

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ANIMALS

In 1965 a group of concerned Waukesha County residents realized there was a need for a county-wide humane society and centralized shelter, where homeless, stray and injured animals could seek refuge and a second chance. The Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha County – HAWS – was born.

In 1969, HAWS' first shelter opened. But additions to the building came quickly as needs continued to rise! Expansions in 1973, 1979, 1991, 2009 and 2012 included specialized wards for dogs, cats and small animals; classrooms, training and consult areas; a spay/neuter suite and medical clinic; all illustrating HAWS' dedication to community education and the welfare of *all* of our animal friends.

Today HAWS accommodates 8,000 animals and welcomes 35,000 human visitors each year. As an open admissions shelter, HAWS accepts animals regardless of age, health, temperament or breed. As a full service humane society, HAWS offers programs and services that promote responsible pet ownership and prevent animal abuse and neglect – in our community and beyond.

Building on this strong foundation, HAWS' expansions and renovations ensure our facility will continue to meet the needs of our community. In 2015, HAWS again embarks on a facility expansion, reflecting the growth in our area and ever-evolving nature of our work to make life better for our community's pets and their people.

The Humane Animal Welfare Society: Building a SOCIETY that's Humane.



PROGRAM GROWTH AND THE NEED FOR CONTINUED EXPANSION

HAWS continues to grow, as does our community! During the Humane Animal Welfare Society's last strategic plan, completed in 2014, key initiatives were put in place to help us meet the needs of both the animals and people of the Waukesha County area.

- The popularity of **HAWS' education programs** – particularly for children – has meant substantial growth. Kids 'N Critters Summer Camp had 712 attendees in 2014, compared to 298 campers back in 2006! Attendance at general education programs has increased by 138%. Five additional age-appropriate programs have been added to teach humane sentiments such as nurturing, empathy and compassion to children. We work with grade school, middle school, high school and college students in the shelter. We conduct a variety of off-site visits, too, bringing HAWS' message even to preschoolers!
- **HAWS' Spay-Neuter Clinic** is operating at capacity – even somewhat past what is comfortable. In 2014, our veterinarians performed 3,251 spay/neuter surgeries in comparison to 2,550 in 2006. This is an increase of 27%! One of the largest challenges in our community is the number of cats annually brought in to our shelter; outdoor cats continue to breed at an alarming rate. We have an aggressive goal to end cat overpopulation in Waukesha County in the next 10 years.
- **HAWS' Behavior Department** has shown significant growth since its creation in 2009. This dedicated group is tasked with addressing the need for owners to train their pets and to fix challenging behaviors, especially with dogs. We now also offer Kitty College, a socialization program giving kittens a great start at a less-stressful life. Work space is at a premium, as volunteers juggle animal socialization with training, behavior modification and enrichment activities or exercise. Often seminars and programs need to be delayed due to space and schedule constraints.
- HAWS has been able to increase the services offered to our local municipalities. We are now rescuing stray animals and sick or injured wildlife with increased efficiency due to the number of staff and vehicles. Our **Animal Rescue Team** is on the road 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- Sheltering has now gone beyond just taking in and adopting out animals. We are now able to use **behavior modification to address many problem behaviors**. This often means animals stay in residence at HAWS longer than in the past, requiring roomier, less stressful accommodations. Due to generous donations in support of **Annie's Fund**, our shelter veterinary staff also is now able to **treat and repair many medical conditions** that in the past would have ended a pet's life. To complete these procedures efficiently, and in the most cost effective manner, requires additional space in the clinic and recovery areas.

The next HAWS facility expansion has now been planned, targeting specific areas to address these issues and the needs of our animals.