

THE CONNECTION

February 3, 2020 - Issue 36

CULTURE OF PHILANTHROPY *By President & Chief Executive Officer, Matt Pepper*

On Monday, February 3, Jamie Westrick begins her career as the Chief Philanthropy Officer at the Michigan Humane Society (MHS). This critical position oversees the development activities of the organization. This work is what makes all the inspiring things at MHS possible.



Development is responsible for building a culture of philanthropy. Philanthropy, and the generous people who so passionately support us, are the foundation of our organization. If we look at philanthropy a little differently - not just as a function but, rather, as a philosophy - we see that it is a core component of all our jobs. Every one of us has a role in development.

A culture of philanthropy is about seeing your role in development. It is about asking less what a donor can do for us, and more about what we can do for a donor.

Your work inspires people. You all do great things every day. Those great things give people energy. That energy, and their support, is what allows us to continue doing great things. They support your hard work through their passion and resources.

We all play a role in saving lives. Regardless of your role - you save lives. That same concept applies to philanthropy. Our work motivates people to support the organization because it mirrors what they are passionate about.

A great example is our upcoming annual Day of Giving Telethon. This is a critical fundraiser for the organization. The funds generated by this event help countless animals and the families that love them. For many people visiting our shelters may be their only touchpoint to this event. See your role in making the Telethon a success. Let's not be shy about it. The number one reason many people don't give is because, simply, no one has ever asked them.

Be bold. Invite people to become part of our story and success and give them the opportunity to support us. After all, over 2/3 of our revenue comes from people giving gifts, large and small.

What you do is so incredible. It is inspiring to me. It is not a surprise that it inspires others as well.

TESTING HEARTWORM IN A SHELTER SETTING *By Director of Forensics, Shirene Cece, DVM*

Last year in the Connection, I talked about heartworm and how it is transmitted and diagnosed. Now I would like to share how we are treating this serious but preventable disease in the shelter.



Heartworm disease is a challenge for many shelters, as the resources to diagnose and treat are not always available. Then there is the continuing dilemma of dogs testing “negative” but still have the potential to have stages of heartworm that we can’t detect.

Shelters approach heartworm in various ways. Some test and treat. Some don’t test at all and leave that to the adopter. Some test but can’t afford or don’t have the expertise to treat.

I can remember when we didn’t have resources for prevention and treatment in our shelter, but I’m happy to say that this has changed.

At MHS shelters, we follow a modified version of the American Heartworm Society protocol. All dogs over six months are tested with both the antigen (snap) and the microfilaria test. If positive, the dogs are staged with blood work to confirm the positive test and give us information on the dog’s blood cells and major organ function. Radiographs of the chest are done to determine any changes to the heart or lungs that may preclude treatment.

If a dog is determined to have a good prognosis for treatment, he or she is sterilized, as research has shown that an asymptomatic dog is more stable cardiovascularly immediately before treatment than in the first few weeks afterward. They are also placed on 30 days of doxycycline and heartworm preventative is started. Exercise is restricted throughout the treatment.

Most dogs that show no or very minor changes on their staging go through the two-injection protocol with Melarsomine, which is a deep injection into the back muscles given over two days. Very small dogs or dogs with more significant changes are given the three-injection protocol recommended by the American Heartworm Society. This spaces the injections out over a month and slows the rate of kill so the body can adjust.

We have had great success with our protocol, and many of our dogs are adopted out during their 30 days of doxycycline and return to the shelter for treatment. It amazes me how many adopters will take heartworm dogs into their homes. Thanks to our shelter medicine staff, 100 dogs were treated for heartworm in 2019!

CALLING ALL ARTISTS! *By Development and Events Associate, Lindsay Hadden*

Michigan Humane Society’s 31st Purrfect Bow Wow Brunch is just around the corner; our annual premier fundraising event will be held on April 26, 2020, at the TCF Center (formerly Cobo Center) in Downtown Detroit. Last year’s brunch was record-breaking in many ways: in attendance, sponsorships, in-kind gifts and overall funds raised. Our community’s generosity raised an astounding \$615,000 to help the animals in our care and in the communities we serve! Several talented MHS employees donated their creations for the silent auction, and donors were thrilled to purchase something made by our gracious staff. If you or someone you know (employee or not) would like to provide artwork to our brunch auction to benefit the animals, please contact Becky Hanel, director of special events, at 248-283-5643 or Lindsay Hadden, development associate, at 248-564-0417.

TRIVIA

Q. What was the first company to produce the Frisbee? In what year did the toy debut?

Send your answers to theconnection@michiganhumane.org, and the first person to answer correctly will receive a prize!

The answer to the previous trivia question was the deer and eleven states.

ANNUAL 2020 EVENT DATES

Day of Giving Telethon

• When: Thursday, February 13

The Purrfect Bow Wow Brunch

• When: Sunday, April 26

• Where: TCF Center - Detroit, MI

Mutt March

• When: Sunday, July 26

• Where: Edsel & Eleanor Ford House - Grosse Pointe Shores, MI

Fur Ball

• When: Saturday, September 12

• Where: 59 West - Highland, MI

JOB BOARD

Know someone who would be a great fit for the Michigan Humane team? Check out our job openings at michiganhumane.org/careers

Animal Behavioral Health Supervisor
Animal Care and Enrichment Tech
Call Center Representative
Clinic Medicine Assistant Manager
Clinic Receptionist

Clinic Veterinarian
Clinic Veterinary Tech
Custodian
Customer Service Assistant Manager
Customer Service Representative

Human Resources Coordinator
Shelter Medicine Assistant Manager
Shelter Veterinary Tech
Volunteer Programs Coordinator

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