

Dane County Humane Society's

family tails

Spring 2020 • Issue 12

DCHS 2019
Annual Report
Inside!

Fostering Hope
and Healing

A Club for the
Lonely Hearts

Heartwarming
Alumni Updates

Top Ways to Help
Wisconsin Wildlife



Pam McCloud Smith, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In this issue of Family Tails we look back at the successes you helped bring in 2019 and are thankful for your support as we face the challenges ahead in 2020. Thanks to your support, we're excited to celebrate a 92% save rate* in 2019, our highest save rate ever, putting us in the top tier of open-admission animal shelters nationwide.

Included in this newsletter is DCHS's 2019 Annual Report with statistics from the past year and the stories behind those numbers. In addition to a record-breaking save rate, we also transferred in a record number of animals from Wisconsin and shelters across the nation experiencing overcrowding. In 2019 we transferred in 397 more animals from partner shelters compared to 2018, providing them with much deserved second chances.

A grant from the Petco Foundation allowed us to remodel our canine quarantine and isolation kennels in 2019. This remodel created better housing for sick dogs transferred into the shelter without fear of spreading diseases to other animals. The new space is easier and safer to clean and allows DCHS to continue reaching out to shelters in need and save more lives.

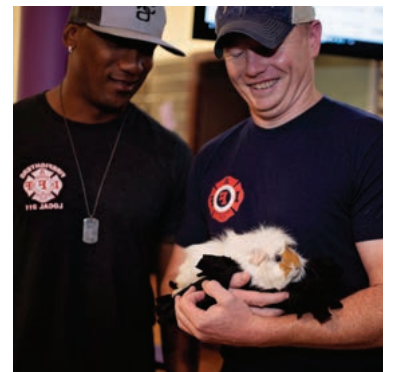
DCHS got an additional boost of support in 2019 when local heroes came to the rescue of local animals. We were chosen as the beneficiary of the Madison Area Police and Fire Charity Ball held in November. DCHS also benefited from the 2020 Madison Firefighters Calendar featuring local firefighters alongside their pets, rescue pets and DCHS alumni animals.

Support from organizations like these and countless individuals led to a year of strong financial health. Thanks to this and our commitment to accountability and transparency, DCHS earned the highest possible 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator.

The momentum of 2019 is propelling DCHS into a year full of celebrations, but also new challenges. In this issue of Family Tails you'll find articles featuring some of these celebrations such as the one-year anniversary of DCHS's Thrift Store and launch of the Lonely Hearts Club, as well as the 10-year anniversary of our Maddie's Felines in Treatment Center.

These accomplishments are thanks to the generosity and support of our community - donating, volunteering, adopting and helping animals in need. DCHS has relied on this community support for our nearly 100-year history and we continue to need your support as we look to the future needs of our ever-growing and changing community. Thank you for helping people help animals.

Pam McCloud Smith, Executive Director



*Save Rate = (Adoptions + Redemptions + Transfers) / Intake

A Club for the Lonely Hearts

While most animals available for adoption at DCHS find their new homes within 10 days, some animals have a more difficult time. The reasons are not always so obvious. Perhaps they are older or not as eye-catching. They could be shy or nervous in a setting with so many new smells, sights and sounds. They may need help polishing up their manners.

While DCHS's adoption guarantee means all healthy or treatable animals can stay at the shelter for as long as it takes to find a loving home, the goal is always to find a new home as quickly as possible. To help those pets who have been at DCHS for 30 days or longer, the Lonely Hearts Club (LHC) launched in January 2019 thanks to a generous grant from Maddie's Fund.

Members of the LHC can be identified in the shelter by a logo hanging on their kennel or cage and on a special page on our website. These pets may have adoption incentives to encourage adopters to take a closer look, such as reduced adoption fees, free supplies or DCHS dog training classes.

In its inaugural year, the LHC helped 162 members, like Sassy, find loving families. Sassy was having a hard time finding a new home after being surrendered when her owner developed health issues. She was unhappy in a cat condo, so she moved to a staff office where her personality began to blossom. Maia decided to adopt Sassy because she was an LHC member. "I've had cats since I was a baby, so I don't mind taking on a slightly more unusual cat," explains Maia.

Sassy, now Pancake, has settled into her new home well. Maia reports that while Pancake still enjoys her alone time, she will hang out with Maia every evening while they watch hockey on the TV together.

If you are the type of person who, above all, wants to help those most in need, please take a look at our LHC members. A new best friend could be waiting just for you!

>>Written by Michelle Livanos, Development and Marketing Coordinator



Lonely Hearts Club rabbits Ian and Isaac's adoption day



Lonely Hearts Club member Maverick headed home



Former Lonely Hearts Club member Sassy

Upcoming Events



Thrift Store Grand Reopening

6904 Watts Road, Madison , WI 53719

Due to the tremendous success of our first year, the DCHS Thrift Store will be moving to a new, larger location at 6904 Watts Road! We'll have a larger selection, great deals and special events to mark the occasion. Please consider donating your gently used items and making the store a regular shopping destination, knowing that proceeds support many great programs at DCHS. Learn more about the store and how to donate at giveshelter.org and on the Thrift Store Facebook page at facebook.com/DCHSThriftStore/.



Camp Pawprint - Summer Break

June 15 - August 28, 2020

Planning for summer break? Children can spend their time off from school with Dane County Humane Society! Camp Pawprint-Summer Break is a series of themed, week-long day camps from June through August. It is recommended for children ages 7-12. Campers will enjoy animal interactions, animal-related lessons, learn from local animal experts, complete service projects for the shelter and play games and activities with other animal lovers! Our goal is to educate others on how to care for, support and appreciate all living beings.



Dogtoberfest

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Adorable dogs! Tasty brews! Local food carts! Dogtoberfest has everything you could want for a fun Sunday afternoon at Capital Brewery's beautiful bier garden. Enjoy live music and canine costume contests, meet adoptable dogs and soak in a lovely fall day with your dog, friends and 1,000 fellow DCHS supporters! Keep an eye out for presale tickets and more information in July!

Bark & Wine

Saturday, October 3, 2020

Would you like to help save thousands of lives this year while sipping a glass of wine and cuddling a kitten? Join DCHS at Bark & Wine for your chance to connect with fellow supporters, adorable animals and the good work happening at DCHS. Be a part of the incredible community that makes this lifesaving work possible! VIP guests get in early for special foodie and animal experiences! VIP and general admission sales start this summer.



#GivingTuesday

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the desire to make a positive impact in our world. On Tuesday, December 1 community members around the world will come together to celebrate kindness and generosity! Be sure to spend this #GivingTuesday following along with DCHS on Facebook, Instagram and our website as we share amazing stories of animals you have helped in 2020! Interested in inspiring others to help animals in need? Connect with Amy Good at (608) 838-0413 ext. 129 to become a matching gift challenger.



Toto's Gala

Friday, March 12, 2021

Join us for the biggest birthday party you've ever been to! DCHS is turning 100! Toto's Gala will be the official kick off of our centennial celebration year – complete with a look back at the incredible growth we've experienced, a chance to share our appreciation for partners who have helped us along the way and (of course) a walk down memory lane with some of the animals who have made the biggest impact on us. We'll raise our glasses, hear the stories, shed some happy tears and dance the night away together. Join us to celebrate this incredible milestone – we wouldn't be here without all of you! Ticket sales start in January 2021.



Learn more about all Dane County Humane Society events and reserve tickets at giveshelter.org.



Cat being treated for ringworm in the F.I.T. Center



Original home of DCHS's ringworm treatment program



Maddie's Felines In Treatment Center

10 Years of Saving Lives in Maddie's Felines In Treatment Center

In 2003, under the direction of UW-School of Veterinary Medicine veterinarians Sandra Newbury and Karen Moriello, a group of volunteers worked out of a cramped 1960's pink trailer behind DCHS's main shelter. Inside, they were developing a program for successfully treating cats with ringworm in a shelter setting. For more than six years the groundbreaking Dermatophyte Treatment Program (DTP) offered a second chance to more than 400 cats who were treated and cured of ringworm.

By 2009 it was evident that the trailer could no longer serve as a home to the DTP. The roof leaked, the floor had holes, the windows were drafty and it had numerous fire code violations. Plans were drawn up for a new state-of-the-art center and fundraising began.

In October 2010, DCHS welcomed its first patients into the new spacious and modern treatment facility. Now named Maddie's Felines In Treatment (F.I.T.) Center, the facility boasts a beautiful design that provides the cats a peaceful home while under treatment. Volunteers have plenty of room to work and upgrades included laundry, a dishwasher and a restroom.

Over the years more improvements came. In 2013, we enhanced our cleaning protocols. In 2018, caging was expanded, giving each resident three times the space they had before. This improved our ability to treat large litters as well as moms with kittens.

In 2019, Dr. Moriello retired from the vet school and DCHS vets took over reading and monitoring resident cats' treatment cultures. We no longer had to transport our cultures to the vet school so we could start them the day we took them. This allows us to monitor treatment in real time and helped cut our average length of stay to an amazing 25 days!

As we observe the 10th anniversary of Maddie's F.I.T. Center, we celebrate more than 1,245 cats that have healed thanks to this amazing program.

>>Written by Beth Rodgers, F.I.T. Center Coordinator

5,601

companion
animals admitted

1,647

animals transferred
in from other groups
397 more than 2018

739

lost pets reunited
with their owners



Dane County Humane Society

2019 Annual Report



3,919

total animals
adopted
188 more than 2018

1,930 cats adopted

1,594 dogs adopted

395 other species adopted

3,892

injured, ill and orphaned animals treated
at Dane County Humane Society's
Wildlife Center

Save Rate

is the percentage of live animals released by means of adoption, redemption and transfer during a given time period. Save Rate does not include the starting animal inventory for the given time period.

Save Rate = (Adoptions +
Redemptions + Transfers)/Intake



92%

save rate for all
companion animals
highest save rate ever

91%

save rate for cats

93%

save rate for dogs





WILDLIFE CENTER

3,892

wild animals were admitted after being found ill, injured or orphaned

223

volunteers and interns cared for wild patients

5,953

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

Notable Species

first lesser yellowlegs in at least 6 years

first Northern goshawk in 4 years

first river otter in at least 6 years

12 bald eagles

83 owls

9 different warbler species

5 different bat species

7 different turtle species

27 different mammal species

► In September 2019, a hummingbird was found stuck to flypaper. While struggling to get free, he lost all of his front body feathers and damaged his flight feathers. Without enough body feather growth to insulate him during migration, DCHS's Wildlife Center was unable to release him by the time he should have left Wisconsin to fly south. He spent the winter in our care.

Donated fresh flowers from Olbrich Botanical Gardens are helping him feel at home. He eats a specialized nectar made fresh every day and has extended full spectrum lights to mimic the day length in Central America. The hope is he will be healthy with feathers fully grown back in time for a Spring 2020 release.



Barn

74 barn animals were cared for by Dane County Humane Society

32 chickens

5 horses

17 goats

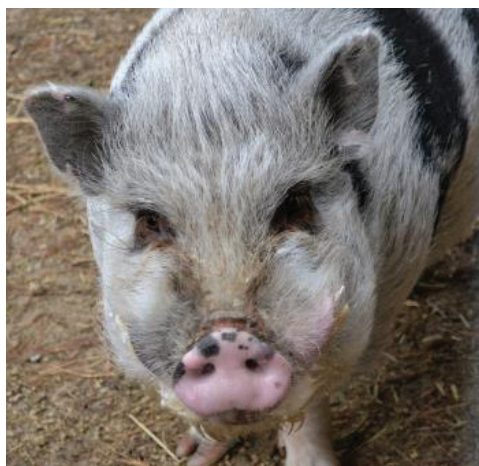
4 pigs

7 tortoises

1 Guinea fowl

7 ducks

1 pheasant



◀ Pot-bellied pig **Hank** spent a total of 128 days in Dane County Humane Society's care while we treated his injured hoof pads. A healthy Hank was adopted in April 2019.

Animal Medical Services

9,304

medical exams performed

2,299

spay/neuter surgeries performed
on 1,245 cats, 986 dogs
and 68 rabbits

267

dental surgeries performed on
194 cats and 73 dogs

106

other surgeries performed such as
amputations, femoral head ostectomies
and enucleations

57

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

Foster

150

foster families
provided homes for

393 cats

87 dogs

528

animals to grow,
rest and recover

48 critters

F.I.T. Center

102

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

volunteers spent

1,772

hours caring for cats
in the F.I.T. Center

45

days was the
longest stay
for a cat

64

cats were transferred
in from outside
organizations



◀ 3-month-old kitten **Cider** was at Marshfield Area Pet Shelter when they discovered she had eyelid agenesis, a condition where part of her upper eyelid did not develop before birth. A DCHS veterinarian knew how to perform a "Switch Flap Reconstruction" which would remove hair rubbing against her eye and provide the kitten with a complete eyelid. Cider was transferred to DCHS and, following a successful surgery and recovery in a foster home, she was immediately adopted into a loving home.

Canine Behavior Team

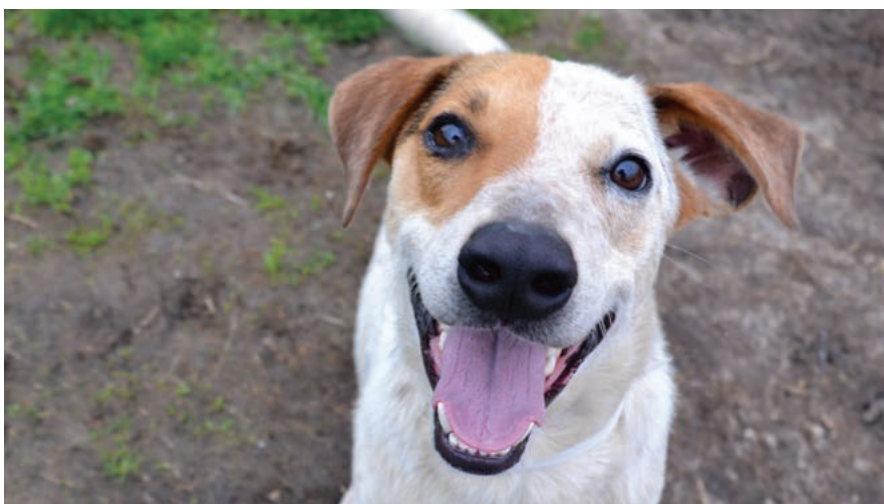
184

dogs were enrolled in DCHS's Behavior Modification program, 54 more than 2018

2,000+

hours were spent by staff and volunteers training dogs

▼ Echo was a 5-year-old dog having difficulty finding the right family. He was a high energy pup who found certain new situations scary. During his 60 day stay at DCHS, the Canine Behavior Team enrolled Echo in the Behavior Modification Program, employing techniques to help him gain confidence and learn how to calm himself down during anxious moments. These techniques helped Echo become an even better adoption candidate than before and helped him find his forever home.



Pets for Life

149 new clients with **204** pets have received assistance and resources

33 were spayed/neutered

205 received vaccinations

515 other medications and services were provided

Community Dog Day

106 dogs were served at one Community Dog Day event

54 dogs received microchips

41 dogs were signed up for spay/neuter surgeries

90 rabies and **94** distemper and parvo vaccines were administered

Volunteers

1,320

volunteers contributed

114,813

hours of work, which is
equivalent to having over

54

full-time staff members

771

volunteer hours were
contributed by employees
of local businesses



▲ **Linda Gilsdorf** was awarded the 2019 Ida Kittleson Award given to a volunteer whose actions and deeds exemplify the mission of DCHS. Linda began volunteering in 2006, and over the years she has lent her passion and skills in many areas of the shelter including adoptions, foster care, the F.I.T. Center and wildlife program. Linda's kindness and experience make her a superstar, especially with the shelter cats who are in need of extra love and care.

Independent Fundraisers

\$148,861

was donated to DCHS through

112

Facebook fundraisers and

219

independent events,

129

hosted by local businesses and

90

hosted by kids

Keeping Pets in their Homes

29,200

pounds of pet food and cat litter were
donated to local food pantries

295,131

pounds of pet food and cat litter have
been donated to local food pantries since
the program began in 2011

DCHS collaborates with Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin to help those experiencing economic hardship keep their pets.

Humane Education

241

humane education events reached

6,922

adults and kids through Camp Pawprint, shelter tours,
offsite presentations, field trips, scout workshops and the
Humane Heroes Club.

Major Events

80

organizations provided cash
and in-kind sponsorships
to support DCHS

392

supporters attended
Toto's Gala
which raised

\$151,879

240

supporters attended
Bark & Wine
which raised

\$113,716

1,000+

supporters attended
Dogtoberfest
which raised

\$34,916

2019 Board of Directors

Joseph S. Goode
President

Laura Murray
Vice President

Cathy Holmes
Secretary

Shirley Crocker
Treasurer

Lilly Bickers

Julie Fagan

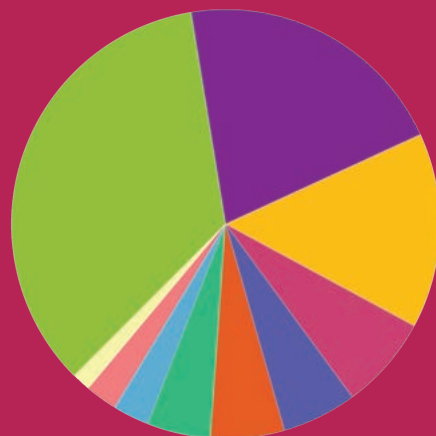
Sara Colopy

Amy Johnson

Joel Davidson

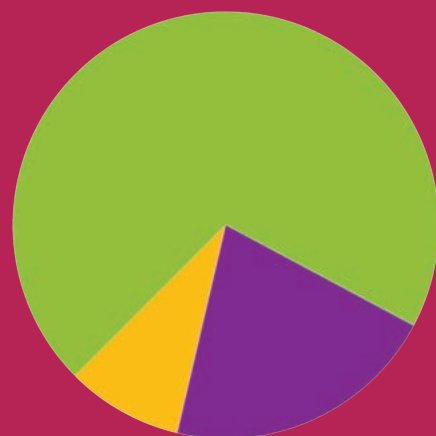
Mark Knipfer

Maggie Premo



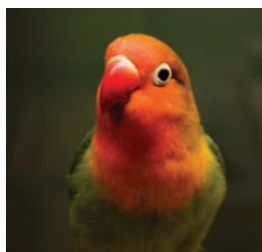
Revenue

Individual Donations	\$1,907,569	35.06%
Program Services & Fees	\$1,128,097	20.73%
Bequests	\$800,852	14.72%
Municipal Contracts	\$383,922	7.06%
Investments & Misc. Income	\$300,810	5.52%
Major Events	\$300,511	5.52%
Grants	\$262,855	4.83%
Independent Events	\$148,861	2.74%
Thrift Store	\$131,216	2.41%
Merchandise Sales	\$76,762	1.41%
Total	\$5,441,455	



Expenses

Direct Program Expenses	\$3,198,798	70.30%
Core Mission Support:		
Fundraising, Marketing & Thrift Store	\$949,242	20.86%
Shelter Administration	\$402,092	8.84%
Total	\$4,550,132	



**DANE COUNTY
HUMANE SOCIETY**

5132 Voges Road
Madison, WI 53718
giveshelter.org

Looking to get your organization involved with DCHS?

Mounds shows the way!

Are you curious how your employer or business could partner with DCHS to make an impact for animals? Through the years, our generous friends at Mounds Pet Food Warehouse have demonstrated many ways local businesses can help DCHS provide care and comfort to our community's animals. Do any of these ideas fit your organization?

Could your business host a percentage night to benefit DCHS? Each February, Mounds runs a month-long "People for Pets" fundraising event for DCHS. In the past they have donated 10% of all pet food sales and inspired one of their vendors to give 10% of their pet food sales, too! Their program has raised enough money to cover the cost of all cat, dog and rabbit spay and neuter surgeries for a year.

How can you challenge your customers to join you in generosity? This year Mounds re-envisioned People for Pets month by matching donations given by customers at the stores' registers dollar-for-dollar! What would a matching challenge look like for your company?

Want to have a great time with your team, while receiving big recognition? Mounds is always ready to support our three major fundraising events – Toto's Gala, Dogtoberfest and Bark & Wine. Event sponsorship saves lives while you receive perks like event tickets and recognition before, during and after the event. It is a great way to show your customers (and employees) that you care about the community.

Mounds generously donates their Midwest-made Mounds Dog Power and Purrfect Cat pet food for all of our shelter animals, in addition to tons of cat litter each year! Mounds also provides items and gift certificates for our silent auctions and raffles, runs collection drives throughout the year and helps spread the word about DCHS.

No matter the size or type of business, we're happy to partner with you to support animals! Contact Sarah Linn at slinn@giveshelter.org or Ash Collins at acollins@giveshelter.org to learn more about how you can join us.



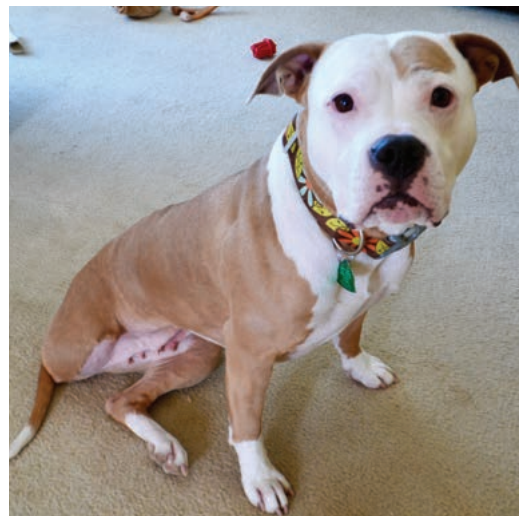
DCHS alumnus Molly at Mounds



Mounds at Dogtoberfest



Mounds People for Pets check presentation at DCHS



Fostering Hope and Healing

Every animal that comes to Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) has a past, many of which we'll never know. Thanks to support like yours, DCHS is a place for hope, healing and new beginnings for animals in need.

This past December, a Good Samaritan found Nana lost and injured wandering near Elver Park in Madison. When she arrived at DCHS, we knew this Pit Bull Terrier mix needed immediate help. One of Nana's paws was bleeding and swollen. As she limped and avoided using her leg, it was obvious she was in significant pain.

DCHS's Animal Medical Services (AMS) team took x-rays of Nana and found that, despite her injured paw, the rest of her leg was normal.

Since there was no fracture, our veterinarians determined Nana was suffering from Proprioceptive Deficit. This condition meant she had lost most of the sensation in her paw, likely caused by former neurological damage or injury.

The constant dragging of her paw made Nana susceptible to repeated injuries and infection, as she was unaware of what direction she was placing her paw or what she was stepping on. DCHS's AMS team made the decision to amputate Nana's back leg in order to her give the best chance at a happy and healthy life.

Generosity like yours allows DCHS to support an expert veterinary team who can respond immediately to animals just like Nana who need extra medical care and attention.

While Nana was being treated for a mild infection and waiting for her surgery, she started showing signs of anxiety and stress in her kennel. DCHS's foster team thought it would be beneficial to move her into a foster home prior to her surgery to have time to relax in a quieter environment. That's when she made her way into the Smiths' home.

Julia and Curt Smith began fostering animals in 2018 after they lost their beloved dog, Charlie, one year earlier. Fostering was their way of helping animals in need while also helping them cope with their own grief.

"After our dog Charlie died, I was having a very difficult time grieving his loss. We had Charlie for 12 years—I missed him terribly. I thought that fostering would help me heal my broken heart as well help animals in need, and we weren't ready to bring another dog into the home yet," says Julia.

After Nana's amputation was successfully performed at DCHS, she returned to the Smiths' home to rest and recover. Nana soon adjusted to her new three-legged lifestyle, quickly learning how to navigate her surroundings. Nana started coming out of her shell and showed her true personality. Like most pitties, she was silly and playful. As Nana healed and became stronger, so did the Smiths' love for her.

When it came time for Nana to return to the shelter so she could be adopted, the Smiths realized she had already found her new home with them. Nana was a perfect fit for their family and even their two rescue cats, Frank and Chloe, grew fond of her. Three and a half weeks after she was found homeless and injured, Nana was officially adopted by the Smiths—completing their once heartbroken family.

Fostering gave Nana a much deserved second chance at a happy ending and brought about a new sense of purpose to Julia and her family.

"We are living in a world that feels overwhelming right now and I have often felt quite hopeless about how I could make a difference, and then I remember that through our fostering we are making a difference in the lives of animals," says Julia. "Volunteering at DCHS provides a chance to experience compassion and see the best in people through the care of saving animals."

Your support of DCHS provides thousands of animals a safe place to rest and recover each year. Please continue your generosity to give more animals care and time to heal and to create more loving families like Nana and the Smiths.

>>Written by Kim Jensen, Donor Engagement Coordinator





Eastern cottontail



Bald eagle



Ruby-throated hummingbird

Top Ways to Help Wisconsin Wildlife

Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center helped nearly 4,000 wild animals in 2019, and there is a lot you can do to help wildlife in our community, too!

Here are our top 10 tips for helping wildlife:

- 1.** Resist the urge to rescue baby wild animals until you talk to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. It is important to leave wild animals with their parent(s) whenever possible to give them the best chance of survival.
- 2.** Keep your bird feeder clean. Feeders and baths are places where many birds congregate and they can be responsible for spreading disease if not regularly cleaned.
- 3.** Get the lead out! Choose lead-free ammunition and fishing tackle to prevent toxicity in wildlife.
- 4.** Keep your cat indoors, contained or supervised when outdoors. This is much safer for your cat, and prevents injury to birds and other wild animals.
- 5.** "Nuisance" wildlife problems? Focus on prevention! Remove outdoor food and seal off any dark, quiet spaces that wildlife may choose as a denning site before it becomes a problem.
- 6.** Do not live trap and relocate wildlife. Often mistaken as a humane option, it often separates mom and babies, and leaves adults struggling to survive in a new location.
- 7.** Never use poison for rodent control. Rodenticides not only kill rodents, but also can be deadly to any animal that eats the sick or dead rodent.
- 8.** Prevent window collisions. There are a variety of simple steps you can take to prevent birds from flying into your windows.
- 9.** Go natural. Eliminate the use of pesticides and incorporate native plants into your yard to attract a variety of pollinators, birds and other wildlife.
- 10.** Visit giveshelter.org or give us a call at (608) 838-0413 ext. 151 if you have questions about any of the above tips!

Pets for Life

Helping people help animals at DCHS took on a new meaning in the spring of 2018. With a generous grant from the Humane Society of the United States, DCHS launched the Pets for Life (PFL) program in Madison, Wisconsin. PFL is driven by social justice and guided by the philosophy that a deep connection with pets transcends socio-economic, racial and geographic boundaries, and no one should be denied the opportunity to experience the benefits, joy and comfort that come from the human-animal bond.

PFL keeps pets with their families by addressing the critical need for accessible and affordable pet care. PFL has built a consistent community presence and strengthened relationships through door-to-door outreach, provided free pet care services and removed barriers like transportation and cost so families can provide important care to the animals they love. Since DCHS launched PFL, it has reached and provided resources to over 300 community members in the 53713 zip code.

Vicky contacted PFL when she was turned away at a veterinary clinic for not having the financial means to pay for a hip surgery for her dog, Charlie. DCHS's PFL Coordinator discussed Charlie's long road to recovery with Vicky as he would need physical therapy and daily pain medications after surgery. Vicky was willing to do anything to help Charlie, as her love was not limited by financial means and she wanted what was best for him.

Charlie's surgery was scheduled with the help of UW-Madison's Shelter Medicine Program. Their clinical instructor donated his time and surgical skills and performed the surgery at DCHS. The surgery was a success and Charlie went through four weeks of physical therapy and daily pain medications. The PFL program was there for Vicky every step of the way and kept Charlie with his family. From free surgeries to free flea and tick medication, PFL provides needed community support to underserved populations and keeps pets with their loving families.

>>Written by Abbi Middleton, Pets for Life Coordinator



Lynn and Bebe



Vicky and Charlie



Duane and Chutki

Does your team want to make a difference?

Corporate volunteer experiences at Dane County Humane Society help save lives!

For a \$250 donation your team of up to 10 people can:

-  Get a behind-the-scenes tour of DCHS's Main Shelter
-  Learn all about DCHS and how your support is helping over 9,000 animals in need every year
-  Assist with mission-critical tasks like:
 - Fill Kongs for dogs
 - Make cat toys
 - Collect wildlife enrichment
 - And much more!
-  Meet some of our animals!
-  Get a photo op with a pet and have your image posted on DCHS social media platforms seen by over 45,000 followers

Contact Ash Collins, Donor Relations Specialist, at acollins@giveshelter.org or (608) 838-0413 ext. 167 to learn more!

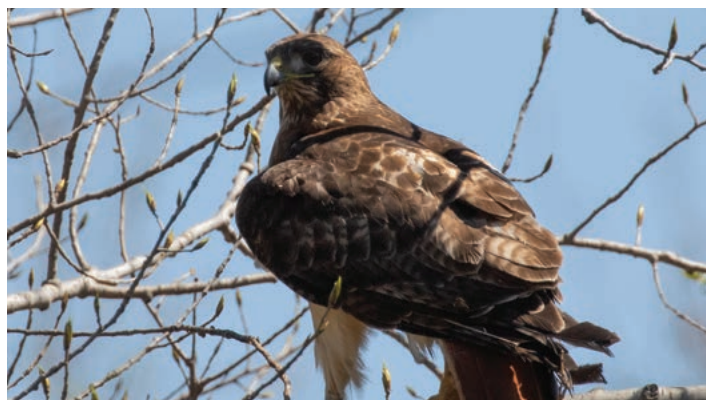


Celebrating the Directors' Council in 2019!

Dedicated DCHS supporters make a significant impact in the lives of animals while getting behind-the-scenes experiences

In 2019, we celebrated members of the Directors' Council, a society for supporters giving at least \$1,000 over the previous 12 months (\$84/month), to help support the lifesaving work at DCHS.

As a way to show gratitude for their dedication and connect them to the mission they so generously support, Directors' Council members engage in unique animal experiences with DCHS. Special experiences in 2019 included a behind-the-scenes tour of the DCHS Wildlife Center and an in-depth look at DCHS's Animal Medical Services, a Kittens & Koffee event and participation in wildlife releases of more than 50 baby snapping turtles and a red-tailed hawk.



As Directors' Council member Liz Zelandais reflects, "When we began supporting Dane County Humane Society over a decade ago as both adopters and donors, it was initially driven by our love for animals and the hope of 'no dog or cat left behind' without a forever home. What we've discovered over the years is that we're not only supporting that dream, but so much more. It's an investment in our entire community. DCHS does indeed save dogs and cats—and rabbits, horses, eagles, beavers, lizards, pelicans... an endless list. That would be more than enough for any shelter—yet it doesn't stop there. It improves the lives of people—sometimes in dramatic ways. It facilitates pet food pantries so families who are struggling economically don't have

to make the terrible choice of giving up a beloved pet when finances won't stretch to cover the needs of their companion animals. When someone facing domestic violence has to get to safety, DCHS helps foster their pets until they can be reunited in a stable environment.

When it comes to the save rate, we appreciate that DCHS doesn't just "cherry-pick" the most adoptable animals so it has good statistics. They take everything that comes through their doors, and are transparent about their numbers—which are incredibly good. Being asked to step up to the Directors' Council level has been a privilege, and allowed us even more of an inside look at the miracle-making facility known as DCHS. Touring the barn and seeing the wonderful expansion for saving chickens, horses, pigs, goats and other larger animals was both eye-opening and heart-warming. Releasing baby snapping turtles at Lake Wingra was the highlight of a perfect summer day. These were just two of the opportunities we were afforded as part of the Directors' Council this past two years.

DCHS is truly a treasure in our community. As with anything we value, it requires an investment of love, energy, time and money to keep it vibrant. We are so happy to be a part of that equation."

Join the Directors' Council and receive updates and invitations to exclusive animal experiences throughout the year.

For questions regarding the DCHS Directors' Council, please contact Gwen Kochan, Associate Director of Development at gkochan@giveshelter.org or (608) 838-0413 ext. 117.



Top 3 Reasons to be a Constant Companion



It's Effective!

When you become a Constant Companion, your monthly donations provide vital and reliable support to keep thousands of animals at DCHS healthy and safe all year long.

It's Affordable and Flexible!

Whether you're giving \$10/month or \$100/month, spreading out your giving through the year is a convenient way to fit your donations into your personal budget, plus you can modify your gift at any time.

It's Easy!

When you become a monthly donor, your gift is automatically deducted from your credit card or bank account each month - know your charitable giving is in place for the entire year!

We invite you to join a special group of supporters making a monthly gift to provide comfort and care to the over 9,000 animals who come to DCHS every year.

Become a Constant Companion today at giveshelter.org/companions

Leaving a Legacy



Ensuring a more humane future

Christine Hayward has always been an animal person. Before moving into her house, she wanted to adopt a pet, but apartment living meant limited options. She came to DCHS and fell in love with three rat brothers.

“Before adopting Lucky, Bonzo and Willie, I never realized how smart pet rats are,” said Christine. They ran to her when their names were called, and learned lots of tricks.

When her first rats passed away, she adopted baby rats Louie, Sammie and Reggie. All too soon, they passed away as well. Christine placed a memorial brick in memory of her six boys at DCHS.

A member of the DCHS Directors’ Council giving society, Christine recently added DCHS to her legacy plans. While many 34-year-olds don’t have legacy plans in place, Christine wanted to make sure DCHS is a place of refuge, healing and new beginnings beyond her lifetime. DCHS is grateful to Christine and others who have included DCHS in their estate plans.

Christine plans to give annually as well, so animals receive funding now and in the future. “I think both lifetime and legacy gifting is an important topic that many in the younger generations are starting to consider. Giving to DCHS is an important piece of my life, and I am thankful I’m able to help the animals and shelter each year.”

Learn More

It’s easy to create your own legacy for animals in our community. Contact Amy Good, Director of Development & Marketing, at (608) 838-0413 ext. 129, agood@giveshelter.org or visit giveshelter.org/legacy

