



annual report
2009





Wisconsin Humane Society
4500 West Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
414-ANIMALS
www.wihumane.org

Ozaukee Humane Society
2073 Highway W
Grafton, WI 53024
(262) 377-7580
www.ozaukeehumane.org



The mission of the

Wisconsin Humane Society

is to build a community where

people value animals and treat

them with respect and kindness.

Our goal is to save lives.

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(snapshot as of December 31, 2009)

Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends:

It has been only six months since I was honored to be named executive director of the Wisconsin Humane Society. What a privilege it has been to help lead the organization that my predecessor, Victoria Wellens, built into a nationally recognized model of how to effectively save animals' lives and build community compassion. In this short time, I have learned a great deal, and I have been deeply inspired.

I'm proud to be able to send you our annual report for last year. As you'll see, it was a year of unparalleled success, which would be worth sharing in any year, but it was all the more striking in 2009 because of the challenges we overcame to make it possible.

Challenges

For the Wisconsin Humane Society in particular, the biggest challenge of 2009 was very personal: the passing, far too early, of Victoria Wellens. For 15 years, her outstanding leadership transformed the humane society into a beacon of hope for not only homeless animals, but for people who strive to make the world a kinder place for animals. She set the highest standards for animal care and was nationally recognized for her valiant efforts and remarkable leadership.

But we shared other challenges with the entire animal welfare community. Those challenges were and are deep, and deeply entwined with the same economic downturn that has challenged so many others. Recently I "shadowed" a work shift in our arrivals area, where people and families come when they decide they must give up a companion animal. The first woman who came in that day was in tears, as she tried to somehow cradle her cat and hand him to me at the same time. "I got him here ten years ago," she said, "but now I have to bring him back to you. I'm becoming homeless."

The economy's impact goes beyond its toll on surrendering families. Families who are considering adopting animals must think more carefully now about whether they can afford a new companion. And of course the economy has affected the donors whose generosity and confidence make everything we do possible. Recent statistics show that charitable giving overall in the US declined 3.6% in 2009 as compared to 2008 (which in turn was a 5.7% decline from 2007).

In such a climate, animal welfare organizations can be particularly vulnerable. In 2009, animal welfare and environmental organizations nationwide received only 2% of the charitable donations made that year.



Meeting the challenges

These same challenges will continue, for all animal welfare organizations, through 2010 and beyond. And I can report to you with gratitude that at the Wisconsin and Ozaukee Humane Societies, we meet the challenges every day with confidence and joy. Thanks to your generosity and support, we know we have and will have what we need to save lives and teach kindness in a troubled world:

- **Committed and tireless volunteers.** You'll see them all over our facilities – washing puppies, walking dogs, socializing cats, stuffing envelopes, providing foster homes, teaching classes, staffing events, and more. We are so grateful.
- **Generous and inspiring donors.** We receive no government funding to care for our animals and that's where our donors step in. Every donation matters and makes a difference - from kids who donate proceeds from their lemonade stand to the families, businesses, and foundations that choose to support our shelter despite a tightened budget. Each recognizes the need to help animals in our community and their generosity has made a real difference in the life of an animal.
- **Impassioned, dedicated, skilled staff.** The better the people, the more lives they can save – and our people are amazing. Their experience, knowledge, and caring amazes me every day.
- **Bright, welcoming, effective facilities.** You have only to walk into our landmark Wisconsin Avenue shelter to know that animal welfare as it is practiced here is dramatically different from what most people grew up thinking it had to be. And now, in Ozaukee County, we are building an exciting new shelter that will have the same impact.
- **Education and advocacy.** Each life we save is critically important. But our mission goes beyond that. Our work is "to build a community where people value animals and treat them with respect and kindness." Your generosity means we have full-time educators working with children, both in our shelter and in the classroom, to teach compassion and caring through the love that children feel for animals. (Our new building in Ozaukee County will expand our education work there dramatically.) We work also to help community members advocate effectively for animals and to be a mainstream voice for animals and compassion in legislation and public policy.

Our commitment to animals is simple: every companion animal healthy enough to be adopted will be adopted, no matter how long it takes. Every wild animal we can rehabilitate will have the time to get well. We don't impose time or space limits; we're there with every adoptable animal for the long haul.

We recognize how lucky we are to be able to make this pledge. Many excellent shelters cannot. We have the resources it takes to make this promise because our friends in the community have supported us with steadfast generosity. For all you have done for us in the past, and for your friendship and support in the future, you have our deepest thanks.

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

Anne Reed
Executive Director

Adoptions

At the Wisconsin Humane Society, all adoptable animals stay in adoption until they find homes. Most animals at WHS are surrendered to us by people who can no longer provide care for them; we also receive animals from the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC) and other animal shelters. The average stay for a dog at the Wisconsin Humane Society in 2009 was 3.69 days; the average stay for a cat was 4.5 days.

In 2009, 10,310 animals found new homes through the Wisconsin & Ozaukee Humane Societies

- 4884 dogs
- 4839 cats
- 587 small animals

From young couples to single seniors, we develop a relationship with each adopter to find good matches for both the animals and people, which ensures better futures for animals like Keke, pictured on the right with her new family.

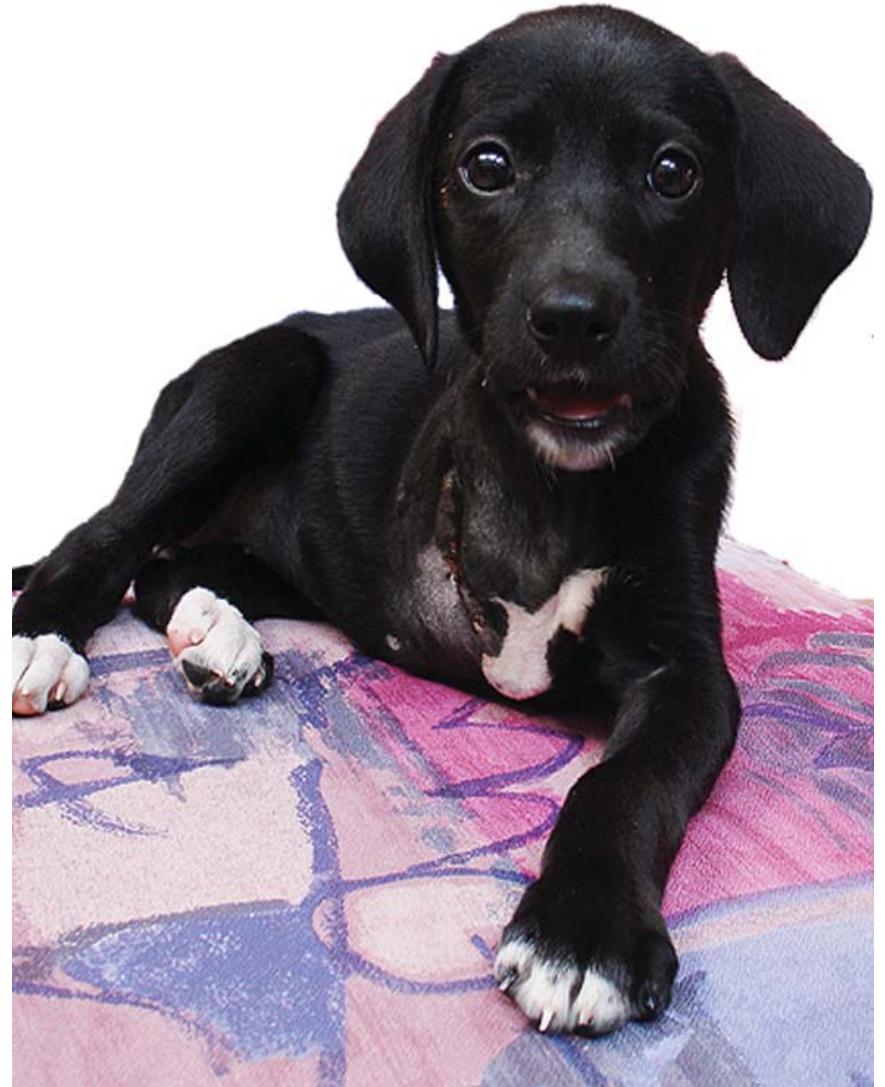


Veterinary Care

The veterinary clinic at the Wisconsin Humane Society is a state-of-the-art facility with four full-time veterinarians and eight medical staff members. All cats, dogs and rabbits are microchipped and vaccinated, as well as spayed or neutered, before going home with their new families. In fact, we completed 7,879 spay/neuter surgeries in 2009.

The veterinary department performed 623 Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) surgeries for low-income families, as well. The veterinary clinic also offers a pet food bank, Furry Friends Food Program, which helps families get through rough financial times.

We are also proud that we can go to extraordinary lengths to save animals, including providing complicated procedures ranging from open heart surgery performed by specialists, to in-house emergency leg amputations. Jasmine, pictured on the right, was given a second chance after an accident that basically crushed her front leg. She doesn't seem to mind her three-legged status at all, and she keeps up with the best of them!



Behavior Help

You may be surprised to learn that when an animal is surrendered with behavior problems, it is typical for him to leave WHS a much happier, better adjusted companion because of all the behavior resources offered to animals in our care.

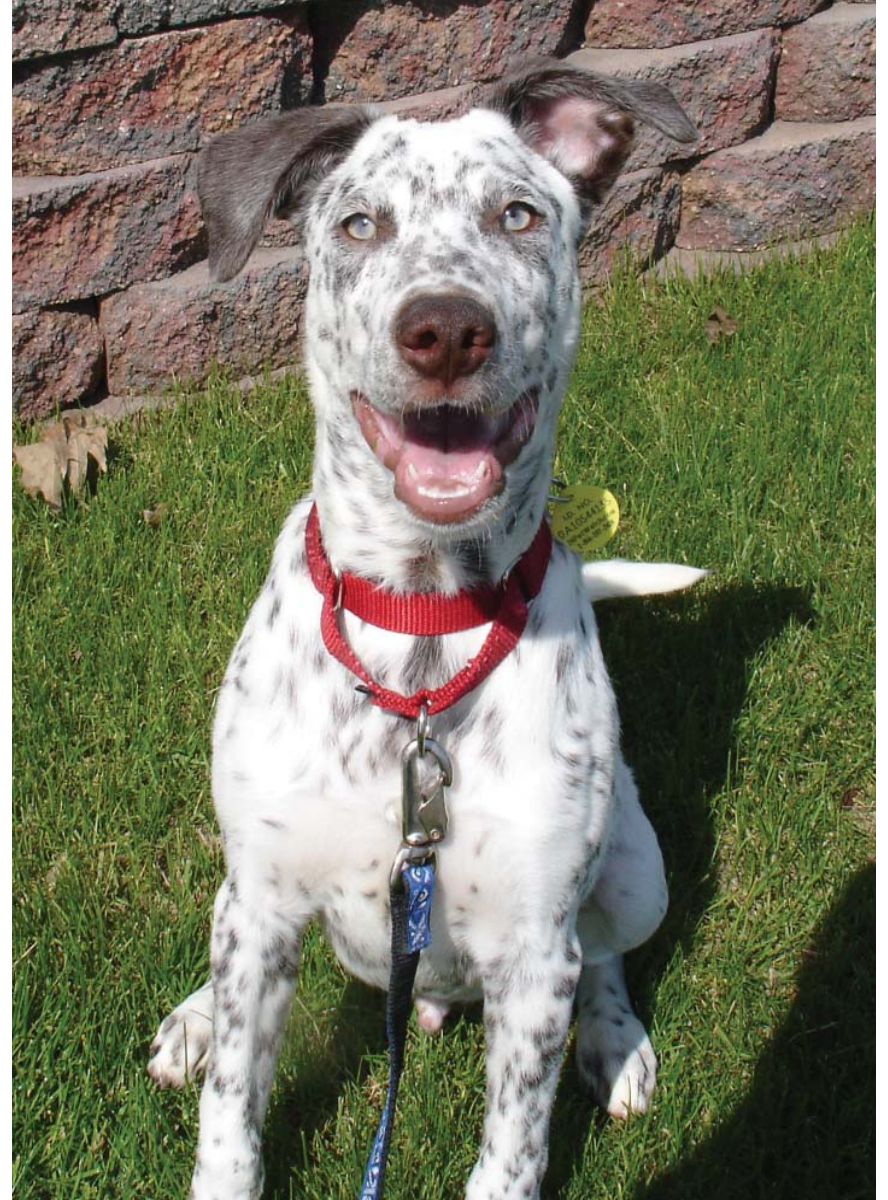
Our behavior services include personality evaluations, in-shelter rehabilitation, behavior modification, foster care, breed placement and more.

We also offer services to the public, including classes, consultations, and seminars, all based on positive reinforcement.

In 2009...

- 226 behavior consultations were conducted
- 1060 animals attended classes
- 28 shelter professionals from across the U.S. participated in the Shelter Professionals Obtaining Training (SPOT) workshop

Homer, pictured on the right, was surrendered to WHS because of his multiple behavior problems. But no one in his life had recognized that all his problems stemmed from a single issue: Homer was deaf. With a behavior modification program in place, which included training with hand signals, Homer's life turned around. He is now thriving in his new home.



Education

Education programs at the Wisconsin and Ozaukee Humane Societies instill respect and compassion for animals and all living creatures. 6,070 children participated in educational programming at WHS in 2009.

Education programs include:

- People & Animals Learning (PAL), which brings at-risk youth to WHS to train dogs, feed baby orphaned birds, and participate in other activities for two weeks.
- Promoting Animal Care and Kindness (PACK), a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters, which aims to help children with an incarcerated parent develop empathy and compassion for living things and form stronger bonds with animals, peers and mentors.
- Building Humane Families (Sojourner Family Peace Center partnership), a proactive effort to promote positive parenting and educate children about developing healthy relationships with others.
- Scout Nights, School Field Trips, Birthday Parties, Tails & Tales Storytime, Read to Rover and more!



Wildlife Rehabilitation

The WHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is one of the largest and most active wildlife hospitals in the state, and one of the largest of its kind in the nation.

In 2009, nearly 5,000 animals were treated in the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. The patients represented 150 different species, many of whom were endangered or threatened.

The goal of the center is to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured wild animals back into the wild.

In addition to rehabilitating and releasing wild animals, the center teaches adults and children how to live harmoniously with wildlife in their own backyard.



Volunteers

Volunteers provide lifesaving care to animals in every activity conducted at the Wisconsin and Ozaukee Humane Societies, seven days a week.

They provide convalescent care in their homes, walk dogs when it's 5 degrees outside, assist in adoptions, help operate our retail store, staff festival booths, take adorable photos of animals for the website, feed hungry orphaned birds in the wildlife nursery and more!

In 2009, 1,000 volunteers contributed 60,298 hours of their time. Their dedication and commitment to animals is invaluable to every department at WHS and OHS.

One of the greatest feelings is being able to release an animal whom I rescued... I've learned so much from the Wildlife Department staff; I greatly appreciate their taking time to explain things and allowing me to assist them with the hawks and owls. It's also very satisfying to assist in the adoption process for the domestic animals. There's nothing better than seeing a tail waving goodbye or hearing the meow of a cat as if she's saying, "Come on, let's go home!"

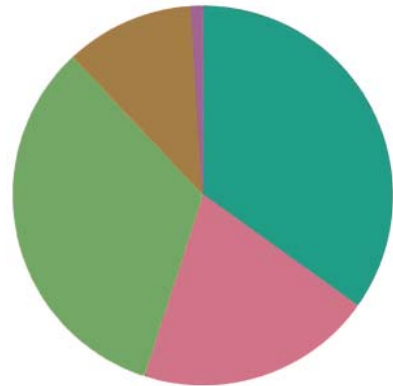
*-Patti Vollmer, volunteer
(pictured below with owl)*



Financials

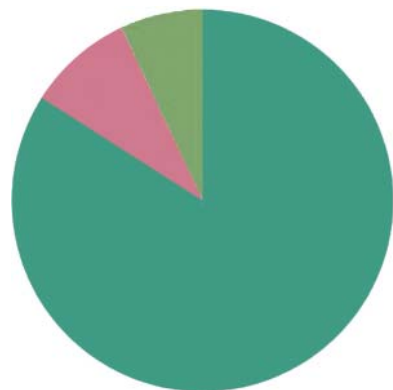
Wisconsin Humane Society 2009 Giving Club Members

We strive to be as accurate as possible in recognizing the generosity of our donors. If we have made an error, please call us at (414) 431-6181 to make a correction. Thank you.



REVENUE (fiscal year 2009)

- Contributions = 35%
- Service fees = 33%
- Bequests = 20%
- Retail Sales = 11%
- Other revenue = 1%



EXPENSES (fiscal year 2009)

- Programs and Services = 84%
- Management/Admin = 9%
- Fundraising = 7%

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Joyce Madsen and Laurie Yingling volunteered at the popular OHS booth at Strawberry Festival in Cedarburg.



Beth Maresh, Ellen Clark, Lou Winkel, Jill DeGrave and Sue Black pose at Feasting for Fido 2009

OHS Capital Campaign Gifts

\$1,000,000.00 & Over

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John & Elizabeth Feith

\$100,000+

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\$10,000+

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\$5,000+

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Victoria's Book Club

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Wisconsin Humane Society

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