



We Are the Humane Society of Washington County

The Humane Society of Washington County exists to promote the welfare of companion and domestic animals through educational programs and initiatives that reduce pet overpopulation, endorse fostering, enrich adoptions, and encourage responsible pet guardianship. Our vision is to be the area's leading resource for animal related issues.

We Believe Every Animal Deserves a Chance. No Matter What.

We provide a soft bed, nutritious food, medical treatment, and unconditional love to every creature in need of refuge. It makes no difference whether an animal is young or old, healthy or sick, or friendly or scared—we give each one our attention.

In 2017, our Animal Care and Veterinary teams provided compassionate care to 6,476 animals. We did not turn away a single animal from Washington County.



You Help Save the Lives of Thousands of Animals Each Year

Once animals are ready to leave our shelter, we place them through adoption, foster care, and transfer to rescue groups. With regard to free-roaming cats and feral cats, we practice TNR—trap, neuter and return to field—as appropriate.

For the adoption program, our Adoptions Counselors work tirelessly inside the shelter to match our furry charges with loving homes, which resulted in 2,937 adoptions in 2017. For the foster program, our volunteers work tirelessly *outside* the shelter and inside their homes to care for animals with special needs. Some of these volunteers go the extra mile by traveling to community adoption events every weekend seeking new families for their foster animals. Since its launch in late 2015 through 2017, the Traveling Foster program has saved the lives of 1,290 animals, 1,211 of which were cats and kittens.

In 2017, you helped save the lives of a total of 4,882 animals—a Live Release Rate of 80%.

Our Challenge

Cats

The number of felines entering our shelter is staggering.

Some of these kitties come from people who cannot afford to get their pet cat spayed or care for her next litter of kittens, so they relinquish them to the shelter. However, free-roaming and feral cats are able to quickly and easily breed unseen in our community, *so it is highly unlikely that the majority of felines we receive have ever been someone's pet.*

Although our Live Release Rate for all species of animals is an impressive 80%, saving the lives of felines remains a daunting task. Over the last four years, cats and kittens averaged 73% of our total annual intake and 85% of all animals euthanized.



Because of this tragic reality, it is our dream to spay/neuter every cat in Washington County.

No matter what.

Dogs

Dogs comprise less than 30% of total animal intake at the HSWC and are adopted the moment they become available. This is great for those dogs and their new families, but many potential adopters leave empty-handed because our kennels are frequently vacant. This can make them give up on the shelter and instead purchase a dog from pet store or puppy mill breeder.



Ironically, some shelters in Maryland and other states struggle to save the lives of canines because spay/neuter is not widely practiced in their communities. **These shelters are forced to euthanize an endless stream of dogs and puppies simply for lack of a home.**

In certain areas of the country, natural disasters often force shelters to transfer their dogs out of state and into the safety of other shelters. In addition, national animal welfare groups rely on local shelters to place dogs from across the United States and even internationally, who suffer as neglected victims of hoarding, puppy mills or the cruel dog meat trade.

Finally, right here in Washington County, many families cannot afford even the most basic vaccinations and veterinary care for their canine companions, regardless of how much they love them. Their only heart-breaking options are to allow their dog to suffer from ailments such as skin problems or ear infections and risk being charged with criminal animal neglect, or to give up their four-legged friend.

This is why it is our dream to ensure the best care for every dog we are able to help. No matter what.

Progress Because of You

Spay/Neuter of Shelter Animals

Since its inception in 2015, our Veterinary team has expanded and currently provides medical treatment and spay/neuter for over 80% of the dogs and cats residing at the shelter, as well as for some animals in our foster care program. Our goal is to reach 100% of in-house medical treatment and spay/neuter for *all* our animals and we need your help now more than ever.

Canine Transfer

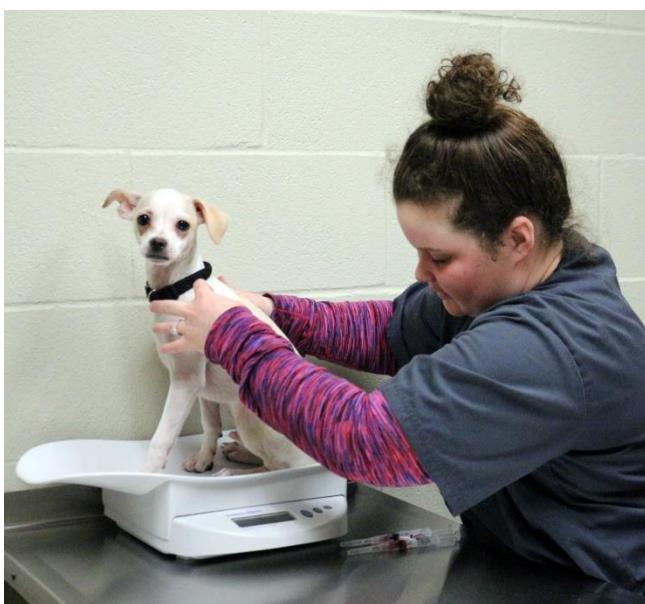
For the past four years, HSWC has partnered with overpopulated shelters in Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Mississippi, Louisiana, North Carolina, and South Carolina to transfer in dogs at risk for euthanasia. In addition, we work with The Humane Society of the United States and the ASPCA to rescue animals from natural disasters and high need areas, such as Puerto Rico. These partnerships have increased the number of dogs spared from euthanasia and the number available for adoption at HSWC. We have saved hundreds of dogs, but have had to turn many away due to our limited funds.



Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

In 2017, HSWC began its TNR program by offering spay/neuter to a targeted population of the community's free-roaming and feral cats. The response has been overwhelming and demand far outweighs our existing resources.

Wellness Clinics



In 2018, we began offering weekly wellness clinics at our Veterinary Center to provide affordable exams, vaccinations, de-worming and basic medical treatment for the pets of low-income families. In addition, our Veterinary and Field Services teams have joined forces to provide these services, along with pet food and supplies, directly to the elderly, to residents of subsidized housing complexes, and at community events. These efforts have allowed pets to remain with their people *and* receive important care. At this time, there are more families and pets in need than we are able to serve.

Will You Help Us Do More?

The impact of these programs is evident.

It can be felt by the happy tail-thumping that comes from a transferred dog who is treated for heartworm and given the chance to find a forever home. It can be seen in the eyes of the little girl who gets to keep her dog because her family can afford to visit our wellness clinic. It is reflected in our annual statistics that, as of 2017, have demonstrated a decrease in total feline intake and euthanasia.

But it is still not enough.

It is our dream that every cat in our community and every dog across the country be given an opportunity to live.

No matter what.

In order to achieve our dream, we need you.

Your partnership and support have helped us accomplish so much. But there is still more to be done. Still so many animals who will be left behind without your generosity.

We know we must keep growing these programs:

- ❖ Feline Trap-Neuter-Return
- ❖ Wellness Clinics
- ❖ Canine Transfer



Can we count on you to help save the lives of countless animals....*No matter what?*