

Impact Report ²⁰²³



PROVIDING SECOND CHANCES TO ANIMALS SINCE 1870

Providing second chances to animals in need has been the driving force of the Humane Society of Missouri since 1870.

In 2023, the Humane Society of Missouri continued to provide a safe and caring haven to a significant number of animals in need — large and small — that were abused, neglected, or abandoned. The year brought new and ongoing challenges, but your generosity ensures we are always here to help animals in jeopardy, no matter the adversity.

2023 Highlights

Our commitment to the well-being and compassionate care of animals is unwavering. In 2023, that commitment faced unprecedented challenges from rising costs to increased demand for our services.



In FY2023...

Approximately
7,000

cats, dogs, critters and
ranch animals placed
in forever homes



20,166

children and adults reached
through our humane and
character education programs

303,349

miles traveled to conduct
8,409 responses to reports
of abuse and neglect involving
23,010 animals

8,208

spay/neuter surgeries
performed, including **2,965**
Operation SNIP low-cost
spay/neuter procedures



29,004

client visits and surgeries
conducted through our
AMCMA veterinary clinics



Increased Costs

Our Animal Cruelty Task Force (ACT) is our first line of defense against neglect and abuse. It saw an exponential increase in operational expenses including buying and maintaining vehicles, yet the ACT showed up every time they were called.

Longmeadow Rescue Ranch faced a two-fold challenge. Due to the drought, the cost of hay and feed for the horses and other ranch animals skyrocketed. Not only did that stress our budgets, but it caused a sharp increase in the number of horses rescued or surrendered due to underfeeding and even starvation as owners were unable to keep up with the costs.

Good care rests in the hands of our staff. It is costly to attract, train and retain the best talent in the field of animal care. We never waiver from our mission to ease the suffering of animals and to give them a chance in a loving home.

Increased Demand

Increased costs are impacting pet owners as well. Because of the pressure on family budgets, more households are surrendering their pets or worse yet, neglecting or abandoning them. In 2023, our Animal Cruelty Task Force saw a sharp increase in the number of calls about animals that had been left to fend for themselves on an abandoned property, thrown in dumpsters or tied up and stranded with no access to food or water. In October, ACT rescued 149 dogs from several properties, including one containing 43 starving Shiba Inus who were barely alive, and 9 that were already deceased. Saving these animals and accepting any animal who is brought to our shelters is the core of our Mission despite the demands it places on us.



Recognizing a Century of Service in Veterinary Care

2023 marked a significant milestone for what is now our Animal Medical Center of Mid-America, a division of the Humane Society of Missouri. We first started offering veterinary care to pets from throughout the St. Louis region in November of 1923, and for 100 years has been at the forefront of offering the most advanced care for animals. Our many achievements over the century include being among the first in the nation to offer rabies vaccines for pets, identifying and treating Parvo in dogs and offering a comprehensive pain management center that includes chiropractic care and laser therapy. Many firsts can be attributed to the legacy of Dr. Suzanne Sauerssig, who led our clinics for more than 50 years, from 1955 to 2009.





Second Chances

With your support, we provide second chances to thousands of animals every year. Here are just a few of the 2023 milestones and miracles.



Oscar & Bunny

Last summer, our Animal Cruelty Task Force responded to a call about two puppies abandoned in a yard waste dumpster in downtown St. Louis.

The pups were rescued and rushed to our shelter for emergency veterinary care. Despite being abandoned, these pups showed nothing but kindness to the team, and were playful and affectionate. Bunny, the smaller of the two, was put up for adoption less than a month after her rescue day! Oscar's story was a little different. He waited for several weeks for someone to come take him home. Finally, his new mom walked in. She had seen his story on local television and knew he'd be a perfect match.

Riddle

On a hot day in June, our Animal Cruelty Task Force recovered 16 dogs, two horses and a donkey from a property in New Madrid County. One of the horses was so small, our team thought he was only a year or two old. Once at Longmeadow Rescue Ranch, the staff determined he was actually four years old — his growth stunted from starvation. They named him Riddle. Riddle was too weak to stand and had to be lifted by staff during his first few weeks at the ranch. His many wounds and lesions had to be cleaned and medicated daily, and he was put on a special diet to gain weight and strength. Despite his dire condition, he began to show his affectionate personality. Riddle gained more than 300 pounds in Longmeadow's care and was ready to leave the ranch and start his new life! It wasn't long before a lucky family came along to take him to his forever home, where Riddle will never suffer again.



Cape

Last January, our Animal Cruelty Task Force received a call about a property owner hoarding multiple cats. They rescued 31 from the scene and rushed them back to the shelter to begin medical care. They named one of the kittens Cape. Like many cats from hoarding situations, Cape battled severe breathing problems and eye issues during her first several weeks in our care. After a few weeks, she was strong enough to spend her days hanging out with some of our staff where she seemed to fall in love with a member of our team. When Cape was finally ready for adoption, he knew he couldn't let her go and made the decision to make her part of his family.





Yorkie Rescue

On a sweltering day last June, our Animal Cruelty Task Force arrived on the scene at a property in Franklin County, Missouri and found a heartbreaking scene of severe animal hoarding. The team had received a report that dozens of small-breed dogs—mostly yorkies—were living in horrendous conditions. The state of the home was life-threatening to the animals, so the task force acted quickly to bring the 63 dogs to safety. All of them were scared, filthy and covered in parasites. Many needed immediate, life-saving care. Several of the dogs spent time in foster homes, just learning to trust their human companions. In time, the pups blossomed and were ready to go to their forever homes. They were met with enthusiasm from the community—with people coming from all over to adopt them! From a hoarder's house to cozy, forever homes, these pups will never again know what it feels like to be afraid and hungry.

Shiba Inu Rescue

In October, our Animal Cruelty Task Force received a call that 52 dogs were living on the run-down property of a former Shiba Inu breeder. When the task force arrived to investigate, they saw one of the worst cases of animal neglect they'd ever encountered. Nine of the dogs were already dead. The others were starving, living in filth without access to food or water. It took weeks for the dogs to gain weight and to learn to trust humans. When they were healthy enough, some went to a special rescue for Shiba Inus. Shiba Inu lovers from across the country reached out, eager to help support these poor pups in any way they could. It takes a village to help dogs from situations like these, and the Humane Society of Missouri couldn't do it without the support of the community.



Pineapple

Last October, we rescued more than 100 puppies and dogs over the span of three days. Among them was Pineapple, a two-year-old yellow lab mix, who had been abandoned behind a house without access to food or water. She was so close to starvation that her ribs and spine were protruding, showing just how long she had been neglected.

Despite her condition, she was friendly and loving with our staff and medical team. Pineapple was put on a feeding schedule to help her gain weight, and she began to slowly recover. One month after her arrival, Pineapple was healthy enough to be adopted. She didn't have to wait long! Her new family came and brought her to her new forever home.





Going the Extra Mile

HSMO accepts all animals that come to our doors.

For many years we have achieved our goal to place 100% of adoptable animals in loving homes.



Animal Rescue, Rehabilitation and Adoption

Individuals and families who visit HSMO shelters find dogs, cats and critters that are ready to add love and joy to their lives. Open seven days a week, adoption counselors and other shelter staff help them find the perfect match.

HSMO is an open-admission shelter with a goal of placing
100%
of adoptable in loving homes.



Shelter Veterinary Medicine Program

HSMO ensures that animals that are abused and/or neglected are rescued and quickly placed into the care of our professional veterinary, behavior and shelter staff. Two full-time, experienced shelter veterinarians examine and treat every animal that comes to our shelters.

Having seen the worst-of-the-worst cases of animal abuse and neglect, they are able to quickly diagnose medical trauma, parasitic conditions and malnutrition, and create a treatment plan unique to each animal's specific needs. Then, veterinary technicians and animal care staff conduct the treatment plans for the hundreds of animals recuperating in our shelters.



Kennel Enrichment and Dog Walking

A group of resolute volunteers provides vital daily exercise, socialization and enrichment to shelter dogs and cats in preparation for adoption.



Shelter Behavior and Foster Services

Understandably, dogs, cats and other animals rescued from horrible situations may exhibit behaviors that could prevent them from successfully moving to a new home. HSMO's shelter behavior and foster program teams evaluate and work with individual dogs and cats to help improve undesirable behaviors like fearfulness, resource guarding and more. Foster program staff collaborate with volunteer foster parents to introduce home life to pets that have never experienced living with a family. Foster parents are also called upon to help raise and socialize puppies and kittens until they are old enough to place in their forever homes.



Animal Cruelty Task Force

The Humane Society of Missouri's Animal Cruelty Task Force (ACT) is on call 24/7/365 to rescue animals in distress and transport sick and/or injured stray animals to the shelters. Our statewide Animal Cruelty Investigators provide a safety net for animals in areas where little or no local animal care and control exists. We operate in all 114 Missouri counties and in any given year travel more than 300,000 miles responding to reports of abuse and neglect. We are one of the largest animal rescue and disaster response teams in the United States. For nearly five decades, we have cultivated relationships with law enforcement, social services and animal welfare agencies through the state, as well as nationally, so we can be there when animals need us. We are committed to leaving no animal in a life-threatening situation.





Humane Education

In 2023, we were thrilled to offer our full curriculum of classes and events once again to children and adults. HSMO has always been committed to educating the community, especially children, about care and respect for all living creatures. With the support of education-minded donors, dedicated volunteer docents and an experienced staff, HSMO's education program reaches thousands of people every year through programs in schools, after-school clubs, summer camps and humane-based curricula for teachers.



Animal Medical Center of Mid-America

Since 1923, the Humane Society of Missouri has been on the forefront of veterinary care. Today, the Animal Medical Center of Mid-America is one of the largest veterinary practices in the Midwest. Our St. Louis City and Maryland Heights locations are nationally accredited, and offer Fear Free® wellness services, diagnostics, surgery, dental, rehabilitation and spay/neuter and integrated pain management services to the public. All proceeds from AMCMA support the animals in HSMO's shelters.





Longmeadow Rescue Ranch

Horses and farm animals often need the rescue, rehabilitation and adoption services of the Humane Society of Missouri, and they can find this at our Longmeadow Rescue Ranch. Situated on 165 acres outside Union, Missouri, each year the staff at Longmeadow care for abused, abandoned and neglected animals and offer classes and education programs about caring for horses and farm animals. Thanks to caring friends like you, Longmeadow continues to be a haven for horses, goats, chickens, pigs, ducks and other farm animals. It is one of the largest and most comprehensive horse and farm animal care and rehabilitation centers in the country.

Operation SNIP

Since its inception, Operation SNIP has provided tens of thousands of low-cost spay/neuter surgeries to animals in the St. Louis region. This effort has prevented an estimated 10 million stray animals from overwhelming our shelters while ensuring longer, healthier lives for the animals who have been spayed/neutered. In 2023, the cost of supplies for operation SNIP surgeries increased six-fold, and the support we need to continue this program into the future is critical to the ongoing health and well-being of animals throughout our region.



SNIP

KEEPS US ALL SAFE

Donate today to the Humane Society of Missouri's Spay Neuter Incentive Program (SNIP).

Help provide low-cost spaying and neutering to control the pet population and keep our community safe.

Go to hsmo.org/givesnip or call (314) 951-1542 to donate.




Transforming Lives...

In fiscal year 2023, the Humane Society of Missouri saw...

100%

of adoptable animals
found forever homes



**Humane Society
of Missouri**

1,079

Animals cared for by
foster parents



Approximately
7,000
cats, dogs, critters
and ranch animals
placed in
forever homes



7,811
miles traveled making
24
trips to transport
551

animals to HSMO from
partner shelters for
rehabilitation and adoption



0%

euthanasia rate for
reasons of time or space

118

pre-adoption
heartworm-
positive
shelter dogs
treated

396

volunteers provided
25,438
days of
foster care

5,797

volunteer hours
logged by
152
humane educators

3,547

stray animals accepted
from St. Louis City
& County



614

animals returned
to their owners

5,376

enrichment sessions provided
by shelter behaviorists to
949
animals



400

animal care,
enrichment and
dog walking
volunteers logged
22,024
volunteer hours

One Tail at a Time



29,004

client visits and surgeries
conducted through our
AMCMA veterinary clinics

Animal 
Medical Center
OF MID-AMERICA

2,965

Operation SNIP
low-cost spay/neuter
procedures provided

8,208

spay/neuter
procedures performed



1,538

extenuating medical or
surgical procedures on
animals prior to adoption



4,521

spay/neuter surgeries
performed pre-adoption
on shelter dogs and cats



20,166

children and adults
reached through our
humane and character
education programs

Animal Cruelty Task Force on call

24/7/365

in all

114

counties of Missouri

5,256

hours of animal care and
Ranch support logged by

225

Longmeadow Rescue
Ranch volunteers



155

animals from Longmeadow
Rescue Ranch adopted

41

of those were equines



303,349

miles traveled to conduct

8,409

responses to reports of
abuse and neglect involving

23,010

animals



We make a difference because of you!

You care that...

...pets should be treated well.

...animals in jeopardy should be rescued.

...people can adopt pets ready to add unconditional love
and happiness to their lives.

...children learn respect for all living creatures.

You donate...

so HSMO can make it all happen,
for the animals, their people and our community.

Thank you for caring!



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