

# Impact Report <sup>2024</sup>



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 2024, 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.



# 2024 Highlights

Our commitment to the well-being and compassionate care of animals is unwavering. In 2024, that commitment faced unprecedented challenges from rising costs to increased demand for our services.



## Increased Need

The utilization of our programs and the number of animals that we rescued increased in 2024 over 2023. Moreover, the number of calls to our animal abuse hotline increased, along with the number of reports made through our website or via direct message on social media. We responded to each and every one of these nearly 20,000 reports of abuse, neglect and abandonment throughout the state. Within the first few weeks of last year, our Animal Cruelty Task Force rescued 97 Labrador Retrievers from the facility of an unlicensed breeder in Phelps County and 55 dogs from a property in Stone County. In the fall we rescued 15 horses within St. Louis County. While we saw an increase in the number of shelter adoptions, horse and other ranch adoptions fell well short of our goals.

## In FY2024...

**7,238**

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



## Increased Costs

Our Animal Cruelty Task Force (ACT) remains our first line of defense in stopping animal abuse and neglect. With the increase in demand, the cost of operating our ACT increased sharply. More investigations and rescue efforts meant more miles driven in 2024 and the need to replace or maintain vehicles and equipment became critical.

Staffing our shelters remains challenging as the cost of recruiting, training and retaining quality animal care teams continues to increase year over year. As the number of animals we care for rises each year, so does the need to have a talented, mission-focused team that can devote itself to the rehabilitation and care each animal needs to be able to find the second chance it deserves.

The decline in the number of adoptions at our Longmeadow Rescue Ranch saw a sharp increase in the cost of caring for our horses and other animals as their length of stay with us often goes from weeks to months.



**24,872**

children and adults reached through our humane and character education programs



**348,114**

miles traveled to conduct 7,490 responses to reports of abuse and neglect involving 15,545 animals

## Increase in Demand Fuels Need for Expansion

The year-over-year increase in the number of animals we rescue and rehome has created the need for us to expand our shelter space. In 2025, we will begin a construction project at our Best Buddy Center in Maryland Heights that will add space for up to 40 additional animals, including space for 20 large breed dogs. There will also be expansions of our laundry and other facilities to accommodate our increase in capacity. This project will begin in the spring, take several months and will cost an estimated \$5.5 million.

**8,948**

spay/neuter surgeries performed, including 3,290 Operation SNIP low-cost spay/neuter procedures



**30,341**

client visits and surgeries conducted through our AMCMA veterinary clinics





# Second Chances

With your support, we provide second chances to thousands of animals every year. Here are just a few of the 2024 milestones and miracles.

## Phelps County Lab Rescue

There are arguably few things cuter than a Lab puppy. Our donors agree. They responded in horror, relief and generosity as the fate of 97 Labrador retrievers unfolded. In January, our Animal Cruelty Task Force was called to Phelps County, Missouri. We have been to this property before, having removed 83 dogs from this unlicensed breeder who is included on the national

“Horrible 100” list—a ranking of the worst dog breeders in the country in 2019. This time, 97 dogs—many of them puppies—needed immediate help.

Our ACT team found large dogs kept in small, cramped wire crates without consistent access to water. There were no resting surfaces for puppies to lie on and no evidence of veterinary care. Our donors responded with open hearts.

When the animals arrived at our headquarters, each dog received veterinary care and bundles of love from our dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Many of the pups needed dental work, while others were treated for sores on their paws from standing on the wire bottoms of their crates for countless days. None had ever walked on a leash or played with a human companion.



Despite what they had been through, the Labs understood that we were there to help. They greeted the rescue team with wagging tails and hopeful spirits.

Healthy pups were spayed/neutered and made available for adoption quickly. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, all of the dogs found loving, forever homes.



## Sally and Sanchez

In January, Sally and Sanchez were rescued from a property in Stone County. The temperature was 12 degrees, and they had no shelter. They were both bone thin and needed emergency medical treatment. Our Animal Cruelty Task Force rushed them to the shelter, where they got warm and were put on a feeding schedule to slowly gain weight.

As they gained weight, their tails started to wag. They loved to spend time with their human friends and enjoyed going for walks when they were healthy enough to do so.

By mid-March, Sanchez had nearly doubled in weight and was ready to be adopted. When his family met him, they knew right away that he had found his forever home.

Sally battled some digestive issues and had to wait a little longer to meet her forever family. But when they came along, she was all smiles and wags on her way out the door. Thanks to our donors, these two pups are in loving, forever homes.



## Gabriel the Coonhound

In May, the HSMO’s Animal Cruelty Task Force rescued 22 malnourished Coonhounds from an unlicensed breeder in Gasconade County. They were experiencing a range of conditions from wounds to respiratory issues. Thanks to donors like you, we were able to treat them and give them the loving care they deserve.

Though several of the dogs found their forever families, it took a little longer for pups like Gabriel. Gabriel had open wounds, ticks in his ears, and battled respiratory issues. He was hesitant to accept love and attention from humans but warmed up over time working with our behavior team.

When the time came to go to his forever home, Gabriel was all smiles and wags on his way out the door!

## Suri

Suri’s story is one that spans nearly seven years. This beautiful quarter horse initially came to Longmeadow Rescue Ranch in 2017 and was adopted shortly after her arrival. Unfortunately, her adopter didn’t have the time to care for her, so she returned to the ranch shortly after.

Longmeadow’s trainer Courtney knew Suri was something special. She saw Suri’s potential and knew she would need to find the perfect home with an owner who understood how Suri operated both under saddle and on the ground.

Enter Allison. Allison had been volunteering at Longmeadow for a while and had grown up riding horses. When her Thoroughbred lost his companion, she began looking for a horse to keep him company. She and Courtney arranged a few meet-and-greets with Longmeadow horses, and when Allison met Suri, it was clear it was a match made in heaven.



Suri went to her forever home in August and is fitting in perfectly with Allison’s family. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we are able to give horses like Suri the second chance they deserve—no matter how long it takes!

## Mario the Kitten

Two college students were about start the car when they heard a faint meowing. They discovered there was a tiny kitten in the engine of the car, too scared to move. They spent hours trying to coax the kitten out of the innerworkings of the car and eventually lured him out with treats.

Mario was filthy and scared but warmed up quickly to his rescuers. They gave him a bath, food and a cozy place to sleep. The next day, they brought him to HSMO. Mario was given the medical attention and care he needed and found his forever family shortly after! Your support helps us give animals like Mario the second chance they deserve!







# Putting our Mission into Action

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.



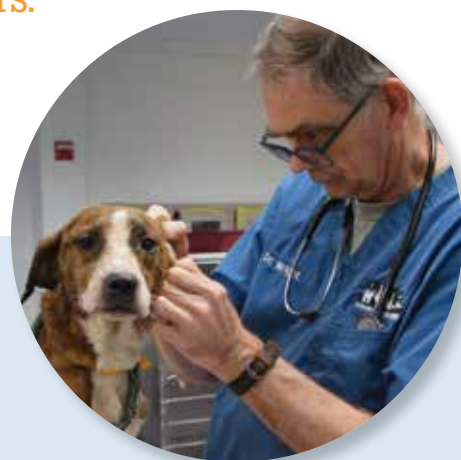
## Animal Rescue, Rehabilitation and Adoption

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.



## Kennel Enrichment and Dog Walking

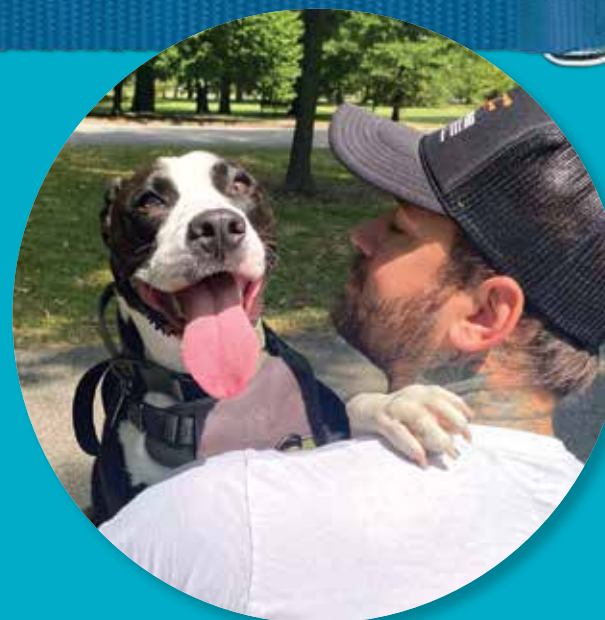
A group of resolute volunteers provides vital daily exercise, socialization and enrichment to shelter dogs and cats in preparation for adoption.



## Shelter 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.



## 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.



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





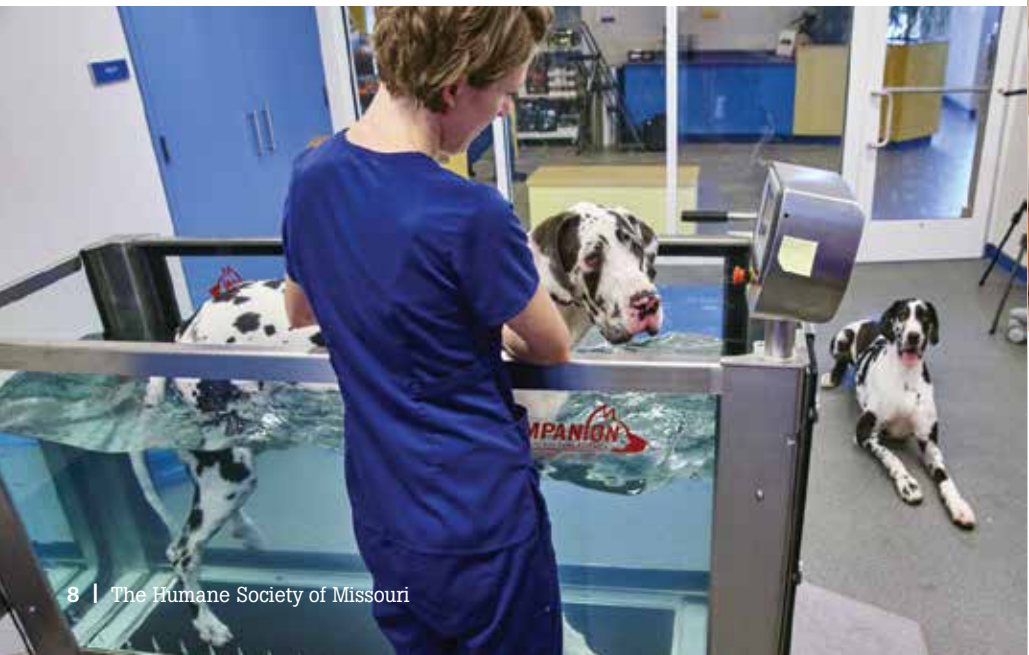
## Humane Education

In 2024, 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, offering Fear Free® wellness services, diagnostics, surgery, dental, rehabilitation, 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.

**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](https://hsmo.org/givesnip) or call (314) 951-1542 to donate.

**Humane Society of Missouri**

## Operation SNIP Keeps Us Safe

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 2024, 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.



# Transforming Lives...

# One Tail at a Time

In fiscal year 2024, the Humane Society of Missouri saw...

**100%**

of adoptable animals found forever homes



**1,155**

animals cared for by foster parents



**30,341**

client visits and surgeries conducted through our AMCMA veterinary clinics

Animal Medical Center  
OF MID-AMERICA

**8,948**

spay/neuter procedures performed



**1,797**

extenuating medical or surgical procedures on animals prior to adoption



**7,238**

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



**5,746**

miles traveled making 18 trips to transport 551 animals to HSMO from partner shelters for rehabilitation and adoption



**0%**

euthanasia rate for reasons of time or space



**4,764**

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



**24,872**

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

**83**

pre-adoption heartworm-positive shelter dogs treated

**273**

volunteers provided 27,160 days of foster care

**6,901**

volunteer hours logged by 102 humane educators

**354**

in-shelter and outreach humane education programs and events provided



**505**

animal care, enrichment and dog walking volunteers logged 24,679 volunteer hours

**4,481**

hours of animal care and Ranch support logged by 105 Longmeadow Rescue Ranch volunteers



**133**

animals from Longmeadow Rescue Ranch adopted

**33**

of those were equines



**632**

animals returned to their owners

**6,344**

enrichment sessions provided by shelter behaviorists to

**820**

animals



**348,114**

miles traveled to conduct

**7,490**

responses to reports of abuse and neglect involving

**15,545**

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!

