

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Every year, as I finish writing my President's message, I wonder how I will ever find more interesting things to share for the next year.

This past year was no different. But then March 29th came and so did 330 Chinchillas...wait, 332, no 334, no 336...whatever. They multiplied as they were arriving and, for the first time in my memory, HAWS had to set up a maternity ward. Again, as in the past, the wonderful staff and volunteers rose to the task. Three hundred of anything – except dollars! – is too much, but everyone came together and figured it out. (You haven't lived until you clean 330 cages.) Our wonderful staff sent out an S.O.S. to the community and, as in the past, the community came through. Deliveries began arriving – everything from cages to dust to hay to bedding. Thanks to our Marketing staff, the media also arrived in droves, doing an outstanding job of covering our plight...and again the community responded! When the time came to re-home a majority of the cute little critters, we were contacted by shelters and rescues throughout the Midwest and off they went. Each one has now been given the chance to become a loving companion animal. What a great solution to a challenging problem! I stood back and watched a group of people work like a finely tuned engine. It never ceases to amaze me how wonderful these people are, both staff and volunteers. THANK YOU for all you do for HAWS! If Chinchillas could talk, they would also be forever grateful for the love and patience provided by everyone involved. It is a privilege to work alongside all of you.

The subject of available adoptable dogs was also brought to the forefront. HAWS has been extremely proactive with promoting spay/neuter in Waukesha

County, with the result being a steady decline in our adoptable canine population. As an animal welfare organization, we made the decision to help dogs from out of state, while still keeping our local dogs as our top priority. HAWS began working with a rescue group in Alabama and in February began transporting young, healthy adoptables. The result has been truly heartwarming, as we are providing wonderful homes for dogs that otherwise might not have been saved. We are seeing a wonderful parade of mostly mixed breed puppies and young adults. The community is adopting at record numbers: one day two pups were chosen by adopters before their information was even entered into our computers! This is bringing more and more people to HAWS, some of whom are adopting not only dogs but cats and other critters as well.

June meant our annual Kitten Shower and again, the media!! One local station brought their crew to HAWS a few days in advance to cover not only our kitten population for several hours, but Kids 'N Critters Summer Day Camp as well! The day of the shower was even more wonderful as we adopted out more than 30 cats/kittens that weekend and were again tripping over the media, the community and many, many donations. The HAWS' team was the BEST – everyone was a winner this great day! But, we are still working with a serious cat over-population issue. In our Executive Director's Letter, Lynn Olenik shares information on what HAWS is planning and the strides we are making in providing loving homes for our feline friends.

July 22 was a day to party! HAWS celebrated our 50th Anniversary – and what a grand and glorious event!! More news media, more visitors to HAWS and, most importantly, more animals adopted by great families. Our wonderful Friends of HAWS provided delicious food, and we enjoyed live music,

birthday cake and smiling faces everywhere. A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all for your hard work and creative activities. A good time was had by all: **YOU ARE THE BEST!!**

The events of this past year very clearly illustrate the need for an expanded facility as a priority for this organization. HAWS is an Open Admission shelter; we never turn down a family or animal in need! Lynn’s letter also outlines our future plans and brings everyone up to speed on HAWS’ status and the bigger picture.

I probably sound like a broken record, but each year and every situation HAWS encounters gives me yet another reason to work with this wonderful organization. When I started volunteering it was going to be “just something to fill my time.” Twenty years later HAWS has become a huge part of who I am, and not having this great place in my life is unimaginable. My life is enriched by each staff member, each volunteer and each and every animal I encounter. They bring a smile to my face...often I laugh out loud, too!

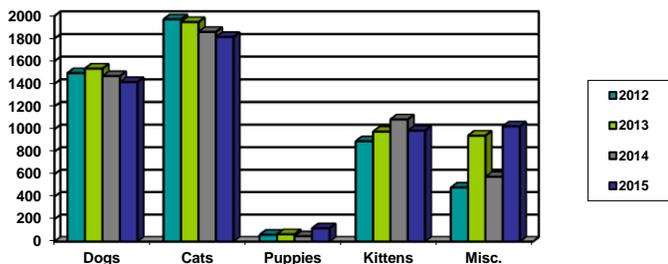
As I always say, “What a wonderful thing to smile each and every day of my life.” The animals give me that joy, and I am truly blessed!!!

Cindy Pechanach
President, Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Our strategic plan kept us focused on key initiatives this year. Rather than getting lost in “chinchilla dust,” we made strides forward with our programs and departments towards many positive outcomes for the animals.

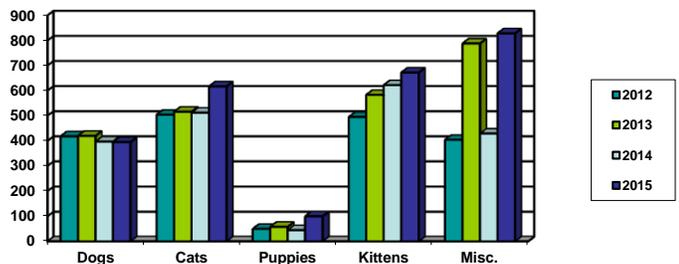
Incoming Animals



Highlights from the year included:

- We again lowered the number of **incoming stray felines**, to 799 in 2015 – a drop of 41.8%, and down from 1373 in 2004! The number continues to steadily decrease due to Project Guardian and targeting communities that have more outdoor cats.
- Even with that decreased number, **adoptions were up**, with 1289 felines finding loving homes. We also adopted out 495 canines and 828 small animals (chinchillas included).
- **Animal rescue** assisted 656 wild animals and 603 lost pets made it back home safely, including 2 sheep and a tortoise!
- **Educational programs** were attended by 7274 people, with 770 students attending **Kids ‘N Critters Camp**. Also, 641 pets participated in our **pet training classes** (dogs, puppies and kittens). Special programs were held about rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and chinchillas! Our 1:1 counseling program for pets needing behavior modification also saw growth.
- We launched **HAWS’ Companion Circle**, for those who have included or plan to include HAWS in their wills. Planned gifts make a huge difference, adding financial stability to our future. We do not know all of you, but we would like to be able to thank you now. If you are interested in learning more about the Companion Circle, please let me know!

Adoption Rates



Our biggest challenge has been the volume of cats and kittens brought to the shelter each day. **PROJECT GUARDIAN** spayed/neutered another 426 outdoor cats this year, thanks to a donation from the ASPCA. But, where spay/neuter is making an impact, it is not our only initiative. We formed a **CAT COALITION** of local animal resources (shelters, national humane partners, veterinarians,

humane officers) to look at all aspects of incoming cats and options to solve this problem. Elmbrook Humane Society has stepped up and taken over 200 of our cats since February. Dane County Friends of Ferals has helped with education, sharing their successful placement methods for feral cats. We are bringing a national speaker to Waukesha to meet with our municipal leaders, to see if we can further reduce local outdoor breeding populations.

Through **ANNIE'S FUND** we were able to help 51 animals whose injuries and illnesses surpassed the capabilities of our small clinic, getting care from local veterinarians. Donations totaling \$13,469 were designated to this life-saving program! The number of animals in foster care reached over 180 animals at one point this year – including cats, dogs and small animals. The **Behavior Department's MOD SQUAD** just graduated its 1000th dog. By addressing medical and behavior issues, expanding foster care and having effective spay/neuter programs, euthanasia rates have dropped 59.6% for cats and 61.5% for dogs in 10 years. With both dogs and small animals, we again meet the published no-kill criteria of less than 10% euthanized. We also lowered our euthanasia rate for cats by 10% in the last 12 months to 26.1%. Yes, we have a ways to go, but our progress has been tremendous.

We've launched our **FACILITY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN!** The economic downturn in 2008 forced construction of a scaled-back expansion at that time. Our community, as we expected, has continued to grow and now the current expansion plan addresses areas of need both for now and for our growing community's future.

- **SNIP Clinic** surgeons and technicians crowd into a space designed for half the surgical needs. We provide for our animals, low income residents of the county, rescue groups and outdoor cats. The new area will have a safer, designated entrance for our clinic patients who often can be young, unruly and large. A check out area and an exam room will all be centrally located and surgical suites added to allow for the increase in volume and ease of service.
- Our successful **Behavior Department** was added in 2010. Dogs in our Mod Squad program stay in residence at HAWS longer while volunteers work to fix challenging

behaviors. We have increased the number of 1:1 animal behavior consults, which are free to our alumni pets. A work room, specific to the Behavior Department, is being added so they will no longer get “bumped” from area to area due to the expanding and valuable children's education programs.

- **Educational** programs are expanding, needing more room. Space is needed for better scheduling of all educational programs, especially after school programs. Reinforcing humane values has a positive impact throughout our area: Children get a chance to **learn** responsibility, respect and compassion for all living beings at HAWS. In addition, they get the opportunity to **practice** nurturing and demonstrate empathy and compassion in a safe setting.
- **Animal Rescue** needs are expanding, as we soon will reach 400,000 residents in Waukesha County. We now have 4 vehicles available for animal pickup and transport. Also important is an increased need for flexible space for animal care for a variety of species, especially for hoarding cases. We now take in more wayward **livestock**, particularly chickens. An aging population means temporary emergency care is needed for the pets of seniors. **Safe Keep** pets will benefit from quieter, separate accommodations.

Volunteers put in over 45,000 hours of service – through rain, snow, heat, cold and chinchilla mania. Without them, we could not function, and **I extend my deepest thanks to all** of them. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. This year, all of you – from the Friends to greeters to our business supporters to those who handle animals – kept the staff sane. Without you, the staff may not have made it through the “Great Chinchilla Occupation of 2015.” And a special thank you to the **staff**, for maintaining professionalism and motivation throughout one of our busiest years! As we close out a successful year, we see many good things in view for our future.

Lynn Olenik
Executive Director



HAWHS Mission Statement:
The Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha County leads the community in animal welfare and assures sanctuary for animals in need.

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Staff Members

Administration

Lynn Olenik, *Executive Director*
Mark Hess, *Field Services & Facilities Manager*
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Jennifer Smieja, *Development Coordinator*
Jessica Pinkos, *Donor Relations Manager*
Nichole Janny, *Event Coordinator*
Ann Foley, *Assistant*

SNIP Clinic – Spay/Neuter Initiative Program

Kolleen Meyer, DVM
Kenneth J. Wolterman, DVM
Cassie Gugin, *Clinic Manager*
Andres Garcia, *Clinic Tech/Adoption Services/Instructor*
Beth Gomon, *Clinic Tech/*
Alysha Hansen, *Clinic Tech/Kennel Lead*
Scott Neis, *Clinic Tech*

Adoption Services

Whitney Callies, *Adoption Lead*
Johanna Schmanski, *Mobile Adoptions Coordinator*
Kristie Benjamin, *Adoptions Lead*
Nichole Janny
Joelle Malzahn, *Mobile Adoptions*
Travis Neils
Angela Ng
Rachel Stanich
Susan Suleski, *Mobile Adoptions*
Susan Verden
Kim Wasser

Education Department

Khris Erickson, *Humane Educator*
Megan Katzuba, *Education Assistant*
Cara Farrow
Rae Farrow

Animal Care

Alysha Hansen, *Kennel Lead*
Kim Kalczynski, *Kennel Lead*
Jaime Merkel, *Kennel Lead*
Jessica Brach
Stephanie Brandt
Cassie Cournoyer
Amber Grezinski
Emily Johnson
Ally Kerner
Megan Marszalkowski
Kelsea Patterson
Ciara Ridley
Caitlin Schneider
Soiren Santiago
Savannah Walczak
Trina Washebeck
Anna Woerpel

Behavior Department

Claudeen McAuliffe, Ph.D., CAP-2, CDDBC; *Manager*
Leann Boucha, *Assistant Manager*
Ashley Haley, *Pet Training Class Administrator/Instructor*
Kirsten Watry, *Internship Administrator/Instructor*
Jane Arends, *Instructor*
Andres Garcia, *Instructor*
Roxane Grahek, *Instructor*
Sandy McAnany, *Instructor*

Road Response Team

Jessica Brach
Andres Garcia
Alysha Hansen
Johanna Schmanski