

SPEAKING OF ANIMALS

WINTER 2021



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The Humane Society of Utah is a local, independent 501(c)3 private nonprofit organization.

Our Mission

We are dedicated to the elimination of pain, fear, and suffering in all animals.

Our Vision

Our goal is to keep pets and people together, bring them together, and help move each animal to their most appropriate outcome as quickly as possible.

Speaking of Animals is a bi-annual publication of the Humane Society of Utah located at 4242 South 300 West in Murray, Utah 84107.

Photography by Utah Humane Society staff and volunteers

Cover Photo of 15-year-old Pebbles with staff member, Mary Hohl courtesy of Guinnevere Shuster.

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Our Team

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Rachel Heatley, Advocacy Director
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Tony Thacker, Animal Care Manager
Shannon Egan, Corporate Giving Manager
Kaya Nielsen, Events & Merchandise Manager
Caitlin Lisle, Humane Education Director
Guinnevere Shuster, Social Media Manager, Photographer
Lisa Burningham, Event/Corporate Volunteer Manager
Jenn Judge, Foster & Volunteer Manager
Sarah Crossland, HR Manager
Ira Epstein, Facilities Manager



From Our Executive Director

Last year was intended to celebrate the past **sixty years** that the Humane Society of Utah has been dedicated to sheltering homeless animals and creating an environment of respect, responsibility, and compassion through our programs, education, and legislation. Since our establishment in 1960, the anniversary year was meant to reflect on our success in helping hundreds of thousands of dogs, cats, small pets, and people over the decades through our lifesaving programs and services. As a year to honor the many donors, staff, and volunteers, both past and present, that have helped us along the way, we envisioned 2020 much differently than what we experienced.

Due to the global pandemic, we are quickly approaching the one-year mark for modified operations and restrictions that we would never have imagined. While we probably won't remember 2020 as the sixtieth anniversary, we can and should recognize it as a time of notable accomplishments amid incredible challenges. We adjusted and expanded progressive programs to help keep pets and people together through shelter diversion and pet retention services, made

facility renovations to provide higher-quality accommodations for the animals in our care, and even opened a much-needed affordable spay/neuter and vaccine clinic in southern Utah.

You, our dedicated supporters, rose to the challenges of 2020, and despite the hardships that we encountered as a community, you didn't forget about the animals. Our dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters confirmed that the work we do to help animals and their guardians is essential to our community, and your contribution is truly appreciated. We've made it through 2020 with newfound determination and strength of will, and we look forward to the future with hope and gratitude. Thanks to you, we can continue to **Change Their World**.

With Gratitude,

Vaughn Maurice
Executive Director



2020 Annual Report Summary

During 2020, we temporarily paused many programs due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Our services were modified to **ensure the safety and health** of our staff, volunteers, the public, and most importantly, the animals in our care and the community.

Our programs were adjusted, and we're proud to report that we not only found homes for 5,361 animals, but we worked to keep many more from entering the shelter system through pet retention and rehoming services.

We spayed and neutered 4,307 client pets (an 18% increase over 2019) and 3,189 shelter animals at our Murray Clinic, and expanded services to the St. George area. Our Humane Education Team reached more children than ever before through virtual classroom visits—a modification that will continue.

We can not measure the impact our work has had on the community or the lives that we've touched in a year, but we can proudly share the total count for the following highlights and thank everyone who contributed.


HIGHLIGHTS

Pet Retention
287 Medical
164 Behavioral
Shelter Diversion **339** Pets Rehomed




Pets Adopted 5,361:


Cats 2,897
Dogs 2,031
Rabbits 240
Small Pets 193



Fostered Pets 2,025
606 Active Foster homes
93,000 Foster Hours



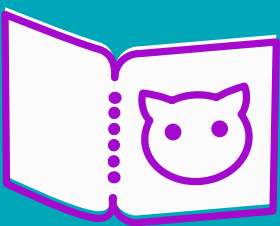
Pets Received via Transfer 2,675
(2,108 in-state, 567 out-of-state)




Shelter Volunteer Hours 11,000+




Children Educated 6,778 Total
(2,656 Online)



Spays / Neuters 7,496
Murray 556
St. George 556



Vaccinations 105,758
Murray 640
St. George 640

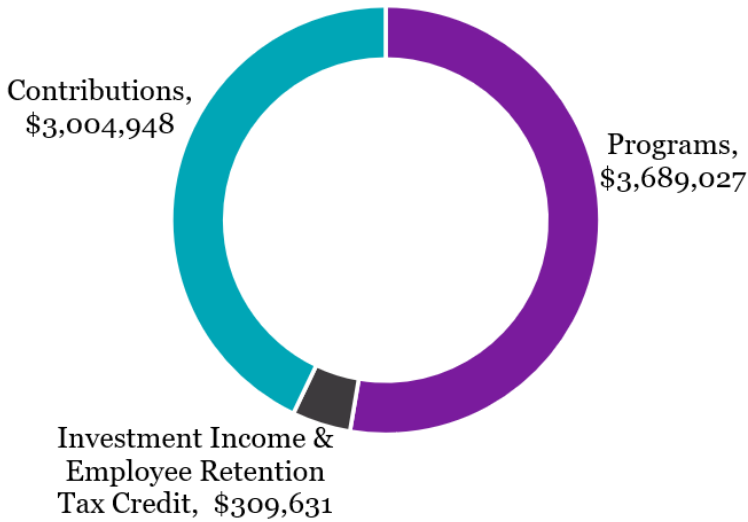


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

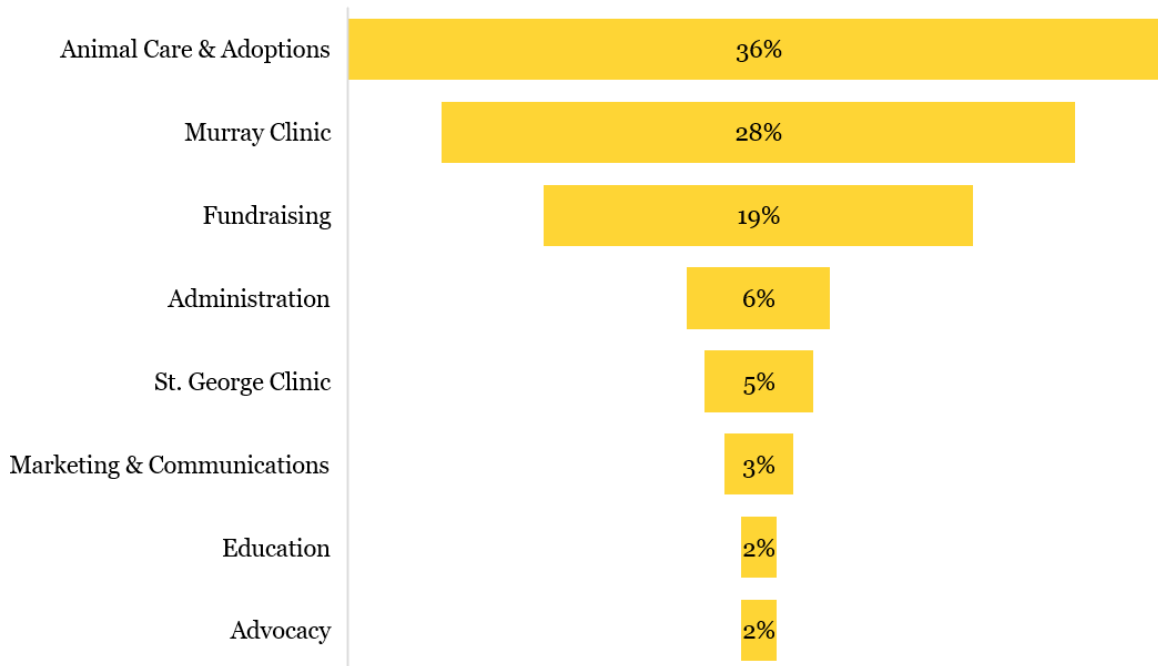
These are preliminary figures pending an independent audit of fiscal year 2020. Detailed audited financial statements are available at UtahHumane.org.

Utah Humane Society's fiscal year is January 1 to December 31.

2020 Total Revenue: \$7,387,848



2020 Total Expenses: \$6,393,991



Focusing on Shelter Diversion

People and their pets sometimes need a little help when unexpected situations arise. Especially during 2020, many people faced new challenges that impacted their ability to care for their pets. Whatever the reason, it is important to note that we do not stigmatize pet guardians who come to us for assistance. Many people love their pets and do not want to surrender them, but their animal may have unmanageable medical or behavioral needs. These people turn to the Humane Society of Utah for aid, and we're here to offer them [shelter diversion resources](#).

Shelter diversion services may include one-time medical or behavioral support that enables people and their pets to stay together. This trend in animal sheltering provides resources to allow a guardian to keep their pet if it is in the animal's best interest. We work on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the animal's needs are prioritized.

If the best solution is to rehome the pet, we can help guardians do [private pet rehoming](#)

through our website—where the animal does not need to enter a shelter but can stay in their home until they find a new loving home. Of course, we can admit them to the shelter if that is the best solution.

Pet retention is part of our vision to keep families together. By limiting the number of animals surrendered to our shelter, our resources are available for animals who genuinely need our medical and behavioral care. It allows us to transfer more animals from overcrowded shelters and provide greater medical attention.

Access to veterinary care has become incredibly difficult during the pandemic, and the Utah Humane Society has helped fill that void. Gypsy's case demonstrates what we can do in our pet retention program. **Gypsy** (shown below) is a Great Dane who had a bowel obstruction. Her guardian, Sarah, is a bartender and has four dogs. The pandemic had impacted her savings, and even though she paid for X-rays, bloodwork, and a



veterinary visit, she could not afford the estimated \$3,500–\$5,000 for Gypsy’s surgery. She was planning Gypsy’s last day when our staff called to let her know we may be able to help. Our veterinarian was able to remove the bowel obstruction and return Gypsy to her home for recovery.

For many other people, we were able to help them get their pets spayed/neutered or vaccinated when they had lost their jobs due to COVID-19. We helped one woman treat her puppy who contracted parvovirus after running out of funds from covering a few days in emergency care. Another owner could no longer care for his dog and wanted to surrender him, but the dog had behavioral issues that would’ve impacted his quality of life in a shelter. Our Admissions Team

offered him an affordable neuter surgery, and he successfully rehomed his dog through our private pet rehoming website. Our pet retention program operates on the donations made by the guardians we help and from grants. We base services on a sliding scale per case.

During 2020 when we temporarily paused many of our services, we focused on shelter diversion to keep pets safe in their homes while providing resources to guardians who needed them. This invaluable program helps families stay together and continues to grow. We look forward to helping more pets stay in their homes, find new loving homes in the least stressful way possible, and enter our shelter when needed to receive the individualized care they deserve.

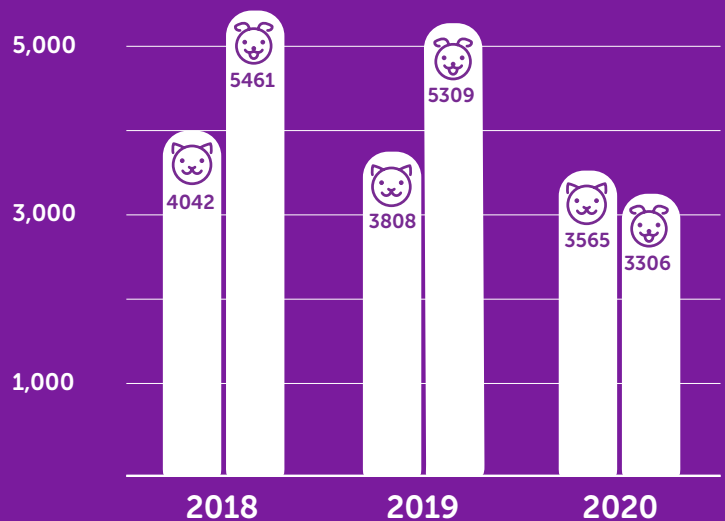
287 Medical Cases in 2020



164 Behavioral Cases in 2020



339 Private Pets Rehomed in 2020

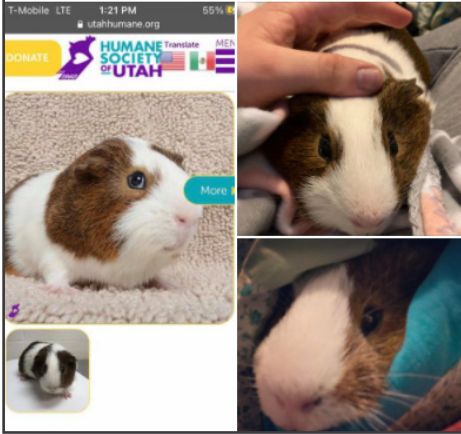


Admissions/Surrenders

Luke (13 1/2). Roxy, Dallas and Ziggy. All from Utah Humane society. They are the best! ❤️



A few weeks ago I saw the absolute cutest thing and I knew I need to go see him I told my mom we needed to go and she took me I came home with the cutest guinea pig and he absolutely loves his new home thank you to the humane society



We've adopted many furry family members from HSU over the years, but Dash is our first bunny from there. We adopted him about three years ago and just love him. ❤️

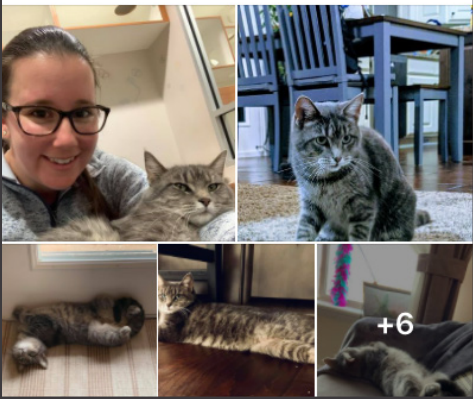


SHARE YOUR STORY

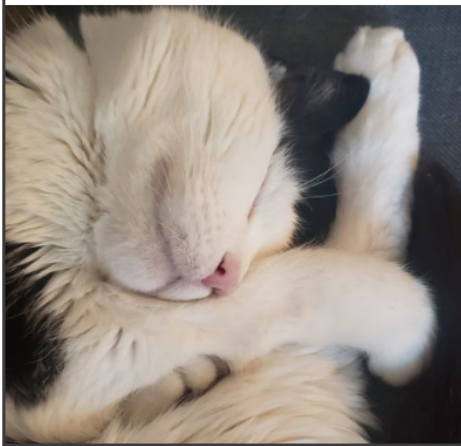
Our staff and volunteers love to see updates about the animals we've helped. Join our **Utah Humane Society Adopted Pets** Facebook group, share your photos and story, and see other success stories from fellow adopters at www.facebook.com/groups/UtahHumaneAdoptedPets.

Share how your love has changed their world!

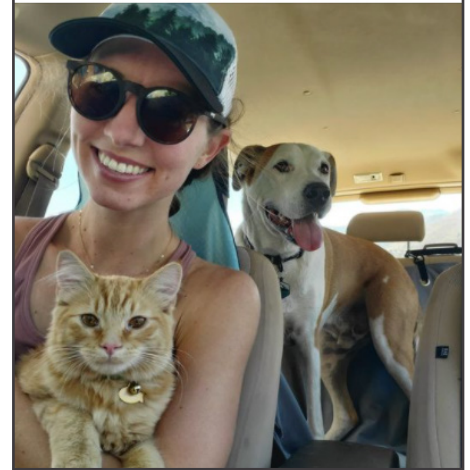
Happy adoption day and 5th "birthday" to our girl Fina! We couldn't have imagined a better cat to adopt. You are such a joy to have and we are so lucky you chose us. You are so loved. Thank you humane society for one of many wonderful years!



Coming up on 1 year since I got this now 18 year old cat Mr. Patches! Senior animals are incredible.



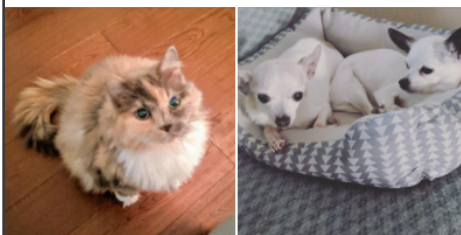
Rescued family field trip!



I will forever be grateful to the Humane Society for helping my Ollie before I rescued him. I took a picture of Ollie today and it made me tear up because I remembered the first photo of Ollie that was on the Humane Society website that made me get in my car 3 months ago. There is such a difference that it brings tears to my eyes. I am so grateful that I have been able to make that sad dog look so happy and give him the life he deserves.



We adopted our two sister dogs Hollie and Katie 5 years ago and they have been wonderful! Miss Kitty was adopted 3 years ago and she LOVES attention! We always adopt senior animals. Thanks for letting them be part of our family!



Jameson now thinks every gift is for him! We asked him this morning if Santa claus came and his tail just went crazy and he started smiling. Jameson was spoiled this year. Lots of new toys, treats, and a new utes shirt! He did also try to take his cat brother's toys.



One year ago yesterday this sweet boy chose us as his family. He is loved beyond measure. An absolutely perfect addition to our family. We love you Maverick ❤️❤️



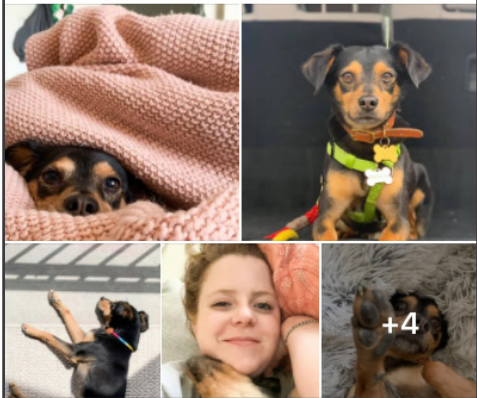
Both of our adoptees from the Utah Humane Society say Merry Christmas. Tucker has been with us since August of 2017 and Sookie since June 2020. They are my sweeties and my life has been blessed with them in it.



Happy Gotcha Day to my beautiful baby girl, Harley! It's been 6 years since I brought this beauty home, and she brings me so much joy. She is such a feisty, funny, sassy, entertaining little tuxedo, and I'm so glad she is a part of my fur family...she's makes us complete! ❤️



It's been 6 months since I adopted Franklin (no name change), and we've become the best of friends! I moved a few weeks after adopting him, and after that he seemed to understand that I was never going to leave him. His favorite things are some cozy blankets and laying in the morning sun. I don't know how I would have gotten through the last few months of quarantine and extended work from home without him. ❤️



We got Freya (originally Beautiful Girl) on March 5th of this year. She is super snuggly but seemed nervous to get on our laps and be held. I just had to share with you guys what she did tonight. She climbed up on my chest while I was lounging in the couch. This is just what I needed tonight. She stayed there and let me snuggle her for a good 15 mins. I am in heaven tonight. So glad she is trusting us more and more 🥰



Hi everyone this is Cliff! 🐶 Short for Clifford the big red dog he's 2 today. He and I love hiking, exploring, and staying active. He loves all his toys and loves playing with his friends and cousins. He was rescued a year ago today from the Utah Humane Society so like you do we celebrated his adoption/birthday! I can't imagine doing anything without my little ginger snap. He's loved and extremely spoiled! Well we are off to get a puppachino from Starbucks. Catch you guys later! ❤️❤️



We adopted Rudie (formerly Zander) on August 2! How our baby has grown.

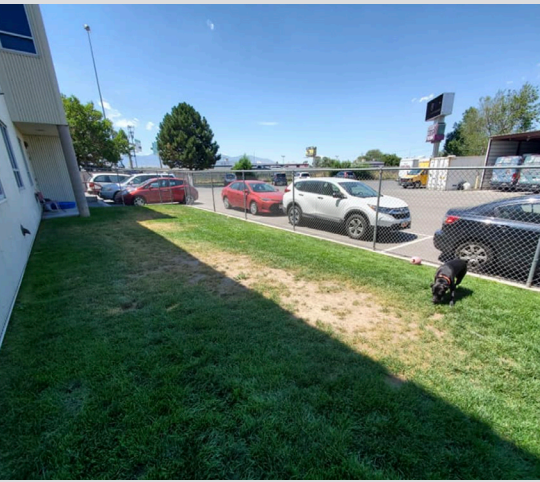


Thank you Humane Society of Utah for our boys Oso and Toro. As you can see, we have not spoiled them at all. 😊. Happy holidays to you all!



9 years ago we adopted this little 3 pound man from the Humane Society of Utah, he has the funniest personality and keeps us laughing at his "love" for his dad 🥰 But let's be honest, he's a TOTAL mama's boy 🥰🥰🥰 Happy gotcha day Champ, we love you old man ❤️❤️❤️ #17yearoldbabe #weloveyou #mamasboy





A Safe Place to Play

In December 2020, we completed the renovation of our behavior yard used by the Utah Humane Society Training and Behavior Team. Our previous yard did not offer enough privacy to work with some of our animals with special behavioral needs, such as shy, fearful, or reactive dogs.

Most of the dogs who come into our care use the behavior yard for doggie play dates to run and interact with other canine friends that they meet during their stay at our shelter. The opportunity to take a break from their kennel and exhibit natural dog behavior while socializing with people and dogs offers important enrichment that contributes to our dogs' mental well-being.

Other dogs who come into our care have not been socialized adequately and need help learning their basic dog manners. Our staff uses this space to work with these dogs and build their confidence to help them get adopted.


Through a generous grant from the **George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation**, we were able to install a roof to provide shade in summer and keep dogs protected from the snow and rain. We also installed astroturf to keep the dogs free from wet mud and eliminate lawn maintenance. We put up solid fencing to provide privacy. We're excited about our new behavior yard and love watching the dogs enjoy playtime in the area during their stay with us.

Special Thanks to

GEORGE S. AND DOLORES DORÉ ECCLES
FOUNDATION






Humane Society of Utah  EST. 1960

Wags to Wishes GALA

We're going virtual!

Dec. 12, 2020 

Join in the fun as we celebrate
60 years helping animals!

Virtual Gala Update

Perhaps the biggest challenge faced this year from a development standpoint was how to continue fundraising efforts when events were restricted due to COVID-19. Many of our in-person events were canceled or rescheduled, but what about our largest fundraising event, our annual **Wags to Wishes Gala** presented by the **George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation**?

After months of planning a formal event to be held in May of 2020, we decided to adapt to the changes and go virtual. With some tech-savvy assistance, we

kept the excitement of a live auction and made it safe and convenient to attend online.

Our mid-century modern theme in honor of our 60th-anniversary set the virtual stage for a groovy, fun time. Complete with kitties and puppies, attendees could enjoy the show from the comfort of their homes while eating a gourmet meal, enjoying a signature cocktail, and bidding on silent and live auction items.

With the support of our amazing sponsors (listed on page 15), we raised an incredible \$125,200! All

proceeds from our gala directly support the services we provide to the thousands of animals we helped in 2020, and we couldn't have done it without supporters like you.

This past year showed us that we could adapt and overcome to continue helping animals, and some of the ways we adapted worked well. As we look ahead in 2021 and hopefully resume in-person indoor events, we plan to make our next gala a hybrid event so that participants who do not wish to attend in-person can still participate from the comfort of their homes.



New Clinic in St. George

Perhaps the most significant accomplishment that occurred in 2020 was the opening of our affordable spay/neuter and vaccine clinic in St. George, Utah. Plans were underway to open this much-needed clinic before the news about COVID-19 struck us in March, and many of our programs and services came to a halt. We made difficult decisions to ensure the Humane Society of Utah's ongoing operations, and the expansion to southern Utah was put on hold.



Fortunately, spay/neuter surgeries and vaccinations (including rabies) were recognized as essential to community pets' health and safety, and we were able to resume these services. Months later, we were able to move forward with the plans to open a St. George clinic. We hired a veterinarian and staff, rented a location, and started advertising.



Our St. George clinic officially opened on September 28. By the end of 2020, we had provided 640 client vaccinations and performed 556 spay/neuter surgeries—163 for shelters and rescue groups and 393 for clients. The St. George area is overwhelmed with cats and dogs in need of spay/neuter services to reduce the number of homeless animals entering the shelter system.

By providing an affordable alternative for pet guardians, we impact the overpopulation crisis and encourage people to fix the problem by getting their pets fixed.



This clinic and its lifesaving vision would not have been possible without a generous gift from the estate of **Maureen Alaraji** and is dedicated to her memory.

Fix the Problem, Fix Your Pet

Now open in St. George!

Spay/Neuter & Vaccine Clinic

UtahHumane.org



Photo Courtesy of Ian S. Williams,
Director of Sandy Animal Services

Advocacy Update

Utah Humane Society's animal welfare and advocacy team were hard at work in 2020. In February, we held our second annual **Animal Welfare Day** (photo above) at the Utah State Capitol with other municipal animal shelters to meet lawmakers and discuss the importance of improving animal welfare legislation. Strengthening our working relationship with other professional animal shelters benefits everyone and helps more animals overall.

Our two Utah Humane Society attorneys assisted hundreds of Utahns via phone and email by providing resources and non-legal advice regarding their animal issues—how to report animal cruelty, what constitutes an emotional support animal, what to do when a loose dog attacks their companion animal, and more.

Tirelessly working to educate the community and improve our companion animals' lives, the advocacy team also

worked on the following items in 2020:

- **Advanced training** for over 18 different animal services jurisdictions spanning several regions of Utah.
- Worked on **local ordinances** throughout municipalities in Utah to protect companion animals and make it easier for their guardians to care for them.
- **Prepared legislation** on prohibiting dogs from riding unsecured in truck beds—currently filed for the 2021 legislative session.
- Provided **letters to various judges** on the importance of tough sentences and psychological intervention for animal abusers in cruelty cases throughout the state.

If you witness animal abuse or neglect, please contact your local animal control services or law enforcement agency for immediate assistance.



Legacy Gifts

Make the Humane Society of Utah Part of Your Legacy of Love for Animals.

An often significant source of funding for our lifesaving programs comes from those generous members of our community who have included Utah Humane Society in their estate plans. Last year was no exception. Here are the names of those caring animal lovers whose gifts of a lifetime were received in fiscal year of 2020:

D.A. & M.T. Alaraji Trust

Steven Breitling

Estate of Carol Carpenter

Cassie Family Trust

Patrick Chidester Family Trust

Bonita Parker

Cyndi Schwandt

We are forever grateful to these generous individuals and families for leaving a legacy of love to the Utah Humane Society. The impact of these gifts translates directly to changing the world for thousands of companion animals that come through our doors, providing them with a better and happier life in safe and loving homes.

If you are interested in creating a lasting legacy that honors your love of animals, please consider including the Humane Society of Utah in your estate plans. For information, contact our Development Director, **Karin Duncker** at **801-506-2405** or Karin@utahhumane.org.

Sponsor Shout Outs

We couldn't provide the lifesaving programs and services to help animals without help from the following business partners. We're grateful for their ongoing support.

If your business is interested in helping us achieve our mission, contact our **Corporate Giving Manager** at **801-261-2919 ext. 267** or email Shannon@utahhumane.org.

For supporting our Wags to Wishes Gala and behavior yard renovation, thank you,

GEORGE S. AND DOLORES DORÉ ECCLES
F O U N D A T I O N

For covering the adoption fees for hundreds of pets every year and supporting our Humane Education Program, thank you,



For supporting our Wags to Wishes Gala, Bark at the Moon fundraiser, and donating their services to our pets in need of emergency care, thank you,



For donating the proceeds from their National Make a Dog's Day Campaign, thank you,



For covering animal adoption fees through their generous support, thank you,





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