

# Animal Tracks

Animal Humane Society | Winter 2017



MAKING HISTORY  
CELEBRATING A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR



animal humane society





Animal Humane Society (AHS) engages the hearts, hands, and minds of the community to help animals. Every year AHS cares for more than 23,000 companion animals in need and helps thousands more through programs for people and pets.

As the leading animal welfare organization in the Upper Midwest, AHS is transforming the way shelters care for animals and engage their communities. From innovative medical and behavior programs to investments in outreach and advocacy, AHS is advancing animal welfare and creating a more humane world for animals everywhere.

AHS receives no federal, state or government funding and relies solely on private donations, special events, adoption and program fees, and merchandise sales.

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

# A Message from Janelle Dixon

**As I reflect on the achievements of the previous year, I find myself in awe of all we have accomplished together.**

As an organization, we continue to make history, serving more people and placing more animals in loving homes than ever before — all while expanding our services, creating innovative new approaches, and charting a bold path forward. Among all that we have to celebrate, the advances we've made through Kindest Cut may be the most exciting. Through Kindest Cut we can now directly serve animals in our community by providing low-cost sterilization surgeries, wellness services, and specialty procedures to individuals with limited means and rescue groups. The integration of Kindest Cut into the operations of AHS was completed at the end of our last fiscal year, and I am pleased to share our first annual report that includes our shared successes in this issue of Animal Tracks.

Through the incredible work being done at our Melrose Animal Clinic in Golden Valley and 27 mobile clinic locations, Kindest Cut performed 11,627 spay/neuter surgeries and provided 4,182 wellness exams and procedures for animals right here in our community.

But there is still more we can do.

As we look to the future we hope to expand our support through enhanced services, increased visibility in underserved communities, and our unwavering commitment to the human-animal bond.

Whether adopted or searching for homes, young or old, near or far, AHS stands with animals and the folks who love them. With your help, we can continue to be there for animals and their families when they need us most.

Best,

Janelle Dixon, President & CEO



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## Animal Tracks

Winter 2017

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Animal Tracks is published twice a year.

## Mission

To engage the hearts, hands, and minds of the community to help animals.

## Vision

To compassionately and responsibly create a more humane world for animals.

## Core Values

Be good to animals.  
Partner with people.  
Lead responsibly with compassion.

### On the cover:

Daisy, an 11-year-old English Springer Spaniel/Jack Russell Terrier mix, graduated from our Adoption Preparation program which readies shy and fearful dogs for adoption.



# Petcetera

## New programs help young animal lovers get involved

**Animal Humane Society's** Humane Education team recently rolled out several new programs for kids. These programs help shape the next generation of animal advocates by providing kids with pet care knowledge, a better understanding of animals' feelings, increased empathy towards animals, and a way to be an ambassador for animals and AHS.

### Check out our three newest opportunities for kids!

#### RESCUE READERS

What better way for your young animal lover to practice their reading skills than in the presence of a non-judgmental, ever-patient shelter animal? This mutually rewarding experience launched at our Golden Valley location and will be expanded to all sites by January.

#### PROJECT PURPOSE

This new program equips kids ages 12-15 with a deeper understanding of the work AHS does through hands-on service projects. It's also a great way for animal adoring kids to fulfill community service requirements.

#### ANIMAL ACADEMY

With themes like animal photography and pet massage, Animal Academy is a fun way for kids to learn, meet new people, and enhance their love of animals.

To make way for these new educational programs, AHS will no longer offer in-shelter birthday parties. Instead we are offering an online kit with everything you need to host an AHS-themed birthday party or create an online birthday fundraiser to support AHS. Groups are also welcome to sign up for our other education programs, including shelter tours.



Visit [animalhumanesociety.org/youth](https://animalhumanesociety.org/youth) to learn about all our educational programs



## Services, staff shifted from Buffalo to other sites

**Staff and services from** Animal Humane Society's shelter in Buffalo, which closed November 1, have been shifted to AHS locations in Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, St. Paul and Woodbury.

The decision to close the Buffalo site was announced in July. "While closing this facility aligns with our strategic priorities and goals for the future, it was not an easy decision to make," says AHS President & CEO Janelle Dixon. "We know this impacts people and animals we all care about, and we have worked hard to ensure that animals, community members, staff, and volunteers are fully supported."

AHS will continue to serve

Buffalo and surrounding communities through its other Twin Cities locations.

"We are confident the 2,100 animals cared for in Buffalo each year — roughly 9 percent of our total placements — can be cared for and placed through these four other sites," says Dixon. "Our Kindest Cut mobile clinic, Community Cats program, and Humane Investigations team will continue to support Buffalo and its neighboring communities."

The Buffalo area is also well served by Crossroads Animal Shelter, located just 2 miles west of our Buffalo site, and by Tri-County Humane Society in St. Cloud.

"We are incredibly proud of the work that has been done through our Buffalo shelter, and are excited about the way this change positions AHS for the future, allowing us to embrace new opportunities to innovate and advance our mission," says Dixon.

## AHS unveils new website

**In August, Animal Humane Society** launched a major update to its website that makes it easier to find the perfect pet and engage with AHS programs and services.

The new site includes enhanced animal profiles and adoption search options, more robust lost and found bulletin boards, and expanded pet behavior and pet care resources. It's also filled with stories and information about AHS and its impact on the community.

"We wanted the website to be an extension of the incredible experience visitors have in our shelters," says Maggie Flanagan, AHS digital marketing manager. "Our goal was to convey the joy animals bring to our lives." As a result, you'll see more animal photos and videos, brighter colors, bigger images, and enjoy a friendlier user experience — especially if you're accessing the website from your mobile device.



Explore the new site at [animalhumanesociety.org](https://animalhumanesociety.org) and let us know what you think! Send your comments and suggestions to [digital@animalhumanesociety.org](mailto:digital@animalhumanesociety.org).



# Adoption adjustment period extended



If you've ever adopted a new pet, you know there is a period of adjustment as your new companion settles in. For some pets, the transition is quick and easy. Others take a bit more time to feel completely comfortable in a new home. Recently, we've updated one of our policies to reflect our shared commitment to finding a good fit for animals.

Animal Humane Society now offers a 60-day adjustment period for adopters to evaluate the pet's progress and their adoption decision. If, within those 60 days, adopters determine their new pet isn't a good fit, they may return the animal to AHS and receive an adoption credit certificate that can be used toward the adoption of another animal or the purchase of pet supplies. Previously, adopters were issued a credit for returns up to 30 days post-adoption.

We hope this updated policy will result in more successful adoptions as animals have ample time to adjust, and customers are able to take more time finding the right pet.



Three hours before our tenth Community Outreach wellness event even began, community members were already lining up. The crowd that formed was as diverse as the animals they brought with them, but they all had one thing in common — a love for their pets and the desire to do what's best for them. By the end of the day more than 350 animals received wellness services.

In 2017, AHS hosted two wellness events in underserved communities in Frogtown and East St. Paul.

"We were blown away by the gratitude of the community, the dedication of volunteers, and the human-animal bond that unites us all," says AHS Community Outreach Manager Amanda Hatling. "Months of planning goes into these events, and they are about so much more than vaccines and pet food," adds Hatling. "They are about everything we believe in as an organization — partnering with

people to create a more humane world, not only for animals, but for the people who love them as well."

We are committed to the Frogtown and East St. Paul neighborhoods and our Outreach team will continue to partner with those communities to provide much needed resources and access to affordable pet care.



## AHS finds new homes for dogs removed from Bloomington warehouse

Dozens of dogs are in new homes after being seized in June from a warehouse-style office space in Bloomington that was leased by the owner of Luv Me Again Animal Rescue.

Responding to reports of barking and a foul odor coming from the building, Bloomington Police discovered 37 animals living in a suite inside the warehouse. The dire conditions — along with multiple municipal animal control ordinance violations — led Bloomington officials to take action.

Bloomington Police requested assistance from Animal Humane Society to execute a search warrant authorizing the seizure of the animals. AHS Humane Agent Keith Streff observed the dogs living in unsanitary kennels



with no access to food or water, and coordinated a team to remove the dogs and transport them to safety at our Golden Valley facility.

During a 10-day legal hold period, the dogs were released by their owner into our care, and our veterinary and behavioral specialists began preparing them for adoption. By August, all 37 dogs from this case found loving new homes through AHS.

At the time this issue of Animal Tracks was printed, criminal charges for this case were still pending.





## Fun opportunities for dog and cat lovers with the Pack

**SORRY, DOWNWARD DOG — THIS YOGA CLASS IS ALL ABOUT CATS!**

In late July, members of the Pack, Animal Humane Society's young professionals group, got their namaste on while in the company of some of our adoptable kitties. The session offered Pack members a unique yoga class experience, and the cats received one-on-one socialization and a chance to get away from the busy adoption center.

If drinks and dogs are more your speed, the Pack has something for you too! Members frequently gather at local dog-friendly breweries to connect over their shared love of animals, while also including their pups in the fun.

The goal of the Pack is to learn about, take part in, and advocate for the work that Animal Humane Society does while creating an environment for animal lovers to share ideas and build relationships. Cat yoga, happy hours, dog park outings, and service projects are just a few of the monthly events members get to experience.

To learn more about upcoming events and how to join the Pack, visit [animalhumanesociety.org/pack](http://animalhumanesociety.org/pack)



## U of M vet students gain real-world experience at AHS

With their two-week rotation at Animal Humane Society's Kindest Cut Melrose Animal Clinic nearing its end, a group of University of Minnesota students are gathered around an exam table discussing their next patient.

Around them, the clinic is buzzing with activity. Multiple surgeries are in progress, animals are being prepped for their procedures, and many more are waking up in their kennels surrounded by blankets for comfort.

"It's so busy here — nothing like what we are used to," says one student. She is impressed with the volume of patients Kindest Cut cares for each day, and the precision and ease with which they do it.

For more than three years, U of M veterinary students have been getting hands-on surgical

**"This clinical training program provides a unique educational opportunity for our students that is not available anywhere else in our curriculum."**

— Trevor Ames



experience through a partnership with AHS. The partnership allows fourth year students to practice their surgical skills and increase their knowledge of anesthesia, creating huge opportunities for professional growth.

"The difference in each student's confidence is amazing," says instructor Sara Herrlinger, an assistant professor of veterinary medicine at the U of M. "For most students, this is their first opportunity to manage an animal's procedure from beginning to end on their own." Each student provides a physical exam and assessment, pre-medication, intubation, anesthesia, and a complete spay or neuter surgery for an animal every day of their rotation.

This isn't an experience that many classrooms can offer. "This clinical training program provides a unique educational opportunity for our students that is not available anywhere else in our curriculum. It's extremely important in helping us to prepare career-ready graduates," says Trevor Ames, DVM and Dean of the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Some of those graduates have even returned to work at Animal Humane Society's Kindest Cut clinic where they continue to provide wellness and sterilization surgeries at a reduced cost to families and rescues in need.

It's not just students who benefit from this partnership. During our last fiscal year, U of M students completed 1,005 spay/neuter surgeries, allowing AHS to help even more animals in the community.







# Training Diva

## OUTREACH PROGRAM PROVIDES HOPE FOR REACTIVE DOG

**Diva doesn't have** an especially unique adoption story. When this 3-year-old pit bull mix arrived at Animal Humane Society she seemed quiet, calm, and cuddly. Diva's adopters, Joe and Allison, weren't planning to get a dog that day, but instantly fell in love with her brown spots and "easy-going attitude."

"She was everything we were looking for," says Allison. "But it wasn't long before we started noticing some behavior issues that weren't there when we first met her." Diva began showing increased aggression toward other dogs, and even cyclists.

After three weeks in her new home, it became clear that Diva was nervous and displayed aggression around other dogs. Even going outside for potty-breaks was stressful. Allison felt overwhelmed. She really wanted a pet that could exercise with her, but her vision of running with Diva was growing dim. She and Joe discussed returning Diva to AHS, but Joe was confident training would help.

Because Allison and Joe live in a neighborhood served by our Community Outreach program, an AHS staff member called them to see how things were going with Diva. The timing was perfect.

Since that phone call, Joe, Allison, and Diva have been



Diva and her adopters, Allison and Joe.

attending weekly private training sessions, preparing Diva for Reactive Rovers, an AHS training course where other dogs will be present.

The training is provided for free to families who qualify for our Outreach program, which aims to make a positive impact on the community's public health and safety by increasing access to affordable pet care and services.

"What I do and provide is simple, but for the family and the animal it's huge," says Elise Denham Probasco, one of Diva's personal AHS trainers. "A simple suggestion or consistent training can significantly reduce stress between humans and pets, better



strengthening their bond and enjoyment of being a family."

It's been a long process, but the progress they're seeing in Diva makes it worth it. Over time, Diva has learned that other dogs aren't a threat. Allison hopes it won't be long before she has the exercise partner she's always wanted.

"This whole experience makes AHS my first choice for adoption — always," says Joe. "If we get to a place where we can adopt another dog, it'll be from Animal Humane Society."

Through low-cost spay and neuter services, wellness exams, training, expert advice and more, Animal Humane Society is committed to helping pets and their families thrive together.

Learn more about our  
Community Outreach Program at  
[animalhumanesociety.org/outreach](https://animalhumanesociety.org/outreach)



# Annie finds a loving new home through Loved for Life

**This past summer** a lifelong AHS supporter passed away, leaving behind her beloved Italian Greyhound Annie. As a Legacy Circle member who included AHS in her estate plans, Annie's owner was able to enroll her 9-year-old canine companion in our Loved for Life program. This program was created to re-home pets through a personalized adoption process when a member passes away or can no longer care for their animal, ensuring the pet has the life the owner would have wanted for them. It's our way of saying "thank you" to our Legacy Circle members that have generously included AHS in their estate plans.

Through this program, Annie was initially placed into a caring foster volunteer's home. From there we reached out to our inner circle of staff and volunteers to find someone special to adopt Annie. Janice, a friend of an AHS volunteer, responded, giving this cuddly dog the loving home she deserves.

"Annie is settling in nicely with her new dog sister, Lulu, and loves meeting other dog friends," says Janice. "If she's not being social, you'll probably find her snuggled up on my lap or on the sofa. I wish her previous owner could know how much Annie is loved in her new home. I'm looking forward to spending many years with her."





# ON THE GROUND IN TEXAS

First-hand accounts of AHS's hurricane relief efforts

On August 25, Hurricane Harvey made landfall on the Texas Gulf Coast. The Category 4 hurricane produced unforgiving winds and dropped more than 50 inches of rain on southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana. Catastrophic flooding devastated entire communities, forcing residents and their pets from their homes. Efforts to save animals from the rising waters were in full effect, and shelters already at capacity were inundated with animals displaced by the storm.

In the days, weeks, and months that followed, animal

shelters from all over the country stepped in to assist. Animal Humane Society coordinated the transport of hundreds of shelter animals to Minnesota and other states, creating space in those shelters for pets displaced by the storm. And in early September, five members of AHS's Critical Response Team arrived on the ground in Texas to work alongside staff at the Houston SPCA, caring for animals at both their large animal sanctuary and downtown shelter.

by Zach Nugent

Two simple words: thank you. I think I heard those words more during our week in Texas than I have over my entire life. When we first arrived in the state, I didn't know what to expect. I had never been to Texas, let alone to an area ravaged by a major hurricane. I'd seen news coverage, photos, and video of the devastation and was expecting to find a city in despair. I could not have been more wrong.

By the time we arrived, a vast majority of the flood waters had receded. On our descent into Houston, I could see debris piles scattered in front of homes — seemingly stretching for miles down neighborhood streets. But on the ground, the scene felt different. The ground was dry, the sun was shining, businesses were open, and people could be seen smiling. Aside from a few closed roads — which created unbelievable traffic — you would almost never know the city had just survived a major natural disaster.

But that was day one. The next day, when we arrived at the shelter, you could see it was anything but business as usual in Houston. The shelter was swarming not only with its normal employees and volunteers, but with droves of shelter workers from all over the country. Throughout the week we worked alongside groups from Michigan, California, New York, and Missouri. The entire country had seemingly descended upon Texas to offer assistance.

Our first day on the ground took us 50 miles west of Houston to a rural

area of Hempstead, Texas, where the Houston SPCA rents a 350 acre ranch to house large animals. Our task: assist the two individuals caring for dozens of horses, goats, and donkeys rescued from flood waters. One of the horses had all four legs wrapped in bandages and his ribs could easily be seen. The barn lead, Linea Wood, had been working since 5:00 a.m. She and a colleague had been putting in 10 to 12 hour days cleaning stalls, feeding animals, and treating injuries. Having a few extra hands meant the work could be done in a fraction of the time. After AHS team members Yvette Stickney and Dustin Green finished helping that first day, Linea told me, "This is the first day in a while we've had close to a normal day."

One of the most powerful moments of the day was when Yvette approached a horse with bandaged legs who looked at her, almost knowing she was there to help. Yvette reached out her hand and gently placed it just above the horse's nose. She gave the horse a pat and a kiss and almost teared up. We knew our team was making a true difference by helping animals, comforting them, and making sure they finally felt safe.

**"After all you've been through, you're smiling." She replied, "Because I'm still here."**

The following days, most of our team remained at the main Houston SPCA shelter. A constant wave of animals came through the doors — dogs, cats, rabbits, even a little pot-bellied pig. Kittens as young as a week old were given fluids and placed on heating pads. Senior dogs with lumps, bumps, and cloudy eyes were examined and given the refuge they so desperately needed.

Dr. Angelica Dimock, the AHS



veterinarian who led our team, spent many hours in the Houston SPCA triage area — placing splints on cats and dogs with broken limbs, examining animals with open wounds and burns from exposure to flood waters, even helping create a makeshift oxygen tank for a large dog that was struggling to breathe. These animals desperately needed help and to see our team in action, not missing a beat, is a sight I will never forget.

The shelter itself was at capacity and adoptions had been suspended until further notice. Every kennel in their adoption areas, in their back rooms, in their outdoor overflow annex was full, and more animals kept coming in. What I found particularly inspiring was how teams from all over the country

were working together, side by side. Other shelters, vet clinics, and boarding facilities within a 200-mile radius were opening their doors to house displaced animals from flooded areas. We used our rental van to transport 17 dogs to a boarding facility roughly an hour away. The Houston SPCA was making sure that animals displaced by the storm were held until their owners could reclaim them.

One of the most memorable moments for me was speaking with a woman who brought in 27 kittens her son rescued from flood waters. The woman lost everything in her home, but she and her son made it their mission to get these kittens to safety. She even left the shelter a \$50 donation to contribute to their care. She was so cheerful and I said to her, "After all you've been through, you're smiling." She replied, "Because I'm still here."

It was this attitude that I found most infectious and felt everywhere we went. People had lost everything they had, but there wasn't a sense of despair. People were pulling together, neighbors helping neighbors, strangers helping strangers, and people helping animals of all shapes and sizes.

The effect of the human-animal bond could be felt everywhere in the building. Many of the shelter's local vet techs had experienced flooding themselves. Some lost everything and didn't even have a house to go home to, yet they were at work, putting in 12 to 15 hour days to care for the animals. That passion for animals runs deep in all of us, and I'm so proud our AHS team could be there to help.





**Dr. Angelica Dimock**

**My first patient on my first day** was a dog from Beaumont with severe demodex mange. He had no hair and was so emaciated. He probably weighed 30 pounds when he should have weighed 60 or 70 pounds. In the days that followed I saw so many others in need of immediate attention — animals with injuries, broken limbs, sores from being stuck in the water. It was quite an experience and it felt like we couldn't go more than a few minutes without somebody thanking us; everyone was so very gracious.



**Yvette Stickney**

**My heart is in horses** so I loved cleaning stalls, bathing horses, and holding them during medical treatments. One older horse I called 'Bud' had all four legs wrapped because of lesions, and developed laminitis, which is a painful inflammatory condition that made it difficult for him to walk. It felt so good to be there for him in that moment and help him in whatever way I could. I also had the opportunity to reunite a stallion with its owners. I've never seen a horse jump into a trailer so fast in my life. He seemed so happy and his family was so relieved and thankful to have him back.



**Siera Erickson**

**Hearing stories from the Texas shelter workers** was really eye-opening for me. Their houses were flooded, they were staying at hotels or with friends, and yet they put their struggles aside and showed up every day to care for the animals. To know they needed help in so many ways but continued to help others made me feel so good that we could at least be there to help them with their jobs. And it wasn't just us — it was amazing hearing where everybody came from to chip in: Kentucky, Mississippi, New York, Minnesota, Wisconsin, to name a few. We were all there for the same reason.



**Dustin Green**

**I'm always the first to jump** on any opportunities to go out and help animals. In Texas I worked with both large animals on the ranch and cared for dozens of dogs that were seized as part of a cruelty case unrelated to the storm. The dogs were housed in an overflow area, and with so many new animals coming in, it was difficult for staff to get to them all. I was able to jump in and make sure those dogs received the medications they needed. I remember one dog in particular who was really shy and scared. Once I was able to track down some enrichment toys she started to come around, which was so great to see.







## JAKE'S JOURNEY FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HAPPINESS.

**Scared and alone** in an abandoned house in southeastern Alabama, Jake was surviving on whatever scraps he could find when he was found by animal control. They brought this timid stray Shepherd mix to a local shelter where he was given food and a safe place to rest his head.

But Jake needed more than that. His skin was red and raw from a severe case of demodex mange, and having lived without much human interaction, he was extremely fearful. He would need additional medical attention and behavior training that could take months.

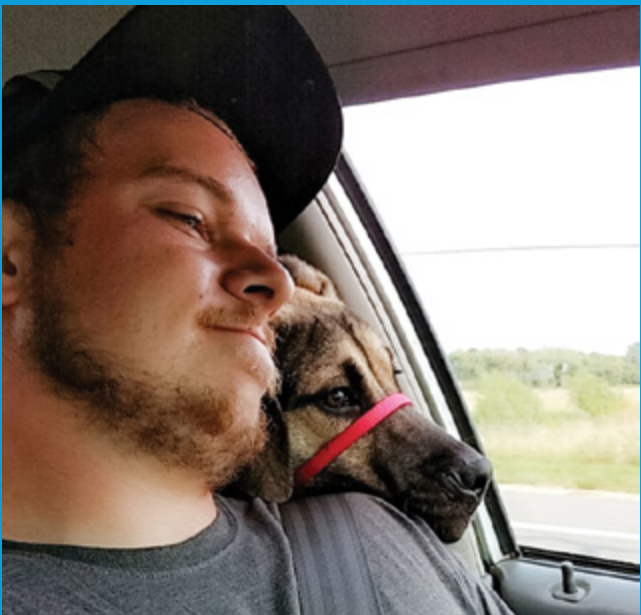
As is the case with many shelters in the south, there were more animals in need than the shelter had resources to care for. Knowing Jake could get the care he deserved in Minnesota, he was transported to Animal Humane Society.

When he arrived at our shelter, Jake was nearly hairless. Our veterinary team immediately attended to his infected skin, giving him antibiotics and pain medication to ease his suffering. After his physical ailments were tended to, our behavior rehabilitation team began working with him to help him gain the confidence he'd need to be successful in a new home.

With time — and loving attention — Jake's trust in people blossomed and his hair began to grow back. Our staff fell in love with this sweet, once-unwanted puppy. And when he was ready for adoption, it wasn't long before someone else fell in love with him, too. Kaitlin and Mitchel couldn't be happier to have him as part of their family.

Second chances like Jake's happen every day at Animal Humane Society. Thanks to the support of animal lovers like you, we're able to provide each animal with the individualized care they deserve.

**This holiday season, give the gift of a second chance and help animals in need find loving new homes to call their own. Make a donation today.**



## Give the gift of a second chance.

Every animal deserves a home to call their own. At Animal Humane Society, we work tirelessly to make new homes a reality for animals year-round, providing medical treatment, behavior modification, and foster care to ensure even the most challenged animals get a chance at a new beginning. Make a gift and change the life of an animal in need.

**Donate today at [animalhumanesociety.org](https://animalhumanesociety.org)**







# Report to the Community

July 2016 - June 2017

## ONCE AGAIN WE'VE MADE HISTORY TOGETHER

On June 30, Animal Humane Society celebrated the end of its most successful fiscal year to date, with a record-setting number of adoptions and our highest placement rate ever. Together, we placed more than 96 percent of the animals entrusted to our care, helped 23,565 animals find new homes, and served thousands of Minnesota families through free and affordable programs for people and pets.

**We placed more than 96 percent of the animals in our care.**

AHS continues to transform the way shelters everywhere care for animals and engage their communities. In 2017 we invested in expanded behavior programs, advanced medical treatments, foster care, and post-adoption support to help even the most challenged animals get a second chance.

We've also made strategic investments in ground-breaking new programs and infrastructure that will help us serve even more animals beyond our shelter walls.

The integration of Kindest Cut into the operations of AHS in 2016 has expanded our direct impact on animals and people in underserved communities by delivering low-cost spay/neuter, wellness, dental, and specialty veterinary services to thousands of pets from income-qualified families and animals in the care of nonprofit rescue organizations.

Our new Animal Transport Alliance with Chicago's Anti-Cruelty Society and the Wisconsin Humane Society works to transport dogs and cats from the southern United States to shelters in Minnesota, Illinois, and Wisconsin. These and other partnerships across the country help us meet the needs of our community while assisting other organizations with resources and options that were previously unavailable to them.

We have so much more to celebrate. This report includes highlights from each of our program areas — and you'll find record-setting accomplishments and aspirations worth cheering throughout.

**Your support makes it all possible. Thank you.**

## Adoption and Surrender

Animal Humane Society helps thousands of dogs, cats, and critters in need find loving homes each year — and no animal is ever turned away. AHS takes in every animal surrendered regardless of its health, age, breed, or behavior. This commitment to open admission guarantees shelter and care to thousands of animals that would otherwise have no safe refuge.

The success of Animal Humane Society's shelter program is reflected in three key measures: the total number of animals admitted for rehoming (intake), the percentage of animals with live placements (placement rate), and the average length of stay in shelter. AHS continues to achieve strong results across all three metrics.

**In the year ended June 30, 2017:**

**24,490** ANIMALS ARRIVED AT AHS

**20,062** ANIMALS ADOPTED

**+ 998** ANIMALS REUNITED WITH OWNERS

**+ 1,103** CATS RETURNED TO FIELD

**+ 1,402** ANIMALS TRANSFERRED TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

**23,565** ANIMALS PLACED

**96.6%**  
ANIMALS PLACED

**20,062** ADOPTIONS  
**HIGHEST IN  
AHS HISTORY**

**10.1 DAYS**  
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY FOR ANIMALS IN SHELTER

To prepare the animals for adoption, we rely on our expert behavioral and medical staff.

**14,082** SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES  
**1,607** CATS AND DOGS ENROLLED IN BEHAVIOR PROGRAMS



A new hospice adoption program helps dogs, cats, and critters diagnosed with terminal illnesses spend their remaining time in loving homes. The program, piloted for eight months in Coon Rapids before rolling out to other sites, placed 28 animals during FY17.

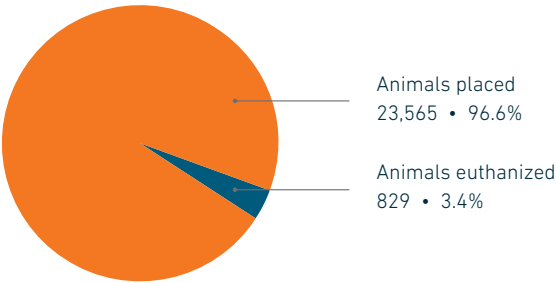


# About the Animals

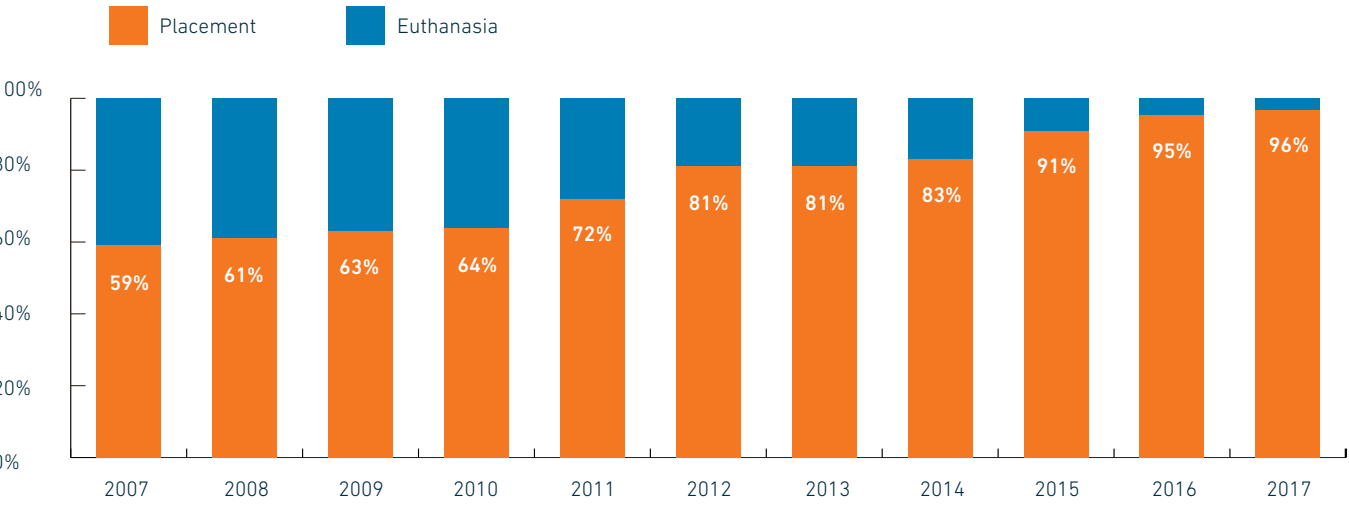
## COMPANION ANIMAL OUTCOMES

Over the past decade, Animal Humane Society's placement rate has improved dramatically, from 59 percent in FY07 to more than 96 percent in FY17. Placement rate is determined by using the Asilomar Live Release Rate formula, which is calculated by dividing total live outcomes (adoptions, transfers, and returns) by total outcomes (total live outcomes plus euthanasia). Companion animals that remained in our care and those surrendered for end-of-life services (owner requested euthanasia) are excluded from this calculation.

More than 96 percent of the animals in our care were placed in homes, reunited with owners, or released to other animal welfare organizations.

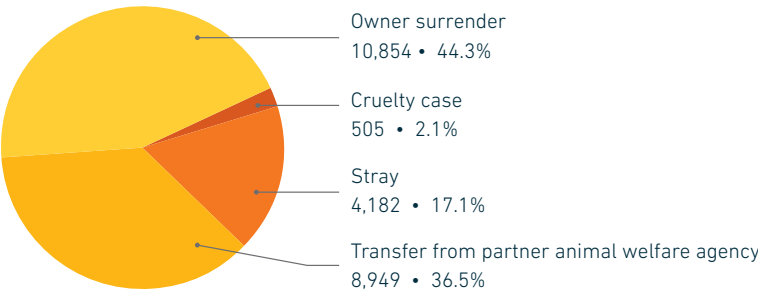


## PLACEMENT RATE OVER TIME

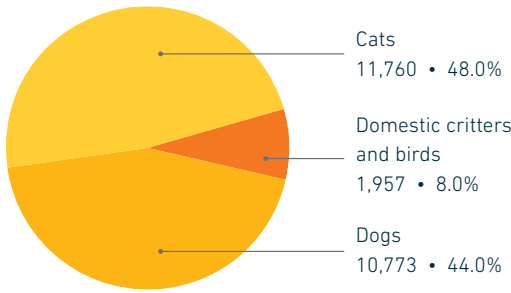


## COMPANION ANIMAL INTAKE TOTAL: 24,490

Companion animal intake by reason for surrender

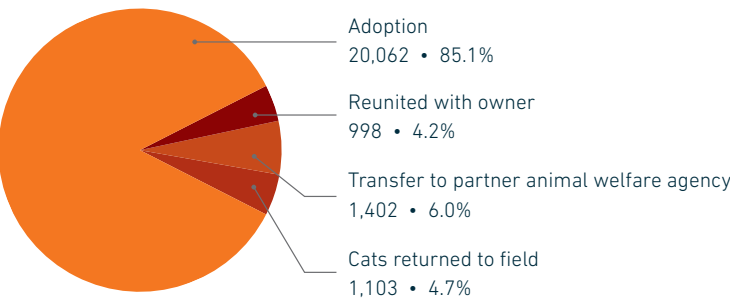


Companion animal intake by species

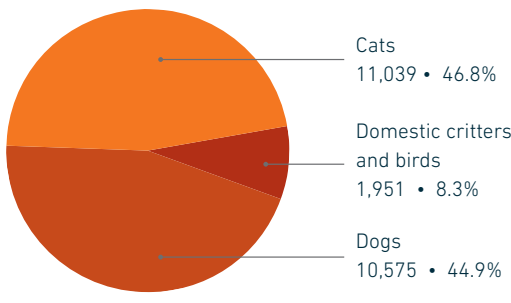


## COMPANION ANIMAL PLACEMENT TOTAL: 23,565

Companion animal placement by type

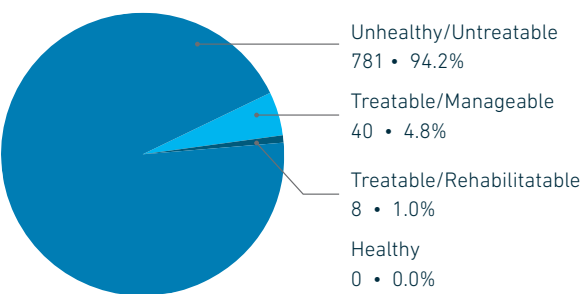


Companion animal placement by species

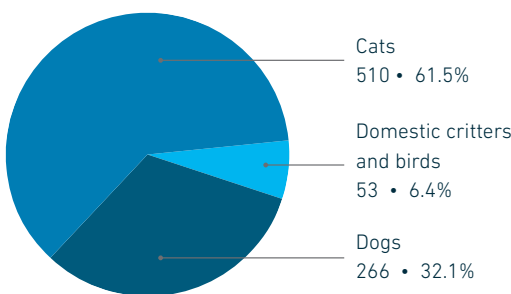


## COMPANION ANIMAL EUTHANASIA TOTAL: 829

Euthanasia by reason\*



Euthanasia by species



\*AHS is committed to taking in every animal in need. Unfortunately, some animals come to us with severe or untreatable illnesses or behavior issues that prevent us from placing them in the community. If we cannot help an animal become healthy or suitable for placement, humane euthanasia is the most compassionate alternative. AHS has not euthanized a healthy animal for any reason since 2011. There is no time limit for animals in our care.

For information about these statistics, please see [animalhumanesociety.org/stats](http://animalhumanesociety.org/stats).



# Community Engagement

Animal Humane Society works with individuals and organizations across Minnesota to create a more humane world for animals.

## OUTREACH



Our Community Outreach program aims to increase the overall health and well-being of animals by empowering people who live in under-engaged communities through education and resources.

**6,019**  
FAMILIES SUPPORTED IN FROGTOWN AND EAST ST. PAUL

**1,862**  
FREE SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES FOR PETS

**981**  
PETS SERVED AT FREE WELLNESS CLINICS

**114** FREE TRAINING SESSIONS

Thanks to free in-home training sessions in our Outreach community, dozens of animals are showing off new manners (and getting lots of treats for it!)

## EDUCATION

Our education programs foster humane values and compassion for animals through day camps, classroom programs, in-shelter tours, and other activities for kids and families.



**12,489**  
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

**1,888**  
STUDENTS IN CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

**1,110**  
CAMP PARTICIPANTS

## WILDLIFE

444 injured and orphaned wild animals received emergency care through a partnership with the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota.

## COMMUNITY CATS

1,796 cats were served through our Community Cats program which focuses on reducing euthanasia and providing alternative solutions for feral and free-roaming cats through return-to-field and trap-neuter-return programs.



**1,796**  
COMMUNITY CATS

# Pet Services

Animal Humane Society offers more than just adoption. Our programs serve all stages of an animal's life.

## KINDEST CUT

Kindest Cut delivers low-cost spay/neuter, wellness, dental, and specialty veterinary services for pets of people in need at Melrose Animal Clinic and 27 mobile clinic locations.

**11,627**  
SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES

**4,182**  
WELLNESS EXAMS AND PROCEDURES

## TRAINING

We offer more than 70 family-friendly pet training classes each week, along with one-on-one training and socialization sessions, therapy animal courses, play groups, and rabbit agility classes.

**1,512**  
PETS TRAINED AT AHS



**220** DAYS TRAVELED TO PROVIDE SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES

Kindest Cut's mobile clinic was on the road 220 days this past year traveling to 27 Minnesota communities to provide spay/neuter services to animals in need.

## PET HELPLINE

Our free Pet Helpline (952-HELP-PET) provides pet owners with support and resources seven days a week.

**72,149**  
INCOMING CALLS

## ANIMAL HOUSE PET BOARDING

We provide pets with a home away from home through affordable boarding at Animal House in Golden Valley.

**3,191** PETS FROM **1,177** FAMILIES

## END-OF-LIFE SERVICES

AHS provided compassionate end-of-life services, including owner-requested euthanasia for 2,151 pets and a weekly pet loss support group.



# Humane Investigations

Our humane agents investigate possible animal cruelty or neglect throughout Minnesota.

From reports of individual animals that are lacking proper food, water, or shelter, to larger cases of aiding law enforcement agencies with on-site investigations and seizures, their work takes them across nearly every inch of the state.



**1,758**  
REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

**501**  
FORMAL CASES

**63**  
COUNTIES ASSISTED

**6,156**  
ANIMALS IMPACTED

### Critical Response Team

**806**  
ANIMALS RESCUED  
FROM DANGER

Our Critical Response Team provides specialized expertise to support humane cases that result in the seizure or surrender of animals. Animal Humane Society removed 806 animals from dangerous or unhealthy conditions.

# Partnerships

Animal Humane Society proudly partners with other rescue organizations to help even the most challenged animals get a second chance.

Animals that experience high stress in shelter and display fearful or aggressive behavior at AHS will often flourish with rescue groups that can provide a non-shelter environment.

**97** LOCAL RESCUE PARTNERS ASSISTED AHS WITH 1,402 ANIMALS (5.9% OF OUR TOTAL PLACEMENTS)

AHS works with rescue groups from other areas of the country where resources for animals are scarce and adoption rates are low.

**8,949** ANIMALS WERE TRANSPORTED TO AHS FROM 108 LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESCUE PARTNERS



MORE THAN

**100,000**

MILES TRAVELED

The Animal Transport Alliance hit the road for the first time in FY17, logging more than 100,000 miles to bring more than 2,500 dogs and cats from southern shelters to find homes in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

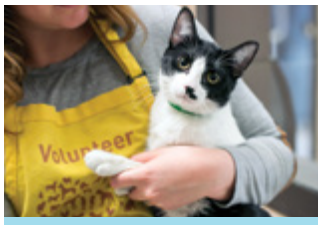
# Community Support

The support of donors, friends, and advocates makes our work possible.

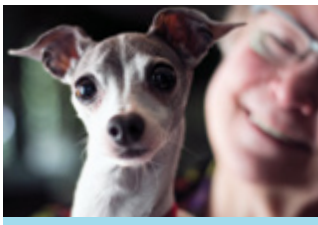
## VOLUNTEERS



**2,478**  
ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS



**171,641**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS



**398**  
FOSTER VOLUNTEERS



**2,946**  
ANIMALS FOSTERED

## GENEROUS DONORS

**49,135**  
INDIVIDUAL DONORS

**\$7.1** MILLION  
IN CONTRIBUTIONS

**\$3.2** MILLION  
IN BEQUESTS

## ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

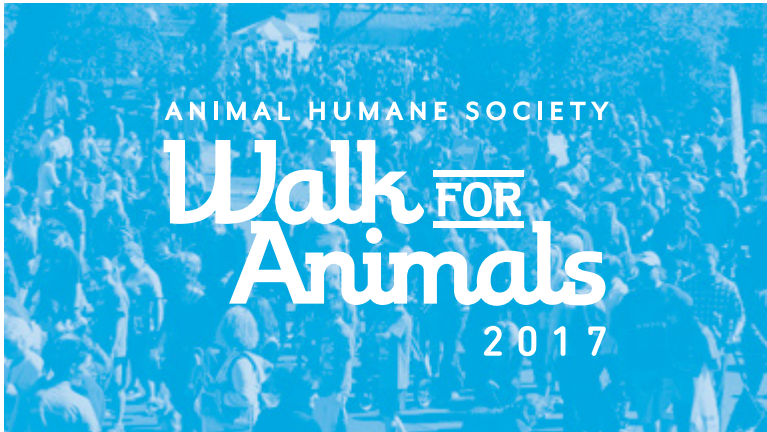
**2,035**  
ANIMAL ADVOCATES

**109,908**  
FACEBOOK FANS

**6,402**  
TWITTER FOLLOWERS

**14,205**  
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

**4,612**  
YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS

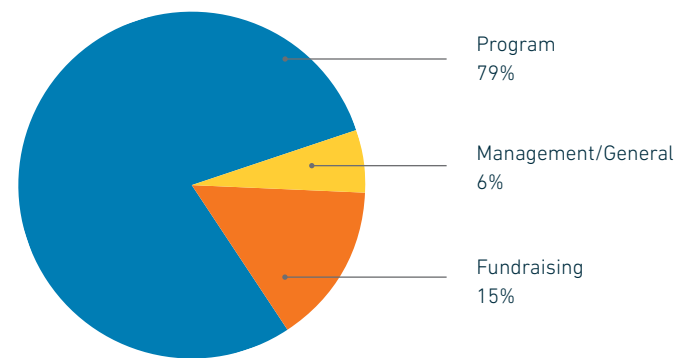


More than 8,000 people and 5,000 pets attended the Walk for Animals on May 6, raising more than \$1 million to support AHS.





# Financials



## ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the 12 months ended June 30, 2017

### SUPPORT AND REVENUES

Adoption fees and program revenue	7,813,581
Contributions	7,109,304
Wills and estates	3,268,092
In-kind contributions	444,880
Special events and promotions	1,054,562
Investment gain (loss)	576,376
Dividend and interest income	137,959
Other	118,862
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES</b>	<b>20,523,616</b>

### EXPENSES

Program services:	
Rescue and outreach	2,973,646
Adoption and surrender	11,732,994
Pet services	1,035,702
Supporting services:	
Management and general	1,070,034
Fundraising	3,022,851
Total supporting services	4,092,885
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>19,835,227</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>688,389</b>



The Minnesota Charities Review Council's Standards of Accountability state that at least 70% of an organization's annual expenses should be for program activity with not more than 30% for management, general, and fundraising expenses combined. Animal Humane Society exceeded this standard by directing 79% of our expenses back into programming for the animals and our community.



The mission of Animal Humane Society is to engage the hearts, hands, and minds of the community to help animals.

## FY17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Kaminski, *Chair*  
Maureen McDonough, *Secretary*  
Scott Schroeffer, *Treasurer*  
Tom Hoch, *Past Chair*  
Dr. Trevor Ames  
Kaywin Feldman  
Dr. Bianca Fine  
Greg Foster  
David Gutzke  
Dick Hall  
Lisa Hannum  
John Huber  
Jodi Lux  
Jennifer McNeal  
Stacy Pagano  
Kelly Palmer  
Susan Palombo  
Carolyn Smith  
Tim Taffe  
E.J. Tso  
Tina Wilcox  
Donna Zimmerman  
Janelle Dixon, *President & CEO*

## LEADERSHIP

Janelle Dixon, *President & CEO*  
Eileen Lay, *Chief Operating & Financial Officer*  
Lisa Bonds, *Chief Advancement Officer*  
Kathy Mock, *Chief Government Affairs & Community Engagement Officer*

## AREA SERVED

Animal Humane Society serves animals and people in the seven-county metro area and beyond from its facilities in Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, and Wright counties. The Humane Investigations team provides services throughout Minnesota.



# There's no place like home

There is nothing we love more than reading updates about animals adopted from Animal Humane Society. We are thrilled to hear about their new lives and see how happy (and spoiled) they are in their new homes.

Visit [animalhumanesociety.org/happytails](https://animalhumanesociety.org/happytails) and prepare to have your heart warmed!



Brutus



Rhymney and Charlotte

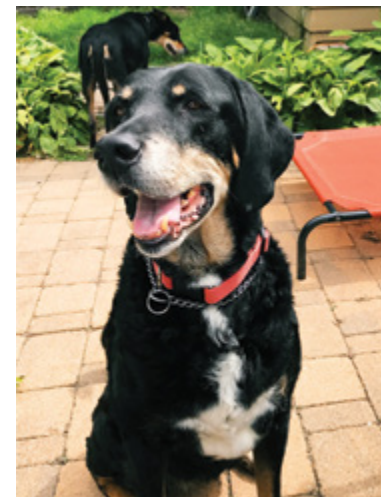


Bella

Pictured above: Bama enjoying some quality snuggle time with his new best friends.



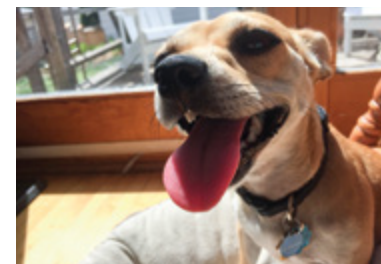
Twinkle



Dixie



Mia



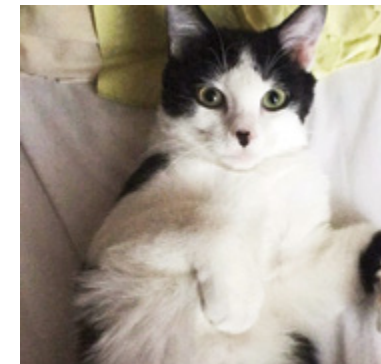
Xochi



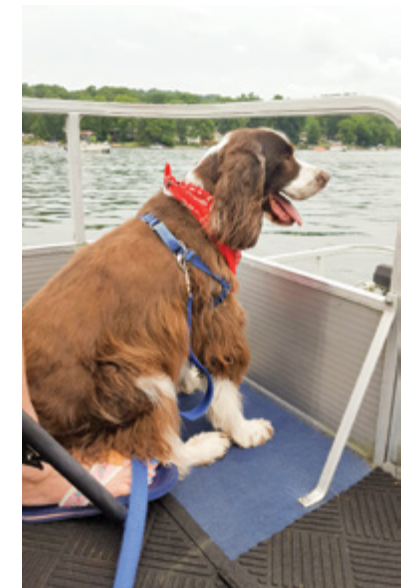
Leif



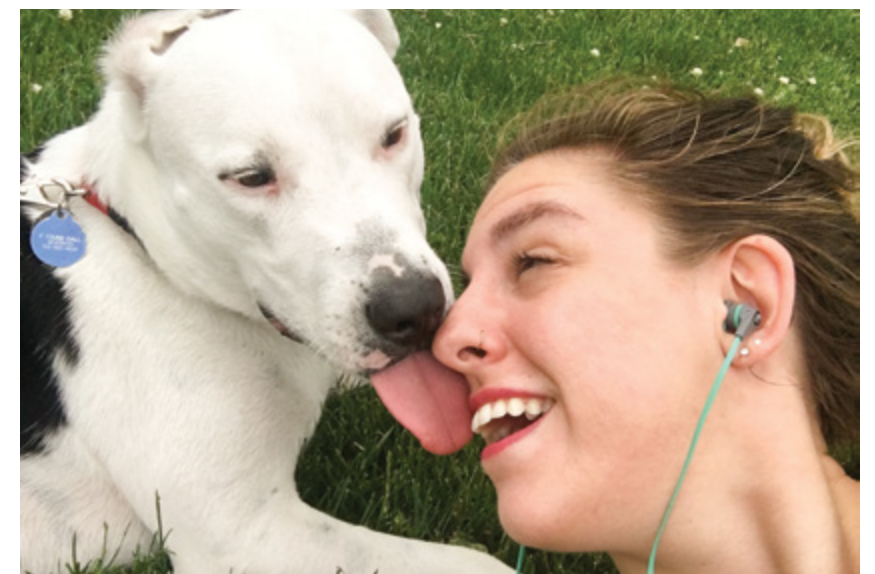
Sage



Jonas



Gus



Frankie

Submit your adoption story and photos at [animalhumanesociety.org/stories](https://animalhumanesociety.org/stories). You may be featured in our next issue!





## Connect



**Like us on Facebook:**

[facebook.com/animalhumanesociety](https://facebook.com/animalhumanesociety)



**Follow us on Twitter:**

[twitter.com/animal\\_humanemn](https://twitter.com/animal_humanemn)



**Follow us on Instagram:**

[instagram.com/animalhumanemn](https://instagram.com/animalhumanemn)



**Subscribe to our  
YouTube channel:**

[youtube.com/animalhumanesociety](https://youtube.com/animalhumanesociety)



**Follow us on Tumblr:**

[animalhumanemn.tumblr.com](https://animalhumanemn.tumblr.com)

# Our Services

## Adoption

Visit the cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, and small critters available for adoption at our five locations.

[animalhumanesociety.org/adoption](https://animalhumanesociety.org/adoption)

## Humane investigations

Our humane agents work with law enforcement officers and respond to thousands of reports of animal neglect and cruelty each year.

[animalhumanesociety.org/investigations](https://animalhumanesociety.org/investigations)

## Lost and found pets

Post missing or found pets or view stray animals in our care on our online lost and found bulletin board.

[animalhumanesociety.org/lostandfound](https://animalhumanesociety.org/lostandfound)

## Low-cost spay/neuter and wellness

High-quality, low-cost sterilization, dental, and wellness services are provided to pets of people in need through our Kindest Cut mobile surgical unit and at Melrose Animal Clinic in Golden Valley.

763-489-7729

[animalhumanesociety.org/kindestcut](https://animalhumanesociety.org/kindestcut)

## Microchip and nail clinics

Microchip and nail trim clinics are offered monthly at our four locations.

[animalhumanesociety.org/microchip](https://animalhumanesociety.org/microchip)

## Outreach

AHS offers free or low-cost animal services that empower low-income pet owners and improve the lives of pets in underserved communities.

651-788-4685

[animalhumanesociety.org/outreach](https://animalhumanesociety.org/outreach)

## Pet boarding

We offer peace of mind pet boarding at Animal House in Golden Valley and at Now Boarding near the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport.

763-489-2222

[animalhumanesociety.org/animalhouse](https://animalhumanesociety.org/animalhouse)

612-454-4850

[nowboardingpets.com](https://nowboardingpets.com)

## Pet food and supplies

Stock up on all your pet needs — from Purina One® dog and cat food and treats and Tidy Cats® litter, to collars, leashes, toys, and grooming supplies. Available for purchase at all four AHS locations.

## Pet Helpline

Our free Pet Helpline at 952-HELP-PET will connect you to caring, compassionate advice and resources for whatever animal issues you may be experiencing.

952-HELP-PET (952-435-7738)

[animalhumanesociety.org/pethelp](https://animalhumanesociety.org/pethelp)

## Pet loss

Humane euthanasia and cremation services are available to the public, and a pet loss support group is offered on Monday evenings in Golden Valley.

[animalhumanesociety.org/lossofpet](https://animalhumanesociety.org/lossofpet)

## Pet training

Think you can't teach your dog new tricks? Think again! We offer more than 100 classes a week in Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, Woodbury, and at Now Boarding.

763-489-2217

[animalhumanesociety.org/training](https://animalhumanesociety.org/training)

## Surrender

Companion animals may be surrendered by appointment at any of our four open admission locations. We provide a safe refuge for thousands of animals each year and no animal is ever turned away. Appointments are required.

952-HELP-PET (952-435-7738)

[animalhumanesociety.org/surrender](https://animalhumanesociety.org/surrender)

## Tours

Tours of our facilities are available by appointment. Maximum group size varies by location.

763-489-2220

[animalhumanesociety.org/tours](https://animalhumanesociety.org/tours)

## Youth programs

We offer fun, educational experiences for kids who love animals, including camps, scout programs, story hours, and more.

763-489-2220

[animalhumanesociety.org/youth](https://animalhumanesociety.org/youth)

# Ways to Give

## Donate

AHS relies on the generosity of individuals like you to care for thousands of animals every year. Your donation helps provide food, shelter, medical care, and most importantly, the love animals deserve while they await happy new homes.

[animalhumanesociety.org/donate](https://animalhumanesociety.org/donate)

## Become a Sustainer

By making an ongoing monthly gift, you're providing a reliable source of funding that enables AHS to help animals all year long. Sustaining gifts are an easy and convenient way to make a big impact every month.

[animalhumanesociety.org/sustainer](https://animalhumanesociety.org/sustainer)

## Match your gift

Many companies match their employees' charitable donations. Double your contribution through a matching gift from your employer.

[animalhumanesociety.org/matchinggift](https://animalhumanesociety.org/matchinggift)

## Make a memorial or tribute gift

Remember or honor a loved one or pet with a memorial or tribute donation.

[animalhumanesociety.org/donate](https://animalhumanesociety.org/donate)

## Leave a legacy

Make a lasting impact on animals by including AHS in your will or estate plan.

[animalhumanesociety.org/legacy](https://animalhumanesociety.org/legacy)

## Contribute to our wish list

With more than 23,000 animals to care for every year, AHS needs a substantial amount of supplies. You can donate needed items any time.

[animalhumanesociety.org/wishlist](https://animalhumanesociety.org/wishlist)

## Donate a vehicle

Donate your car to care for animals in need. Your vehicle will be towed free of charge and you'll be eligible for a tax deduction.

[animalhumanesociety.org/vehicle](https://animalhumanesociety.org/vehicle)

## Volunteer

Help make the world a more humane place for animals by volunteering with AHS. From walking dogs to assisting with adoptions, volunteers are integral to the work that happens every day at AHS.

[animalhumanesociety.org/volunteer](https://animalhumanesociety.org/volunteer)

## Foster

From the comfort of their own homes, our foster volunteers provide essential care for animals that aren't yet ready for adoption.

[animalhumanesociety.org/foster](https://animalhumanesociety.org/foster)

## Contact Us

**952-HELP-PET (952-435-7738)**

**info@animalhumanesociety.org**

**animalhumanesociety.org**

## Locations

### Coon Rapids

1411 Main St. N.W. • Coon Rapids, MN 55448  
763-862-4030

### Golden Valley

845 Meadow Lane N. • Golden Valley, MN 55422  
763-489-2201

### St. Paul

1115 Beulah Lane • St. Paul, MN 55108  
651-645-7387

### Woodbury

9785 Hudson Road • Woodbury, MN 55125  
651-730-6008

### Now Boarding

6002 28th Ave. S. • Minneapolis, MN 55450  
612-454-4850

## Hours

### Adoption Centers

Monday through Friday 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### Pet Helpline

952-HELP-PET (952-435-7738)

Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

## Incoming Animals

**Please call 952-435-7738 to make an appointment to surrender an animal.**

Appointments are available:

Monday through Friday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.





animal humane society

845 Meadow Lane North  
Golden Valley, MN 55422

[animalhumanesociety.org](http://animalhumanesociety.org)

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to support the pets of  
Animal Humane Society.



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