



Romeo, adopted May 2023

2023

Annual Report

make
happy @ happen
the Humane
society
Tacoma & Pierce County



Lady, adopted Aug 2023

The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County was founded by a handful of compassionate community members and has grown into one of the state's largest animal welfare agencies. Each year, we find loving homes for more than 6,000 pets, reunite over 1,100 animals with their overjoyed owners, and provide care for thousands more in our community. Additionally, we offer several comprehensive programs and resources, including Spay/Neuter & Wellness Vouchers, a monthly Vaccine & Wellness Clinic, a Pet Food & Supply Pantry, behavior advice, and private rehoming services.

Message From the Board President

Dear friends,

As we look back on 2023, we are filled with gratitude for the progress we've made together. Our commitment to animal welfare and community well-being has driven meaningful change for both pets and people.

In 2023, we welcomed Leslie Dalzell as the shelter's new chief executive officer, marking the start of a new chapter filled with remarkable achievements. During a fee-waived adoption event from July 18-23, 287 shelter pets found homes, breaking our record for the most adoptions in a single week. Leading up to this event, the shelter also set another milestone by performing 53 spay and neuter surgeries in a single day, ensuring that as many animals as possible were ready for adoption. These accomplishments are a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire team and the tremendous support of our community.

We proudly launched our Three-Year Strategic Plan, outlining our areas of focus and objectives through 2026. This plan includes revised mission and vision statements that reflect the full scope of our work, emphasizing our commitment to progressive animal welfare and meaningful community impact. With this strategic direction, we're positioned to make a lasting impact on both the animals in our care and the community we serve.

We also introduced an appointment-based intake system, empowering community members to help reunite lost pets with their families, allowing us to focus resources on animals with no other options.

In collaboration with the Tacoma City Council, we successfully advocated for the passing of the cat declawing ban, making Tacoma the first city in the state to end this inhumane practice. Our shelter staff played a key role in drafting and advocating for this legislation, ensuring a better future for countless cats.

Our Dogs Playing for Life program has flourished, providing dogs in the shelter with essential socialization and playtime, supporting their well-being during their time at the shelter, and finding them loving adoptive homes where they will continue to thrive.

As we celebrated our 135th anniversary, we were reminded of our rich history and the countless lives we've touched over the years. We ended the year with a historic \$150,000 matching donation campaign thanks to the Dimmer Family Foundation, amplifying every contribution and allowing us to enter the new year with even greater support.

These accomplishments reflect the resilience of the animals we serve and the passion of our staff, volunteers, and supporters. Thank you to everyone who contributed throughout the year. Together, we're creating lasting change for animals and the people who love them.

Gratefully,



Ann Graves
Board President



Message From the CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering support we've received from our community. It is this generosity and dedication—shown by our partners, donors, volunteers, and staff—that sustains our mission and helps us navigate the ever-evolving needs of our shelter and the community we serve. Since stepping into the role of CEO, I have been continually inspired by this collective commitment, especially as we face growing challenges and opportunities.

In 2023, we celebrated the 135th anniversary of our shelter—a milestone that speaks to our community's enduring compassion for animals. However, alongside this achievement, we have experienced a sharp rise in demand for our services. Over the past three years, our animal intake has increased by more than 18%, with 1,400 additional pets receiving veterinary care in 2023.

The need for spay/neuter and wellness services has also surged, with local clinic waitlists stretching up to six months. While our veterinary spaces are fully utilized, they limit our ability to meet the growing demands of the community.

Using our Three-Year Strategic Plan as our roadmap, we are committed to addressing these challenges head-on as we move into this new era of growth and innovation. To address our capacity constraints and the growing demand for animal welfare resources, we are rolling out a Mobile Veterinary Unit. By bringing veterinary care directly to communities that need it most, the fully equipped hospital on wheels will help keep pets healthy, with their families, and out of the shelter.

But providing care is just one piece of the puzzle of ensuring pets remain with the people who love them and out of the shelter. Pet guardians also need daily essentials—pet food and supplies. In 2023, our Pet Food & Supply Pantry distributed over 90,000 pounds of pet food over 7,000 pets in need in the community, and we are already on track to surpass that in 2024, serving over 10,000 pounds of pet food each month.

Thanks to the unwavering dedication of our staff, volunteers, and generous supporters, we're able to be the pet resource center our community can rely on. While the road ahead is not without obstacles, the unwavering support of our community gives me confidence that we can overcome them.

As we move into the next year, our collective efforts will continue to save lives and improve outcomes for the pets and people we serve. With your continued support, we can pave the way for extraordinary accomplishments together.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Leslie Dalzell

Chief Executive Director



Animal Care



9,135
animals cared for



7,044
animals placed



1,152
lost pets reunited with their families



Thomas' Story

Days before Christmas, Thomas was discovered curled up on a doorstep in a Tacoma neighborhood, suffering from wounds on his hips and paws and battling severe hypothermia. A compassionate community member brought him to our shelter, where our veterinary team sprang into action, providing lifesaving fluids and warming blankets. Slowly but surely, Thomas began to regain his strength. He was placed in a nurturing foster home to continue his recovery. Today, he has a new, loving family to call his own.



Veterinary Services

5,207
spays and neuters



19,237
lifesaving surgeries and treatments



19,423
vaccines provided



13,355
veterinary exams



Foster and Volunteer Programs



592

active foster homes



2,264

pets that received foster care



451

active volunteers



142,143

volunteer and foster hours





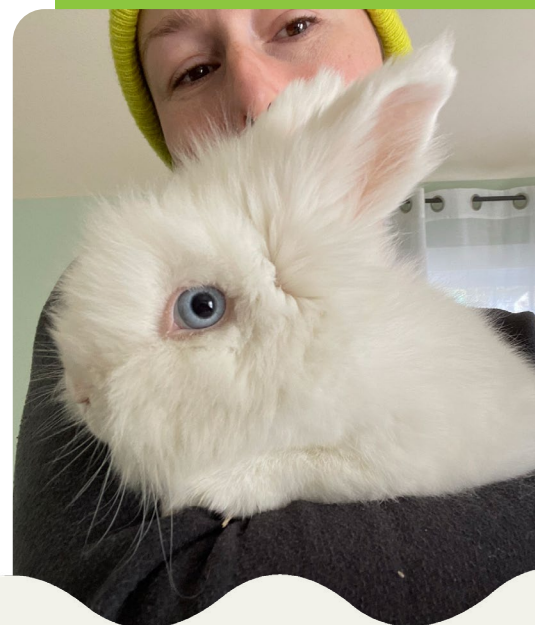
A Record Rescue: **246 Rabbits in One Day and the** **Community That Made a Difference**

In February, our animal care team, alongside Pierce County Animal Control, rescued a record 246 rabbits from an unsafe, overcrowded environment. It was an overwhelming day, but through dedication and compassion, these rabbits received expert care at the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County.

With our resources stretched thin, we called on our community for help. Thanks to the incredible support from donors, fosters, and volunteers, over 140 rabbits were placed in loving foster homes within just four days, making room for more animals in need of our care.

Sam was one of the fosters who, moved by the news of our largest single-day intake, opened her home to three rabbits. “I couldn’t imagine how they’d be cared for without fosters,” she said. Her fosters, Megaladon and Chaos, found new homes, while McBean quickly became a cherished member of her family. “McBean enjoys a life of leisure with our cats and favorite veggies,” Sam shared.

We are profoundly grateful to all who stepped up during this unprecedented challenge. Thanks to our community, every single one of the 246 rabbits has now found a loving home.



Pet Support Program



5,214
counseling calls



7,884
families/pets helped to stay together



86,819
pounds of pet food distributed



"They have been there when I needed help. They work so hard and help so many—not just the animals, but the people who own animals when they can't afford certain expenses. I'm very grateful to them."

- Grateful Community Member

Humane Education Program

2,654
community members reached



78
school visits, events,
and presentations



At the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County, we are dedicated to empowering community members of all ages with the knowledge and values to create a more compassionate world for animals. Through our Humane Education Program, we partner with schools and community organizations to offer engaging presentations and activities that foster compassion and respect for both animals and people.

"Thank you for the wonderful presentation, tour, gifts, and service to our community! It was heartwarming to see the dedication by so few for the many voiceless pets that are under the tender care of the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County."

- Grateful Community Member



Support From Our Community



5.2 million
total funds raised



11,625
donors



1,752
Loyal Friends Club monthly donors



Grim, adopted June 2023

Thank You to Our Donors

We are deeply grateful to all the donors who have generously supported our life-changing work this year. Your compassion and unwavering advocacy allow us to provide the highest quality care for Pierce County's most vulnerable pets and help unite them with loving families.

Your kindness transforms the lives of not only the pets in our shelter but also the families who welcome them, helping to make our community a healthier, happier place for everyone.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your love and support.

2023 Shelter Stats

The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County takes in animals no matter their age, breed, medical issues, or behavioral problems. Animals are only humanely euthanized if they are terminally ill and suffering or exhibit behavior that is dangerous to public safety.

Shelter Admissions

Strays and Owner Relinquishments

3,418 Dogs
4,676 Cats
598 Critters
8,692 Total

Transfers In

63 Dogs
61 Cats
5 Critters
129 Total

8,821 Total Animal Admissions

Outcomes

Adoptions

2,245 Dogs
3,989 Cats
400 Critters
6,634 Total

Return to Owner

957 Dogs
170 Cats
25 Critters
1,152 Total

Transfer Out

118 Dogs
170 Cats
122 Critters
410 Total

Returned to Field

126 Cats
126 Total

8,322 Total Live Outcomes

Other Outcomes

396 Shelter Euthanasia
1,178 Owner Requested Euthanasia
164 Died or Lost in Care
1,738 Total Outcomes

93.6%

Live Release Rate*

Live Release Rate is calculated by (total live outcomes) divided by (total outcomes minus owner requested euthanasia).



Horton, adopted June 2023

Financials

2023 Operating Revenue

Pet Licenses & Fees	\$ 550,224
Interest & Dividends	\$ 71,783
Donations, Bequests & Grants	\$5,264,377
Animal Sheltering Contract	\$ 1,827,920
Adoption	\$ 695,995
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 8,410,299

2023 Other Revenue

Unrealized Gain on Investments	\$ 1,682,114
Other/Miscellaneous	\$ 45,296
Total Other Revenue	\$ 1,727,410

Total Revenue **\$ 10,137,709**

2023 Expenses

Shelter Operations	\$ 7,250,653
Administration	\$ 394,678
Fundraising	\$ 900,900
Total Expenses	\$ 8,546,231

2023 Net Assests

Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 13,768,620
With Donor Restrictions	\$ 11,412,384
Total Net Assets	\$ 25,181,004



Pollie, adopted Oct 2023



Ash, adopted March 2023



Humane Heritage

The Humane Heritage Foundation recognizes members who have named the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County in their wills or have made other planned giving arrangements. The Humane Heritage Foundation honors those individuals whose spirit of caring will endure into the future.



Patty Aaby
Gail Adcock
Edith Andres
Oona Austin
LaRaine Baker
Julianne Banerjee
Karen L. Bell
Karen Bellamy
Miel Bernath
Aiko Bevans
Jill Blacklock
Dale C. Bowden
Paul and Leslie Brantner
Cathi Brouillette
Bruce and Laura
Buckmaster
Helen Chamberlin
Ellie Chaplin
Cheri Chavez
Ted Christensen III
Helen Cole
Bonnie Coombs
Terrance and Mary Corak
Alice Couch
Lee Coughy
Ann Crawford
Jolene D. Davis
Dottie Dedrick
Joan Dobesh
Penny Drost
William Durham
Robin and Edward Echtele
Craig and Laurie Ekman
Earl Erickson
Barbara Faulkner
Joan Faye
Susan Fichter
John Fields
Robert and Natalie Findlay
Laura Fox
Eugene and Beverly Fries
Sarah Garmire
William and Linda Gazecki
Heidi Geier
Kitty Gibbs

Karen Good
Suzanne Goodin
Margo Gooding
Douglas Grahame
Charles Granoski
Janek and Irene Gregolinski
Kaylee M. Guetle
Becky Halkoski
Katherine Hamilton
Jami V. Hampton
David and Barbara Hamry
Henry and Anna Hanson
Lyle Hanson
Shannon Heinrich
Amy Henderson
Lynne and Terry Hoffman
Fred and Margie Hoheim
Glenda Hollander
Kerry Howell
Lt. Col. Priscilla J. Huber (Ret.)
Martha Jacob
Christina Jacobs
Patty Jalbert
Donald Jobe
Judy Johnson
Maria Johnson
Marjory Jones-Smith and
Larry Smith
Kathy Joyce
Julie Kaczmark
Maryann Kalapus
Jim and Eileen Kelley
Amy Slagle-Kelly and
Timothy M. Kelly
Helen M. Keuper
Charlene Kidwell
Patricia Kilpatrick and
Darrell Johnson
Hong and Misuk Kim
Roy and Susan Kimbel
Mary and Jerry Kinder
Dorothy and Grant King
Sieglinde Kirchner
Sally Kloempken
Dirk and Jean-Marie Klover

Karen Kolley
Irene Koth
Christine Koukles
Sonja Kreshel-Gallaway
Lincoln T. Kroft
Dan Kyler
Barbara Ladd
Linda Langhelt-Procter
Jan Lassen
Michael and Barbara
Lawson
Kimberlie and Vance Lelli
Betty and Jerry Lindsay
Leonard Long
Leslie S. Magno
Richard Marshall
Terry Martino
Jasmine May
Inez McCorkle
Vicki McCormick
Doris McFall
Melissa McGinnis
Kelly L. McGinnis
Karla McLane
Joyce Messer
Linda Miller
Patricia Miraldi
Andrea Moawad
Susan Moblo
Litera Mozee-Singleton and
Charles Singleton
Christine and Scott Murdock
Sonja Narcisse
Nancy Nelson
Darron and Susan Nelson
Han Nguyen
Jamie Nix-Skolrood and
John Skolrood
Jon and Kimberly Nordby
Elli Oleole
Kathleen and Rick Olson
Stanford E. Opdyke
Joan and Michael O'Shea
David Owens
Darrell Parham

Pamela Paton
Manuela Pearson
Thomas and Celia Peltier
Bonnie Petrequin
Gloria Phillips
Heather M. Poore
Margaret Rafn
Shelly Raihala
Barry and Mary Rickert
Terry and Wallis Roarke
Stephanie Roberts
Luz M. Romero
Marie T. Ruud
Raven Safire
Sandra Schaefer
Jan Schwenger
Kathy and Joe Scorcio
Joni Sensel
Susan Seykota-Smith
Karyn Whitacre
Geneva K. Sinclair
Elizabeth Sioda
David and Kathryn Smith
Christine A. Smith-Cobb
Cynthia Sonich
Jacqueline M. Sonnenfeld
Jann and Brian Sonntag
Rich Sterbenz
David Stewart
MaryLynn Stone
Warren Stuart
June Summerville
Mark and Penny Swanson
Jamie Thomas
Dr. Pamela Transue and Dr.
Stuart Grover
Barbara and Pat Van Haren
Tamera and Brian Walsh
Lawrence and Donna White
Penelope Williams
Yolanda and Eric Williams
Karyn Whitacre
Ursula H. Wolff
Chong S. Woodman

2023 Board of Directors

Ann Graves - President
Gail Leese - Vice President
Bob Zawilski - Treasurer
Gemma Zanowski - Secretary

Shannon Bell-Peterson
Merrill Kelley
Kyle Lauderdale
Amanda Loewen
Nate Soper
Don Swanson
Jim Taylor



Winnie, adopted Aug 2023



2023 Leadership Team

Leslie Dalzell -	Chief Executive Officer
Jennifer Bennett-	Chief Veterinary Officer (Feb. - Dec. 2023)
Ashley Taulbee -	Chief Philanthropy Officer
Leah Turner -	Chief Operating Officer (Jan. -Aug. 2023)
Andrew Boitano -	Director of Finance (June - Dec. 2023)
Christopher Matthews -	Director of Human Resources (May - Dec. 2023)

Tsunami, adopted Feb 2023



2608 Center St., Tacoma, WA 98409
thehumanesociety.org
253.383.2733

Shelter Hours
Monday - Sunday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Adoptions closed on Monday

The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County is a non-profit organization that relies on the generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations to advance our mission. Our loyal donors are vital to our success and our ability to provide the best possible care for the animals we serve. For more ways to give, please visit our website at thehumanesociety.org.

Ruby, adopted July 2023

