

Dane County Humane Society's

# family tails

Spring 2023 • Issue 15



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Pam McCloud Smith, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As Dane County Humane Society moves into its 102nd year, I'd like to thank you, our most loyal supporters, and look back at a challenging, but successful, year helping people help animals. In this issue of Family Tails, I am excited to share with you our annual report and some highlights we experienced throughout 2022.

Over the past year, Dane County Humane Society has taken a closer look into what we've learned during the pandemic as we continue to maintain and grow our operations. In 2022, we celebrated the return of many of our renowned events and programs, and we had a wonderful time reconnecting in-person with our supporters at our annual Toto's Gala event in March and Bark & Wine in October!

We were also delighted to bring back our Humane Education programs this past year. The return of Camp Pawprint, tours, scout workshops, birthday parties, and more meant our halls were once again filled with the happy sounds of children expressing their love of animals and learning about creating a more humane future.

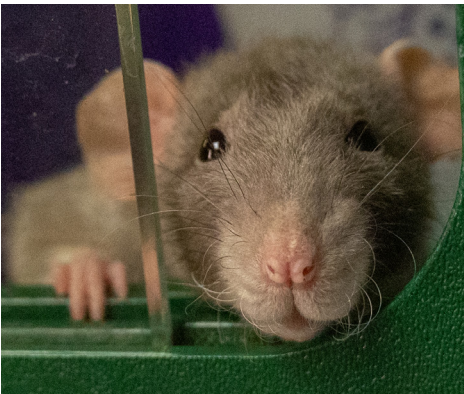
Along with the return of our events, we also celebrated the 20-year anniversary of our Wildlife Center. There was no better way to commemorate this milestone than by releasing a Blanding's turtle who also happened to be our longest-term resident.

I am very proud of our staff and volunteers; they helped to keep everyone safe, were very dedicated, and persevered through the pandemic. Their achievements have had a direct impact on the level of care our animals receive, as well as the number of people we have served in our community.

When we celebrate our successes, we are also celebrating all of you, because you are at the heart of making it all possible. During these challenging and uncertain times, your support allows us to continue to provide the level of services we do. I want to thank you so much for your connection in helping to sustain Dane County Humane Society's goals and mission to be a leader in creating a more humane community, focusing on the human relationship with animals and the positive difference they make in our lives.

*Pam McCloud Smith*

Pam McCloud Smith, Executive Director



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FOSTERING HOPE

Foster parents are heroes to homeless pets. They provide day-to-day care and transport their foster pet to appointments as needed. They often spoil them with fun treats and toys.

And, of course, these volunteers give their foster pets as much love as they can for however long the animal is home with them!

Foster families open their hearts and homes to animals who need temporary care outside of the shelter environment. These compassionate volunteers play a vital role in the life of that animal and help to ensure successful adoptions.

Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) seeks foster care for animals for a variety of reasons, like:

- Needing socialization or training
- Being too young to be adopted
- Being pregnant or a new mom in need of a safe place to raise and wean a litter
- Needing a quiet and safe home to be treated for or recover from illness or injury
- Needing relief from stress in the shelter setting

Read on to learn from foster parents who provided care and comfort to DCHS animals in 2022.

Foster families save lives!



We've been foster volunteers for DCHS since 2010. It brings us so much joy to care for animals in need. We've fostered our share of puppies, kittens, cats, and dogs, but we're often called to help with medical cases or those extra-shy pups who need a quiet place to find their courage.

Sweet Harvey needed a relaxed and stress-free space where he could recover from surgery and wait for his new family. He recovered from his operation like a champ, and he was so wonderful to care for! As a senior gentleman, he enjoyed spending his days snoozing and looking for all the cuddles and pets and treats. While he wasn't the most graceful (he definitely kept us giggling!), he was full of happy energy and had so much love to give. It warmed our hearts to play a role in his adoption; it was wonderful to meet Harvey's new dad and feel good that Harvey would spend his retirement years getting all the love and attention he deserves.

RACHEL RASMUSSEN

I started fostering in the fall of 2017. From the minute I had my first fosters, I knew this was my calling. When I'm in the kitten room, I think I might be the happiest person, seeing those cute faces as I wake them up in the morning. It is so precious and a special time. I enjoy taking cute photos and videos and sharing them with friends in hopes that I will find the perfect home for them. By finding homes through this network, I get to see photos from the new parents through the years – social media has been particularly helpful for that. When potential adopters reach out, I always try to set up a meet-and-greet in a very comfortable setting, so the kittens show their true personality. Looking forward to what 2023 kitten fostering brings!

KIM LEJA







Left to my own devices, I'd bring home every animal I could find. I love birds, but also dogs and mice and reptiles and rabbits and everything else that lives and breathes. Reality dictates I cannot have all of these animals, so I foster them. I provide all the love and care until DCHS can find them a new home. One of the more unusual animals DCHS placed at my house was Knight Rider the pigeon, who appeared to like people. We needed to know if he would do well in someone's home. I was enamored with him, and he was happy to spend time on a shoulder or the back of the couch for movie night. Not only that, he was curious to share whatever we were eating for dinner, and completely baffling for the parakeets that live at our house full time.

**TESSA COLLINS**

I love working with foster dogs. You can see impacts of your work daily. A recent foster, Jill, was a trippawd puppy with high energy and an urge to chew literally EVERYTHING. We worked on setting her up for success by restricting access to any room when unattended, except the puppy-proofed space, and we redirected with fun enrichment items (like Kongs, snuffle mats, toys) to prevent chewing items she shouldn't. Jill had also clearly never seen stairs before, so we used yummy, smelly treats like hot dogs and liverwurst to entice her to learn to navigate first the carpeted stairs, then the slippery linoleum to the backyard. She was a stairmaster by the time she went to her new home!

**CHELSEA WHITE**



Beanie had an injury to her left front leg possibly requiring amputation and needed a foster to provide rest, pain management, and feeding since she was not eating well. I decided to become her foster mom. I thought adoption was a possible outcome, but had concerns about my cat's acceptance of a new member to the family.

Beanie thrived in the home environment, and her leg injury improved. We became very close. She is so sweet and cuddly. Beanie lets me hold her and cuddle her whenever and for however long I want to. She fills an empty spot I didn't even realize I had. She and my cat co-exist, so adoption became a very real option.

This is considered a "foster fail" because it doesn't follow the planned progression of foster care provided to potential pets with special circumstances. But for me, it has been a foster success. The final goal was met: Beanie got her home!

**CONNIE LUECK**

## READY TO BRING AN ANIMAL TO YOUR HOME?

### Apply to Foster!

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



As you've read, there are many reasons to become a foster to animals in need. We recently streamlined our volunteer foster application process to make it easier for animals to go into a foster home – even same day! Fill out the foster application and sign the waivers, and our team will send you the foster orientation video you can watch from the comfort of your home. Then you're ready to be matched with a foster animal!

### Adopt!

[giveshelter.org/adopt](https://giveshelter.org/adopt)



When you adopt from DCHS, you won't find an application online. We don't have one! We don't want to see your paystubs, we don't need to visit your home, and we don't require any references. At DCHS, we practice an adoption approach known as **Adopters Welcome**.

Our approach focuses on removing barriers and judgment from our adoption process, having open conversations with adopters, and helping them find the pet who is likely the best fit for their lifestyle. We prefer to celebrate our community's willingness to adopt and find ways to say "Yes!" to adopters.

If you're looking to add a furry, feathered, or scaly family member to your home, you can view available animals (including those currently staying with foster families!) on our website.

If you're interested in meeting with an animal currently in foster, you'll need to contact our Adoption Center so we can coordinate a date and time with the foster family for a meet-and-greet. Learn more about our adoption process at [giveshelter.org/process](https://giveshelter.org/process).



Thank you for supporting  
Dane County Humane Society!

## 2022 Annual Report Foster

**126** foster families provided homes for

**586** animals needing to grow, rest, and recover, including:

**446** cats,

**89** dogs, and

**51** critters.

## Canine Behavior

**58** dogs were enrolled in DCHS's Behavior Modification program.

**178** dogs were enrolled in training classes, including:

**87** in Good Dog! Fundamentals,

**40** in Canine Kindergarten,

**39** in Puppy Preschool, and

**12** in Canine Explorers!

## Barn

**48** barnyard animals were cared for by DCHS, including:

**21** chickens,

**11** quail,

**6** ducks,

**3** pigs,

**3** peacocks,

**2** horses, and

**2** pheasants.





Marisa and Anubis



Diamond takes a toy on her walk

## EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Marisa Salinas and her pack became Pets for Life (PFL) clients in April 2019. She'd heard from a friend about this Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) program that provides pet supplies and resources to families in the 53713 zip code and Allied Drive neighborhood. She needed a little extra help with her dog Diamond, older cat Papí, younger cat Apollo, and rabbit Snuggles, so she reached out for assistance.

At DCHS, we believe everyone should get to enjoy the love of a pet, regardless of income or other challenges. Through door-to-door outreach, word-of-mouth, and other methods, our PFL team connects with people to provide support and create long-lasting relationships. PFL staff meet community members where they are, rather than waiting for them to find us.

"They came to do health checks on Diamond, Papí, Apollo, and Snuggles," says Marisa. "They would bring food, toys, blankets, a bunny cage, and medicine (if need be)."

These are just a few of the services PFL can offer. PFL can provide clients' pets with free veterinarian wellness care,

spay and neuter surgeries, flea and tick treatment, supplies (like food, litter, toys, pet beds, and more), pet medications, and information.

Sadly, Marisa had to seek such veterinary help for her younger cat, Apollo.

Apollo first joined the family when her dog, Diamond, found the kitten outside in the summer of 2018. He was a tiny kitten with gunky eyes and a stuffy nose. Despite Marisa's best efforts to find his family, no one nearby was missing a kitten, so she took the little one home. He was the perfect fit for her family. Although Apollo didn't particularly like being held at first, he eventually became very fond of snuggles, pets, and even giving kisses. He loved stealing food off Marisa's plate, and he would run to the refrigerator to jump inside and chomp on Snuggles's Romaine lettuce! Apollo quickly became Marisa's shadow.

But in January of 2023, Apollo started acting very sick and weak. He had a clogged nose and was losing a lot of weight. Marisa called our PFL team, who worked quickly to coordinate with DCHS veterinary staff to get Apollo in

for a visit the following day. Tragically, Apollo was much sicker than Marisa could have realized, and to spare him great pain and suffering, Apollo was humanely euthanized.

Marisa had a huge hole in her heart that needed to be filled. With the help of the PFL team, she perused adoptable cats at the shelter. She loved every one of them, but chose to meet with adorable, four-month-old kitten Shout.

Shout was a little shy at first, but after a couple minutes, he walked up to Marisa and rubbed his head on her leg. He didn't want anyone but Marisa to touch him. He definitely chose her to take him home. Marisa decided she didn't need to see any more adoptable cats; Shout was the one for her. PFL assisted with Shout's adoption fee.

Tears of sadness over losing her beloved cat of four years turned into tears of joy. Shout, renamed Anubis, soon started doing many of the same things Apollo had done – including stealing Snuggles's lettuce!

Marisa is forever grateful to the PFL program and staff for all we do, but especially for helping her through a very difficult goodbye to Apollo.

Says Marisa, "I would be lost without my fur babies if it weren't for Pets for Life." 🐾

*Written by Diane Sullivan, PFL Program Outreach Assistant*



Snuggles relaxes in his cage

## 2022 Annual Report

### Pets for Life

**144** new clients with **278** pets have received assistance and resources, including:

**46** spay/neuter surgeries,

**422** vaccinations, and

**713** medications and services.

### Keeping Pets in Their Homes

**4,537** pounds of pet food and cat litter were donated to local food pantries.

DCHS collaborates with Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin. This partnership helps keep pets with their families through economic hardship.

### Community Dog and Cat Day

**1** Community Dog and Cat Day event served

**28** pets, administered **39** vaccines, and

performed **26** veterinary visits.





The American crow stayed in its body wrap without a fuss



## AN ODE TO CROWS

*Congregating corvids,  
often act exhorted,  
by urging on their kindred,  
with loud and boisterous noises.*

*“Caw, caw, caw” says the crow,  
and “Kraa, kraa, kraa” says the raven.  
“Kraa-caw-caw, and a rattle, rattle, click”  
– are these rookery sounds or a rap limerick?*

*Melding in their murders  
showing strength in numbers,  
they chase away the dangers,  
while yelling at the strangers.*

*“Here we are! But go away!”  
is what we humans feel they say.  
But how crows think, we can’t define.  
They could be saying, “Hey, this is mine!”*

*Which thou Corvus’ merit admiration?  
Is it crows, or jays, or coughts, or ravens?  
Well, crows, of course, they are bestowed  
with our vote as we voice this ode.*

The licensed wildlife rehabilitators at Dane County Humane Society’s (DCHS’s) Wildlife Center think crows are incredible, fascinating birds! If you aren’t as convinced as we are, there’s a wide variety of videos online that showcase their fun personalities and intelligence, such as the crow that uses a plastic Tupperware lid to go sledding or the documentary about crows that use tools in the wild. They have both beauty and brains, and kindness too – known to some as “present bringers” for collecting things for people in return for food, although this is an activity that is not condoned by wildlife professionals. We discourage interacting with wild animals as if they are pets to ensure the animals stay wild and capable of surviving in their natural environment.

On the other end of the spectrum, urban birds sometimes get a “bad rap” in the community, often gaining the reputation of being a nuisance animal because of their large group numbers and raucous behavior. Or they might be overlooked as just “part of the natural scenery” when there are so many around to blend in.

For those who love crows as much as we do, we hope that you enjoy this story of one of our recent American crow

patients. The bird was noticed by a kind-hearted soul in December 2022 when it was found hopping along the roadside near a busy intersection in Madison, Wisconsin. It was unable to fly, was missing all of its rectrices (tail feathers), and had blood on its beak and legs. Our staff performed a thorough exam and medical diagnostics, and the crow was later confirmed to have a clavicle fracture – presumably from being hit by a car.

Crows are a type of bird in the family Corvidae. They are often grouped into the collective of “urban birds,” a term that describes where they live and how they use their environment. Aptly named, these urban birds primarily reside in cities and have adapted to the public presence, often benefiting from human activities.

Crows are frequently brought to wildlife rehabilitation facilities, such as when hatchlings fall from their nests in the spring or when adults become sick or injured. Their admissions may be more likely because they tend to be in close proximity to humans who notice they are in need.

The injured crow brought to DCHS’s Wildlife Center was described by staff as the “model patient.” It followed its treatment protocol perfectly! It stayed calm during handling, ate food immediately, and stayed in a body wrap without making a fuss.

More often than not, crows are curious about their surroundings and are inclined to remove a wrap or pick at it. Luckily, this bird did not remove or alter its new apparel, and the clavicle fracture fully healed. In addition, all of the crow’s rectrices grew back into a beautiful set of tail feathers. It didn’t damage them in our indoor treatment cages or outdoor enclosures, which set the stage for ideal plumage condition on release. After two full months of supportive care in rehabilitation, it was back home and flying free.

Successful cases like this are the highlight of our work and are supported by people just like you who contribute towards their care. 🐦

*Written by Jackie Sandberg, Wildlife Program Manager*



The American crow awaits release in an outdoor flight enclosure



## 2022 Annual Report

**2,619**

wild animals were admitted in 2022 after being found sick, injured, or orphaned.

**143**

unique species were admitted to the Wildlife Center, including

**107** avian,

**24** mammal, and

**12** reptile/amphibian species.

**5,686**

phone calls were received and answered by the Wildlife Center reception team.





Gimlet gets towed off after his dyp treatment



Gimlet snoozes in a sunbeam in his new home

## FELINE IN TREATMENT CAPTURES DYPPER'S HEART

"I knew Gimlet was special from the first time I met him."

Andrea Burton volunteers in Dane County Humane Society's (DCHS's) Maddie's Felines in Treatment Center. She recently met kitten Gimlet during his stay, and he quickly captured her heart.

Gimlet arrived at the shelter on a cold winter day in January 2023 after he was found wandering all alone on a rural property. The twelve-week-old kitten came right up to a young girl, and her mother called DCHS to see if we could help this little kitty in need. He was very friendly, but his eyes and some hair loss posed immediate concerns. His finder didn't think he could see well, and he had a small, hairless patch on one of his legs and hair loss on his ears.

As part of every initial exam for cats, admitting technicians pay close attention to fur and skin, and shine a special ultraviolet light called a Wood's lamp over the cats' bodies to check for the strain of ringworm that is most likely to cause outbreaks in shelters. The fungus is highly contagious and can quickly spread throughout the entire animal population, including to dogs and humans. This

high transmissibility makes ringworm difficult to manage in a shelter setting, so it is important to diagnose the fungus early.

In fact, ringworm was once a feline death sentence. It causes hair loss and itchy or scaly skin, increasing the risk of skin wounds and other infections. But more concerning is how rapidly and broadly it can spread. Ringworm was considered untreatable in a shelter setting. To prevent the spread of the fungus to healthy animals, ringworm-positive cats were often euthanized.

In 2003, DCHS launched a program that would change everything.

The Felines in Treatment (F.I.T.) program started in a pink, 1960s-era trailer and has since moved to a permanent building next to the shelter. The Maddie's F.I.T. Center is completely separate from the main shelter, providing isolation from the rest of the shelter's animal population, a low-stress environment to treat sick kitties, room to store supplies and equipment, and facility-specific HVAC, electrical, and hot water systems. The Maddie's F.I.T.

Center even has an entirely separate team of volunteers. All of this helps ensure ringworm does not spread to the rest of the shelter population.

DCHS's innovative F.I.T. program literally saves cats' lives.

The Wood's lamp test can be very effective in detecting the most common and contagious strain of ringworm, making it a good, initial assessment. Gimlet's test came back negative, but DCHS veterinarians suspected his hair loss could be due to a less common strain of the fungus. They should know; they have diagnosed their fair share of it. They took samples for fungal culture.

During his exam, they also took a close look at Gimlet's eyes, which were nearly opaque with limited vision. Veterinary staff diagnosed him with severe conjunctivitis, significant corneal disease, an ear infection, and an upper respiratory infection. Fortunately, his eyes didn't seem to cause him pain, so our veterinarians decided they didn't need to surgically remove them. Instead, they started him on antibiotics for the infection and ointments for his eyes. Unfortunately, the damage wasn't reversible, and he'll likely always have limited vision.

Gimlet loved the attention during his exam and purred loudly. If staff stopped touching him, he'd cry for more.

The fungal culture indicated Gimlet did indeed have ringworm. He was otherwise comfortable and healing well from his other health concerns, so he was admitted to a spacious kitty condo in the Maddie's F.I.T. Center for ringworm treatment.

He was one step closer to healing from the fungal infection – and little did anyone know, he was one step closer to finding his new family.

The Maddie's F.I.T. Center is almost entirely run by dedicated volunteers – about 30 of them, including Andrea. As part of the treatment, volunteers administer oral anti-fungal medications to the cats, and they spray the cats' bodies with a lime-sulfur solution twice-weekly. The F.I.T. team calls the spray treatment a *dyp*, which came from the brand of product they used on the cats, and the volunteers who treat the cats are often called *dyppers*. Dyppers also drench washcloths with the lime-sulfur solution to gently coat the fur around kitties' faces and ears, making sure to avoid their eyes.

"After applying the topical treatment to the cats, I always sit with them and towel them off," says Andrea. "I found

*Feline in Treatment continues on page 10*

## 2022 Annual Report F.I.T. Center

**113** cats with dermatophyte (ringworm) were treated and cured in Maddie's Felines in Treatment Center at DCHS.

**73** of those cats were from **11** different outside organizations.

**61** cats were treated for just **28** days.

**31** volunteers spent **1,580** hours caring for cats in the Maddie's F.I.T. Center.

## Animal Medical Services

**11,201** medical exams performed

**2,295** spay/neuter surgeries performed on

**1,408** cats, **803** dogs, **72** rabbits, **9** rats, **2** guinea pigs, and **1** pig.

**226** dental surgeries performed on **175** cats and **51** dogs.

**115** other surgeries performed, including amputations, mass removals, and eye removals.

**68** UW veterinary students attended ambulatory rotations at DCHS to learn about shelter medicine and management.





Gimlet relaxes in his condo in the F.I.T. Center



Gimlet snoozes with Cosmo and Martini

### *Feline in Treatment continued*

myself spending a little more time with and attention to Gimlet. Despite his health issues, he was vocal, confident, and friendly, coming right up to the cage door to greet anyone who passed by, and would purr immediately when being petted or held.”

But there’s more to the program than physical healing. Dyppers speak in soothing tones to try to comfort the cats as they’re being sprayed with the solution or to encourage them to swallow their medicine. These F.I.T. volunteers also provide cats with much-needed cuddles, pets, and attention. When F.I.T. program graduates are ready for adoption, they’re often the most snuggly cats available!

“Gimlet was incredibly easygoing as well,” Andrea continues. “Most cats and kittens that I’ve treated for ringworm are pretty resistant when getting the topical treatment, but Gimlet never really put up much of a fuss.”

Cats undergo this ringworm treatment until fungal culture shows that the infection is resolved.

When the F.I.T. program first began, the average length of stay was about 50 days. In the early years of the program, DCHS sent cultures to the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine for analysis. Now that DCHS’s veterinary team is trained on analyzing the cultures, they

can perform these tasks onsite, which helps reduce how long cats in treatment need to stay in the Maddie’s F.I.T. Center. The average length of stay is now down to 28 days!

Each cat’s stay is different, and it’s also affected by whether the cat needs to be treated for additional medical issues. Despite his many medical needs, Gimlet’s length of stay was just 25 days!

During his stay, he was monitored by DCHS veterinarians, who checked on his eyes and upper respiratory infection. The infection had cleared up thanks to treatment, and his eyes were much better – in fact, even his limited vision had improved some!

By early February, Gimlet’s cultures indicated his ringworm infection was resolved, and with the recovery of his eyes, he was ready for adoption.

Gimlet didn’t have to look very far to find his new home.

“I knew that I wanted him to be part of our family,” says Andrea. “It took a little convincing to get my partner, Becky, on board.” Quite reasonably, Becky had some concerns. The family already had two cats, and a new kitten could upset their dynamic. And they wondered how Gimlet, with his impaired vision, would manage their two-story home.

“As soon as Becky met Gimlet, though,” Andrea says, “she fell in love like I did and knew that we just had to make this work. The rest is history.”

They brought Gimlet home on February 16th, and the family has thrived since.

“Gimlet has been a perfect addition,” says Andrea. “He enjoys chasing around and wrestling with his big brother, Cosmo, and big sister, Martini.” Although originally named “Killian” when he arrived at the shelter, Andrea and Becky decided to change his name to fit with the theme of cat names in their household: Cosmo, Martini, and Gimlet!

“He is a total lap cat,” Andrea continues. “He’ll take naps on me or Becky whenever he gets a chance and prefers to sleep as close to our faces as possible, often with his cheek pressed up against ours. He continues to be super confident and smart; his impaired vision doesn’t slow him down one bit.

“Becky and I couldn’t be happier,” says Andrea. “We are committed to making sure Gimlet can live his very best life!” 🐾

*Written by Lisa Bernard, Public Relations Coordinator, and Natasha Saidikowski, Donor Engagement Coordinator*

## FELINES IN TREATMENT PROGRAM TURNS 20!

Dozens of photos are strung along the walls. Each picture bears the image of a single cat, captioned with their name. They are the 2022 graduates of the Felines in Treatment (F.I.T.) program at Dane County Humane Society (DCHS). The photos serve as heartwarming reminders of the cats and kittens treated for and cured of ringworm in just one year.

The pictures also celebrate how this program – the first of its kind – fundamentally changed the approach to ringworm outbreaks in a shelter setting.

“I have been taking pictures of the kittens since I started in the program,” says Beth Rodgers, coordinator of Maddie’s F.I.T. Center. Beth

has been a part of the program since 2006. “Anyone who comes into F.I.T. loves looking at the pictures, and it’s a great reminder and motivator for our volunteers. It shows just how many cats they save each year!”

In addition to treating cats admitted to DCHS, we also assist other shelters that are unable to care for cats with ringworm. Since the program’s humble beginnings, over 1,542 cats have been treated and cured of ringworm. Thanks to the F.I.T. program, these cats have been able to enjoy a second chance at life.

2023 marks the F.I.T. program’s 20th year, and we are excited to celebrate all of its accomplishments with our supporters!



One wall of photos of F.I.T. program 2022 graduates



# DCHS, How CAN I SUPPORT THEE?

## Let Me Count the Ways!

Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) relies on generous donors to help animals in our community. We want to make it easy to support DCHS however works best for you!

**Thank you for your compassion and help providing care and comfort to thousands of animals each year.**

**Online:** We accept all major credit and debit cards, as well as most forms of digital payment. If you give in honor of someone, you can personalize an e-card to send them.

Visit [giveshelter.org/donate](https://giveshelter.org/donate) or scan



**Mail:** Send a check made payable to “DCHS” to

Dane County Humane Society  
Attn: Development  
5132 Voges Road  
Madison, WI 53718

**Stocks, Bonds, and Other Securities:** Avoid capital gains taxes and maximize your donations! Contact Amy Good at [agood@giveshelter.org](mailto:agood@giveshelter.org) or (608) 838-0413 ext. 129 for more information. If you made a gift of stocks, bonds, or other securities, be sure to let us know so we can send you a tax receipt and thank you note!

**Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD):** If you’re over 70.5 years old and need to take your required minimum distribution, you can transfer directly to DCHS, excluding the funds from taxable income. Contact your financial advisor for advice and their QCD request document, and share our EIN: 39-0806335.

**Donor Advised Funds (DAF):** Some brokerage firms help you create a DAF to support charities. Contact your financial advisor to set up a fund or initiate a gift. We don’t always get your contact information on the check, so please contact Kelsie Matt at [kmatt@giveshelter.org](mailto:kmatt@giveshelter.org) so we can thank you!

**Vehicle Donations:** DCHS’s vehicle donation partner strives to accept all types of donated vehicles (running or not) including cars, trucks, trailers, boats, RVs, motorcycles, campers, off-road vehicles, planes, heavy equipment, farm machinery, and most other motorized vehicles. Learn more at [giveshelter.org/vehicle](https://giveshelter.org/vehicle).

**Coming Soon! Cryptocurrency:** DCHS will soon be able to accept cryptocurrency, including Bitcoin, Ethereum, USD Coin, and many other popular cryptocurrencies through our website. If you want to be contacted when this feature is available, please reach out to Amy Good at [agood@giveshelter.org](mailto:agood@giveshelter.org) or (608) 838-0413 ext. 129.

## 2022 Annual Report Intake

**4,275** companion animals admitted, including:  
**1,140** animals transferred from partner shelters in need.

## Adoptions

**3,053** animals adopted, including:  
**1,686** cats,  
**1,075** dogs, and  
**292** other species.

## Save Rate

**91%** save rate for all companion animals  
**92%** save rate for cats  
**90%** save rate for dogs

## Humane Education

**108** Humane Education events reached  
**1,830+** adults and kids via Camp Pawprint, shelter tours, presentations, field trips, and scout workshops.



Kids at Camp Pawprint - Summer Break

## DCHS’s HUMANE EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN FULL SWING!

Picture this: It’s the middle of July, and you hear the sound of dozens of excited whispers in the hallway. Outside, many small hands work together to clean up craft supplies and set freshly painted birdhouses in the sun to dry. Someone opens their car door to let a trained therapy dog jump down to the ground, and they walk toward the building. Where are you? Camp Pawprint - Summer Break!

Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) offers various Humane Education programs to provide one-of-a-kind experiences that teach about DCHS services and how to help make our community a better place for both people and animals. Some participants get to meet animals for the first time, while others have a chance to learn how to create deeper bonds with the animals they love at home.

After a two-year hiatus, Camp Pawprint came back last summer and was filled with animal-loving kids, expert speakers, and lots of games. The fun continued into fall and winter with day camps during school days off with smaller groups of campers and new activities.

One parent shared, “Our kids were so excited to tell us about what they’d seen or done each day. I love that they got to interact with the animals – and feel invested in wanting to help animals more.”

As we prepare for another summer of Camp Pawprint, we are refreshing our curriculum, inviting new guest speakers, and designing lots of new activities for kids to enjoy!

DCHS staff, volunteers, and classroom animals (*of course!*) have also been out and about in the Madison area giving presentations to animal lovers of all ages, from preschoolers to assisted living residents and everyone in between. One special partnership was with Aldo Leopold Nature Center (ALNC). Our Humane Educator teamed up with some of our Wildlife Center’s licensed rehabilitators to help ALNC summer camp participants learn about helping wildlife, meet a classroom animal, and witness the release of several ducks in their onsite wetlands.

“It was such a special moment, teaching these summer campers what DCHS’s Wildlife Center does and then letting them witness an actual wildlife release,” says DCHS’s Humane Educator. “When I returned for another presentation later in the summer, ALNC staff said the released ducks have stuck around and the campers recognize them!”

Our weekends have been packed with popular activities back at the shelter, too. Most weekends, kids are at DCHS partying like animals for their birthdays, scouts are earning their animal-related badges, and service day participants are helping out around the shelter.

To expand educational programming to reach even more kids, we have created a new scholarship fund. This scholarship fund will help cover camp registration costs and presentations at neighborhood centers, during afterschool programs, and in schools that don’t have the resources. We hope that as this fund grows, we will be able to reach new audiences across the Dane County region and make Humane Education more accessible to everyone.

Thank you for helping build a more humane future for all!



Humane Educator introduces a classroom animal





Volunteers at Thrift Store

# TURNING DONATIONS INTO DOLLARS

What’s the best way to turn those “bought-when-hopeful-but-never-used running shoes” into a way to help animals? Donate them!

Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) Thrift Store opened its doors in January 2019, and thanks to our generous community of donors and shoppers, it continues to thrive!

Donations to our Thrift Store turn into revenue that supports the lifesaving work of DCHS. Our store accepts a wide variety of items, not just pet supplies! We take new or gently-used clothing, furniture, household goods, and more. Our store can receive these donations during regular hours, no appointment needed; just drive around our building to our donation drop off for assistance.

In addition to accepting donations seven days a week, we also partner with a company that picks up donations at your home for a fee.

While we are always grateful for donations, there are a few things you can do to help us make the most of your gift and save valuable resources and time.

Donations brought to us clean and in working order are more likely to make it to the sales floor and sell quickly. Items requiring a deep clean aren’t considered to be in re-sellable condition and often don’t have a good chance of being sold. For example: running your gently used pet supplies through a wash cycle before donating them



DCHS alum Kenny visits Thrift Store with his family

makes them much more appealing to shoppers. Most of our customers (including our four-legged, furry, feathered, or scaly ones!) don’t mind a little bit of hair, slobber, or even mild pet smells, but strong smells and grime make our store unpleasant to shop.

We do our best to keep as much as possible out of landfills and keep our trash disposal costs low, but we need your help. If your items are more-than-gently used, we appreciate your efforts to dispose of or recycle these items yourself. By only donating items in good condition, we can focus our efforts and resources on items likely to make it to the sales floor and maximize the funds raised to help animals in need.

When you mindfully donate, we can reduce waste and most effectively help people and their pets in our community.

Learn more about DCHS Thrift Store, view our hours, schedule a donation pick-up, learn how to volunteer, and more at [giveshelter.org/thrift](https://giveshelter.org/thrift)!

*Written by Shelbi Bernard, Thrift Store Supervisor*

## 2022 Annual Report

### Volunteers

Throughout DCHS,

**896**

volunteers contributed

**83,973**

hours of service.

# REUNITING LOST PETS WITH THEIR FAMILIES

An important part of Dane County Humane Society’s (DCHS’s) goal to help people help animals is getting lost pets back to their families. Many lost pets in Dane County find their way back home thanks to our Lost and Found Program. Our team of staff and volunteers take reports of missing or found animals and cross-check those reports daily against each other and animals who come into the shelter. They also provide community members tips and guidance to reunite lost pets. Thanks to tools like ID tags and microchips, we’re able to send more lost pets back home each year.

It may be surprising to learn, then, that the numbers show DCHS returned fewer lost pets to their families in 2022 compared to, say, 2019, before the pandemic. How can this be? If our tools are becoming better each year, why are we returning fewer pets?

First, the tools we use are becoming so sophisticated that we are now getting more and more lost pets back home before they ever come to the shelter. Second, we’re providing more resources to community members willing to help find a pet’s family.

Through coordination with Public Health Madison & Dane County Animal Services, DCHS helped supply their Animal



A family reunites with their beloved dog at DCHS

Services vehicles with microchip scanners, allowing their Animal Service Officers to scan animals in the field and directly return home microchipped pets who would have previously come to the shelter.

Additionally, our staff always work to stay up-to-date on best practices so we can advise members of the community on strategies that will give lost pets the best chance of returning home. For example, did you know that the most common way for lost dogs to be reunited with their family is when pet parents search the nearby area on foot? Most stray dogs are found within a mile of home, and most reunions happen within 48 hours. If you find a dog wandering loose, the best chance for getting them back home is to stay near where you found them. You can look around the area for the pet parent, or even knock on some nearby doors to see if anyone recognizes the dog. Social media and websites such as PawBoost and Petco Love Lost are all becoming instrumental in getting pets back home as quickly and easily as possible, as well as empowering members of the community to help in the mission as much as a shelter worker.

Looking back at the numbers mentioned earlier, we can see the real reason DCHS reunited fewer pets with their families in 2022 compared to 2019 is because we took in far fewer lost animals. So many of them were returned to their families without coming to the shelter.

DCHS will always be here for those lost pets who need us. However, being able to reunite pets with their families earlier and earlier helps us save shelter space and resources for animals who do not have a home to go back to, and it gives pet parents in our community the peace of mind knowing their beloved pet is back home much sooner.

*Written by Tim Clark, Shelter Resource Supervisor*

## Reunions

**601** lost pets reunited with their families, including **415** dogs and **186** cats, with **137** reunited thanks to microchips.

## Return Rate

**66%** return rate for dogs and **17%** return rate for cats compared to the national average of **41%** return rate for dogs and **5%** return rate for cats.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Group Volunteer Experiences

[giveshelter.org/gve](https://giveshelter.org/gve)

Want to volunteer at DCHS but unable to commit to a regular volunteer role? Gather your colleagues, friends, or neighbors for a fun afternoon helping animals at DCHS through a Group Volunteer Experience. You and your group will tour the shelter, complete a mission critical task, and socialize with adoptable animals! For more information, visit our website or contact us at [events@giveshelter.org](mailto:events@giveshelter.org).



## Host a Fundraiser

[giveshelter.org/fundraiser](https://giveshelter.org/fundraiser)

What do lemonade stands, fitness classes, ugly sweater parties, and raffles all have in common? These events can all help animals in need! Hosting an independent fundraiser is a wonderful and creative way to empower kids, adults, and businesses to make a difference for animals in our community. Every year, these fundraisers generate thousands of dollars for DCHS's lifesaving work. And no matter what type of event you host, DCHS can help make it a success! For more information, visit our website or contact us at [events@giveshelter.org](mailto:events@giveshelter.org).



## Bark & Wine

[giveshelter.org/bw](https://giveshelter.org/bw)

**Saturday, September 30th**

You're invited to DCHS's longest-running fundraising event – Bark & Wine! Explore the shelter while snuggling puppies, playing with kittens, and enjoying tasty beverages and hors d'oeuvres. Together, we'll celebrate how your support saves the lives of local wildlife, finds homes for companion animals, helps pets stay with the families who love them, and so much more! Reserve your place at this one-of-a-kind event starting in August at [giveshelter.org/bw](https://giveshelter.org/bw). Can't attend the event in person? Our auction is online, so supporters can join the fun from near or far, all to benefit animals in our community!



Thank you for supporting  
Dane County Humane Society!

# 2022 Annual Report Media Highlights

**33,900+** newsletter subscribers

**4,900+** Wildlife newsletter subscribers

**60,400+** Facebook followers across three Facebook pages

**12,100+** Instagram followers

**800+** LinkedIn followers

**Over 5.1 million** website views

**446** Pet of the Week features on NBC15, News 3 Now, WKOW27, 105.5 Triple M, 94.9 WOLX, Isthmus On Tap, Madison Minutes, Ian's Pizza, Hometown News, Rubin's Furniture, and ULLA Eyewear

# Connect With Us!

[giveshelter.org/enews](https://giveshelter.org/enews)

DCHS (@GiveShelter)  
DCHS's Wildlife Center (@DCHSWC)  
DCHS Thrift Store (@DCHSThriftStore)

@DCHSGiveShelter

/company/GiveShelter



# Major Events

**39** organizations provided cash and in-kind sponsorships

**253** in-person and

**37** virtual guests attended Toto's Gala, which raised over

**\$137,725**

**275** supporters attended Bark & Wine, which raised over

**\$147,990**

# Independent Events

**\$176,658**

was donated to DCHS through

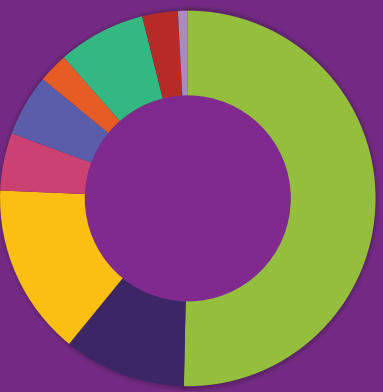
**161** independent fundraisers,

**67** hosted by local businesses and

**62** hosted by kids

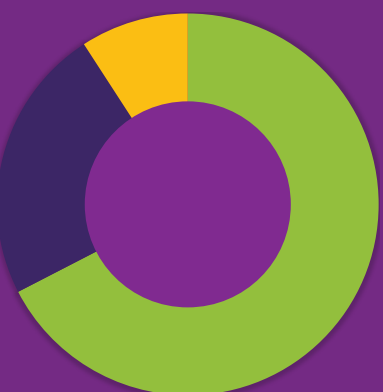


# Revenue



Individual Donations	\$2,898,087	52.84%
Bequests	\$ 607,875	11.08%
Program Services & Fees	\$ 850,966	15.52%
Major Events	\$ 285,715	5.21%
Municipal Contracts	\$ 306,257	5.58%
Grants	\$ 148,008	2.70%
Thrift Store	\$ 435,678	7.94%
Independent Events	\$ 176,658	3.22%
Merchandise Sales	\$ 48,386	0.88%
Investments & Misc. Income	\$ (272,497)	-4.97%
Total	\$5,485,133	

# Expenses



Direct Program Expenses	\$4,029,970	67.42%
Fundraising, Marketing, & Thrift Store	\$1,399,686	23.42%
Management & General	\$ 547,351	9.16%
Total	\$5,977,007	



# Dane County Humane Society

is a community-supported, independent non-profit. We are not affiliated with any government agency or national animal welfare organization. We receive the majority of our funding from the generosity of our community — individual donations, bequests, corporate support, grants, and fundraising efforts.

Join one of our Giving Societies today — or all three!



**DANE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY  
CONSTANT COMPANIONS**

## Be a Hero to Animals in Need

Join devoted supporters giving monthly to sustain the lifesaving work of DCHS, and be a hero to animals in need: [giveshelter.org/cc](https://giveshelter.org/cc)



**DANE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY  
DIRECTORS' COUNCIL**

## You Are Cordially Invited

Make a tremendous impact in the lives of animals and enjoy unique experiences all year: [giveshelter.org/dc](https://giveshelter.org/dc)



**DANE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY  
LEGACY SOCIETY**

## Support for Generations

Include DCHS in your legacy plans and ensure a humane future for generations to come: [giveshelter.org/legacy](https://giveshelter.org/legacy)

