




THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

2019 Impact Statement

The HSUS Shelter and Rescue Partner Program

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Introduction

2019 continued to see advancements in companion animal welfare. Shelters and rescues launched innovative programs to save additional lives, supported each other while increasing awareness of the good work they are doing in their communities and saw a further decline in intake of cats and dogs. In this climate of collaboration, HSUS Shelter and Rescue Partners stepped up to help place nearly 5,000 animals, including farm animals and those with behavior challenges and medical issues. These partners traveled for thousands of miles to stand by our Animal Rescue Team during disasters and cases of extreme neglect. This was also the first full program year for the HSUS Shelter and Rescue Partner program's Shelter Ally Project, which helps shelters and their pets by assisting with animal transport and fostering shelter mentorships.

The HSUS Shelter and Rescue Partner program was founded many years ago to place animals from disaster and cruelty. Now we've realized the program must grow. Shelters are the backbone of our work—our allies and our partners. Over the course of the last year, we've listened to our colleagues in the sheltering field and gained a better understanding of their emerging challenges and how the Humane Society of the United States can better support them. The three words that repeatedly surfaced in our communications with shelters are flexibility, kindness and compassion. They want more of all three, especially from their colleagues at national organizations. As shelters continue to evolve, they are challenged with an increasing number of animals with behavioral issues, limited funding, high expectations and, in some areas, a lack of pets to meet the community demand for adoptions. Shelters are looking for national support and programs to assist with



their trajectory forward into the next phase of animal welfare. Moving into 2020, we are committed to meeting shelters where they are, finding innovative ways to provide support in their lifesaving work and collaborating whenever possible. Our key projects will help us do this crucial work.

Shelter Ally Project

The Shelter Ally Project saves pets' lives by:

- Responding to shelters in crisis or struggling with high intake and low resources.
- Responding to the requests of our partners in need of adoptable pets for their programs.
- Providing lifesaving transports.

By partnering with the Humane Society of Tulsa to fund the Pet Transport Hub, the Shelter Ally Project moved 2,954 homeless pets, predominantly from Texas and Oklahoma. We've focused on this region because of its lack of resources for shelters, vast distance from shelters that can help and disease management challenges.

The HSUS/Tulsa team works tirelessly to transport pets from this overwhelmed region into the loving hands of Shelter and Rescue Partners from Oregon to Maine. The majority of our 2019 Shelter Ally budget was spent on direct transport.

Transporting these animals comes with significant challenges—disease management being a particularly expensive one. The Shelter Ally Project funded the deployment of the University of Wisconsin Shelter Medicine team to Tulsa Animal Welfare for a review of



practices and protocols. The program also funded hundreds of tests and testing supplies to track immunity for parvo and distemper. As we dig deeper and further into rural and socioeconomically challenged locations, we've encountered more cases of disease that require action. Many of our partners received financial assistance to make pets well enough for adoption, and we're planning community vaccination clinics in 2020.

Mentorship is key to the Shelter Ally Project. Several mentorships developed in 2019 will provide ongoing—and lifesaving—support for shelters. Our partners want to provide mentorship; some—like Michigan Humane Society—even fly hundreds of miles to assist their mentee shelters (in this case, Montgomery County Animal Shelter in Texas). Our partners are experts in the field, well qualified to help train and support overwhelmed shelters around the country.

The mentorship component of the Shelter Ally Project will expand in 2020. Funding will allow mentors and mentees to spend time together as they create sustainable, lifesaving programs. While every shelter (and community!) has different needs, our Shelter and Rescue Partner team is creating a more accurate tracking system for tangible mentorship program results in order to increase effectiveness and improve outcomes.

2,954 pets placed through Shelter Ally Project

HSUS and HSI Placement Services

A primary focus for the Shelter and Rescue Partner program is to provide placement support for all animals who come through HSUS and HSI cases and responses. It has been a busy year!

Animal Rescue Team: Cruelty Response

Shelter and Rescue Partners kicked off 2019 with a bang when the Animal Rescue Team received a call for assistance from the Atlanta Humane Society. The case involved hundreds of German Shepherd dogs on two properties. Partners were asked to assist with the Candler County, Georgia, location. Partners from Florida to North Carolina met at the property to pick up the surrendered dogs, who were in desperate need of

medical attention and TLC. Thank you Nassau Humane Society (Florida), Pet Alliance of Orlando (Florida), Charleston Animal Society (South Carolina), Cashiers Highlands Humane Society (North Carolina), Moore Humane Society (North Carolina), PAWS of Bryson City (North Carolina) and Brandywine Valley SPCA (Delaware) for taking dogs into your programs from this case.

The Killeen, Texas, cruelty case was complicated for the Animal Rescue Team to execute and geographically difficult from a placement perspective. With kitten season in full swing in Texas, local placement of the more than 150 cats and dogs was not an option. Most of the rescued animals were cats, and many had been exposed to ringworm. These cats required treatment before transport to their final destination. We are incredibly grateful to Nashville Humane Society (Tennessee), Safe Haven for Cats (North Carolina), Brandywine Valley SPCA (Delaware), Animal Care Sanctuary (Pennsylvania), Humane Animal Rescue (Pennsylvania) and Providence Animal Center (Pennsylvania) for taking the pets from this case into their programs.



The Animal Rescue Team received many calls regarding large-scale neglect cases in 2019, and Shelter and Rescue Partners responded. In many cases, jurisdictions requested placement only. Although local law enforcement handled the execution of the cases, local shelters often could not take in all the rescued animals. For example, in Bledsoe County, Tennessee, more than 150 dogs and cats were living in horrific conditions, desperately in need of immediate evacuation. With an Animal Rescue Team member on the ground to

coordinate, partners from North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Oklahoma drove to Bledsoe County to empty the property within 48 hours. This was an incredible lifesaving effort filled with happy tears. Thank you New Leash on Life (Tennessee), Humane Educational Society (Tennessee), McKamey Animal Center (Tennessee), Atlanta Humane Society (Georgia), Cashiers Highlands Humane Society (North Carolina), Animal Protective Association of Missouri and Humane Society of Tulsa (Oklahoma) for taking dogs and cats into your programs.

546 pets placed from cruelty response



Animal Rescue Team: Disaster Response

The Alabama tornadoes kicked off the disaster season in March, followed by floods in Oklahoma, Tropical Storm Barry (Louisiana), Hurricane Dorian (Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina) and floods in Beaumont, Texas. Shelters called for help to move animals before and after the storms. Shelter and Rescue Partners from all over the country volunteered to take displaced shelter pets into their programs.

Coordinating the transport of animals from disaster sites is complicated. In most cases, the goal is to move the homeless pets as far from the region as possible, guaranteeing the best outcome for each pet. The HSUS transported pets from the impacted areas to Oregon, Washington, Michigan and Illinois on cargo planes contracted through Berry Aviation.

We thank all the partners who answered the call for disaster response. Greenville Animal Care and Control (South Carolina), Michigan Humane Society, Oregon Humane Society, Humane Society of Tulsa and Anti Cruelty Society (Illinois) all took on the role of “hub” during disasters, partnering to increase the lifesaving work being done through multiple organizations. Charleston Animal Society (South Carolina), Angels of Assisi (Virginia) and Nashville Humane Society (Tennessee) worked tirelessly on transport and large-volume intake for some of the more complex responses.

1,094 pets placed from disaster response

Why it matters: Flying pets during disasters

- Flying during disaster response is often the safest and most effective way to move pets away from affected areas. While roads and bridges may be closed right before and after a storm, smaller airports stay open longer and may reopen earlier. Rather than a lengthy 18-hour drive, pets are loaded into crates and flown for only a few hours to safety.
- Requirements are the same as ground transport for health certificates and vaccinations. Shelter and Rescue Partners use the “hub” system where one partner takes on the responsibility of working directly with HSUS Shelter and Rescue Program staff to coordinate the flight’s date, time and offload. On arrival, the pets are distributed to other HSUS partners through the partner acting as a hub.
- HSUS Animal Rescue Team responders strategically load the plane to keep pets comfortable and ensure the organization can offload animals easily.
- Air transport has become a major tool for transport among national organizations that move large numbers of pets for cruelty, disaster and routine transport of homeless pets.

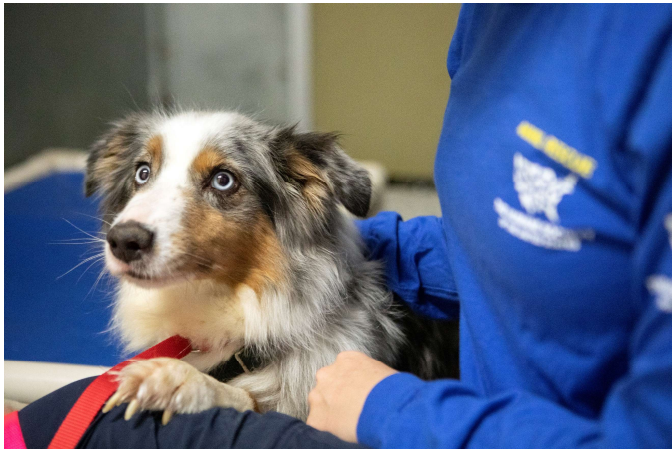
Stop Puppy Mills Campaign

In December, the Person County sheriff's office and Person County Animal Services called the Humane Society of the United States for assistance after arriving at a North Carolina breeder's property to find, along with several deceased dogs, nearly 30 dogs in dire shape with no access to food or water, many surviving by feeding on the carcasses of other animals. Stacks of debris and feces covered the floor, along with decaying bodies of dogs who hadn't survived.

In 2015, the American Kennel Club suspended the breeder for a year for poor living conditions, but her website showed AKC registration papers for multiple dogs and litters, at least one of which was from 2019.

Thank you to the Humane Society of Charlotte (North Carolina), Pawfect Match Rescue (North Carolina), Moore Humane Society (North Carolina) and Peninsula SPCA (Virginia) for quickly mobilizing to accept dogs from this case.

29 pets placed from breeding operations



Humane Society International

Humane Society International continues its work to end the dog meat trade, primarily in South Korea. The team helps farmers transition to growing an agricultural crop (like blueberries or mushrooms), removes all housing for dogs on the property and secures an agreement that the farmers will leave the dog meat business for good. While Shelter and Rescue Partners saw some dogs come through the program from China, the vast majority of the dogs were from the Gupo Market closure and the



closures of farms 14 and 15 in South Korea. In 2019, dogs from South Korea were placed with partners in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, New York, Delaware, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Florida, Maryland and the District of Columbia. The dogs ranged from Boston terriers to mastiffs and from puppies to adults. One special program, Dixon Correctional Facility in Louisiana, took in a small group of survivors who needed extra time and attention.

Many of the South Korea dogs have never been outside a cage, walked on grass or experienced human kindness. Shelter and Rescue Partners prepare the dogs to join a family, but the process can be lengthy and shelter staff often become emotionally invested in the dogs. We thank the groups who take on this challenge.

282 pets placed through HSI

Animal Research Issues

In early 2019, our Animal Research Issues team released an undercover investigation into an animal testing lab, where dogs were undergoing invasive testing for various products, including pesticides. While most of the dogs our investigator encountered were killed at the end of these studies, we discovered that 36 beagles were suffering unnecessary and invasive tests for a pesticide intended for Brazil.

After a massive public outcry and public demands to Dow AgroSciences (Corteva Agriscience) to end the testing, the 32 surviving beagles were released to the Michigan Humane Society and soon found loving homes.

32 pets placed through Animal Research Issues

Collaboration

For the second year in a row, the Shelter and Rescue Partner program hosted our annual Transport Summit. Shelters and organizations from across the country converged on the Michigan Humane Society for a full day of discussions about transport, mentorship and other significant topics. We came away with a deeper understanding of where to focus our resources, along with a sense of trends we might see in 2020. We were grateful for our attendees, including the ASPCA, Association for Animal Welfare Advancement, Watershed Animal Fund, Maddie's Fund, the University of Wisconsin Shelter Medicine team and our incredible partners: Animal Humane Society, Atlanta Humane Society, Brandywine Valley SPCA, Dumb Friends League, Humane Rescue Alliance, Humane Society of Tulsa,

Kentucky Humane Society, Nashville Humane Association, Oregon Humane Society and Wisconsin Humane Society.

The Shelter and Rescue Partner program was proud to support State Affairs, the Law Enforcement Center, the Stop Puppy Mills campaign and other HSUS programs through outreach and engagement with partners. Animal shelters and rescues are increasingly engaging in policy work throughout the country. In 2019, our partners stood up for animals and the people who care for them, helping to introduce policies related to everything from shelter standards to transport. Although national agencies cannot be everywhere, there is an animal shelter or rescue in nearly every district across the country providing a powerful voice for animal protection.

Shelter Feedback

The Humane Society of the United States is grateful for the opportunity to work with shelters nationwide. In particular, the Shelter Ally Project has allowed us to meet shelters where they are and provide lifesaving guidance through shelter-to-shelter mentorships and collaboration. The following feedback from both source and destination shelters is testament to the Shelter and Rescue Partner program's life-changing impact.

“As a leadership team that is committed to change in furtherance of our lifesaving journey, we jumped at the opportunity to become part of the HSUS's Shelter Ally Project. The impact of this hands-on, collaborative program has been nothing short of incredible for MCAS. Our mentor/mentee relationship with Michigan Humane has helped us to broaden our knowledge and network. The added benefit of transporting animals to both the Michigan Humane Society and Nashville has provided important opportunity to have additional animals transported from our shelter. We will forever be grateful for the HSUS's Shelter Ally Project. This program is a part of our success.”

—MARK WYSOCKI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER, TEXAS





2020 Goals and Priorities

- Increase the mentorship component of the Shelter Ally Project by reaching out to shelters in crisis.
- Collaborate with national partners to identify shelters in need that are not reaching out for assistance.
- Continue to address the disease management crisis in Texas and Oklahoma shelters through partnerships with the University of Wisconsin and shelter partners.
- Provide exceptional placement services for all HSUS and HSI departments and campaigns.
- Increase collaboration and consolidation among shelters nationwide by holding small focus groups. Our partner network has extensive expertise, and we'll create groups based on subject, region and type of facility.
- Support responsible state and federal policy for all animals. Continue to bring information to our partners on state and federal initiatives for all HSUS departments and campaigns.
- Continue to operate daily with flexibility, kindness and compassion toward shelters and rescues and support their lifesaving work.

“Participating in the Shelter Ally Project allows us the opportunity to pay it forward. The Tri-County Animal Shelter was once an overcrowded shelter that needed its community, its rescue partners and other shelters to assist with the placement of our animals. Now that the shelter is in a better place, we can help with overcrowded shelters. Shelters helping shelters is a win-win situation for everyone involved!”

–KIM STEPHENS, ANIMAL SHELTER SUPERVISOR, TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER, MARYLAND

“Shelter outreach has always been about building relationships and making connections—whether those bonds are used regularly or as a strengthening support. The Shelter Ally Project builds lifesaving bridges that are there when needed to offer a hand or a home, an idea or an innovation.”

–LISA NORWOOD, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND OUTREACH MANGER, CITY OF SAN ANTONIO ANIMAL CARE SERVICES, TEXAS

“Tulsa Animal Welfare has had three of the four highest live release numbers ever in August, September and October of this year [2019]. This is due in large part to the Shelter Ally Project. The response to our request for emergency evacuations of available animals during the May 2019 floods also meant TAW could keep animals in our shelter longer and achieve the lowest number of animals euthanized for any June.”

–JEAN LETCHER, DIRECTOR, TULSA ANIMAL WELFARE, OKLAHOMA



PHOTO CREDITS

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Our Promise

We fight the big fights to end suffering for all animals.

Together with millions of supporters, we take on puppy mills, factory farms, trophy hunts, animal testing and other cruel industries. With our affiliates, we rescue and care for thousands of animals every year through our animal rescue team's work and other hands-on animal care services.

We fight all forms of animal cruelty to achieve the vision behind our name: a humane society.
And we can't do it without you.



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