



MOHAWK HUDSON  
**HUMANE  
SOCIETY**



*Second Chances*  
**2024 Impact Report**







*Dear Animal Lovers,*

On January 17, 2024, MHHS faced a crisis that defined our year. That freezing night, our Humane Law Enforcement team rescued over 100 neglected animals from a single home.

Malnourished, covered in filth, and battling infections, some were barely clinging to life. In the face of this unprecedented cruelty, our team delivered an extraordinary response.

Our Humane Law Enforcement team pursued justice. Our intake and veterinary staff fought to save lives. Our foster and animal care teams mobilized, and behavior specialists worked to rehabilitate traumatized animals. Meanwhile, our development team shared their stories—and our incredible community SHOWED UP.

Today, thanks in large part to MHHS's strong advocacy, justice has been served and nearly all these resilient animals are now in their forever homes.

This case is a powerful reminder: MHHS is more than adoptions—we are rescue, rehabilitation, and an unwavering commitment to animals in need. I could not be prouder of our team, volunteers, and supporters. Thank you for standing with us through this and all of last year. It was a year that had its challenges—and even more celebrations.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Bouck', written in a cursive style.

ASHLEY JEFFREY BOUCK  
President & CEO, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society

# Adoptions

## 2,049 TOTAL ADOPTIONS

🐾 1,359 cats

🐾 624 dogs

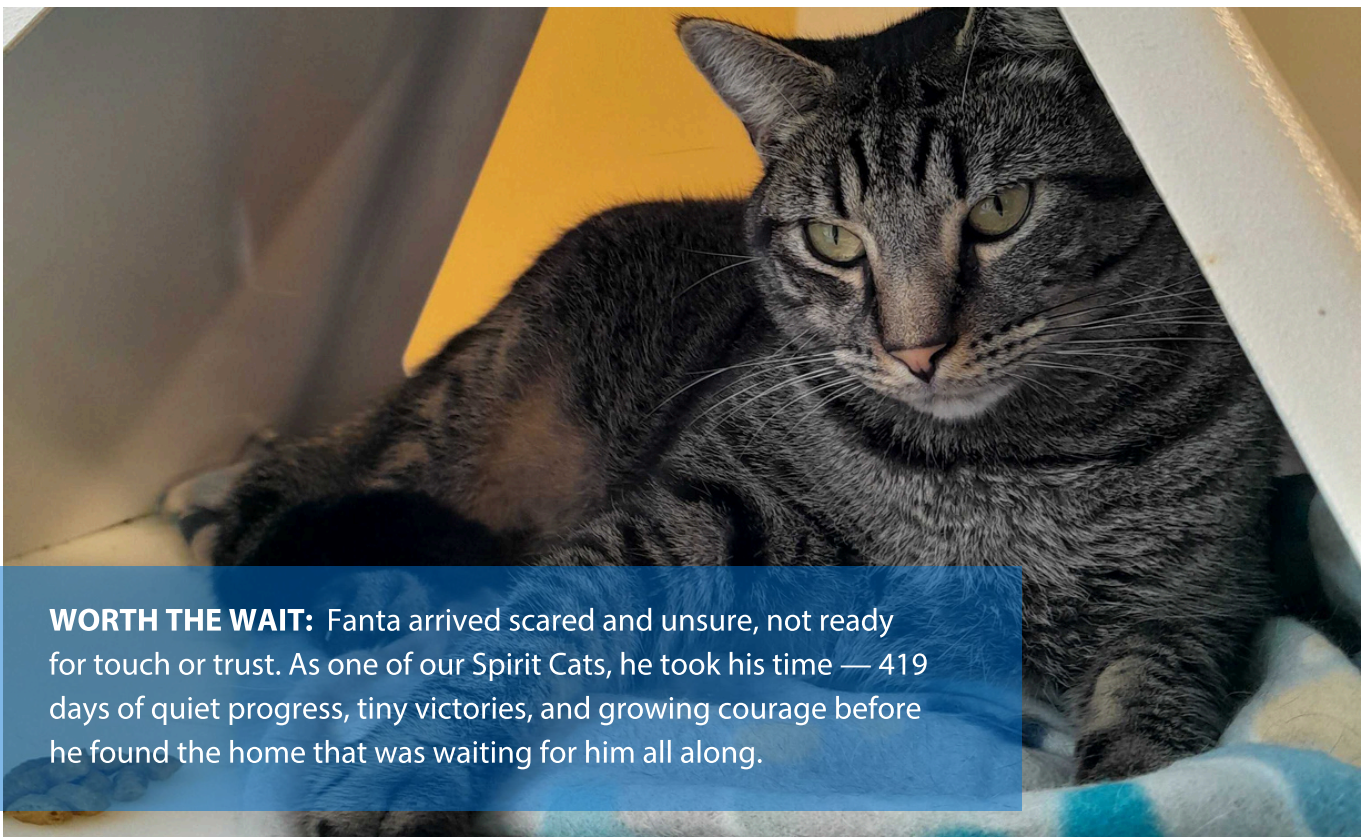
🐾 66 small animals

In 2024, we matched **thousands of pets** with caring families. Our dedicated team worked tirelessly to ensure each pet found the purr-fect home.

### Local Animals, Local Care

Ever wonder where all these animals in need come from? Something that sets MHHS apart is our focus on the care and placement of pets from right in our community. Last year, **510 animals** were surrendered by their owners, mostly cats (386), followed by dogs (81) and small animals (43). **Stray intakes rose 2%** to 1,601 animals, with 888 cats, 688 dogs, and 25 small animals.

**If every pet adopted at MHHS last year were in a car, they'd create a traffic jam more than six miles long. Cutest way to be late to work!**



**WORTH THE WAIT:** Fanta arrived scared and unsure, not ready for touch or trust. As one of our Spirit Cats, he took his time — 419 days of quiet progress, tiny victories, and growing courage before he found the home that was waiting for him all along.



# Foster-to-Adopt

## Trial Run

Our Foster-to-Adopt program has been a game-changer! This initiative allows special needs animals to experience home life before making the leap to their forever home. It gives adopters extra time and support to get to know their new family member.

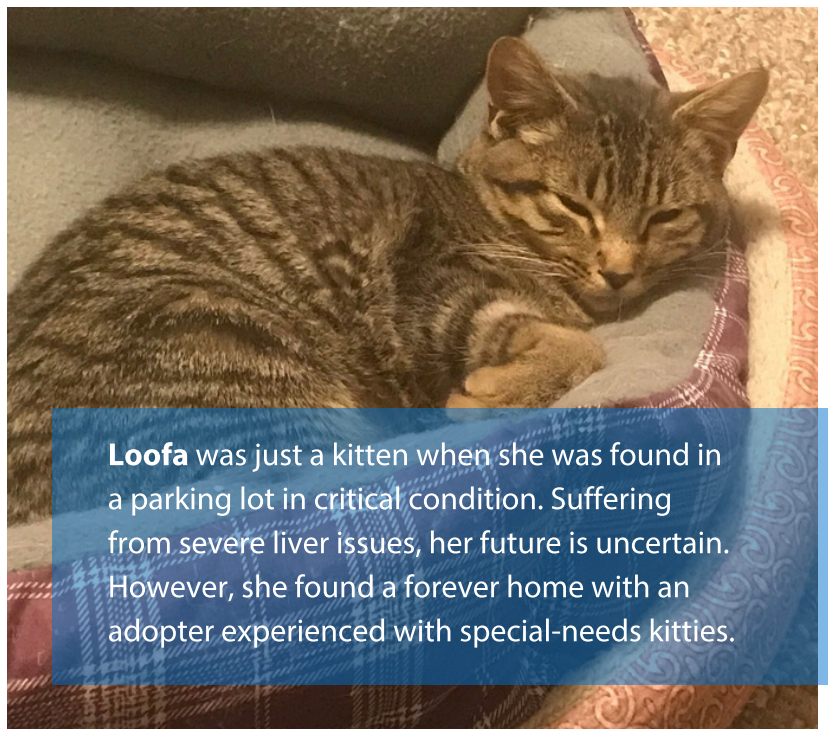


**Nesta** was a victim of cruelty who needed some extra time to adjust to her new home. Her new family reports, "I don't know how a dog who came from her situation is so balanced and good with everything."

# CrossRoads

## Love at the End of Life

We are proud to provide second chances —no matter how much time remains. Our CrossRoads program finds homes for terminally ill pets that still have time to comfortably enjoy their final days with a loving family. In 2024 we placed 16 **CrossRoads pets** in homes.



**Loofa** was just a kitten when she was found in a parking lot in critical condition. Suffering from severe liver issues, her future is uncertain. However, she found a forever home with an adopter experienced with special-needs kitties.





# Veterinary Care

MHHS is the only shelter in the region with a full veterinary team, now including **two full-time veterinarians**—setting us apart in the level of care we provide. From routine check-ups to lifesaving surgeries, our in-house medical team ensures every animal gets the treatment they need, when they need it.

Caring for so many animals requires **round-the-clock dedication**—and our medical team is at the heart of it all.

## IN 2024 ALONE, THE MHHS VET TEAM PROVIDED:



2,556

Shelter Pet Exams

That's more check-ups than  
there are players in the entire  
NFL!



1,460

Shelter Pet Surgeries

That is like performing surgery  
on an entire Broadway theatre  
audience...every year!







## Going Beyond Our Kennels: Healing the Community

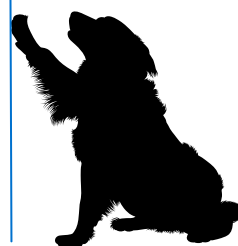
Our commitment to animal well-being doesn't stop at our shelter doors—we extend our expertise to the entire community. Through our public veterinary services, we provide affordable wellness care, vaccinations, and spay/neuter programs to low-income pet owners in need.

By making veterinary services accessible, we're keeping community pets healthy, with the families who love them.

In 2024, MHHS made a lasting impact on pet health and welfare in our community:

1,476  
Exams and  
Treatments

408  
Spay/Neuter  
Surgeries

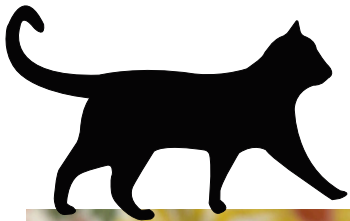




# Guardian Angel Fund



We believe in giving every animal a fighting chance. Sometimes, an animal arrives with such complex health issues, we need an outside specialist. These costs quickly add up. Through our Guardian Angel Fund we provided **\$42,070 in medical aid** to pets in extreme need.



## Why We Don't Call Ourselves "No-Kill"—Even Though We Are

MHHS meets—and often exceeds—the “no-kill” standard of saving 90%+ of animals, but we don’t use the term because it can be misleading. It implies other animal welfare organizations don’t save lives, when most, like MHHS, do everything possible to help animals. In rare cases of untreatable suffering or extreme aggression, euthanasia is the humane choice. Our focus isn’t on labels or meeting a percentage—it’s on always doing **what’s best for the animal**.

**MIRACLES FOR MYKIE:** Abandoned at MHHS, Mykie was just a pup and already life was full of challenges. She was heartworm positive and required extensive orthopedic surgery for torn ligaments. The financial costs were significant. Fortunately for Mykie, MHHS’ community of angels came together to donate in support of her treatments. Today, she is happy and healthy in an amazing home.









# *Behavior and Enrichment*



## Creating Second Chances Through Play and Training

Second chances are what we are what MHHS is all about! Our animals arrive as victims of homelessness, trauma, and neglect. For many, it takes patience and expertise to help them trust humans enough and develop the behaviors needed to be ready for adoption. While awaiting a new forever home, these clever pets need activities and stimulation that keep their mental health strong. This is where the **region's largest and strongest behavior and enrichment team** comes in—helping pets become their best selves.

In 2024, our behavior and enrichment teams expanded daily enrichment to include birthday parties, play groups, and even **field trips**.





## Behavior Support to the Rescue

The journey to be a Good Boy or Girl doesn't end when animals leave the shelter. Our behavior services—including classes, private consultations, and a helpline—equip pet owners with the tools they need to understand and support their animals. With expert guidance, we're helping pets stay in happy homes.

In 2024, our behavior team provided the community with:

**76**  
Training  
Classes

**101**  
Private  
Consultations

**401**  
Helpline  
Inquires



**SUPPORT FOR ROGER:** Roger, a fearful stray, overcame his anxiety through nearly a dozen training sessions with our behavior team. Today, he's thriving at home.



### MHHS Mythbusting: Saving Lives, Not Taking Them

Unfortunately, many in our community still believe shelters are a place where sick or "difficult" animals are immediately "put to sleep." Times have changed and so, thankfully, has MHHS in our 138-year history. We never euthanize animals for space or treatable conditions. Instead, we invest in medical care, training, and time to help them find loving homes.

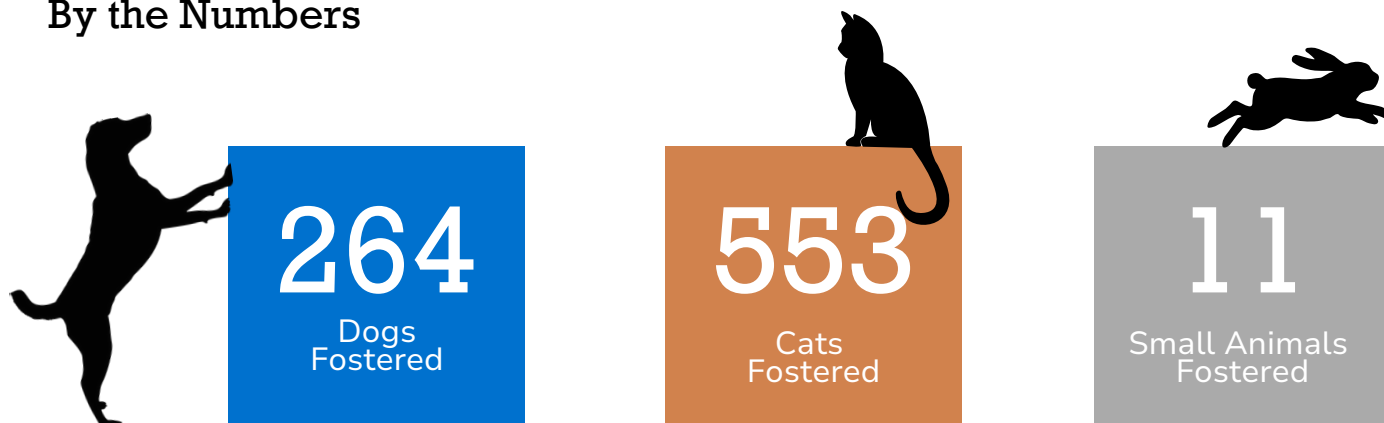




# Fostering

Fostering is a lifesaver—literally! Our incredible foster volunteers help pets adjust to home life and give us room to rescue more animals.

## By the Numbers



## Foster Heroes: Stepping Up When it Mattered Most

When we received an urgent call about more than dozens of animals in need of immediate rescue in a single day, our foster community didn't hesitate—they opened their hearts and homes without question. Thanks to their quick action, **50 animals went from crisis to comfort** in loving home environments. Thank you, MHHS Foster Families!



# Pet Food Pantry

Pets are family, and no family member should ever go without a meal.

Our pet food pantry helps bridge the gap for those facing financial hardship, making sure pets get the nourishment they need to stay healthy and at home.

## Our Pantry Provided:



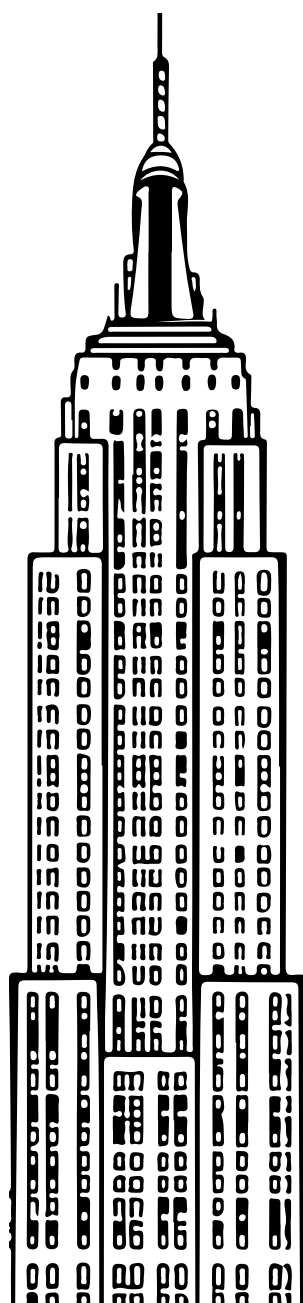
48,460

Meals for  
Dogs



28,148

Meals for  
Cats



## Pantries Popping Up All Over

In 2024, we took our pet food pantry on the road, helping to get even more food into the communities that need it most:

- 9 Pop-Up Pantries in Troy
- 2 Pop-Up Pantries at the Albany Public Library
- 1 Collaborative Pop-Up Pantry with Joseph's House

*If stacked, the bowls used for our pantry meals in 2024 would reach higher than the Empire State Building!*



# Humane Education

## Inspiring Compassion

Education is at the heart of creating a more humane future, and last year, our programs expanded to engage more people than ever. We provide hands-on experiences that foster empathy, responsibility, and a deeper understanding of animal welfare.

Our quickly growing programs include:

### Birthday Parties & Troop Tours

Fun, interactive experiences that teach kids about animal care and kindness

### Youth Camps

Engaging, educational camps where kids learn about animals, shelter work, and responsible pet care

### Teen Volunteer & Training Programs

Opportunities for teens to gain hands-on experience, including veterinary training for those interested in animal careers

### Community Seminars & School Visits

Educational sessions that bring animal welfare topics to classrooms and the wider community

Through our on-site youth education programs, including Paw Pals camp, Humane Heroes, and our Veterinary Intensive Camp, we taught **136 kids** in 2024 about how to be animal advocates. Dozens more came through our doors as parts of scouting troops and school visits.

Our seminar series helped an additional **124 community members** learn about animal topics ranging from rabbit care to pet bereavement support.





# Humane Law Enforcement



## Bringing Justice to the Abused

Every day, our Humane Law Enforcement Team works to ensure animals in our community are protected from harm, while also bringing justice to those that are mistreated. They are on the front lines of protecting animals from cruelty and neglect.

Community members played a crucial role in reporting suspected cruelty, with **86 online reports** and **21 phone reports** leading to **investigations**. Our team also responded to **35+ calls** assisting other agencies in cases involving animal welfare.



100%

Conviction Rate  
on MHHS-Led Cases

98%

Conviction Rate  
for MHHS-Assisted Cases

*These successes send a strong message that animal cruelty will not be tolerated in the Capital Region.*



## Region-Wide Protection

As the SPCA for Albany and Rensselaer Counties, we lead the fight against animal cruelty—but our impact extends across the Capital Region.

- **Expert Assistance:** We support law enforcement with specialized animal law enforcement support and investigative expertise.
- **Training & Mentorship:** We help equip regional animal control and peace officers with the skills to enforce animal cruelty laws.
- **Animal Advocacy:** We work with elected officials to strengthen animal protection laws.
- **Regional Readiness:** We help agencies include animals in disaster response planning.



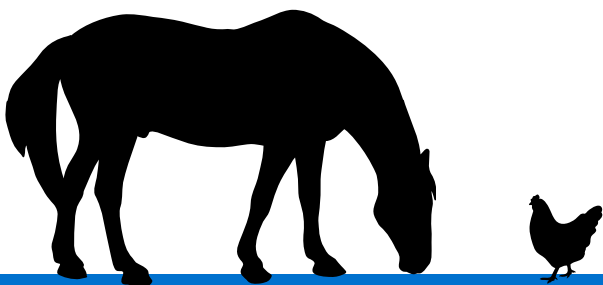


# Volunteers

MHHS simply wouldn't be the same without our incredible volunteers. This past year, **376 dedicated individuals** gave their time, talent, and hearts to help animals in need, contributing an astounding **18,688 hours of service**. That is the equivalent of over 9 full-time employees working for a year!

Whether walking dogs, comforting cats, fostering pets, or supporting our events, our volunteers are essential to our lifesaving work.

To every volunteer who has made a difference—**thank you**. Your kindness, dedication, and passion make our mission possible!





# News

## MHHS Wins Best Friends Animal League Award

MHHS was enormously proud to be a Save Them All Changemaker Award winner at the Best Friends Benefit to Save Them All in New York City.



## With Pride

The MHHS was proud to partner with the Capital Region Pride Center for its Pride PawRade and join in the Capital Pride Festival again this year.



## 2024 Kitten Shower

Our biggest event to support our amazing foster programs, the 2024 Kitten Shower did not disappoint. With raffle, bake sale, fun activities, and of course kittens, this was another successful downpour of community support.



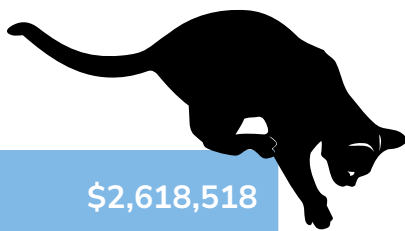
## Morning of Kindness

'Twas the morning before Christmas and over 250 families came to MHHS to spread holiday cheer and drop off needed supplies. Volunteers filled our halls and even a CDTA trolley with gifts for our animals.





# Financials



## Fundraising

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Total Contributions | \$2,618,518 |
|---------------------|-------------|

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Legacies and Bequests | \$677,660 |
|-----------------------|-----------|

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Fundraising</b> | <b>\$3,296,178</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------------|

## Revenue

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Animal Care and Adoptions | \$374,908 |
|---------------------------|-----------|

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Veterinary Services | \$128,342 |
|---------------------|-----------|

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Municipal Contracts | \$318,843 |
|---------------------|-----------|

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Non-Animal-Care Income | \$218,282 |
|------------------------|-----------|

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| End-of-Life Services | \$45,257 |
|----------------------|----------|

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Miscellaneous | \$26,102 |
|---------------|----------|

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Revenue</b> | <b>\$1,111,734</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------|

We value transparency and carefully steward your donations so that your contributions provide the second (or third, or fourth) chances 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 Gabrielle DeMarco at [gdemarco@mohawkhumane.org](mailto:gdemarco@mohawkhumane.org) or 518-434-8128 x241.

**Total Fundraising and Revenue: \$4,407,912**

## Expenses

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Animal Care and Programs | \$4,127,130 |
|--------------------------|-------------|

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Management and General | 662,014 |
|------------------------|---------|

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| Fundraising | 682,057 |
|-------------|---------|

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$5,471,201</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|

**OPERATING (LOSS) INCOME: (\$1,063,289)**





# Mission

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

# Vision

A community where all animals are loved for life

# Board of Directors

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Wesley Price

## **TREASURER**

Dana Stewart

## **IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR**

Thomas Mackey

## **MEMBERS**

Beth Beshaw

Karen Carpenter

Shannon Forkin

Christine Galeo

Hugh Hammett

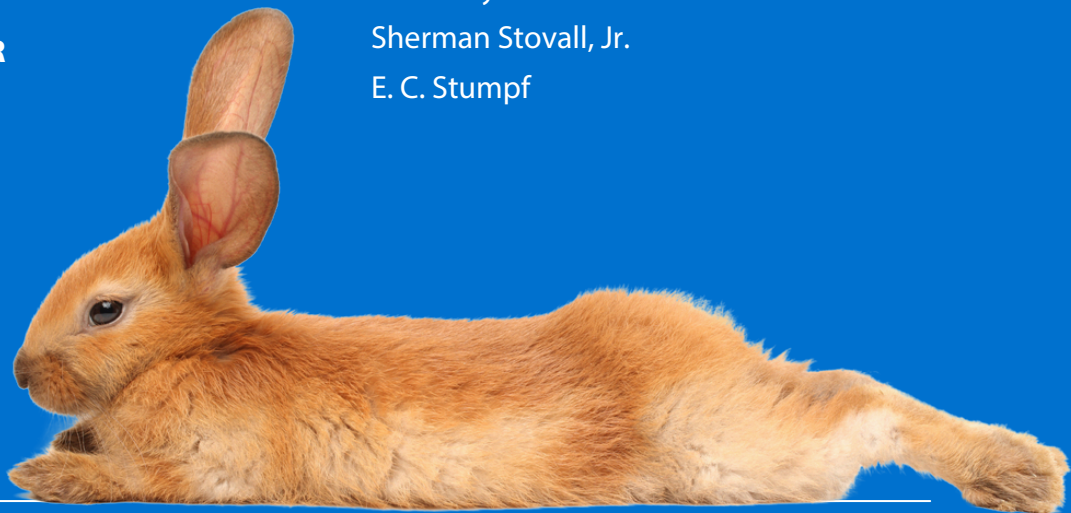
Carrie Hillenbrandt

Ted Minissale, Jr.

Eric O'Bryan

Sherman Stovall, Jr.

E. C. Stumpf



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