



MICHIGAN
HUMANE
SOCIETY

2019
COMMUNITY
REPORT



A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Each year, our Community Report gives us the chance to reflect on what the Michigan Humane Society staff, volunteers, and generous supporters have accomplished together.

One way to look at that impact is through the sheer number of lives we touch. This year, we positively impacted the lives of **76,000** families and their **104,000** loving pets and companions.

We also measured significant growth in a variety of areas. In mid-2019, the Humane Society of Livingston County became part of the Michigan Humane Society family. Our Pets for Life program is now on the ground in Detroit, creating relationships and helping pet owners living in the community surrounding our Mackey Center for Animal Care in the North

End neighborhood. The MHS Field Services team responded to over **8,000** calls for animals in need, and we are doing more than ever to provide enrichment and behavior modification for animals in our care. We've developed important coalitions and partnerships to help unify the animal welfare industry and build upon our collective work, while dramatically increasing volunteer opportunities and ensuring thousands of animals would lead healthier, happier lives. All this was accomplished as we saved more than **11,000** animals.

As you look through this report, I hope you'll recognize that we are more than just a place that shelters animals. There are many paths that may lead a person to our doors, but once they arrive they are all treated with the same care and compassion. Their journey might begin with our community resources keeping an animal in their home, or our rescue team stepping in when help is needed. All along the way, we take a leading role in advocacy to make our world—and our pets world—a safer, more just place.

The work we do providing critical care and aid to animals with nowhere else to turn is inspiring. Equally inspiring is the dedicated support from our community. You are a crucial part of supporting, growing, and expanding this important work now and in the years to come.

With many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Pepper', written in a fluid, cursive style.

Matthew Pepper
President and CEO
Michigan Humane Society

MISSION

To improve and save lives through compassionate care, community engagement and advocacy for animals.

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Keeping Families Together

The Michigan Humane Society provides numerous animal care and support programs designed to help families — regardless of socioeconomic boundaries — keep their pets nourished, healthy and safe right where they are: in familiar homes with loving families.

Through our Judith Caplan Phillips Pet Pantry, low-cost sterilizations and veterinary services, neighborhood vaccine clinics and door-to-door Pets for Life program, our goal is to limit the number of animals entering shelters and create happier, healthier communities for the future.

Anthony first came to the attention of our Pets for Life team after his dog Red had been attacked by another dog, leaving serious wounds on one of his legs. Even though he doesn't have transportation, Anthony brought the injured Red to our clinic by pulling him on a wagon. Staff at our Grosfeld Veterinary Center treated Red's injuries, and Anthony took him back home to care for him.

Since Anthony struggles with transportation, prior to our relationship, he was making frequent trips to a little corner store because he could only buy small bags of food that he could carry back on his bike. Now, we are able to deliver 50-lb. bags of dog food to his house whenever he runs out. He's so thankful for all of the help he's received from MHS, and the best part is that this assistance — which seems so simple to us — allows him to keep his beloved companion at home.

- Becki Kenderes, Volunteer Programs Manager



More than **1,000**
Free Spay/Neuter
Surgeries Performed



1,209 Animals
Vaccinated at our
Low-Cost Protect-
A-Pet Shot Clinics



411,962
Pounds of
Free Pet Food
Distributed

Ensuring a Safe Community

Consisting of our rescue, cruelty investigation, and statewide response personnel, the Michigan Humane Field Services team works on the front lines to provide humane education and resources for the safety of people, animals and our community.

MHS deploys a team of trained and credentialed investigators and rescue agents on the road in Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park every day. Upon rescuing animal victims, the MHS team thoroughly investigates the environment, circumstances and people involved in these criminal acts to help ensure that those who harm animals are brought to justice.



On Nov. 1, 2019, Investigator Ouwerkerk and I responded to a call about three emaciated dogs chained outside without food, water or shelter. Upon arrival, we knocked on the door, but there was no answer. In the backyard, we saw three underweight dogs with improper shelter. We enlisted the help of fellow investigators Mcleod and Schertel to remove the dogs and left a notice for the owner to call us.

When the owners contacted us, I spoke with them about proper shelter, insulation and feeding. We talked about how outside dogs need more calories in the winter than in the summer, because they burn them faster trying to stay warm in the cold. I also listened as they told me their story, their difficult situation and their current financial constraints. They shared stories and pictures of them with their dogs before hard times had hit. I could tell that they really loved their dogs from the passion they showed in talking about them.

Instead of permanently removing the dogs from a home and family that loves them, we continued to work with the owners to educate them on how to care for their dogs and assisted them with resources while the family was getting back on their feet. We were able to help bring a family back together, even better than before.

- Myron Golden, Cruelty Investigator



From calls, to supplies and resources - the Michigan Humane Society is here to help

5,600

Cruelty
Calls

2,477

Rescue
Calls

3,797 & 424

Bales of Straw

Dog Houses

Delivered to help animals stay warm and
sheltered during the coldest months

Saving Lives

Our shelters are dedicated to keeping animals safe, sheltered, fed and loved while finding permanent homes for thousands of pets each year. Key to finding homes for 100% of healthy and treatable animals is behavior modification and enrichment to help decrease stress, increase their ability to cope and boost confidence in shelter animals as they prepare for their forever homes. Our commitment to expanding all aspects of shelter medicine and enrichment plays a huge role in our goals for the next year.

When Delilah came to Michigan Humane through a transfer partner, everyone immediately saw how playful and energetic she was. But, all of that energy presented a challenge for our facility team: we recognized that her enthusiasm for playtime could quickly lead to destructive behaviors and bad habits if it didn't have a proper outlet.

Our behavior team, with the assistance of the shelter staff, set up an enrichment plan for Delilah to help her channel that energy in positive ways and also to keep her brain engaged. The team worked together to make sure that Delilah received all the exercise and enrichment possible, including lots of games of fetch, learning how to trade toys and other exercises. All of our efforts paid off when a great family — looking for a dog to fit their active lifestyle — arrived at our Berman Center and decided to make her a permanent member of the family.

- Kelley Meyers, DVM, Chief Medical Officer

12,072 Total Intakes*

*Not included in the total intakes: 683 wild animals helped by MHS in 2019

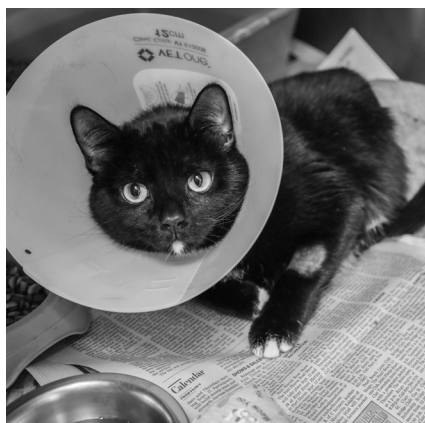
11,007 Total Placements

84.8% Live Release Rate

100%

Placement of
healthy and
treatable animals

Michigan Humane Society veterinary teams are highly skilled, compassionate medical professionals. From spaying and neutering, to vaccinations, microchipping and more, our caring staff—combined with our state-of-the-art equipment and quality service—examine, diagnose and treat every animal that comes through our doors. While our Veterinary Clinics provide owned pets with the best medical care possible, our Shelter Medicine department does the same for homeless animals during their stay in our shelters.



Colonel Sanders arrived at our Mackey Center in Detroit with severe injuries. X-rays showed multiple fractures in both rear legs and his pelvis. Due to the severity of his injuries, his treatment plan was complex and included multiple phases.

While his pelvis and right rear leg would likely be able to heal, the severity of the injuries in his left leg meant amputation was likely necessary. Our team splinted his right leg, stabilized his left and placed him in a foster home, where the right leg had a chance to heal. The healing process took a lot of supportive care and TLC.

Once he'd recovered enough to safely bear weight on his right leg, Colonel Sanders came back in to be evaluated and to have his left leg assessed. It was determined at that time that the left rear leg would indeed need to be removed.

Following a successful amputation surgery, Colonel Sanders went back into foster care to learn how to navigate with just three legs — a challenge he mastered easily! Shortly after arriving on the adoption floor, Colonel Sanders was scooped up by an adopter.

- Deborah Land, DVM



11,376 Sheltered
Animals and
Owned Pets
Sterilized



9,021 Microchips
Implanted to Help
Reunite Lost Pets
with their Families



48,291 Animal
Appointments
at our Veterinary
Clinics

Leadership and Advocacy

For more than a century, the Michigan Humane Society has taken a leadership role in advocating for legislation to protect animals and the essential role they play in our families and community.

In early 2019, Senate Bill 416 was enacted into law, changing the lives of dogs and puppies in Michigan that are victims of dogfighting. Prior to the passing of this bill, these dogs and puppies, whether they had been fought or merely been born to a fighting dog, were required by law to be euthanized. In addition, animals that were seized as part of an investigation into suspected dog fighting could be held as evidence for weeks, months or even years before the court made a ruling.

SB 416 created a new pathway for animals that are the victims of this awful crime. It allows organizations to assess each animal involved on their own merit and offer them an opportunity of at a new life. It also improves the bond and forfeiture process for these animals so that they are not forced to languish in an animal protection facility while their case works its way through the legal system.

The Michigan Humane Society is proud to have been at the forefront of this legislation, from creating the original draft to its passing, and we look forward to continuing to create a more humane community for all animals that call Michigan home.

- Ann Griffin, Director of Advocacy



As a leader in the family and animal community, MHS is committed to sharing our **knowledge and expertise** across Michigan and beyond. Our team of investigative experts assist law enforcement personnel with animal cruelty cases and help prepare local communities when an incident occurs.



In 2019, our Statewide Response team trained over **500** police officers, animal control officers, prosecutors, shelter workers and rescue groups in courses ranging from “Michigan Animal Law” to “Animals as Evidence” and “Dog Fighting and Cock Fighting Awareness and Investigation.”

Compassionate Care

MHS volunteers help save and enrich animal lives by devoting their time to walking dogs, socializing cats, caring for wildlife, providing online photos for adoptable animals, collecting donations, staffing special events and so much more. Our foster care volunteers, referred to as our “In-Home Heroes,” save lives by helping animals who need a little extra time and TLC prior to being adopted by their new families.

In 2018, we launched our Kitten Project to provide comprehensive services to some of the most vulnerable animals that enter our shelters: orphaned baby kittens and nursing mothers with litters. These tiny neonatal kittens typically face a high mortality rate and require nearly constant care, needing round-the-clock feedings, litterbox training, parasite treatment, socialization and enrichment activities, and more. This is challenging when dealing with just a few litters at a time, but every spring and summer we see hundreds and hundreds during “kitten season.”

Having been very successful in its first year, our Kitten Project continued in 2019 and exceeded all expectations, saving the lives of 867 kittens! We expanded the number of specially trained foster parents enrolled in the program to 246 and provided more intensive training for both foster parents and staff. We also created new partnerships for kitten care and placement, including working with local veterinary training programs.

While we continue to emphasize the importance of spay and -neuter through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), Shelter-Neuter-Return (SNR) and other sterilization programs to reduce the number of unwanted kittens born each year, our Kitten Project will continue to provide a safe haven and a chance at a loving home for these tiniest of felines.

- Deb Scola, Vice President of Strategic Relationships

2,551 active volunteers contributed
119,542 volunteer hours

493 active fosters welcomed **2,348**
foster animals into their homes





Adoption

An animal's journey can take many paths from their arrival at MHS, but all share the same goal: finding a forever home. MHS excels at matching homeless, abandoned and neglected animals with loving owners, placing more animals than any other shelter in the state. We even help those who can't quite adjust to life in a traditional home find their special place. Hardworking cats find "jobs" with caretakers in businesses, warehouses and barns, and a number of animals have found caring companionship in senior homes and even police stations.

In the spring of 2019, Michigan Humane took in 32 retired research animals. Their story had made national news and we were thrilled to have the chance to help them find forever homes.

Due to all of the media attention this story received, we created an online adoption application for anyone interested in adopting one of these dogs. Less than 48 hours after opening the process, we had received over 800 applications for the dogs!

We began their assessment process to see what type of home would be best for each dog. We spent the next few weeks learning more about the beagles and connected with potential adopters to start matching the dogs with the appropriate families. We had so many amazing homes reach out to us about offering these dogs a forever family that we ran out of animals to place long before we ran out of loving homes for them.

This adoption process was certainly one of a kind for our teams, but once we got rolling the end result was familiar. So many wonderful dogs got their second chances to live their lives in the forever homes they deserved.

- Crystal Johnson, Customer Service Assistant Manager

8,467
Adoptions

806
Pets Placed
with Partners



MICHIGAN HUMANE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2019

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- Reimer Priester
- Kumar Raj
- John Schaefer
- Peter Van Dyke
- Jim G. Vella
- Daniel A. Wiechec
- **Legal Counsel:** Daniel H. Minkus

MICHIGAN HUMANE LEADERSHIP, AS OF PUBLICATION DATE

- Matthew Pepper, President & Chief Executive Officer
- Matthew Kubler, Chief Financial Officer
- Doug Plant, Chief Operating Officer
- Robert Fisher, DVM, SVP, Compliance & Regulatory Affairs
- Kelley Meyers, DVM, Chief Medical Officer
- Jamie Westrick, Chief Philanthropy Officer
- Andy Seltz, VP of Field Services
- Debora Scola, VP of Strategic Relationships
- Thomas Varitek, VP of Communications
- Andrea Buchanan, VP of Organizational Development

FINANCIALS: FISCAL 2019

Balance Sheet

Assets

• Cash and Investments	\$14,754,504
• Estate, Pledge, Other Rec, Net	1,717,497
• Prepaid and Other	513,457
• Land, Building, Equip, Net	20,738,983
Total Assets	\$37,724,441

Liabilities & Net Assets

• Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$1,871,226
• Net Assets	35,853,215
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$37,724,441

Statement of Activities

Revenues

• Contributions, Special Events and Bequests, Net	\$13,928,888
• Adoption & Vet Center, Net	6,612,538
• Investment Activity, Net	608,729
• Other	1,644,572
Total Revenue	\$22,794,727

Expenses

• Program Services	\$16,763,908
• Management and General	2,866,032
• Fundraising	4,052,239
Total Expenses	\$23,682,179

Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	(\$887,452)
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866-MHUMANE | michiganhumane.org

Visit a Michigan Humane location near you!

Administrative Offices | 30300 Telegraph Road, Suite 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025

Judith Caplan Phillips Pet Pantry | 6175 Trumbull Avenue, Detroit, MI 48208

Mackey Center for Animal Care | 7887 Chrysler Drive, Detroit, MI 48211

Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care | 3600 W. Auburn Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Berman Center for Animal Care | 900 N. Newburgh Road, Westland, MI 48185

Livingston County Center for Animal Care | 2464 Dorr Road, Howell, MI 48843

Petco Adoption Center | 13701 Lakeside Circle, Sterling Heights, MI 48313

ADOPTION PARTNERS

