



Transforming Lives
2022 Impact Report



MOHAWK HUDSON
**HUMANE
SOCIETY**



Ashley and Harvey

Transforming Lives Together

We are proud to share the ways that the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society made an impact in 2022.

In answer to dramatic increases in homeless animals and the shortage of kennel space in our community, we forged new partnerships and grew our foster network.

As hard financial times and economic disadvantage threatened to separate cherished pets from their families, our Loved for Life pet retention program touched thousands of lives and helped to keep pets in their loving homes.

The growth of our Humane Law Enforcement and Community Outreach efforts saved animals in crisis, brought abusers to justice and introduced humane issues to our next generation of compassionate citizens.

For the animals in our care, the skill of our incredible veterinary and animal care professionals – along with the dedication of our volunteers – brought healing, trust, love and hopeful new beginnings.

We did this together! Thank you for your support, which gives us the power to transform the lives of animals and people every single day.

Sincerely,

ASHLEY JEFFREY BOUCK
CEO, MOHAWK HUDSON HUMANE SOCIETY

IMPACT SUMMARY

2,333 ADOPTIONS

2,664 TOTAL ANIMALS SPAYED AND NEUTERED



92,397
PET MEALS DISTRIBUTED

Over 5,000
NUMBER OF ANIMALS TOUCHED BY
MHHS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Zero
EUTHANASIA OF SAFE, HEALTHY
AND TREATABLE ANIMALS

93.3%
LIVE RELEASE RATE

ADOPTIONS

We believe every family-friendly pet deserves not just a home, but the right home. That is why there is never a limit on the time an animal can spend with us. With behavior and veterinary expertise in house, along with a team of caregivers and adoption counselors who love these pets like their own, our goal is completing families for a lifetime.

In 2022, our community came to us with open hearts and adopted shelter pets of all mixes, ages and temperaments, including some with special needs. From “spirit cats” (the very shy and unsocialized) and senior pets – to those with chronic conditions, such as diabetes – families came to MHHS to give homeless pets a fresh start. The abundance of heartwarming updates we receive tell us we’re writing many love stories.

Foster-to-Adopt Program

Foster-to-Adopt (FTA) pets receive extra attention from our Behavior and Enrichment (B&E) team to prepare them for their new lives. Some need help overcoming fear or building confidence. Others just need to work on their manners. The three-week foster period is supported by access to a staff mentor whenever a question or concern comes up. This gives pets in our FTA program an opportunity to shine in a home environment, while giving adopters the extra confidence they sometimes need to give a pet a chance. Most FTAs lead to successful adoptions. So often, all it takes is a change of venue for these pets to settle in and steal hearts.

CrossRoads Adoption Program

CrossRoads pets have untreatable conditions and an unknown life expectancy. But most importantly, they are still enjoying all the good things pets deserve without any pain or suffering. It takes a special type of adopter to put their heart on the line for an animal whose end will come sooner than later. Many of our CrossRoads pets went on to live their best lives longer than we could have imagined, reminding us that with love, anything is possible.



CrossRoads Cat, Lexi

Lexi was a senior Maine Coon mix surrendered due to poor health. Our veterinary team found she had diabetes, which they successfully treated into remission. But Lexi also had a large mass in her stomach. She spent about seven months in our care before being adopted through the CrossRoads program. When she passed, her adopter shared this note:

I've had cats all my life, but in that tiny span of seven months and two weeks, I loved Lexi more than any other pet I've ever had. I gave her the best life I could – I just wish I could have given her more of it. Thank you so much for allowing me to be her companion for the time she had left. I'll never forget her.

Lexi





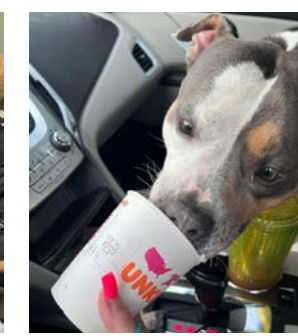
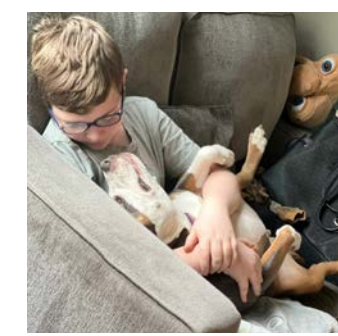
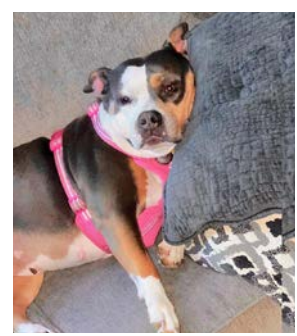
Winnie

VETERINARY CARE

Our exceptional veterinary team provided care to each and every animal who came through our doors. Some only needed basic wellness care, which includes examinations, spaying or neutering, and vaccinations. Others required more extensive diagnostics, treatments and surgeries, all of which were provided with great expertise and an abundance of compassion.

1,590
Spay and Neuter
Surgeries for
Shelter Pets

3,503
Wellness
Services



Winnie's journey is a perfect example of how we fulfill our mission to "transform lives." She came to us as a stray, severely emaciated, dehydrated and extremely dirty. Winnie was weak and not even healthy enough to receive vaccinations. We diagnosed her with Lyme disease and anaplasma (both tick-borne illnesses). With time, treatment and love, our staff nursed her back to health. Today, she and her family shower each other with affection and she occasionally enjoys puppy lattes.

BEHAVIOR AND ENRICHMENT

Behavior and Enrichment, also known as B&E, is not only a program at MHHS: it is foundational to the standards of sheltering and care we provide for every resident. Through healthy surroundings, interactive toys, outdoor exercise, play groups, field trips and whatever other means we can imagine to make our pets happy, we strive to provide comfort and ease stress as much as possible.

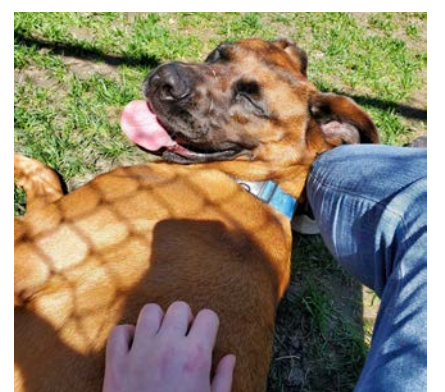
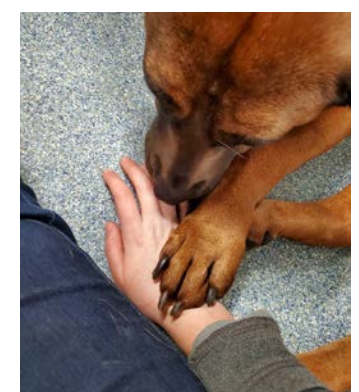
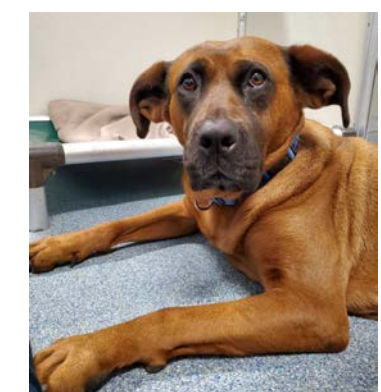
For animals with backgrounds of abuse, neglect or lack of socialization, more intensive one-on-one time is devoted through individualized treatment plans. Our B&E team members gradually introduce pets to new experiences that may be foreign to them. Sadly, this sometimes includes human kindness.

Our three full-time staff members, two part-time trainers and volunteer members of our B&E team work together to build confidence, reduce fear, improve behavior and prepare pets to go on to live their best lives.

417
Behavior &
Enrichment Pets

50+
Dedicated Behavior &
Enrichment Staff and
Volunteers

Sarah



Sarah's fearfulness of everything around her was some of the most extreme and heartbreaking we have ever experienced. Her entire life was devoid of any human contact, much less affection. With baby steps, our B&E team worked with Sarah on her own terms. It took months for her to be comfortable with touch of any kind. Eventually, she found the courage to trust, and one by one, her circle of shelter friends grew. After 570 days in our care, she went home. Today she is able to enjoy love and affection from her family and so much more.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

The best place for a pet is with a family that loves them. Our Loved for Life support services are designed to help pet owners keep their pets when financial, housing and behavioral issues threaten to separate them.

Pet Food Pantry

Our Goldstein Auto Group Furry Friends Pet Food Pantry served the most basic of needs: nutritious pet food. This program is driven by community donations collected here at MHHS and at all Goldstein locations. A new pop-up pantry program was launched in 2022 to bring food and supplies directly to community members in need.

Wellness Care

At a time when the nationwide veterinarian shortage and soaring prices are creating a true pet care crisis, our in-shelter clinic gave pet owners access to low-cost spay/neuter, vaccinations and microchipping.



92,379
Pet Meals
(a meal feeds one pet for one day)

1,068
Low-Cost Public
Spay and
Neuter Surgeries

1,198
Wellness
Services

8
Pop-up Pantries



Training and Behavior Outreach

Behavior problems can disrupt a home, leading families without access to guidance to consider giving up on their pet. We are eager to share the knowledge and expertise of our behavior staff and trainers to help resolve these issues.

Through affordable in-shelter training classes, private consultations and our free Behavior and Enrichment Helpline, we aim to alleviate behavior problems, teach good manners and strengthen bonds. Our efforts have helped bring harmony to families, enabling them to stay together and enjoy fulfilling pet-owner relationships.

27
Dog Training Classes

120
Helpline Inquiries

35
Behavior Consultations





In August, we learned of a flock of 38 sheep living in very poor conditions. These animals lacked a healthy food and water supply and safe shelter and pastures. They had not been shorn in over a year and their hooves were badly overgrown.

Working with New York State Police and others, we moved the sheep to a temporary safe haven where they were relieved of their heavy, dirty wool and their hooves were trimmed. For four months, our staff provided daily care at the offsite farm location.

As part of the owners' plea agreement, they vowed to make repairs to their barn and establish a plan for improved care. When our staff returned to the farm for inspection, the barn was repaired, pastures were re-fenced and mowed, a large amount of quality feed and hay was available and the water supply access was repaired. The sheep were returned to a much better living environment and an ongoing relationship with the owners was built.

HUMANE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Many of the same societal factors that lead to pet relinquishment can also lead to abuse. To address the increasing need for intervention and rescue, we added a Director of Outreach and Humane Law Enforcement (HLE) to our staff. The purpose of this role is to provide oversight for the growing number of cruelty cases, to build collaboration with law enforcement, and to lead HLE and outreach staff in increasing community engagement to deliver support services.

In 2022, five staff members earned Peace Officer status, bringing our total HLE team to eight. Eleven additional staff members completed animal response team (ART) training that qualified them to provide hands-on support for the safe capture and removal of animals in crisis, both companion and farm animals.

In situations of abuse, our goal is permanent removal of the animals from the abuser with legal consequences. However, in cases where a lack of resources or education is the reason for inadequate care, the opportunity to help owners improve the quality of life for their animals can be a more productive outcome.

165 Cruelty Seizures by Species

cats	38
dogs	87
farm animals	39
other	1

5 New Peace Officers

11 Cruelty and Disaster Response Team Members



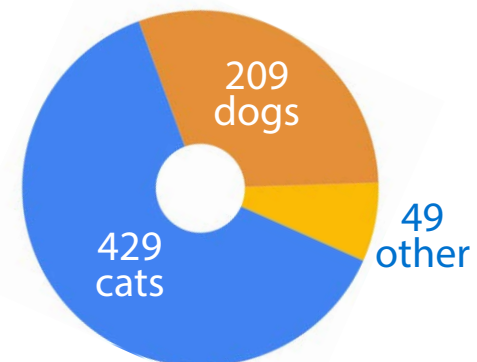
FOSTER PROGRAM

In 2022, the number of dogs coming into our care, mostly through animal control, grew by 22%, pushing us to beyond safe capacity. Critically short of kennel space, we launched a foster recruitment effort. As caring volunteers came forward to help, our dog foster homes grew by an amazing 33%. In all, 69 families hosted our animals. They also provided supportive care for orphaned kittens and animals with special medical needs, and provided breaks for long-term animals who needed some time outside of the shelter.

770
Foster Pets

69
Foster Homes

Foster Pets by Species



VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers supported our mission in nearly every shelter function, increasing our collective impact beyond measure.

Dog walking, direct animal care, adoption counseling, doing laundry, washing dishes, sorting Empties for Animals, helping with fundraising and outreach events, and supporting our customer care staff were some of the many ways they devoted their time to transforming the lives of the animals and their people.

Our incredibly devoted volunteers allow us to give more time and attention to everything we do.

21,804
Volunteer Hours

515
Volunteers

TOP VOLUNTEER TASKS

Dog walking - **8,001 HOURS**

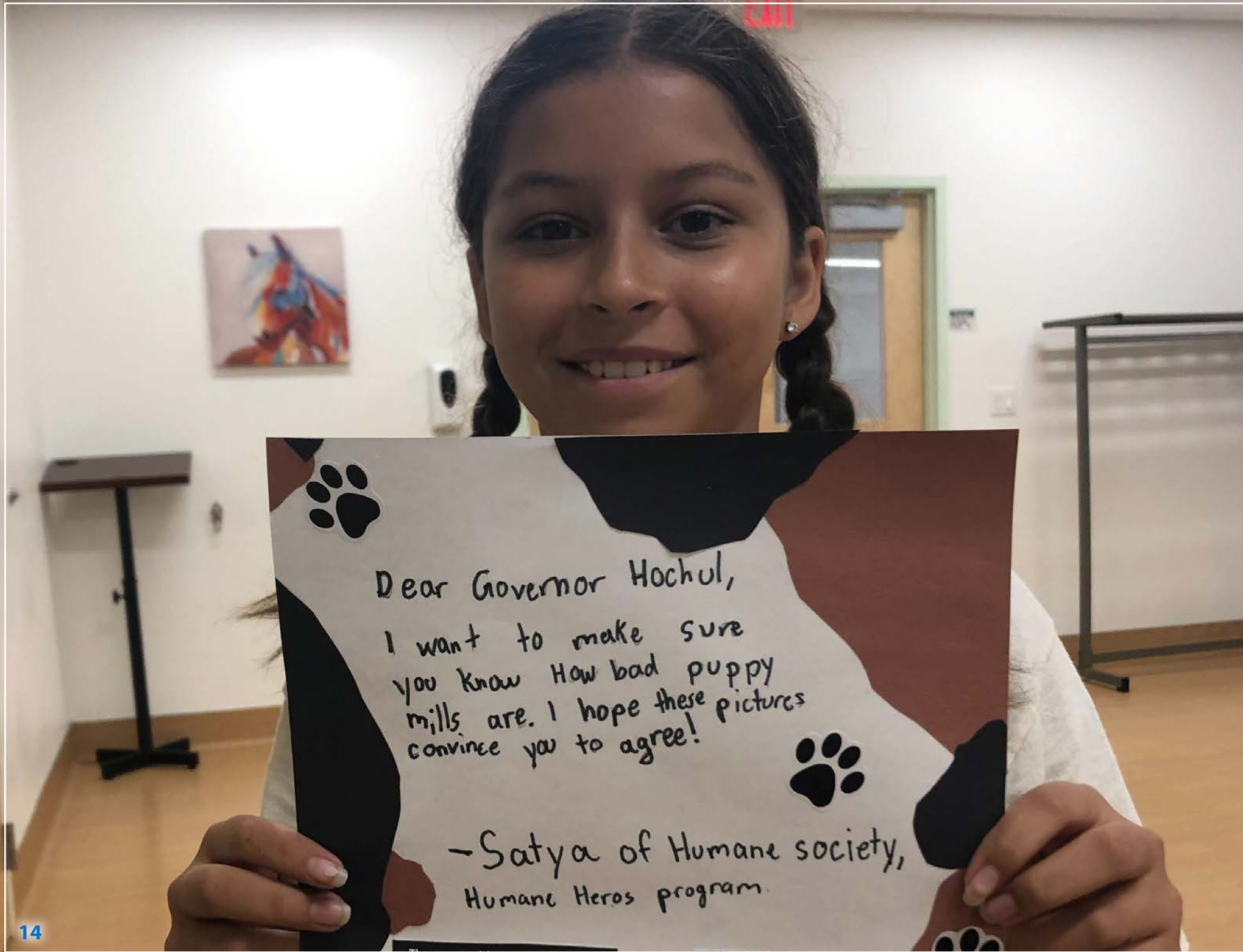
Dog field trips and enrichment - **1,292 HOURS**

Empties for Animals - **4,185 HOURS**

Cat care and enrichment - **2,514 HOURS**

Laundry/dishes/sorting donations - **1,225 HOURS**





HUMANE EDUCATION

Nurturing humane values and actions through education is a priority at MHHS. In 2022 we introduced two new summer camps and a reading program for children.

Paw Pals

Participants in grades K-5 learned about behavior, care and safety with cats, dogs, small animals and farm animals. The program featured hands-on activities and a chance to meet many different types of animals.

Humane Heroes

This hybrid camp/volunteer program for grades 6-12 provided a behind-the-scenes experience with animal care and insight on shelter operations. Participants worked alongside our staff and lended helping hands at a time when the shelter was at its busiest. It became the model for a year-round program.

Telling Tails

Telling Tails is a reading-to-pets program for kids ages 5-17. Our storytellers spent 130 hours reading to eager listeners, who occasionally solicited a pet or an ear scratch.

86
Summer Campers

67
Telling Tails Readers





Sugar Plum came to us through a cruelty complaint. In our care, she delivered eight sweet puppies. Mom and babies were all adopted.

Therapy Dogs Ease Courtroom Stress

Director of Behavior and Enrichment Nancy Haynes partnered with the Third Judicial District's Gender Fairness Committee to create a pilot therapy dog program for Rensselaer County's Adult Drug Treatment Court. This intensive program allows nonviolent drug offenders to choose treatment instead of incarceration. As participants appear weekly before a judge to report their progress, a therapy dog and handler team is available to sit by their side. Participants and court staff alike report that the dogs' presence brings a sense of calm, making for a much less stressful process for everyone. With overwhelmingly positive reviews, the program continues to grow and has expanded to courts in Albany County and the Cities of Albany and Kingston. Nancy and her therapy dog Bane, a French bulldog, are courtroom favorites who attend regularly.



Honoring Pets from Decades Ago



In the 1940s, MHHS opened a pet cemetery on its grounds with the promise to keep and honor beloved companions in their final resting place. While the space was preserved, over time the stones receded into the ground, many to the point of becoming invisible. Documentation was also lost over the years.

In 2022, we began an ambitious restoration project to reset the stones and map them so they are all visible and identified. Several hundred have been unearthed so far, but we estimate there are more than 2,400 stones in total. As part of the project, a memorial pathway leading to the St. Francis garden was installed. Here people have the opportunity to purchase engraved pavers as a permanent memorial to their pets.



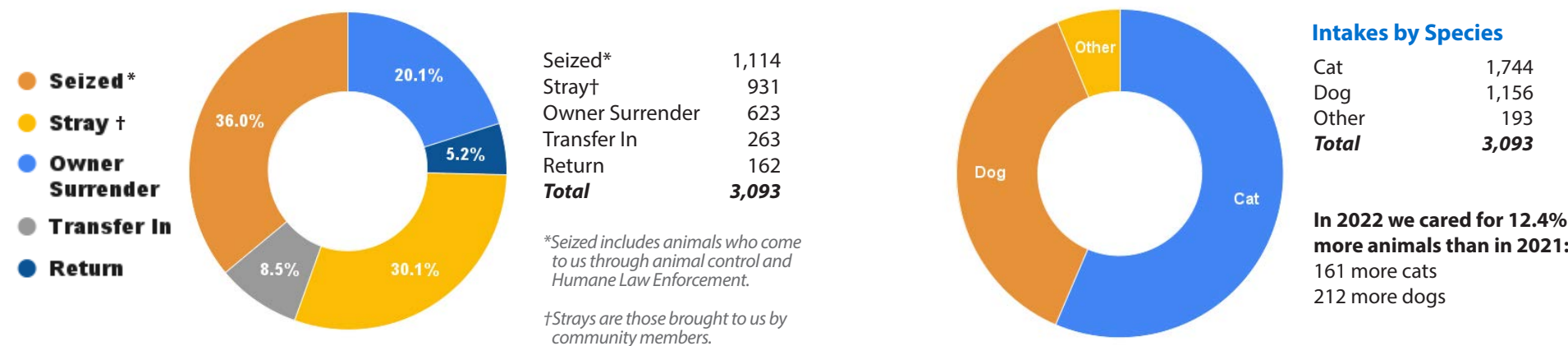
Empties for Animals Raises Record Amount

Our Empties for Animals recycling program raised \$198,019, its highest total ever, thanks to volunteers and program supporter Goldstein Auto Group. By sorting and bagging over 30 different categories of plastic, aluminum and glass, each bottle or can earns 8.5 cents, rather than the usual 5 cents. In total, 4,100 hours were dedicated to the task, which is just shy of six solid months of work!

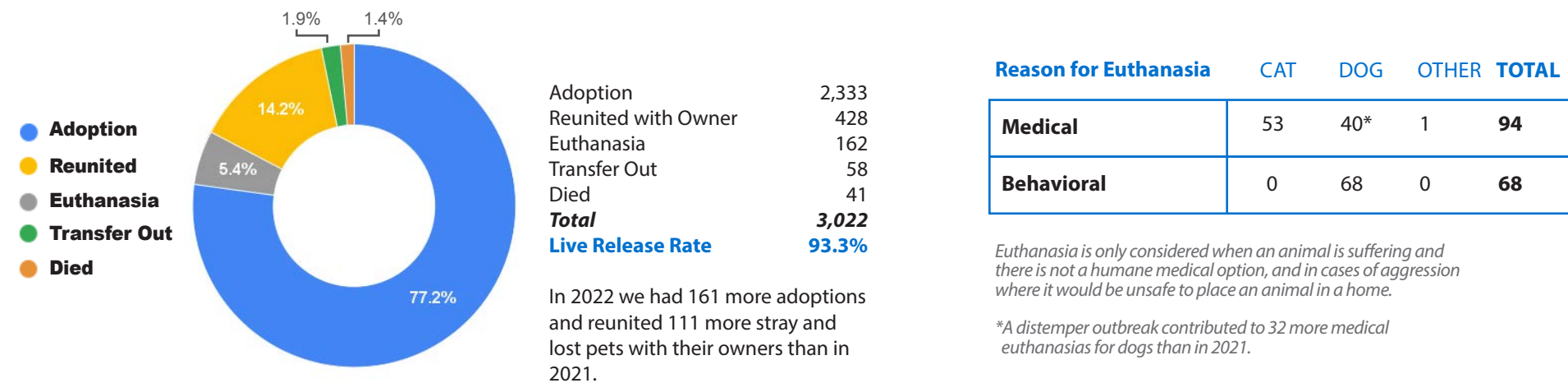


SHELTERING AND OUTCOMES

2022 Live Intakes



Outcomes



FINANCIALS

FUNDRAISING AND REVENUE

Fundraising

Total Contributions	\$2,518,977
Legacies and Bequests	\$598,811
Total Fundraising	\$3,117,788

Revenue

Animal Care and Adoptions	\$381,675
Veterinary Services	\$188,355
Municipal Contracts	\$557,110
Non-Animal-Care Income	\$221,466
End-of-Life Services	\$55,666
Miscellaneous	\$23,596
Total Revenue	\$1,427,868

Total Fundraising and Revenue **\$4,545,656**

EXPENSES

Animal Care and Programs	\$3,737,833
Administrative	\$521,154
Marketing and Fundraising	\$564,080
Total Expenses	\$4,823,067

OPERATING (LOSS) INCOME **\$(277,411)**



We value transparency and carefully steward your donations so that your contributions provide the second, third and fourth chances that abandoned and neglected animals deserve.

If you have any questions about how your donations can and do save lives, please contact Vice President for Development Whitney Philippi at wphilippi@mohawkhumane.org or 518-434-8128 x229.

Mission

Transforming the lives of animals and people through partnerships, protection and hope.

Vision

A community where all animals are loved for life.

CHAIR Thomas Mackey

VICE CHAIR Vincent Miles

SECRETARY Gabrielle DeMarco

TREASURER Dana Stewart

MEMBER AT LARGE Susan Vernooy

David Ahl
Beth Beshaw
Karen Carpenter
Shannon Forkin
Christine Galeo
Hugh Hammett
Carrie Hillenbrandt
Ted Minissale, Jr.
Eric O'Bryan
Wesley Price
Sherman Stovall, Jr.
E. C. Stumpf



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Jim & Zoolander