



# Willamette Humane Society's Community Impact Report

## *Our Shelter Milestones in 2019-2020*

We know that last year was challenging for so many. But despite the hardships, our community continued to support cats and dogs who needed a little extra love. We accomplished some amazing milestones in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Together, we:

- Celebrated 2,897 happy adoptions and a combined 94% save rate.
- Spayed and neutered 5,718 animals, including shelter pets, owned animals, and community cats.
- Taught more than 380 dogs (and their people) through our public behavior and training classes.
- Provided volunteer foster care for 1,430 pets throughout the year—a 30% increase from last year.
- Engaged with more than 10,000 community members in Marion and Polk Counties through our Humane Education and Outreach program.

### **More Than Just Adoptions**

When all the paperwork is complete and pets are ready to leave the shelter, it's the start of something beautiful. Families enjoy their first day together. A lifelong commitment begins. Each adoption is a testament to the life-saving

work that you make possible at WHS every day.

But your local humane society does more than just help animals get adopted. WHS returns lost pets to their owners, welcomes animals from out-of-state shelters for a second chance, and provides temporary housing for pets whose families need extra support during life or medical transitions.

- 3,854 pets taken into care
- 94% of pets brought to the shelter were saved
- 110 pets reunited with their owners
- 123 animals transferred to/from rescue partners

### **No limits on resources, time, or space**

Willamette Humane Society is here for the animals. Extensive resources of staff time, shelter space, and treatment costs are dedicated to helping successfully place pets in homes. No healthy, rehabilitable or manageable animal receive end-of-life services.

Our “Let Settle” Program helps to accomplish this goal. Cats who cannot be handled safely upon arrival at the shelter are moved to a quiet room to get acclimated before being reassessed for placement. A total of 156 animals were allowed this extra time and 96% of them found live outcomes.

### **Spay, Neuter, and Everything in Between**

The WHS Spay and Neuter Clinic provides accessible spay and neuter services for pets throughout Marion and Polk counties. The services help keep owned pets healthy, provide shelter animals a positive start in their forever homes, and help prevent pet overpopulation in our communities.



But our talented donor-funded Shelter Medical Team can perform a wide variety of medical services for shelter pets, such as dental cleanings and extractions, amputations, growth removals, and more. Thanks to the generous donations from community donors to outfit the clinic with

quality veterinary and medical equipment, pets can be treated onsite and faster than ever before. By allowing us to minimize costly off-site care, the WHS Shelter Medicine Team is the most sustainable solution to provide quality medical care for shelter pets.

- 5,178 spay and neuter surgeries
- 658 additional medical procedures
- \$20,000 saved in outside medical expenses

### **Teaching, Training, and Supporting Families**

Sit, stay, and learn with Willamette Humane Society’s community-funded Behavior and Training program.

From hands-on training to help shelter dogs master life skills, to supporting dog owners in the community with accessible, affordable training classes, the WHS Behavior and Training team worked hard to help canines become exceptional community members.



- 381 dogs attended public classes

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- 308 behavior evaluations performed
- 522 families supported through the free, public Behavior Help Line

## Time to Play and Grow



With four professional dog trainers and an amazing team of trained volunteers, shelter dogs are in good hands—or paws—at WHS. In addition to three daily walks and plenty of inside enrichment, our Behavior and Training team facilitates up to five supervised playgroups for shelter

dogs each week. The pups socialize and exercise, while our team evaluates the dogs to help understand what they'll need in forever families. Our training team is onsite seven days a week to help address behavioral issues, develop and implement individualized training programs for shelter dogs, and support staff and volunteers in training best practices.

## Volunteering Time and Fostering Change

When it comes to caring for thousands of

animals each year, our shelter volunteers become our second staff, and our foster homes become our second shelter. Dedicated and compassionate community members lend a helping hand in every part of the shelter, from socializing cats and walking dogs, to helping sort donations at the WHS Thrift Store, and assisting in the shelter's Administration Office.

- 27,168 hours of volunteer time donated
- 138 foster families

## Educating Responsible Pet Parents

The next generation of passionate pet lovers and animal advocates live right here in our community. And last year, the WHS Humane Education and Outreach program worked to bring educational resources and programming to thousands of youth—even in the midst of the COVID-19 health crisis with at-home activities and educational opportunities.

- Reached over 3,600 K-12 youth through classroom presentations and visits
- 180 shelter tour attendees—before COVID-19 occurred

*Our detailed audited financial statements are available at [whs4pets.org/report](https://whs4pets.org/report).*

