dogs. This class is not for dogs that are human-aggressive or have a bite history. Space is limited. For more information and to be placed on a waiting list call the AHS Training School at (763) 489-2217.

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 parvo/virus). Sessions are held in Golden Valley at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. For exact dates, please visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/events or call (763) 489-2217.

Rabbit Agility
An opportunity for caged and house rabbits to explore and get exercise and mental stimulation at the same time. For more information, please visit the website of our partner, Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society at www.mncompanionrabbit.org or email rabbitagility@minn.companionrabbit.org. Classes are $25 per week 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. every other Sunday in Golden Valley. $3 per rabbit. For exact dates and information, please contact our Training School at (763) 489-2217 or rabbitagility@mn.companionrabbit.org. All rabbits must be spayed or neutered.

Therapy Animal Classes
Are you and your pet ready to begin therapy training classes to become a registered therapy team? Classes are now offered in Golden Valley. New! Weeklong guinea pig training camp will be held for kids ages 10–18. Call (763) 489-2217 for dates and details.

Vaccination 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 on the dates listed below. For more information visit our online Events calendar at www.animalhumanesociety.org/events or call (763) 522-4325.

Microchipping 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 on the dates listed below. For more information visit our online Events calendar at www.animalhumanesociety.org/events or call (763) 522-4325.

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 Center in Golden Valley, Mondays at 7 p.m. For easy and convenient access, please park in the Boarding/Training 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.

Space is limited and registration is required. Workshop will be held from 7–8 p.m. on the dates below. Call (763) 489-2220 or email education@animalhumanesociety.org to register.

April 15
June 8
August 11
October 5

Microchipping and Nail Clinics
Microchip is $40 and nail trims are $12 plus tax. 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 on the dates listed below. Call (763) 489-2220 or email education@animalhumanesociety.org to register.

April 12, Woodbury
May 6, Woodbury
July 8, Golden Valley
August 5, Woodbury

Therapy Animal Classes
Are you and your pet ready to begin therapy training classes to become a registered therapy team? Classes are now offered in Golden Valley. New! Weeklong guinea pig training camp will be held for kids ages 10–18. Call (763) 489-2217 for dates and details.

Bunny Basics
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 3, Woodbury
April 12, Golden Valley
May 4, Woodbury
May 10, Golden Valley
June 3, Woodbury
June 14, Golden Valley
July 1, Woodbury
July 22, Golden Valley
August 5, Woodbury
August 9, Golden Valley
September 2, Woodbury
September 13, Golden Valley
October 7, Woodbury
October 11, 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 therapy team that visits nursing homes, schools, hospitals, libraries and more? 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 are held from 7–8 p.m. For more information, call (763) 489-2220 or email education@animalhumanesociety.org.

Spay/Neuter Clinics
All rabbits must be spayed or neutered. For more information, please visit www.animalhumanesociety.org or call (763) 489-2217.

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.
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