

# Animal Tracks

Animal Humane Society | Winter 2019

## HEALING HEARTS

Why AHS transports and treats  
heartworm positive dogs





## Contact Us

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

**info@animalhumanesociety.org**  
**animalhumanesociety.org**

## Leadership

Janelle Dixon, *President and CEO*

Eileen Lay, *Chief Operating and  
Financial Officer*

Lisa B. Bonds,  
*Chief Advancement Officer*

Kathy Mock, *Chief Government Affairs  
and Community Engagement Officer*

## Board of Directors

Donna Zimmerman, *Chair*

Dick Hall, *Vice Chair*

Mark Specker, *Secretary*

Jennifer McNeal, *Treasurer*

Paul Kaminski, *Past Chair*

Trevor Ames, DVM, MS

Marianne Barnett

Dr. Bianca Fine

Greg Foster

Sally Godfrey

Lisa Hannum

Kelly Palmer

Susan Palombo

Diana Purcel

Janelle Dixon, *President and CEO*

## Our Services

Every year Animal Humane Society cares for more than 22,000 companion animals in need and helps thousands more through programs for people and pets.

### Adoption

Visit cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, and critters available for adoption.

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

### Humane investigations

Our humane agents work with law enforcement and investigate reports of animal neglect and cruelty.

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

### Lost and found pets

Post missing or found pets and view stray animals in our care.

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

### Outreach

We offer free and 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](http://animalhumanesociety.org/outreach)

### Pet boarding

Peace of mind pet boarding available at Now Boarding in South Minneapolis.

**612-454-4850**

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

### Pet Helpline

Our free Pet Helpline provides caring, compassionate animal advice and resources.

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

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

## Locations

**Coon Rapids** 763-862-4030

1411 Main St. N.W.

Coon Rapids, MN 55448

**Golden Valley** 763-489-2201

845 Meadow Lane N.

Golden Valley, MN 55422

**St. Paul** 651-645-7387

1115 Beulah Lane

St. Paul, MN 55108

### Pet loss and end-of-life care

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

### Pet training

More than 100 family-friendly classes a week offered at five convenient locations.

**763-489-2217**

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

### Surrender

Companion animals may be surrendered by appointment.

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

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

### 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](http://animalhumanesociety.org/youth)

### Veterinary care

High-quality, low-cost sterilization, dental, and wellness services for pets of people in need.

**952-435-7738**

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

## 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.



## Your support makes University Avenue location a reality

**We're opening doors for** people and pets — thanks to you. On September 21 we celebrated the grand opening of our new University Avenue location in St. Paul. The 10,000 square-foot building will fill a vital need in an area where access to pet resources is limited. AHS is providing pet training classes, youth programs, and outreach seminars in the space, and a new low-cost veterinary clinic will open there in 2020.



## OUTREACH PROGRAM HOSTS FREE CLINICS, DISTRIBUTES 20,000 POUNDS OF FREE PET FOOD

**With the opening of** the new University Avenue location, AHS has a stronger presence in the heart of underserved communities in St. Paul than ever before.

At the end of April, Animal Humane Society's mobile surgical truck moved to the University Avenue location to offer surgeries five days a week. In the first three months alone, nearly 900 dogs, cats, and rabbits were spayed or neutered. Outreach staff and volunteers have also been busy connecting with the community — attending more than 40 community events to share information about the services AHS provides and partnering with seven local food shelves and Purina to provide more than 20,000 pounds of free pet food.

In our ongoing effort to provide affordable pet care to St. Paul communities, AHS hosted four wellness clinics this year — with another scheduled for December. These wellness clinics provide free vaccines and wellness exams, registration for spay/neuter surgery, expert behavior advice, and more. So far, AHS has served more than 6,500 pets at these clinics.

As we continue to build our presence in underserved communities, we're inspired by our success in 2019, yet strive to do more for people and their pets. This work isn't possible without your support. Thank you.



# Koa's **unbreakable** spirit



**When Koa was found** as a tiny, stray kitten his future was unclear. The little, orange tabby's eyes were swollen shut from infection and his belly was empty. But his spirit was unbreakable. Koa received around-the-clock care at Animal Humane Society to nurse him back to health.

As Koa grew, it became clear that one of his eyes was damaged

beyond repair and would need to be removed. Through his recovery, Koa never showed signs of hopelessness or pain. He played and pounced, cuddled and purred. We think he knew that he could count on animal lovers like you.

On behalf of Koa, and more than 22,000 animals who received a second chance this year, thank you.

## » NEW TOOLS TO MAKE A GIFT TO AHS

**Your generosity changes lives**, and now it's even easier to make a gift from your donor advised fund (DAF) or a qualified charitable donation (QCD) from your IRA. Two new tools on our website make it simple to select your financial institution and provide you with step-by-step instructions, including forms pre-filled with Animal Humane Society's information. Once finished, simply print and mail the forms to your financial institution and start sharing your love with even more animals.

To learn more about making gifts through DAFs or your IRA, visit [ahs.mn/MoreWaystoGive](http://ahs.mn/MoreWaystoGive).

SAVE THE DATE  
**WHISKER  
WHIRL**  
A GALA TO BENEFIT  
ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY

**2.22.20**  
**MINNEAPOLIS  
CONVENTION CENTER**

[animalhumanesociety.org/whiskerwhirl](http://animalhumanesociety.org/whiskerwhirl)  
763-432-4842

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

With your support, Animal Humane Society continues to advance animal welfare and shape the way organizations care for animals and engage their communities.

**22,585**

animals arrived at AHS



**18,684**

animals adopted

**1,060**

reunited with  
their owners

**995**

cats returned  
to field

**617**

transferred to  
animal welfare partners

**21,356**

animals placed

**93.6%**

placement rate

**9.3 DAYS**

average length of stay



**2,242** volunteers • **383** staff

**1,928** animals cared for by foster families



**22,868** animals sterilized

**16,146** pets cared for in our Veterinary Centers



**7,989** students participated  
in Humane Education programs



**5,735** animals protected by humane agents



**108,013** calls supported by the Pet Helpline



**9,132** families enrolled in  
Community Outreach programs



**1,655** pets boarded at Animal House



**4,097** families served by  
behavior and training programs

More than **170,000** lives impacted by Animal Humane Society programs

To read our full FY2019 Annual Report, visit [animalhumanesociety.org/annual-report](https://animalhumanesociety.org/annual-report)





# HEALING HEARTS

WHY ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY TRANSPORTS AND TREATS HEARTWORM POSITIVE DOGS

ZOE CLARKE

**N**o disease is more expensive and painful to treat yet easier to prevent. No disease is more commonly vilified and misunderstood by pet owners. No disease seals the fate of more dogs admitted to shelters or seeking admission to rescue organizations. It's been found in all 50 states, Canada, Europe, South America, and the Caribbean.

## **It's heartworm disease.**

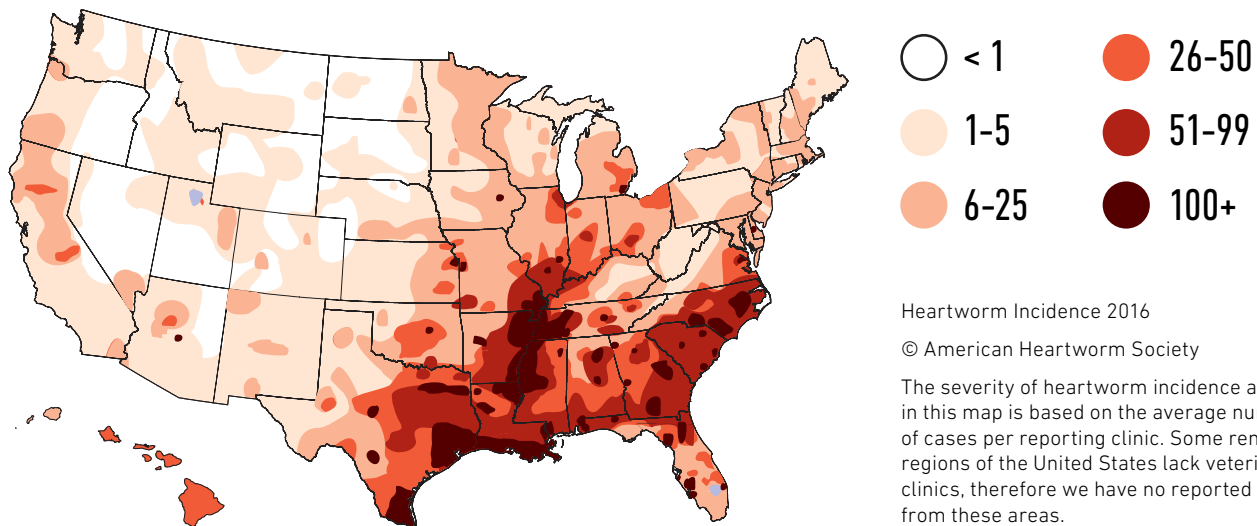
Animal Humane Society takes in more than 22,000 animals each year — more than every other rescue organization and municipal shelter in the Twin Cities combined. Thanks to your generous support, we have resources that no other shelter in Minnesota has: a team of more than 20 veterinarians, an in-house pharmacy and surgery suite, and the ability to treat hundreds of dogs with heartworm disease each year.

## **LEADING THE PACK**

Most of the animals who arrive in our care come from local owner surrenders and strays found in our community. Successful spay and neuter efforts continue to reduce the homeless pet population in Minnesota. Meanwhile, the number of Minnesotans hoping to adopt continues to grow. Our transport program not only helps adopters find a new pet, it furthers our commitment to helping animals in need, no matter where they are. And most of the animals transported to AHS come from overcrowded southern shelters where heartworm disease is more prevalent.

It's lifesaving work — and not just for the animals that are transported north. When AHS takes in an animal from an overcrowded source shelter, it frees up space and resources

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF HEARTWORM CASES PER CLINIC



**In many of those southern shelters, more than 80% of adult dogs are heartworm positive. Transporting just a few of these dogs to Minnesota frees up significant resources in those communities.**

— Dr. Graham Brayshaw

that can be dedicated to another animal in that community — an animal who may not have otherwise been given a chance.

The benefits don't stop there. We're actively partnering with southern shelters to provide education, share resources, and even deliver free medical supplies.

Each month, we take in between 600 and 800 dogs from partner shelters. AHS isn't the only animal welfare organization in the Midwest with a transport program, but we are one of the only shelters with the expertise, resources, and willingness to take in dogs that test positive for heartworm. Last year, we welcomed 350 dogs with heartworm — more than any other shelter or rescue group in Minnesota. According to the ASPCA, most Minnesota shelters will accept one or two heartworm positive dogs per transport. At AHS, as much as 10% of every transport consists of heartworm positive dogs.

"In many of those southern shelters, more than 80%

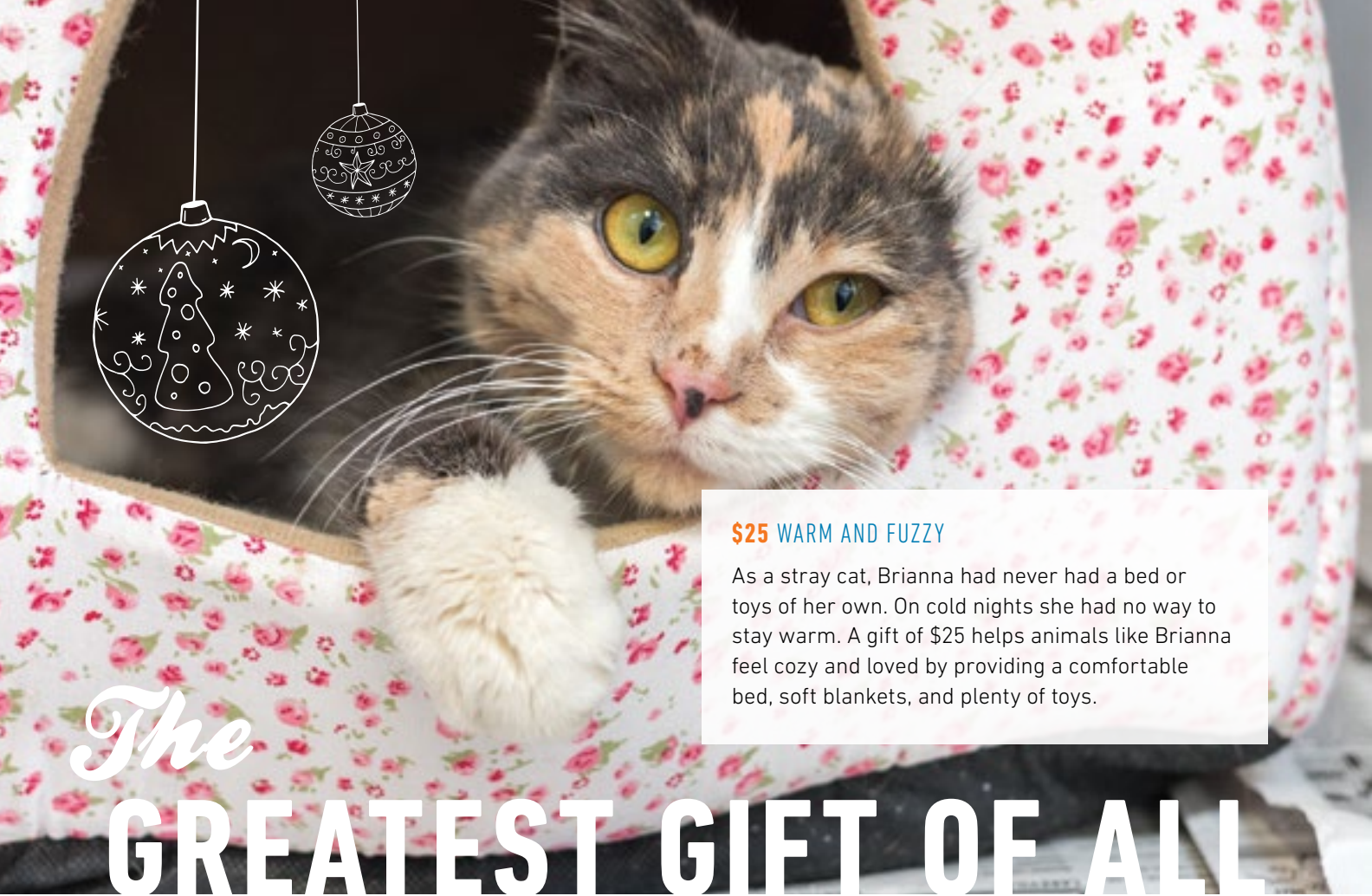


Lee-la was treated for heartworm disease — and cured.

of adult dogs are heartworm positive," says Dr. Graham Brayshaw, Chief Veterinarian at Animal Humane Society. "Transporting just a few of these dogs to Minnesota frees up significant resources in those communities, allowing them to focus on reducing overpopulation and preventing the needless euthanasia of animals with treatable conditions. Every heartworm positive dog we take in will help those source shelters save more lives."

*Continued on page 10*





### **\$25** WARM AND FUZZY

As a stray cat, Brianna had never had a bed or toys of her own. On cold nights she had no way to stay warm. A gift of \$25 helps animals like Brianna feel cozy and loved by providing a comfortable bed, soft blankets, and plenty of toys.

FOR ANIMALS IN NEED, YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY PROVIDE THE MOST IMPORTANT GIFT OF ALL — A SECOND CHANCE.



### **\$50** A HEALTHY START

Puppies like Adrian love to bounce, pounce, and play. But at only 8-weeks-old, he's more susceptible to life-threatening diseases. A gift of \$50 provides vaccinations to protect him from preventable illnesses while he grows big and strong.



### **\$100** CARE FOR ORPHANED NEWBORNS

When newborn kittens like Jules arrive in our shelter without a mother, they require around-the-clock attention. Your gift of \$100 ensures we have bottles, specialty formula, and all the supplies we need to provide neonatal care.





### **\$500** A LIFESAVING RIDE

Anita traveled thousands of miles to find a loving home. The senior Chihuahua was overlooked again and again in an overcrowded shelter in California. A generous gift of \$500 helps transport animals to AHS. After a lifetime of being unnoticed, Anita was adopted in one hour and 31 minutes from our Coon Rapids shelter.



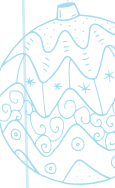
### **\$1,000** SAFE AND SOUND

Bruce didn't know what it felt like to be loved. He lived in a home with more than 100 other cats, and didn't receive the care he deserved. With a gift of \$1,000 you'll support humane investigation efforts to rescue animals from cruelty and neglect. Now Bruce is a beloved pet and the center of attention in his new home.



## A SECOND CHANCE

You're the hero behind every second chance at Animal Humane Society. Your generosity has saved lives and helped make families whole. A gift of any amount makes a difference in the lives of shelter animals, because for them it's more than a donation — it's a second chance.



## MEET TIFF

Tiff, a gentle yellow Lab, was abandoned in the Mississippi Delta region. She was rescued and brought to a shelter in Mississippi, where shelter staff discovered Tiff was infected with heartworm. The shelter had no way to treat it. At just a year old, Tiff's fate was grim — until AHS agreed to take her in.

By the time the sweet, young dog arrived in Minnesota, she was suffering from grade four heartworm, the most severe grade of the disease. We started treatment immediately.

Now, Tiff is heartworm free. She has a long life ahead of her, and a loving new home in which to spend it.

But not every shelter is willing or able to transport dogs with heartworm. To understand why, you need to know a bit more about heartworm disease — what it is, what it isn't, and more importantly, how it's spread.

## UNDERSTANDING HEARTWORM

Heartworm is an internal parasite that's transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Just one bite is enough to spread the disease. After being bitten, heartworm larvae begin to develop in the tissue of your pet. If your dog is on a simple, monthly heartworm preventative, the active ingredients will kill larvae and prevent them from growing into adult worms. Without preventatives, the larvae develop and move into your dog's bloodstream, eventually making their way to his heart.

Adult heartworms look like strands of spaghetti and can reach up to 12 inches in length. **Left untreated heartworms can cause heart and lung damage, organ failure, and even death.** Unfortunately, treatment is costly, painful, and time-intensive.

## A PAINSTAKING TREATMENT

At a private vet clinic, heartworm treatment can cost upwards of \$1,000 for small dogs and even more for large breeds. Treatment often requires up to a month of pre-op antibiotic therapy before it can begin. The treatment itself involves an arsenic substance that is injected deep into a dog's muscle tissue to kill the adult worms — it's a painful process that often leaves dogs uncomfortable and sore. Thirty days later, the injection is repeated.

Unfortunately, treatment doesn't end there. As the worms die they must dissolve in the dog's body — a process that takes up to eight weeks. During this time, dogs must remain on a strict exercise restriction. If a dog becomes too active, serious complications can occur.

This painstaking treatment

Tiff





process explains why many shelters can't take on the burden of treating more than a handful of heartworm positive dogs at a time. It's too costly — both financially and in terms of resources and time. So why take on the expense? Because, when medical care is provided, dogs with heartworm aren't just treated, they're cured.

As experts in shelter medicine, AHS has refined a treatment approach that works for the unique needs and challenges of a busy animal shelter. Utilizing heartworm preventatives along with antibiotics, a shorter timeframe between injections, and a committed group of foster volunteers, we've successfully treated thousands of dogs while limiting their stay in shelter. We're incredibly proud of these efforts. But not all animal lovers are proponents of this lifesaving work.

### IS IT WORTH THE RISK?

A lack of resources isn't the only obstacle heartworm positive dogs face. Some shelters and rescue groups refuse to transport the sick canines. Our neighbors in Wisconsin, for example, have banned the transport of heartworm positive dogs entirely — for fear the disease will spread.

It's important to remember that heartworm disease isn't spread from dog to dog. It can only be spread by mosquitoes, and thanks to our long, cold winters, the window in which mosquitoes can transmit heartworm is quite narrow. Additionally, AHS is doing even more to limit potential transmission.

By starting treatment immediately, we ensure that microfilaria — the baby worms that are transmitted to mosquitoes — are killed as soon as possible after each dog arrives in Minnesota. In fact, some dogs receive this first step of treatment before they make their journey north. This greatly reduces any risk that a heartworm positive dog from the south could spread the disease.

We're also breaking down barriers so every pet owner in our community can access heartworm prevention. Preventatives are highly effective, but they can be a hardship for some pet owners to obtain. Our Veterinary Centers offer low-cost products and services to income-qualified animal lovers so that all families can protect their pets and limit the spread of disease.

It's important to note that heartworm seems to be on

**Curing a heartworm positive dog gives that dog her life back. It's the ultimate second chance — and second chances are what we're all about.**



Antonio was heartworm positive when he came to AHS from Alabama

the rise in large, urban cities. Some critics are blaming shelters that offer transport programs. However, incidence rates are calculated by the average number of cases per clinic — without regard to population. "Anywhere that you have denser populations of people and animals, you'll see more instances of disease," says Dr. Brayshaw. "It's not that heartworm disease is more prevalent in metropolitan areas now, it's simply proportional to the number of people and pets living in these areas." As the population of people and pets grows, the number of heartworm cases will naturally grow along with it.

There's no way to completely eradicate the spread of heartworm, but the risk is low, and we do everything within our power to limit it even further.

### DOING THE MOST GOOD

Curing a heartworm positive dog gives that dog her life back. **It's the ultimate second chance** — and second chances are what we're all about.

"Our focus is always on doing the best we can for animals," says Dr. Brayshaw. "For us, heartworm disease is just one small part of the whole landscape of animal welfare that we work in. And we don't want this one small thing to get in the way of so much good."

It's a huge undertaking, but we're lucky enough to have the resources to help these dogs thanks to our supporters.

Animal lovers like you ensure we don't have to choose between helping an injured dog in our own backyard or a sick stray many states away. An animal in need is an animal in need — and dogs with heartworm disease will always have a place at Animal Humane Society.



# ANIMAL HOARDING

---

WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT ISN'T, AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

Maggie Flanagan



CROWDED,  
CRAMPED,  
HORRENDOUS,  
FILTHY,  
DEPLORABLE.



Animal welfare organizations, including Animal Humane Society, may use these words when describing cases of animal hoarding. Photos support these descriptions, leaving viewers horrified at the conditions in which animals, and often humans, live.

What those words and photos don't convey is the fear, anxiety, denial, and delusion that's almost always at the core of animal hoarding.

The general public might dismiss hoarding as malicious, villainous, even evil — but hoarding is rarely these things. In both law enforcement and the mental health community, there's growing recognition that we need to approach hoarding cases with more empathy and less judgement. When we acknowledge hoarding as a psychiatric illness, treatment can be more effective and the pattern is less likely to be repeated — which benefits the animals we all care for.

**When we acknowledge hoarding as a psychiatric illness, treatment can be more effective and the pattern is less likely to be repeated.**

## WHAT IS ANIMAL HOARDING?

Animal hoarding is an accumulation of animals that has overwhelmed a person's ability to provide minimum standards of care. Those standards include nutrition, sanitation, shelter, veterinary care, and socialization.

In severe cases, animals may live in carriers or cages stacked upon one another, kept in their own urine or excrement. Floors, furniture, and counters might also be covered in feces. Animals sometimes have serious illnesses or health issues. They may be overfed and obese or malnourished and emaciated. In the most severe cases, animals are found already deceased.

Cats and dogs are the most common victims in cases of animal hoarding, but rats, reptiles and other critters can be subject to a hoarding environment, too. Hoarding typically begins with just a few, unsterilized

animals. Kept in close quarters, breeding can become unmanageable. For example, four cats can multiply quickly, and turn into hundreds over the course of just a few years.

It's important to note that animal hoarding is not the same thing as intentional breeding. Breeders sell animals for profit and acquire animals for financial gain. Hoarders keep their animals and may feel intense anxiety about giving them away, even if properly caring for them has become impossible.

Each year, humane agents at AHS open an average of 25 animal hoarding cases. In some of these cases, the animals are seized from a property with the help of law enforcement, but most cases result in the voluntary surrender of animals to AHS.

"In either situation, whether animals are surrendered or seized, it's tough," says Ashley Pudas, AHS Humane Agent. "There can be an incredible amount of emotion involved."



## WHY DO HUMANS HOARD ANIMALS?

AHS humane agents most often encounter two types of hoarders.

**Overwhelmed caregivers** have a strong attachment to their animals. They're often (but not always) socially isolated and sometimes falsely believe their situations are the result of a more recent change in their circumstances, like financial problems or issues with physical health. Caregivers tend to have fewer issues with intervention and appreciate help.

**Rescue hoarders** believe they're the only people that can adequately care for their animals. Their hoarding begins with a strong desire to save animals. They also may have an extensive network of enablers, and are in complete denial about the dangerous or unhealthy conditions in which the animals are living.

When it comes to animal hoarding, there are some things we know for certain:

- Hoarding is about satisfying a

person's need to accumulate animals and attempt to care for them, and this need becomes more important than the animals' needs.

- Hoarding is the number one animal cruelty crisis facing companion animals in the U.S. (in terms of number of animals affected and degree and duration of their suffering).
- More than 70% of people diagnosed with hoarding disorder are women ages 50-59. Hoarding, however, isn't restricted to age, gender, or socioeconomic status.
- Approximately 50% of all hoarders live alone.
- Up to a quarter million animals — 250,000 per year — are victims of hoarding.
- Hoarding is a community problem. It causes suffering to both animals and humans. It can devastate families, cast

judgments on communities, and be costly to resolve.

But **why** people hoard animals isn't an easy question to answer. Compulsive disorders were once entirely blamed for animal hoarding, but new research points to other complex human conditions. Depression, anxiety, and other forms of mental illness are often at play. A history of trauma and a triggering event may be the difference between three animals living in a dwelling and 33. Genetics also may be a factor. In an early study of hoarding disorder, nearly 85% of the participants had a close relative with similar tendencies.

"In my experience, all hoarders feel an overwhelming sense of responsibility to protect their animals from society," says Pudas. "Removing animals from someone's home can be an extremely difficult event to get through. It requires a lot of reassurance and patience."



## HOARDING INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

AHS humane agents play a big role in removing animals from a hoarding situation, but their work doesn't stop there. Proper intervention is essential to preventing relapse, which happens with 100% of hoarders who don't receive treatment and ongoing support.

Though AHS doesn't offer direct programs to help hoarders with mental illness, we do focus on assisting hoarders by sharing information about public assistance and community resources, like the Minnesota Hoarding Task Force (MHTF). MHTF is a volunteer group that connects hoarders and their family members to therapists, occupational therapists, cleaning services, and more.

**Proper intervention is essential to preventing relapse, which happens with 100% of hoarders who don't receive treatment and ongoing support.**

accountable for making sure it doesn't happen again," says Streff. "And most of the time, for us, that just means semi-regular check-ins."

AHS humane agents also complete continuing education programs through PESI — a nonprofit organization that offers educational courses on effective diagnosis and treatment of hoarding disorders — and the National Animal Care & Control Association. What they learn helps influence tactics in working directly with hoarders, leading to more peaceful outcomes.

Within the last decade, severe hoarding emerged as a psychiatric disorder, but according to Louise Kurzeka, a member of MHTF, the public's recognition of hoarding as a mental illness still has a long way to go. That recognition, she says, is critical to creating more comprehensive, long-term intervention plans.

"The real key in successful intervention is collaboration," says Kurzeka. "It's got to be multiple resources coming together to support that individual in that circumstance."

As part of long-term intervention, AHS also maintains relationships with hoarders we've worked with. Keith Streff, AHS Humane Agent, has stayed in touch with some for more than a decade.

"Once we've become familiar with a known hoarder, we're partly



AHS Humane Agents Ashley Pudas, Keith Streff, and Amanda Oquist

## CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF ANIMAL HOARDING

Criminal prosecution of animal hoarding can be time-consuming, expensive, and ineffective. Law enforcement and prosecutors in rural areas often know little about laws protecting companion animals, and judges give minimal charges with minimal sentencing. While a sentence including jail time can make a difference, lasting intervention includes a ban on possessing animals, unannounced home visits, mental health evaluations, and cognitive behavior therapy.

Only two states in the U.S. (Illinois and Hawaii) explicitly mention animal hoarding in their cruelty statutes. Anti-hoarding legislation has been proposed in several others, but not passed.

In Minnesota, prosecution predicates intervention. Before an individual can be court ordered to seek psychological counseling or held responsible for the financial costs of intervention, the defendant must be convicted of violating an animal welfare law.

"Jail time, fines, and probation may all be acceptable objectives," says Streff, "but the ultimate goal for a hoarding case should be to legally prohibit or limit the hoarder from owning any animals in the future."

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Owning multiple animals doesn't mean someone is a hoarder, but if you suspect someone you know is struggling with the ability to provide adequate care to an increasing number of animals, you can help. Visit [animalhumanesociety.org/hoarding](https://animalhumanesociety.org/hoarding) to learn more.



animal humane society

845 Meadow Lane North  
Golden Valley, MN 55422

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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 3866

---

# Your support saves lives.

Animal Humane Society receives no federal, state, or local government funding. We rely on the generosity of individuals like you to help thousands of animals in need each year.

## Donate

Your donation helps provide shelter, medical care, and most importantly, the love animals deserve while they await happy new homes.

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

## Make a memorial or tribute gift

Honor a loved one or pet with a memorial or tribute donation.

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

## Leave a legacy

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

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

## Contribute to our wish list

With more than 22,000 animals to care for every year, AHS needs a substantial amount of supplies. You can donate needed items any time.

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

