animal tracks

A legacy of love

A lifesaving partnership helping animals in need

also inside:

Cats, beyond the crisis
During the past two years, you’ve likely seen discussions in Animal Humane Society communications about community and community engagement – references to the greater community of people in which we all live, work and socialize, but also to the community of individuals who care about companion animals and their welfare.

To achieve long-term success on behalf of animals, it is essential that AHS succeed in creating understanding about the challenges facing animals. We also need to create understanding about the benefits of being engaged in a positive force for change, and what the larger community – and each of us as individuals – can do to positively influence the lives of animals, and the community itself.

AHS works to ensure that we reflect the values of our community. Alternatively, our work influences and shapes the values and behaviors of the community. As we all evolve and do more, we expect more. On this foundation we have seen great changes in the ways animals are welcomed in our community and in our homes, and in what AHS and organizations like ours are able to do to care for and place animals.

In this way, we have been working together to affect positive change. Many animals that would have lived outdoors 20 years ago now sleep inside with us each night. Cities have passed ordinances allowing animals on outdoor patios at restaurants. Shops welcome pets. The animal economy is flourishing because of the changes in the ways animals are welcomed in our community and in our homes, and in what AHS and organizations like ours are able to do to care for and place animals.

As we move forward, AHS is being more intentional about community and engaging a larger group of people in changing the story for animals. Likewise we would like to see individual community members more intent on purposeful engagement – in being a part of the solution to the challenges impacting animals. We need each of you as individuals, and collectively as the community, to be actively involved.

A few small changes can have a big impact. There are three simple things you can do and encourage others to do: adopt, spay/neuter and ID your pets. It is the choices and behaviors of people that determine the fate of animals. These choices are simple and save lives.

Imagine where we can go from here, together as a community, and envision how our work influences and shapes the values and behaviors of the community itself.

Sincerely,

Jannelle Dixon, President & CEO

Animal Humane Society

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 help animals.

Through comprehensive programs and services, 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.

board of directors
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Animal Humane Society is a member of the National Federation of Humane Societies and Paws Across America, a consortium of humane organizations throughout the country that raise funds to care for animals in local shelters.

Animal Humane Society is a founding member of Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare (MiPaw) and the Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition.

April 2013 – Animal Humane Society

Animal Tracks is published in April and November.

Janna Netland, Lover

Animal Tracks is published in April and November.
Contact Us
(763) 522-4325
www.animalhumanesociety.org

locations

Buffalo
4375 Hwy. 55 S.E. • Buffalo, MN 55313
(763) 390-3647
Pet adoption and surrender, memorial garden, microchip and nail clinics, pet loss services, retail area, shelter tours, youth programs

Coon Rapids
1411 Main St. N.W. • Coon Rapids, MN 55448
(763) 462-4030
Pet adoption and surrender, dog training, microchip and nail clinics, pet loss services, retail area, shelter tours, youth programs

Golden Valley
865 Meadow Ln. N. • Golden Valley, MN 55422
(763) 522-4325
Pet adoption and surrender, dog playgroups, microchip and nail clinics, pet boarding, pet loss services, pet training, retail area, shelter tours, wildlife rescue, youth programs

St. Paul
1115 Keilah 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
9789 Hudson Rd. • Woodbury, MN 55125
(651) 730-4608
Pet adoption and surrender, dog training, microchip and nail clinics, pet loss services, shelter tours, retail area, youth programs

New Boarding
4602 28th Ave. S. • Minneapolis, MN 55450
(612) 454-4850 • www.newboardingpets.com
Pet boarding, doggy day care, grooming, dog training

hours

Adoption Centers
Monday – Friday: 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Incoming Animals
Surrender by Appointment
Please call our Animal Admissions Center at (763) 412-4969 for an appointment to surrender an animal.
Appointments are available 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday – Friday and 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday & Sunday.


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.animalhumanesociety.org.

Surrender
Comparison animals may be surrendered at any of our five open admission locations where we provide safe refuge for thousands of animals each year. Appointments are required to surrender an animal. Call (763) 412-4969 or visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/surrender.

Kindest Cut low cost spay/neuter
Through our partnership with Kindest Cut mobile clinic, high quality, low cost spay/neuter services are available to the pets of people in need. Visit www.kindestcutmn.com for more information.

Pet boarding
We offer two options for pet boarding. There’s Animal House at AHS in Golden Valley (763) 489-2222 and Now Boarding near the Minneapolis St. Paul Airport (612) 454-4850. www.animalhumanesociety.org/boarding.

Pet training
We speak fluent animal. More than 50 classes are offered weekly at our Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, Woodbury, and Now Boarding locations. Check out www.animalhumanesociety.org/training or call (763) 489-2217.

Pet food and supplies
Purina One dog and cat food and treats as well as Tidy Cat litter, collars, leashes, toys and grooming supplies are available at our five locations.

Humane investigations
Our humane agents work with law enforcement and respond to thousands of reports of animal neglect and cruelty each year. Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/prevention for more information.

Youth programs
From Unleashed Summer Camp and projects for Scouts, to PetSet Youth Club there is a lot for kids to do at AHS. Call (763) 489-2220 or visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/youth.

School programs
We offer interactive classroom programs for students in grades K-12. For information on selecting a program for a child’s school call (763) 489-2220 or visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/classroom.

Microchip and nail clinics
Microchip and nail trim clinics are offered monthly at our five locations. Check the calendar in this magazine for specific times.

Wildlife rehabilitation
Injured and orphaned wildlife are accepted at our Golden Valley location. For information call (763) 489-2220 or visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/wildlife.

Lost and found pets
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.animalhumanesociety.org/lostandfound.

Behavior helpline
Need some advice regarding your pet? We’re here to help. Call (763) 489-2202.

Online library
Visit our online library for help with pet training and behavior. www.animalhumanesociety.org/library.

Therapy animals
Animal Ambassadors, AHS’s animal-assisted therapy teams, visit hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities. For more information call (763) 432-4825.

Tours
Tours of our facilities are available to assisted therapy teams, visit hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities. For more information call (763) 432-4825.

ways to help

Pet loss
Humane euthanasia and cremation services are available. Call (763) 412-4969 or visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/lostandfound.

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Ways to help
Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/help to find out about the ways in which you can help AHS, from volunteering in our shelters or as a foster volunteer to donating or contributing to our wish list.
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. For more information visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/walk, email walk@animalhumanesociety.org, or call (651) 435-4842.

Wallflower

Do your dog cough when guests come over? Does he hide in the bedroom when the bell rings? Does he try to run away when he hears children playing outside? If so, your dog might be a Wallflower. Contact our Training School at (651) 497-2497 for individual training sessions to help your shy and fearful dog.

Rabbits

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 (no rabbits in class please). This class is free, but donations to the Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society are welcome. Register by calling (651) 497-2497. All sessions are held from 6:30–8 p.m. on the dates below:

- April 4 • Woodbury
- April 6 • Golden Valley
- May 2 • Woodbury
- May 13 • Golden Valley
- June 10 • Golden Valley
- July 8 • Golden Valley
- Aug. 1 • Woodbury
- Aug. 12 • Golden Valley
- Sept. 8 • Woodbury
- Sept. 7 • Golden Valley
- Oct. 5 • Golden Valley
- Oct. 14 • Golden Valley
- Nov. 7 • Woodbury
- Nov. 15 • Golden Valley
- Nov. 25 • Woodbury
- Dec. 16 • Golden Valley
- Dec. 22 • Woodbury

Happy Hour

This social hour for rabbits and their owners is held at 6 p.m. every other Sunday in Golden Valley. 5$ per person or $10 per family for each session.

Dog Playgroups

We offer several playgroups and socialization opportunities for your pet at our Golden Valley facility. Playgroups are offered for small dogs and for puppies younger than one year. For more information of the playgroups available and a schedule, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/dogs or call (651) 497-2497.

Reactive Rovers

This class is designed for dogs that bark back, snarl, or growl at other dogs. We will help you to learn to walk your dog past other dogs and teach your dog to greet other dogs politely. This class is not appropriate for dogs that are aggressive toward people. Space is limited. For more information, call the Training School at (651) 497-2497.

Tours, clinics & groups

AHS Group & Family Tours

Ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes at AHS or who has a tour of any of our five facilities led by one of our professional human educators? You have more than 20 options above AHS and the animals we serve, and get a guided tour through the working areas of our shelter. Cost is $5 per person, minimum 10. Participants must be at least 6 years of age. Tours are offered throughout the year by appointment, scheduled, and can also be combined with an AHS classroom program. Advanced reservations are required for all tours. Call (651) 497-2499 or email education@animalhumanesociety.org to register.

People Training at AHS

AHS announces a new series of Humane Education seminars for adults, but suitable for the entire family. Classes begin May 1 and will be held Mondays from 6-7 p.m. in Golden Valley with a new topic each month. Cost is $5 per person or $10 per family for each seminar. All children must be at least 7 years of age and accompanied by their parent. For more information or specific dates, or to register online, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/people.

Animal Ambassadors

Animal Ambassadors are teams of volunteers and their pets that have been trained and registered as therapy animal teams. They provide animal-assisted therapy in nursing homes, memory care facilities, assisted living homes and other senior centers. Those special teams unleash the power of pets to enhance wellness through their touch. To become an Animal Ambassador, you must be an AHS volunteer, you and your pet must pass the Canine Good Citizen Test (dogs only), and you and your pet must complete training to become a registered animal therapy team. To learn more visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/ambassadors or contact email brenny@animalhumanesociety.org.

Buffy AHS Open House

You’re invited to Animal Humane Society’s Buffalo location on Saturday, June 29 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. for an Open House. It’s an opportunity to tour the facility located along Highway 55, visit with animals available for adoption, and enjoy refreshments and family activities. The event is free and everyone is welcome, but please leave your pets at home.

Pet Loss Support Group

This support group is an informal and ongoing 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 or reservation required. The group meets in Confer- ence Room D across from the Training Center in Golden Valley. Mondays at 7 p.m., except for holidays. For easy and convenient access, please park in the North parking lot. For more information, please call (651) 370-6066.
Breeder regulation bill gets boost from governor

Animal Humane Society has been working in support of a bill introduced at the Minnesota Legislature that would require licensing and inspection of commercial dog and cat breeding operations, legislation that is necessary to prevent inhumane breeding practices. AHS’s effort has been as part of a coalition of animal welfare groups, Speak Up for Dogs and Cats.

The bill (H.F. 84, S.F. 36) received a boost in late February when Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton expressed support for the legislation at a rally of bill supporters who jammed the State Capitol Rotunda in St. Paul. “We’re not going to stand idly by while innocent animals are being tortured,” Dayton said.

AHS President & CEO Janelle Dixon also addressed the crowd. “This bill is critical to the health and welfare of the animals in this state,” she said. Many of the animals AHS takes in each year have been bred in inhumane conditions, according to Dixon, and “these animals are ill, have serious health, behavior and socialization issues. They don’t receive or feel the touch of an individual human being while they are in this care—and we need to stop it.”

At the time this issue of Animal Tracks went to press, the House version of the bill had been approved by the Civil Law Committee, the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee, and the Government Operations Committee, but a necessary hearing before the Agricultural Policy Committee had not yet occurred, making its prospects uncertain for the rest of the session. You can keep up to date on the progress of the bill by visiting www.animalhumanesociety.org/speakup or www.speakupmn.org.

“These animals are ill, have serious health, behavior and socialization issues. They don’t receive or feel the touch of an individual human being while they are in this care—and we need to stop it.”

—JANELLE DIXON, AHS PRESIDENT & CEO

From left to right: Donor Ken Melrose, donor and AHS board member Lisa Melrose, and AHS President & CEO Janelle Dixon.

Kindest Cut expands service with new Melrose Clinic

Kindest Cut, the low-cost spay and neuter service operated in partnership with Animal Humane Society, will significantly expand its capabilities this spring when it opens the Melrose Clinic at AHS’s facility in Golden Valley. Until now, Kindest Cut has worked exclusively from mobile units that travel across the Twin Cities and the state. Expanding into the 3,200 square-foot space in the southwest corner of AHS’s Golden Valley location will allow Kindest Cut to perform another 10,000 additional surgeries each year, “addressing a significant need in our community,” said AHS President and CEO Janelle Dixon.

Kindest Cut, led by licensed Veterinarian Dr. Meghann Kruck and geared toward pet owners with limited incomes, has done more than 13,500 spay/neuter surgeries since it opened in May 2011. The new facility will be known as the Melrose Clinic in recognition of a generous lead gift from the Kendall B. Melrose Family Foundation that made the endeavor possible. The clinic is expected to be ready for occupancy sometime in May.

In addition to the Kindest Cut expansion, the new site will include two surgery suites that are part of a new AHS partnership with the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. One of the suites will be utilized by the university to teach an elective senior surgery rotation for veterinary students. A third part of the project will include a new X-ray room for AHS.

Keep up to date on the clinic’s opening plans by visiting www.kindestcutmn.com.

Dozens of emaciated horses removed from Fillmore County property

In what an Animal Humane Society humane agent called one of the largest cases of its kind he’d ever seen, AHS in late November seized 55 horses, ponies and donkeys from a farm property in southeastern Minnesota. Following a complaint about the property, an investigation by Senior Humane Agent Keith Streff found animals suffering from untreated wounds, severe emaciation and other health issues. Numerous carcasses in various states of decomposition were also found on the property.

The resident of the property, Wilbur Eugene Schmoll, was later charged by Fillmore County officials with 25 counts of animal cruelty and one count of improper disposal of dead animals.

“It was one of the largest and more complex operations involving horses I’ve seen in 25 years at AHS,” Streff said. “It involved multiple agencies from the area and required a major effort to remove and relocate the animals.”

A dozen horses considered to be in the most acute condition were transported from the farm property to the University of Minnesota Large Animal Hospital in St. Paul for forensic examination. Six of them had to be euthanized due to severe health complications. AHS worked with the Minnesota Housed Animal Rescue Foundation (MHARF) to treat, care for and place the remaining animals removed from the property. MHARF also took the horses from the animal hospital when they were well enough to be transported. Because of the large number of animals involved, efforts were still going on this spring to find permanent placement for some of the horses. AHS received a $15,000 grant from the ASPCA to help our work on this case. AHS transferred those funds to MHARF to support its care and rehabilitation of the horses.

A dozen horses were removed under advisement of Senior Humane Agent Keith Streff from a property in southeastern Minnesota. The owner was charged with 25 counts of animal cruelty.
Summer adventures start at AHS

Animal Humane Society is the place to be this summer! Check out these great opportunities for animal-loving kids and their families to have fun while learning:

We speak fluent animal at Animal Humane Society and our training classes are family-friendly! We encourage kids to attend class with their parents and together learn to bond with the family pet. Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/training to find the class that’s right for you.

If your kids are curious about what goes on behind the scenes at AHS, bring them in to any of our five locations for a guided shelter tour, led by our professional humane educators. Come explore AHS while learning about the animals, what services we provide in the community and so much more! Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/tours for more information.

Unleash your child’s love for animals at our popular Unleashed Summer Camp. This week-long camp is for kids entering grades 3-10. Campers spend a full week immersed in animal-themed fun including educational activities, animal interactions, visits from special guests, field trips, and more. Camp sessions are available at all five AHS locations and registration is now underway. Learn more at www.animalhumanesociety.org/camps.

Lights, camera, action! Bring the family to Animal Humane Society’s Pawsome Pet Picture Show, an animal-themed youth movie night at our Golden Valley location. The cost is only $5 and includes snacks and a special intermission with an AHS animal. Families with children 7 years of age or older are welcome and supervision will be provided for children attending without their family. View upcoming dates and movies at www.animalhumanesociety.org/pawsomepet.

More information about these programs, including dates, times and locations, can be found on page 7.

Strike a pose! Put your pet’s photo on a greeting card

You already know your pet is a star — now it’s time to share that adorable face with the world! Animal Humane Society has formed a new partnership with Red Stamp, an app that allows you to send personalized photo cards right from your Apple iPhone or iPad.

The AHS collection contains 12 exciting designs that you can use to show off your furriest friends. Cards can be sent through email, text, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or for $1.99 you can send an actual card in the mail. Proceeds from the collection come back to AHS to support our programs and services.

AHS team helps Superstorm Sandy pets and their families

In October 2012, Superstorm Sandy hit the East Coast leaving behind a path of destruction. Many people suffered catastrophic losses and struggled to get back on their feet. For those with pets, dealing with the aftermath of such a devastating storm proved to be even more difficult.

Immediately after Sandy hit, the ASPCA began assisting in affected areas by rescuing animals, reuniting them with their families, distributing supplies and providing veterinary care. They opened an emergency boarding facility in Brooklyn for pets that were unable to immediately return home. The free temporary shelter lessened the burden on storm victims and helped keep hundreds of families together as they worked to get their lives back in order.

The ASPCA contacted Animal Humane Society in December, asking if we could assist in caring for the animals over the holidays, a time when volunteer support can be challenging to find. Four AHS staff graciously volunteered to spend a week in New York at the emergency boarding facility, cleaning, feeding and caring for more than 100 displaced animals.

“We know what an important part of family our pets are so it was rewarding to help these animals and their families during this difficult time,” says Sara Hirschfeld, animal services supervisor at Animal Humane Society. “We were able to spend a lot of one-on-one time with the animals and provide special treats and enrichment to make them as comfortable as possible while they waited to return home.”


Nearly 280 animals were cared for at a temporary shelter after Superstorm Sandy.
Working together for a community in need

By Carrie Libera

Kiki was discovered in July 2012, living among the ashes and debris of a burned-out abandoned house on the Leech Lake Reservation with her four puppies by her side. The 1-year-old Shepherd mix was injured and weak, emaciated and dehydrated. She was limping and her face was swollen from numerous embedded porcupine quills (above, right). Kiki was in critical health, suffering from dehydration and numerous embedded porcupine quills (above, left). Some were living without food, water or shelter. Injured animals were not receiving the medical attention they desperately needed.

The Leech Lake Impound was consistently full of animals that had no place to go. Resources were scarce and there wasn’t a program in place to re-home the stray or surrendered animals. It was common for adoptable animals to be shot to make room for the steady stream of incoming animals.

These dire conditions could not be ignored; Marilou and Jenny knew they needed to help. Meanwhile, the Leech Lake Tribal Police were eager to improve life for animals on the reservation. They were thrilled at the prospect of working together and welcomed Marilou and Jenny into the community.

While planning their first trip to meet with the Leech Lake Tribal Police, Marilou and Jenny learned of nine impounded dogs at risk of being shot if they didn’t leave the facility soon. So three days before they were scheduled to make the trip to Leech Lake, they reached out to AHS, hoping to find a place for the nine dogs to go.

“It was such short notice but we couldn’t leave them there,” says Marilou. “I remember the conversation with Kathie Johnson at AHS so clearly. She said they would take them and we could just figure out the details as we go. It was such a relief.”

“Time was up for these dogs so we couldn’t wait,” says Kathie, director of animal services at AHS. “We both had the same goal, to save as many animals as we could, and the specifics could be worked out later.”

The ‘figure it out as we go’ strategy worked, and blossomed into a successful partnership. Shortly after their first transport to AHS, Marilou and Jenny officially formed Leech Lake Legacy. Each week the organization’s network of volunteers transports homeless animals from the reservation and surrounding communities to AHS and other rescues and shelters in Minnesota. “We have rescued dogs that have been hit by cars or shot, animals with serious eye or head injuries, and animals with faces riddled with porcupine quills,” says Jenny. “These animals need us, and it’s only by working together that we can fully help them.”

Between May 2011 and March 2013, Leech Lake Legacy transported a total of 1,220 dogs and cats from the reservation and surrounding communities to shelters and rescue groups for placement. Seventy-five percent of those animals, 915 dogs and cats, were brought to AHS where they received veterinary care, vaccinations, and spay/neuter surgery before being adopted into new homes. Once they were in the safe hands of Leech Lake Legacy, Kiki and her four puppies – Kachina, Kai, Koko and Kodiak – spent a few days being cared for at the Animal Care Clinic in Bemidji and were then transported to AHS in Buffalo. The puppies were examined, spayed and neutered, and adopted within days. Kiki’s injuries required more care and she underwent surgery to be spayed and to have the porcupine quills removed from her face. She also received the needed resources to care for all the animals in need, the Tribal Police are grateful they can rely on Marilou and Jenny to help. Rory immediately contacted the two women who arranged to bring Kiki and her puppies to Animal Humane Society. Here they would receive much-needed vet care and be adopted into new homes where they would be safe, well-fed and loved — a far cry from their previous situation.

This lifesaving partnership between Leech Lake Legacy and AHS began in the spring of 2011. Through their connections in animal welfare, Marilou and Jenny became aware of the plight of animals on the Leech Lake Reservation. Affordable spay/neuter services were not readily available, leaving the population of unwanted animals out of control. Some were living without food, water or shelter. Injured animals were not receiving the medical attention they desperately needed.

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Kiki’s beginnings  |  Found in this burned-out house (above, left) Kiki was in critical health, suffering from dehydration and numerous embedded porcupine quills (above, right).

Safe at home  |  Mary Phelps and Kiki, a true success story from the AHS/Leech Lake Legacy partnership.
“Kiki is a perfect example of just how drastically this partnership is changing the lives of individual animals.”

— Jenny Fitz, co-founder of Leech Lake Legacy

X-rays to determine the cause of her limp. “Kiki was so patient during the whole process and completely won over everyone she came in contact with,” says Marilou. “I am continually amazed at how sweet these animals are even when they are in so much pain.”

X-rays revealed that Kiki’s limp was due to an injured hip, most likely the result of a gunshot wound. AHS arranged for an orthopedic surgeon to further evaluate her. During that time, Kiki stayed with Mary Phelps, an AHS foster volunteer who also happens to work with the surgeon evaluating Kiki.

Mary was determined not to get attached to Kiki, but like everyone else she fell for her. Unfortunately while she was being evaluated for surgery, vets discovered that Kiki had kidney disease which would drastically shorten her life expectancy. The new diagnosis meant Kiki would need special care to make the most of the time she had left, and Mary decided the best option for Kiki would be to adopt her.

To see Kiki now, you would never know she is the same dog found in such deplorable conditions in the abandoned house. Her coat is now soft and shiny, her spirit is full of life, and her presence fills the room with joy. She has such a great attitude about everything, and she makes friends everywhere she goes!

Work to keep her hip muscles strong. “She loves it so much, she can hardly walk past the treadmill without jumping in,” says Mary. “She acts like a crazy puppy and scoots all around with excitement when she’s done.” Kiki also gets acupuncture and laser therapy for her hip when needed. “She has such a great attitude about everything, and she makes friends everywhere she goes!”

Free from fear | Edwina (now called Winnie), a Lab mix who had been chained to a tree during a storm, bonds with AHS employee Melissa Carlson upon her arrival at AHS.

It was simply amazing to watch how gentle, patient and kind Melissa was with Edwina; I knew she was in good hands.”

— Marilou Chanrasmi, co-founder of Leech Lake Legacy

ed with the surgeon evaluating Kiki.

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When I first had her at my house, she wouldn’t leave my four-season porch so I put a big dog bed out there for her,” says Mary. “A week later I was sitting on the couch and she decided to come in, hopped up on the couch with me, and has stayed by my side ever since!”

Mary brings her to work every day and Kiki does weekly water treadmill work to keep her hip muscles strong. “She loves it so much, she can hardly walk past the treadmill without jumping in,” says Mary. “She acts like a crazy puppy and scoots all around with excitement when she’s done.”

Kiki also gets acupuncture and laser therapy for her hip when needed. “She has such a great attitude about everything, and she makes friends everywhere she goes!”

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Leech Lake Legacy teams up with Kindest Cut for spay/neuter clinics

Leech Lake Legacy is dedicated to working with the local community to help reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats on the Leech Lake Reservation. One crucial component is providing low-cost spay and neuter services, like those offered by Kindest Cut, which offers this service to the public in partnership with Animal Humane Society.

In 2012, Leech Lake Legacy teamed up with Kindest Cut to host two low-cost spay/neuter and vaccination clinics. The two-day clinics were held on a first-come, first-served basis and residents began lining up as early as 5 a.m. to ensure a spot for their pet.

“There are so many residents who love their pets but are unable to provide even basic care for them,” says Jenny Fitzer of Leech Lake Legacy. “Through our partnerships with AHS and Kindest Cut, and using the spay/neuter clinics as an opportunity to reach out to pet owners, we are able to provide them with basic necessities for their pets including vaccinations, wellness checks, food and most recently, dog houses.”

A total of 184 cats and dogs were altered at the two clinics. An additional 126 animals received vaccinations, and 92 cats and dogs were surrendered during the clinics and transported by Leech Lake Legacy to Animal Humane Society for placement.

“The community is so grateful to have us there,” says Dr. Meghan Kruck of Kindest Cut. “Providing these services in an easy and affordable way allows them to do what’s best for their pets, and ultimately make an impact on the amount of unwanted animals in their community.”

Due to the popularity of the clinics, Leech Lake Legacy and Kindest Cut will continue to provide this much-needed service to the community. Four spay/neuter clinics are scheduled for 2013. Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/leechlakevideo to watch a video from the August 2012 spay/neuter clinic at the Leech Lake Reservation.
You know how special it is to look down and see your pet staring back at you. A simple walk becomes something more when you share it with your furry friend. Now is the time to step up (and out!) for the animals less fortunate than your own – the cats, dogs, birds and critters that Animal Humane Society cares for each year. Begin raising pledges now and get ready for the one event your pet looks forward to every bit as much as you.

animalhumanesociety.org/walk

Follow us online
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Dont make us beg! Pledge online!

You know how special it is to look down and see your pet staring back at you. A simple walk becomes something more when you share it with your furry friend. Now is the time to step up (and out!) for the animals less fortunate than your own – the cats, dogs, birds and critters that Animal Humane Society cares for each year. Begin raising pledges now and get ready for the one event your pet looks forward to every bit as much as you.

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In the summer of 2010, Animal Humane Society had a problem big enough that it landed on the cover of Animal Tracks. And there was nothing subtle about the photo of an orange tabby in mid-yowl and the headline: Cats in crisis. There was good reason for alarm. “Cats are being born at such an incredible rate each year that all five of our facilities struggle to keep up,” AHS President & CEO Janelle Dixon said in the accompanying article. AHS, Janelle said, was “overwhelmed” with cats. But even as she was uttering those words, the seeds of change were being planted. Near the end of that story was a brief mention of Bound for Home, a program launched a few months before, intended to provide better care to animals at AHS and to move them more quickly through the shelter. The goal of Bound for Home was to “ensure that all healthy and treatable animals that come through AHS’s doors are placed with caring families.” In a note to readers in that issue, Janelle called Bound for Home the kind of initiative that could “soon begin to make a difference in the lives of thousands of felines.” And she was right. To be sure, many of the conditions of the “cat crisis” described in that issue of the magazine still exist. A cat overpopulation problem remains. Not enough felines are being spayed and neutered. The time of year known as “kitten season” still stresses the capacity of shelters across the state and around the country. But Bound for Home has made a significant difference. “The impact it has had on improving quality of life for animals in our community is more than most of us could have imagined,” Janelle wrote in Animal Tracks six months ago. And that was before the results of new innovations in caring for cats at AHS began to show results. A key to the impact Janelle referred to is the effort to better manage the intake process at AHS. The Surrender by Appointment process implemented in January 2011, has reduced both the number of animals coming to AHS and their length of stay in the shelter. It’s done that by emphasizing alternatives to surrender and by allowing AHS to better regulate the flow of animals into its shelters. It also has improved AHS’s ability gather more information about the animals being surrendered, a significant factor in placing more animals, and placing them more quickly. The reduction in animals coming into AHS has occurred across the board, but has played a large part in alleviating the cat crisis in the shelters. The number of cats taken in by AHS declined from 20,873 in 2009 to 13,017 in fiscal 2012. During the kitten season (May through September) in recent years, it took an average of 40 days for a cat to be adopted. That figure is now down to about 14 days. The impact it has had on improving quality of life for animals in our community is more than most of us could have imagined,” Janelle wrote in Animal Tracks six months ago. And that was before the results of new innovations in caring for cats at AHS began to show results. A key to the impact Janelle referred to is the effort to better manage the intake process at AHS. The Surrender by Appointment process implemented in January 2011, has reduced both the number of animals coming to AHS and their length of stay in the shelter. It’s done that by emphasizing alternatives to surrender and by allowing AHS to better regulate the flow of animals into its shelters. It also has improved AHS’s ability gather more information about the animals being surrendered, a significant factor in placing more animals, and placing them more quickly. Three years ago, it took an average of 40 days for a cat to be adopted. That figure is now down to about 14 days.
Courageous Kitty

Courageous Kitty was implemented in July 2012 for cats that had a history of being social in the home but when surrendered did not adjust well to the shelter environment. Many of these cats, according to Kathie Johnson, director of animal services at AHS, “are shell-shocked and frightened.” These are cats that would rather hide out in the back of the cage than step out front and offer a paw to a potential adopter.

The problem, not surprisingly, is that cats that show little interest in making a new friend are a lot less likely to attract the attention of a potential adopter, and that can increase the amount of time it takes for them to find a new home.

“Behavior is the most important consideration for people when they are looking at animals they are considering for adoption,” Kathie said. “Animals that ‘present’ better to potential adopters are simply going to be adopted first.”

Those suddenly shy felines that come to AHS are now enrolled in Courageous Kitty, a program that makes use of clicker training. The cats are offered food to entice them to the front of the cage, a clicker is sounded and the cat receives the food. Most cats quickly learn to associate the click with a positive reward, a “conditioned response.” Perhaps more importantly, in the process the cat learns that a person standing right outside the cage is not “a scary thing,” Kathie said. “It helps them understand that people are something positive, and they can relax and settle in.”

After a few days of clicker training, two or three times a day for a few minutes each time, most cats come out of their shells, interact better with visitors to the adoption center, and are soon on their way to a new home.

In just the first few months of the program, more than 400 cats who took part in Courageous Kitty were successfully adopted into new homes. When Courageous Kitty was introduced, AHS staff handled the clicker training, but in March 2013, volunteers who work in the adoption center were trained to do the clicker training, which will allow Courageous Kitty to continue to grow.

Fresh Start

Fresh Start, introduced in March 2012, is a program that gives a second opportunity to cats that do not consistently use the litter box.

The program involves identifying and training volunteers willing to foster these “bottle babies” in their homes, a significant commitment of time and effort given that these kittens need to be fed as often as every two hours. “This is a very labor-intensive endeavor” Kathie said. “It takes a special kind of volunteer to do it, but the rewards are immense as well.”

Courageous Kitty, Fresh Start and Bottle Babies are the kinds of programs that have helped turn Bound for Home, according to Janelle, “from a dream to a reality.” But just as things have changed for the better since the article that ran three years ago, AHS hopes to keep improving. In the words of Janelle, “in just two or three years, AHS hopes to keep improving. The goal, in Janelle’s words, is simply to “positively impact more and more animals’ lives with each passing day, month and year.”

**In just the first few months of the program, more than 400 cats who took part in Courageous Kitty were successfully adopted into new homes.**

In just the first few months of the program, more than 400 cats who took part in Courageous Kitty were successfully adopted into new homes. It was because of litter box issues. Now, armed with knowledge, AHS can determine if a medical problem is present and, if not, enroll the cat into the Fresh Start program.

A main component of Fresh Start is clicker training, although it is not used to directly change litter box behavior. Instead, it is done with these cats in much the same way it is done with Courageous Kitty participants, with the goal of reducing anxiety and stress. Getting cats more comfortable in their new environment simply results in more consistent use of the litter box.

In the first 10 months of Fresh Start, AHS was able to adopt out more than 130 cats that were in the program. Adopters who are considering a Fresh Start cat are provided information about the litter box issues, tools to help them properly introduce the cat to the home and tips on good litter box habits to help the cat be successful in its new environment. AHS Behavior Helpline staff follow up with adopters periodically to assist as necessary.

**Bottle Babies**

The Bottle Babies program was just getting under way as this issue of Animal Tracks went to press. It’s designed to help the 150-200 neonatal kittens that come through AHS’s doors each year in need of critical care services that in the past AHS has not been equipped to provide.

The program involves identifying and training volunteers willing to foster these “bottle babies” in their homes, a significant commitment of time and effort given that these kittens need to be fed as often as every two hours. “This is a very labor-intensive endeavor” Kathie said. “It takes a special kind of volunteer to do it, but the rewards are immense as well.”

For more information, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org. Wild about Animals? Call the AHS Behavior Helpline at 312-920-2500. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!
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Our Golden Valley pet boarding facility is a second home to dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, fish—even a pig or two. It’s personalized pet care from a staff that knows all about caring for animals.

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Freddy
Jewels
Blue

BUY 2, GET 1 FREE
Board your pet two or more nights and get one additional night free. Must be used all in one stay. Limit one offer per customer. Expires 10/31/13.

Text updates now available.

Animal lovers

Did you know that over 1,600 people volunteer at Animal Humane Society each year?

Want to become one of those helping hands?

There are many ways to get involved. You could foster animals not quite ready for their new homes, volunteer at the Walks for Animals, or help shelter animals find their forever homes.

Volunteers are integral to all aspects of our work.

for more info
visit animalhumanesociety.org/volunteer

It is never too late to learn good manners.

At Animal Humane Society’s Training School we believe every dog can benefit from a little training:

• Purchase a two or four-month pass and choose among 50 classes weekly
• Family friendly—every family learns!
• Four convenient Twin Cities locations
• Learn real-life skills you can use with your pet

When you train your pet at AHS, you’re helping to support all of the animals in our care.

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daytime & evening appointments available

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New Boarding is an affiliate of Animal Humane Society and our services are based on its mission. Proceeds help support Animal Humane Society’s core services and together we are strengthening the human-animal bond.
memorials and tributes
July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012

W e are grateful for your generous support of the animals through memorial and tribute gifts and are pleased to acknowledge those gifts in this magazine. We are committed to providing quality content with information about our programs and services and want to ensure that you don't have to support the animals in our care. We sincerely appreciate every gift made in honor or memory of a loved one or pet; however, due to the volume only pet memorials of $100 or more will be listed in this publication.

In Memory of a pet
Remembered by...

John and Michael
In Memory of a pet
All of the Wonderful
Remembered by...

All races, all breeds, all sizes, all species. All of them a part of our lives, all of them loved. All of them remembered in our hearts.

A beautiful tribute to all of our pets who have passed on, brought us joy, and left their paw prints on our hearts.

Beverly and Delbert Griesert
John and Michael
Sam, Frazier, Becky &

McMurphy

Paco

William and Elaine Clelland

Robert Samuelson

Donna Daubendiek and

Robert Morberg

Nellie, Suzie, Sam & Leo

Thomas and Cynthia Mar- rington

Grace

John and Michael

Sheryl Ford

Gwen, Spitz & Bart

John and Michael

Henry

John and Michael

Joy Montgomery

Cindy

Romney and Robert

Barker

Snickers

John Barker

Beverly and Delbert Griesert

Dorothy

All pets are remembered.

Beverly and Delbert Griesert

John and Michael

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Beverly and Delbert Grieser...
Dear Animal Humane Society,

Casey and I had searched high and low across the Twin Cities for a new pet during the spring of 2009. We had moved to St. Paul the previous winter before and had just bought our first home, complete with a fenced-in yard. Although we visited with many dogs in need of a home, we both felt that we just “had to” our dog. As we walked through Animal Humane Society in Golden Valley yet again, we nearly walked past the handsome golden lab lying quietly on a blanket. He had just past the handsome golden lab lying quietly on a blanket. He had just fallen asleep with Casey after kitty and I went upstairs to bed.

We will be forever spoiled by the fact that our first dog, Toby, as Toby was already 9 years old. I tried not to get attached, but although the first couple of months were hard on all of us, it didn’t take long for us to forget what life was like before Toby entered our lives and his “retirement home,” as we called ourselves. Toby literally became the center of our universe, and we would not have had it any other way.

I wish that I could tell Toby’s first family how grateful we were for taking such good care of him and teaching him so much. I wish that I could reassure them about how much he was loved and pampered during the last three years. And I know that they were for taking such good care of him and teaching him so much. I wish that I could reassure them about how much he was loved and pampered during the last three years. And I know that they were for taking such good care of him and teaching him so much. I wish that I could reassure them about how much he was loved and pampered during the last three years. And I know that they were for taking such good care of him and teaching him so much. I wish that I could reassure them about how much he was loved and pampered during the last three years. And I know that they were for taking such good care of him and teaching him so much. I wish that I could reassure them about how much he was loved and pampered during the last three years. And I know that they were for taking such good care of him and teaching him so much.

We are so grateful to Animal Humane Society for helping us find Toby. I would encourage anyone that has to give up an animal to visit this organization and give your animal the chance at finding a new forever home. And I would strongly encourage anyone who is considering the adoption of a senior pet to jump at the chance. We will be forever spoiled by the fact that our first dog came completely trained and (usually) impeccably well-behaved. Although we only had three short years with Toby, our lives were forever changed as a result.

Sincerely,
Amy & Casey Godwin

Toby
kindest cut
high quality, low cost spay/neuter for pets of people in need

Since 2011 we have been serving a growing number of communities with our mobile services. We are expanding! Our new Minneapolis clinic is opening soon.

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