

Celebrating 125 Years of Helping Animals in Our Community

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13



MISSION: To work in and with our community to provide leadership in the humane treatment of all animals, to address the causes of animal suffering, to encourage people to take responsibility for their animal companions and to provide care for animals who are neglected, abused, exploited, stray or homeless.

Providing a Safe Haven

The Ottawa Humane Society never turns away an animal in need.

Last year, the OHS took in 10,304 animals. This number includes 6,791 cats, 2,062 dogs, 524 small animals, 922 wildlife admissions and five livestock and/or reptile admissions.

Of those animals, 6,039 were brought to the shelter as strays, 2,210 were surrendered by owners who could no longer care for them, and 254 were transferred from other shelters.

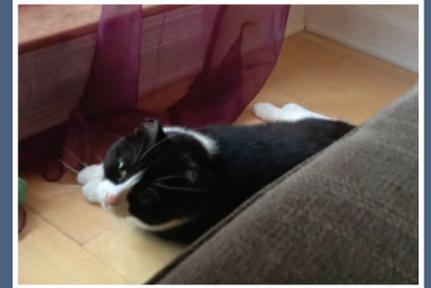
Just 5.8 per cent of stray cats were claimed by their owners while 54 per cent of dogs brought to the OHS were claimed by their owners.

Squeakers's Story

Squeakers was brought to the OHS as a stray last spring. He was in rough shape, with a frostbitten tail and ears and a wound on his neck. Despite his severe injuries, the affectionate cat purred through his first veterinary examination.



Squeakers required a lot of TLC before he could be placed in a new home. His neck wound was infected, he developed an upper respiratory infection (URI), his frostbitten ears and tail had to be partially amputated, he had ear mites, needed to be neutered, and he required dental surgery.



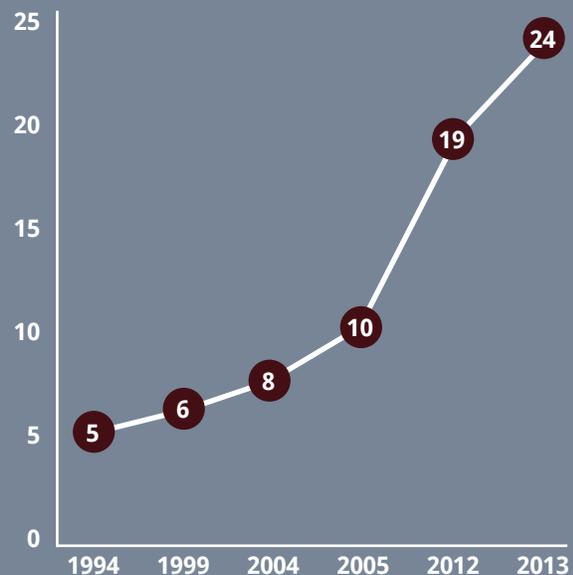
After 63 days at the OHS, four surgeries, countless bandage changes, wound flushes and that nasty bout of URI, Squeakers won the heart of two visitors to the Adoption Centre. He now spends his days at his new home chasing his favourite cat toys – kitty-sized soccer balls.

Finding Forever Homes

With the help of our supporters and our community, we found new homes for 3,602 animals last year. There were 2,235 animals adopted from our West Hunt Club Road Adoption Centre and 77 placed through the Partners in Placement program. There were also 90 special needs adoptions.

Our Pet Adoption Location (PAL) program, created in 1994, found homes for 1,367 animals last year. That's a 33.9 per cent increase from the 2011/2012 fiscal year. The OHS now has partnerships with 24 pet stores from Kanata to Orleans, a number that has grown from 19 in just one year. Since the program's inception, more than 21,000 OHS animals have found homes through PAL.

Growth in PAL locations from 1994 to present



Saving Lives at the OHS Clinic

Veterinarians performed 3,764 surgeries on animals in the care of the OHS last year. That's a 16 per cent increase from the year before.



Volunteer Veterinarians

Last year, volunteer veterinarians donated 385.5 hours to the OHS, performing life-saving services from spays and neuters to leg amputations and specialist consultations.



Raya was one of the animals whose life was saved by the dedication of our volunteer veterinarians. The boxer was hit by two cars last September as family members watched helplessly. The driver didn't even slow down.

Raya's owners couldn't afford treatment so they surrendered her to the OHS to get the emergency care she needed. A consultation from a volunteer orthopedic surgeon found that Raya could avoid surgery if she went to an experienced foster family and continued to be treated with pain medication. She would need regular examinations by the OHS veterinarian to monitor her progress.



At her last exam, vets found that Raya's pelvis had healed but she was still showing early signs of moderate hip dysplasia. A second consultation from the volunteer orthopedic surgeon confirmed that Raya will require lifetime management for the condition but that she can still have a good quality of life. Last December, Raya got an extra special Christmas present: a new forever home!

Preventing the Suffering of Unwanted Pets

The OHS is working with our community to prevent pet overpopulation and to encourage responsible pet ownership. To help tackle the problem, the OHS spays or neuters all animals before sending them home to their forever families. This year, veterinarians performed spay or neuter surgeries on 2,915 animals in the care of the OHS. That's a 13.7 per cent increase from the year before.

Of those procedures, 1,574 were pediatric sterilizations. It had once been common practice to wait until animals were at least six months old before performing the procedure. Now, a kitten or puppy can be sterilized as soon as it weighs one kilogram.



Rescue and Investigation Services

1,143 Total number of investigations

1,608 Animals rescued – an 11 per cent increase over the previous year

26 Number of people charged under the Criminal Code of Canada or the OSPCA Act. That's a 13 per cent increase in charges over the previous year.

Saving Animals from Cruelty and Neglect

The OHS rescue and investigation services team rescues sick and injured animals in emergency situations and investigates cases of cruelty and neglect. Last year, RIS agents rescued 513 domestic animals. One of those rescues saved the life of a dog named Rex.



Rex, an eight-year-old Labrador retriever mix, was found living in a neglectful home last October. Thanks to RIS agents, his owners were convicted in connection with his poor treatment. Rex has since found a happy forever home.

Although legally mandated to enforce the animal cruelty provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada, the OHS does not receive any government funding or funding from any animal welfare group and relies on donations to perform this essential community service.

Wildlife Rescues

RIS agents respond to every cry from an animal in need. Last year, agents conducted 1,095 wildlife rescues.



Included in that number were animals like a baby skunk that got tangled in a broken hockey net. An RIS agent freed him then released him near where he'd been found.



Answering the Cry for Help

The OHS is often the first place people turn to report animal cruelty, neglect or an emergency situation, such as a dog trapped in a hot car. Last year, emergency calls to the OHS increased by 11 per cent to 1,727.

One of those calls may have saved the life of a dog named Gizmo. In July 2012, an RIS agent rescued the Labrador retriever after witnesses reported he'd been locked inside a hot car for an hour. By the time the agent arrived, Gizmo was suffering heat exhaustion.

The agent recorded the temperature inside the car as 38 C. He gave Gizmo water and brought him to the shelter for an assessment. Thankfully, Gizmo recovered from his ordeal because the OHS was there to answer the call.

OHS Foster Volunteers Give Animals a Second Chance for a Bright and Healthy Future

The OHS foster program gives animals not yet ready for adoption, due to medical or behavioural issues, the chance to recover and prepare for adoption in a home environment.

Volunteers cared for cats with upper respiratory infections, chronically ill and stressed animals, nursing kittens and puppies, and pregnant pets. This year, 1,312 animals were given a second chance by a dedicated team of 248 foster volunteers.

Animals cared for by OHS foster volunteers



1,152
cats



146
dogs



13 small
animals

591
Current volunteers



22,415.5
Total volunteer hours

A Ghost Story with a Not-So-Spooky Ending

In April 2012, a fluffy white cat named Ghost was surrendered by his owner who said he could no longer care for the nine-year-old, long-haired kitty.

Ghost had an injured back leg and began suffering chronic conjunctivitis in the shelter. The eye condition is a viral infection that causes an inflammation of the tissue around the eyes.

OHS staff knew that once Ghost's stress level was reduced in a home environment, his immune system would likely get stronger and his eyes would heal.

The affectionate cat was placed in foster care and was nursed back to health by one of the OHS's dedicated volunteers.

After seven months at the OHS and in foster care, Ghost found his new forever home as a special needs adoption due to his eye condition – one of 90 adoptions last year for animals with specialized care needs.

Ghost was ready for his new family thanks to the work of the OHS's tireless foster volunteers.



Did you know?

The OHS has a few four-legged volunteers too. These dogs and cats, along with their owners, volunteer at care facilities, such as hospitals, retirement homes and rehabilitation facilities, to provide long-term residents with the benefits of animal companionship. Last year, Brightening Lives volunteers made 446 visits to 69 facilities.

Education Programs

The OHS is a community leader in encouraging responsible pet ownership and the humane treatment of all animals. Our humane education programs foster attitudes of kindness, sensitivity, appreciation and responsibility in children and adults toward all living creatures. Since moving to our larger facility in June 2011, we've been able to reach more people by growing our humane education programs.

Did you know?

The OHS offers many types of humane education programs

-  Humane education school programs
-  LEAD – Leadership Education with Adolescents and Dogs, a program designed for at-risk youth and OHS dogs
-  Adult pet education
-  Off-Leash Day Camps

Helping to create the next generation of responsible pet owners in 2012-13

185 School program presentations

4,408 Number of children reached

12 Summer program presentations

351 Number of children reached in summer program presentations

43 In-house youth tours

782 Number of people reached through in-house youth tours

Using Social Media to Spread the Message

When the OHS posts a picture of an adoptable animal on Facebook, it reaches up to 20 thousand people; the more people who see the picture, the higher the chances for an adoption.

In March, we posted a photo of Duke, who'd been at the OHS since August 2012. We asked you to share his photo to help find him a home. The photo of Duke sleeping on his bed with his beloved Kong received over one thousand shares in a few hours. Two days later, Duke was happily sleeping with his Kong at his new forever home.



1,474

Tweets per year

4,699

Twitter followers

12,516

Facebook "Likes"

1,348

Daily website visits

Make sure you follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube!

Brooke's Story

Brooke was adopted after three months at the OHS. The one-year-old whippet and Boston terrier mix was a special needs adoption because she had a skin condition called demodex. Brooke found a loving family who later brought her back to the OHS to bone up on her doggy manners at an obedience class.



Your Generosity Helped Care For Nearly 11,000 Animals Last Year

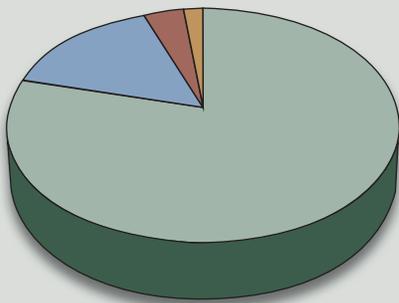
The OHS depends on the generosity of its more than 19,000 donors to fulfill its mission to help Ottawa's animals. Last year, donations from fundraising totaled \$3,173,093. That's a 9.8 per cent increase from the year before and helps the OHS do more for each and every animal.

The OHS PAW (Pre-Authorized Withdrawal) plan allows members to make regular monthly gifts. This year there were 4,254 total PAW donors. That's an increase of 11 per cent. PAW giving is the best way for you to help the animals.

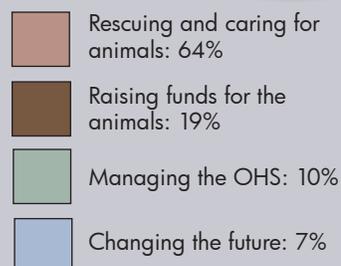
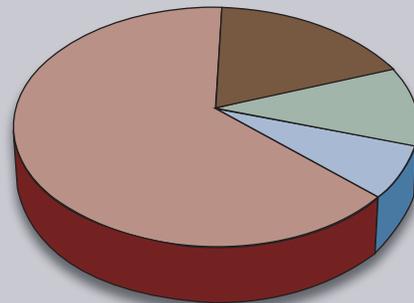
Thank you to all our donors for your support!

OHS Resource Breakdown

This chart shows where the financial resources of the OHS came from.



This chart shows how OHS resources are used to help animals.



The OHS Auxiliary continues to be a tremendous financial supporter of the animals, raising more than \$10,000 last year from bazaars, auctions, garage sales and gardening seminars.

Milo's Story

When Milo was hit by a car, his owners couldn't afford emergency treatment. An OHS ambulance scooped the injured pup off the street and brought him to the clinic for care. Vets had to remove Milo's badly broken leg but his luck turned around and he's since found his forever family. Being a tripod hasn't slowed Milo down one bit. He was even this year's Wiggle Waggle Walkathon spokesdog! Your gifts helped Milo heal and live a full life.



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