

Animal Tracks

Animal Humane Society | Spring/Summer 2016

Will Work for Treats

AHS shelter pets prove they're
more than just companions





Animal Humane Society is the leading animal welfare organization in the Upper Midwest, dedicated to engaging and serving local and regional communities of people and animals. Our mission is to engage the hearts, hands, and minds of the community to help animals.

Through comprehensive programs and services, Animal Humane Society provides resources that compassionately serve all the stages of an animal's life.

As a private nonprofit organization, we receive no federal, state or government funding and rely totally on private donations, special events, adoption and program fees, and merchandise sales.

Board of Directors

Tom Hoch, *Chair*
Paul Kaminski, *Vice Chair*
Maureen McDonough, *Secretary*
Scott Schroeffer, *Treasurer*
Carolyn Smith, *Past Chair*
Dr. Trevor Ames
Dr. Bianca Fine
David Gutzke
Dick Hall
John Huber
Jodi Lux
Susan Palombo
Tim Taffe
Tina Wilcox
Donna Zimmerman
Janelle Dixon, *President & CEO*

Staff Leadership

Janelle Dixon
President & CEO
Eileen Lay
Chief Operating & Financial Officer
Lisa B. Bonds
Chief Advancement Officer
Kathy Mock
*Chief Government Affairs
and Outreach Officer*

Animal Humane Society is a member of the National Federation of Humane Societies, a consortium of humane organizations throughout the country that sets best practices for shelter operation.

Animal Humane Society is a founding member of Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare (MnPAW) and the Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition.

A Message from Janelle Dixon

"A dog's life."

For most of us, that phrase brings to mind an idealized existence filled with long walks, tasty treats, and lazy naps in the sun. Many dogs also live fulfilling lives in specialized roles that match their personality and natural desires and behaviors. Others, sadly, endure lives filled with pain and suffering – yearning for love and companionship.

In this issue of Animal Tracks, you'll read stories that highlight Animal Humane Society's work to help dogs, cats, and critters in all walks of life.

Our Humane Investigations work transforms the lives of animals suffering from neglect and abuse. This year alone we've helped hundreds of animals go from cramped, filthy kennels to caring homes where they lounge on the couch surrounded by families that love them.

Our Working Cats program provides life-saving alternatives for cats that otherwise may not do well in a home. Pairing cats with farms and businesses that provide support, a safe environment, and an opportunity to carry out their natural predatory behaviors is a win-win. These cats may not be in traditional homes, but they are in a comfortable setting where they can thrive and enjoy life.

Our transport program provides a second chance for thousands of animals facing euthanasia in shelters in communities where the number of animals far exceeds the number of people willing to adopt them. Through our programs and services we're able to help these animals overcome medical and behavioral challenges – care that would not have been an option where they came from. They are then able to forge new bonds with people and achieve the kind of idealized "dog's life" we want for every companion animal.

At AHS we'll never turn any animal away. No matter the circumstance, we will work to provide every animal with an opportunity for a better life.

Your support makes it all possible. On behalf of the animals – and the people whose lives they touch – we extend our immeasurable gratitude.

Thank you.

Janelle Dixon, President & CEO



p.12 Will work for treats

AHS shelter pets prove they're more than just companions

p.4 Petcetera

Rescue missions

Each year, Animal Humane Society takes part in rescue missions all over the state.



Plus

- The Pack young professionals group
- Our 1,000th California Chihuahua
- New training classes
- Furry Tales story time

Animal Tracks

Spring/Summer 2016

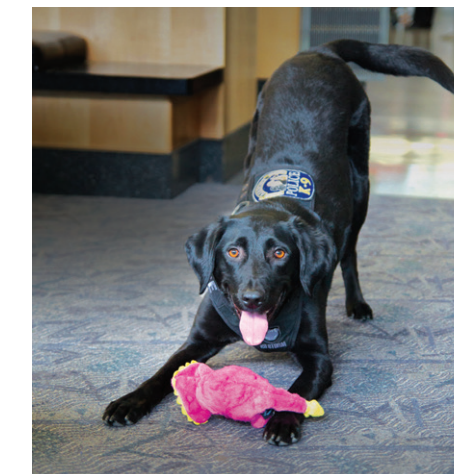
Director of Brand and Communications
Paul Sorenson

Editor
Carrie Libera

Designers
Janna Netland Lover & Karin Newstrom,
Local Design Group

Contributors
Dorothy Grinolds
Rod Hasse
Shanna Haugland
Jackie Lehmann
Rose Miller
Zach Nugent
Kelsie Young

Animal Tracks is published twice a year.



On the cover:

AHS alum Chaos spends her days working as an explosive detection K9 at MSP airport.

ALSO INSIDE:

- 2
A message from
Janelle Dixon
- 18
Happy Tails
- 22
Locations, hours, and
services
- 23
Ways to give

Mission

To engage the hearts, hands, and minds of the community to help animals.

Vision

To compassionately and responsibly create a more humane world for animals.

Core Values

Be good to animals. Partner with people. Lead responsibly with compassion.



53 dogs surrendered to AHS from Pine County resident

Animal Humane Society removed 51 adult dogs and two puppies — all hound mixes — from a rural property in northern Minnesota last November. The dogs were surrendered by an individual who was unable to provide adequate care and shelter to protect them from the elements.

An AHS humane agent worked with the Pine County Sheriff's Office to investigate the case, which also led to the removal of horses and other farm animals.

The dogs were transported to our Golden Valley facility to be examined and treated by our veterinary staff. Having had little human interaction and life experience, the dogs required significant behavior modification and rehabilitation to address their lack of social skills and prepare them for adoption.

Fifty-two dogs from this case were adopted or placed with our rescue partners. One dog with dangerous aggression issues was euthanized.



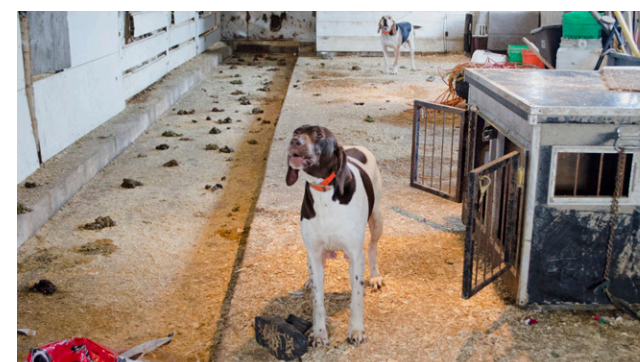
AHS receives more than 1,500 reports of animal cruelty or neglect from across the state each year.

Rescue missions

Animals come to AHS for a variety of reasons. Some have families who can no longer care for them, while others come from shelters that lack the space and resources to rehome them. But animals seized or surrendered through humane investigations come from some of the most dire circumstances imaginable.

When AHS receives reports of animal mistreatment, our humane agents step in, tirelessly responding to more than 1,500 reports of animal cruelty or neglect across the state of Minnesota each year. These range from straightforward cases involving animals

living without adequate food, water, or shelter, to larger, more complex cases involving on-site investigations and animal seizures. The efforts of this team have resulted in the rescue of more than 450 animals since July 2015, including the cases outlined here.



47 dogs removed from Carver County property

In January, Animal Humane Society came to the aid of 47 dogs and puppies — mostly hounds, setters, and pointers — living in a hog barn in rural Carver County. The owner had been evicted from the property and refused to move the animals, leaving them with nowhere to go and no one to care for them.

An AHS humane agent tried working with the owner to find a solution, but after an extended relocation deadline expired, a team from AHS took action to provide a safe haven for the dogs.

The animals — including more than 20 puppies — were cared for at AHS in Golden Valley while the legal process continued to unfold, and were released to AHS when a 10-day legal hold expired. AHS staff and volunteers assessed each individual dog's needs and provided the medical and behavioral care they needed to prepare for adoption.

Forty-four dogs and puppies from this case found new homes through our adoption program or rescue partners. Despite our best efforts, three newborn puppies failed to thrive and as a result died while in our care.

Rescue missions continued...



Seven-month investigation ends in the removal of 95 dogs

A humane investigations case that spanned seven months and took investigators to three different cities resulted in the removal of 95 dogs — mostly small breed mixes including Shih Tzus, Poodles, and Maltese — from unsanitary conditions.

In August 2015, the Humane Investigations team at AHS received a report of a large number of dogs living on a property in Stacy, Minnesota. AHS Humane Agent Wade Hanson visited the property and discovered dozens of dogs in the home, garage, and a pole building. Agent Hanson was not allowed in the home, but advised the owners on proper care, housing, and exercise for the dogs. The owners then agreed to re-home the majority of the dogs.

In October 2015, the couple and their dogs were found occupying a home in Maplewood, Minnesota. The couple was issued a letter of correction to reduce the number of animals in the home to two. The owners once again moved the dogs before AHS agents could legally obtain them.

In February, Agent Hanson responded to a report of multiple dogs living in a home in Sandstone, Minnesota and discovered the same couple housing dirty, matted dogs in unsanitary conditions. The owners agreed to surrender 53 dogs to AHS. The dogs arrived at AHS on February 20 and were provided immediate medical attention and behavior help to prepare for adoption.

Upon learning there were more dogs in their care, Agent Hanson arranged to remove the remaining dogs, but the couple again relocated before he could do so. On March 2, AHS Humane Agent Keith Streff visited the Maplewood property and the couple agreed to release 42 more dogs into our care.

After receiving medical and behavioral treatment, 94 dogs from this case found new homes through our adoption program or rescue partners. One dog was euthanized due to an untreatable birth defect.

AHS takes in more than 100 rabbits and guinea pigs

In December 2015, 80 rabbits and guinea pigs were discovered living in filthy travel carriers in a tarped carport, without heat or proper ventilation. An AHS humane agent worked with the owner to surrender the animals to AHS.

While the rabbits could be adopted shortly after treatment and sterilization surgery, the guinea pigs were placed in foster care for several weeks to determine if they were pregnant. Ten guinea pigs were born in foster homes where they were cared for until they

were ready for adoption.

An additional 26 rabbits and guinea pigs were surrendered to AHS from the same individual in January. Four more guinea pigs were born in foster care shortly thereafter.

In total, 118 of the 120 rabbits and guinea pigs from this case were placed in new homes through our adoption program or rescue partners. Two others died while in our care due to medical complications.



ASPCA turns to Animal Humane Society for help

AHS provides compassion and care to animals beyond Minnesota's borders

When the ASPCA takes on high profile rescue cases, it relies on local organizations like Animal Humane Society to provide investigatory expertise, urgent medical treatment, and long-term rehabilitation and care for rescued animals.

In April, the ASPCA turned to AHS to assist with the investigation, removal, and care of 48 dogs seized by law enforcement officials from a substandard, unlicensed breeding facility in Elmwood, Wisconsin. The 35 adults and 13 puppies, all Labrador retrievers, were discovered living indoors in small, filthy travel crates, with no access to food or water. Many dogs were doubled up in crates too small to comfortably house a single animal.

Investigators also discovered the remains of 16 dogs and dozens of other deceased animals on the



property. The owner of the facility faces 117 misdemeanor charges tied to the breeding operation, including intentionally providing improper animal shelter space, improper animal shelter ventilation, and intentionally failing to provide food for an animal.

AHS staff and volunteers are providing medical care and comfort to the dogs until their custody is determined by a Wisconsin court. Since the rescue operation, 22 puppies have been born to pregnant mothers with more litters expected.

Migrating to Minnesota

At 4.5 pounds, this little Chihuahua has a big story

Found as a stray in California's Central Valley, Sally T. boarded a plane headed for Minnesota in search of a new home. She is the 1,000th Chihuahua to make the journey to Golden Valley from the Golden State.

In recent years, Chihuahuas have filled California shelters in record-breaking numbers, sometimes spending their entire lives there or being euthanized due to overcrowding. Since 2012, AHS has partnered with California nonprofit Compassion Without Borders to relocate hundreds of those Chihuahuas to the Midwest.

Sally and the 35 other dogs in her transport pushed the number of Chihuahuas saved through this program to more than 1,000. After facing an uncertain future in California, all 36 dogs were settled into new homes in Minnesota within days of their arrival.





Furry Tales now at two locations

Toddler story time expands due to popular demand

Our Furry Tales story time has been such a hit with families that we're now offering it monthly at two locations. Furry Tales is held at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of the month in Golden Valley, and 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month in Woodbury.

Designed for children ages 2-4 and their caregivers, Furry Tales features a picture storybook read aloud by one of our humane educators, followed by a craft and special time with an animal. There is no fee to attend, but reservations are required to guarantee a spot.

Community Outreach makes a lasting impact

More than 3,000 pets have received free spay/neuter surgery through AHS program

Animal Humane Society's Community Outreach program began offering free spay/neuter surgeries to pets in Frogtown and East St. Paul in 2013. This spring, the program reached an exciting milestone, with 3,000 area cats, dogs, and rabbits now spayed or neutered.

Community Outreach works to increase the health and well-being of animals in Twin Cities communities where poverty is high, resources are scarce, and affordable pet care services are limited. The program helps improve access to pet resources in these areas by hosting wellness clinics, providing education to pet owners, and offering free spay/neuter surgeries through AHS-affiliated Kindest Cut.

Rosemary, a 4-year-old Chihuahua, was the 3,000th pet to be sterilized through Community Outreach — and the surgery may have saved her life. During surgery, the veterinarian discovered a uterine infection that can be fatal, but is prevented by spaying. This was a huge relief for



Rosemary's owner, Roxanne Bye. "I'm so thankful to this program for saving my baby's life. She's everything to me. I don't know what I would do if anything happened to her," says Roxanne.

Providing free transportation for pets receiving sterilization has been key to the success of this spay/neuter initiative. The Outreach team relies on staff and volunteers to transport animals to and from AHS in Golden Valley. If you're interested in volunteering to help transport pets for surgery, please contact Community Outreach Volunteer Organizer Eric Wilson at ewilson@animalhumanesociety.org.



A "Pack-ed" social calendar

Animal Humane Society's new young professionals group is growing

Animal lovers throughout the Twin Cities are building relationships and learning about animal welfare through the Pack, our new young professionals group. The Pack has grown to more than 70 members since it was formed last fall.

Over the past several months, Pack members have received an exclusive look inside the animal welfare world. In January, members met at Summit Brewing to enjoy a beer and learn how our Community Cats program is reducing euthanasia and improving the lives of outdoor cats in our community. At a March event held at Open Book in Minneapolis, members heard about the work AHS is doing to advocate for stronger animal protection laws in the

state and how they as individuals can help advocate for animals.

Pack members have also taken advantage of exclusive volunteer opportunities. They helped AHS's Community Outreach team prepare for a wellness event by bagging food and preparing supplies. Members were invited to attend a Precious Cargo experience in which volunteers welcome a transport of animals to Minnesota by bathing puppies and getting dogs comfortable for their first night at AHS.

Beyond learning and volunteer opportunities, the Pack offers chances to meet new friends and simply have fun. In February, the group hosted its first annual Party with the Pack, an



after-party to AHS's popular Whisker Whirl gala, complete with a DJ and photo booth. And this April at Dogs and Donuts, members enjoyed some fresh air and tasty treats while hanging out with their pups at a local dog park.

The Pack has many more exciting activities planned for 2016 and new members are welcome at any time!





Mind games

New mental agility classes challenge pups and their owners

Coming when called, politely greeting visitors, walking nicely on a leash — that's kid stuff for the dogs in two new specialty classes at AHS's Training School. Advanced canine students and their owners are learning new mental skills in Rally Obedience and Tricks 101, which both run for six weeks.

Halt-Down. About Turn. These are just a few of the commands pooches may be asked to perform in Rally Obedience. In this engaging sport, dogs and their handlers navigate through a numbered course with tricks performed at designated stations. "Rally gives owners the opportunity to practice skills they learn in our basic obedience classes in a fun and non-competitive way," says Behavior and Training Supervisor Alison Schramel.

Ever wonder how to tire out your dog without exhausting yourself in the process? Mental exercise is key, and the Tricks 101 class teaches owners how to engage their dogs' brains through a variety of skills such as shake, bow, spin, and sit pretty. "Teaching new behaviors can be so mentally stimulating that it makes it possible to have a tired dog without going for a 5 mile jog," Schramel says. "It's also fun to show off to family and friends."

To attend these new courses, dogs must be in an AHS Training School Level 3 class or higher, or have passed the Canine Good Citizen test.

 animalhumanesociety.org/training



Making shelter animals count

AHS is involved in a new effort that will benefit animals in shelters nationwide. Shelter Animals Count: The National Database Project is a first-of-its-kind platform that will collect and report data for animal shelters across the country.

The goal is to create a baseline of data that will enable a greater understanding of the issues shelters face. So far more than 3,000 shelters representing all 50 states have signed on and are beginning to report data.

The Shelter Animals Count board of directors includes AHS President & CEO Janelle Dixon and leaders from other prominent national and regional animal welfare organizations.

 shelteranimalscount.org



Betty is Loved for Life

Beloved dog finds a loving new home through Legacy Circle program

In January, a lifelong AHS supporter moved into an assisted living facility and could no longer care for her dog Betty. As a Legacy Circle member who included AHS in her estate plan, Betty's owner was able to enroll her 3-year-old Miniature Pinscher in our Loved for Life program. This program was created to re-home pets through a personalized adoption process when a member passes away or can no longer care for their animal, ensuring the pet has the life the owner would have wanted for them. It's our way of saying "thank you" to our Legacy Circle members that have provided so generously to AHS.

[Watch a video highlighting the Loved for Life program and Squeaker the Cat at animalhumanesociety.org/squeaker](http://animalhumanesociety.org/squeaker)

We reached out to our inner circle of staff and volunteers to find someone special to adopt Betty. Within a few weeks, Betty was adopted by AHS volunteer Jessica and her boyfriend Lutchiano. They were already looking to adopt a small dog, and when they heard about Betty they thought she was the perfect fit.

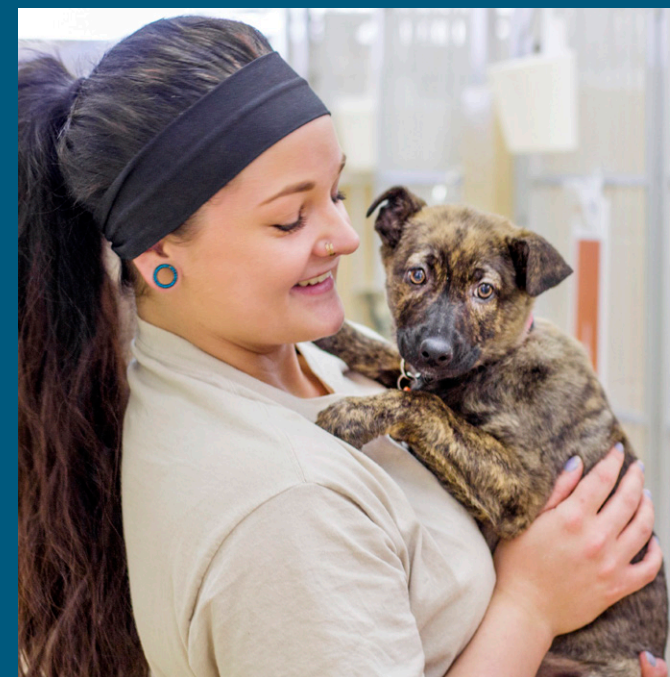
"We were touched by her story and knew we could give her a good home," says Jessica. "We love Betty so much, and she loves us too. She and our kitty have grown on each other — sometimes we even catch them playing! She also loves car rides, so we usually take her everywhere we go on the weekends. We're so happy to have our little princess."

 animalhumanesociety.org/legacy

All in a day's work

Ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at AHS? Watch a video showcasing the work that goes into caring for the animals in our shelters and in the community. From education and training to community outreach and boarding services, we have a long-lasting commitment to helping animals and the people who care for them.

With more than 350 employees in 80 different roles at our shelters, and more than 2,400 volunteers lending assistance, you'll notice what an integral part each and every one plays in supporting our mission of engaging the hearts, hands, and minds of the community to help animals.



 animalhumanesociety.org/dayinthelife



Will WORK for TREATS

AHS shelter pets prove they're more than just companions

By Zach Nugent

K-9 to 5: Chaos and Mesa

If you've ever waited in line at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, cheered for the Vikings at the former Metrodome, or received a package from FedEx, there's a chance that a former shelter dog has been put to work for you.

While many dogs settle into a life of naps, walks, and treats after adoption, some are tasked with potentially life-saving jobs. Chaos is one of those dogs.

Her prized possession may be a stuffed pink dinosaur, but don't let that fool you. She is a member of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Police K9 Unit, expertly trained

in explosive detection. Her handler, Officer Roberta Richardson, has spent nearly eight years working alongside Chaos. The two are charged with investigating unattended or suspicious bags and vehicles. They also can be seen randomly patrolling terminals.

"We're used as a deterrent," Richardson explains, "If bad people are out here and looking around, hopefully they see the dogs and think twice."

Chaos is Officer Richardson's second K9 partner. She first began working with a K9 around 2004, however that dog was nearing retirement. By late 2007, it was time to look for a younger partner. The airport police department has a long history of adopting from shelters — six of the eight dogs on their current K9 force are former shelter dogs. So when

Richardson was ready for a new K9 counterpart, she and her department's K9 trainer headed to Animal Humane Society.

Richardson recalls, "We went to AHS in Golden Valley. We basically took a ball and walked up and down the rows of kennels and Chaos was the only dog who was just going crazy for it."

About 7 months old at the time, Chaos was full of energy. Her name back then was Akasha. She found herself at AHS after showing some destructive chewing behavior at her former home. That type of extreme puppy energy can be challenging in a home, but it's a trait many K9 handlers seek out.

AHS Behavior Modification specialist Kate Erdmann explains, "Generally all organizations look for the same





Officer Richardson and Chaos check bags, garbage cans, and unattended cars at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. As a reward, Chaos is given her pink dinosaur.

types of things with their working dog candidates — a young adult dog that will do anything for a tennis ball and is not able to be distracted away from it.”

Chaos fit the bill. In fact that’s how she got her name.

“I just came up with the name Chaos because she was all over the place,” says Richardson.

The pairing of Chaos and Officer Richardson was a successful one from the start. The two have spent countless hours training and working. During sweeps through the airport, Richardson can be heard offering soft words of

encouragement to Chaos. Once the work is complete, Chaos is always rewarded with her pink dinosaur.

“She is so smart,” Richardson proudly explains, “Some people just don’t give her enough credit.”

Not all handlers and K9s mesh as well as Chaos and Officer Richardson. Around the same time that Chaos joined the force, the airport K9 team adopted another black lab mix named Mesa. She had a similar play drive but didn’t develop the same great fit with her handler. But Mesa’s energy and early explosive detection training did not go to waste.

In October 2009, the Anoka County Sheriff’s Office found itself looking for a K9. Deputy Brian Collier was interested in becoming a handler, so he reached out to his colleagues with the airport K9 unit and was introduced to Mesa.

“They explained that she and her original handler didn’t work out as a team and asked if I would be interested in taking over as Mesa’s handler,” Collier explains. He and Mesa instantly connected that day.

After a little paperwork, Anoka County took custody of Mesa and the sheriff’s office sent Mesa and Deputy Collier through a 10-week explosive detection certification course. By December of 2009, the team of two was ready to serve.

“It’s nice to know that she came from a humane society. We were able to give her a second chance, and now she’s incredibly valuable — not only to me as a handler, but to the whole state,” says Collier.

Based out of the Anoka County Courthouse, Deputy Collier and Mesa typically work as court security, but they are certified to respond across all of Minnesota.

“We get called to a lot of bomb threats at schools and businesses, lots

of unattended bags at the courthouse and government center and suspicious packages and mail,” says Collier.

Collier has also taken on outside contract work. He and Mesa work with FedEx to clear certain packages at the airport. They also partner with the NFL.

Collier explains, “When the Vikings have home games, we’re assigned to the visiting team’s hotel and do sweeps of their luggage, bus, and hotel. We’re assigned to the exterior perimeter of the stadium and sweep the crowds before and during the games.”

They even work with the Secret Service to conduct venue sweeps if the President or certain dignitaries travel to Minnesota. The stakes are high, which means K9 and handler must develop absolute trust.

“If a narcotic dog makes a mistake on a find, it’s not as big of a deal, but if an explosive dog makes a mistake, it’s quite a big deal,” Collier explains. “We as a team can be trusted. I can trust the dog and I can go into the environment and know that if she did alert, we definitely have something. And if she didn’t alert, we can continue business as usual.”

Explosive detection dogs are trained to sniff out more than 30 odors, including gunpowder. In comparison, Collier says, most narcotic detection dogs are only trained on five or six odors. It’s tedious work that requires extra care.

“Because an explosive device is so unstable, we don’t want the dog to nudge anything when searching. We work a lot more delicately than a narcotic K9 or search and rescue K9,” explains Collier.

Dogs like Mesa and Chaos also learn what odors to ignore — Collier calls them distractor odors. These are odors from common products that could potentially be used in an explosive, but are generally not dangerous by

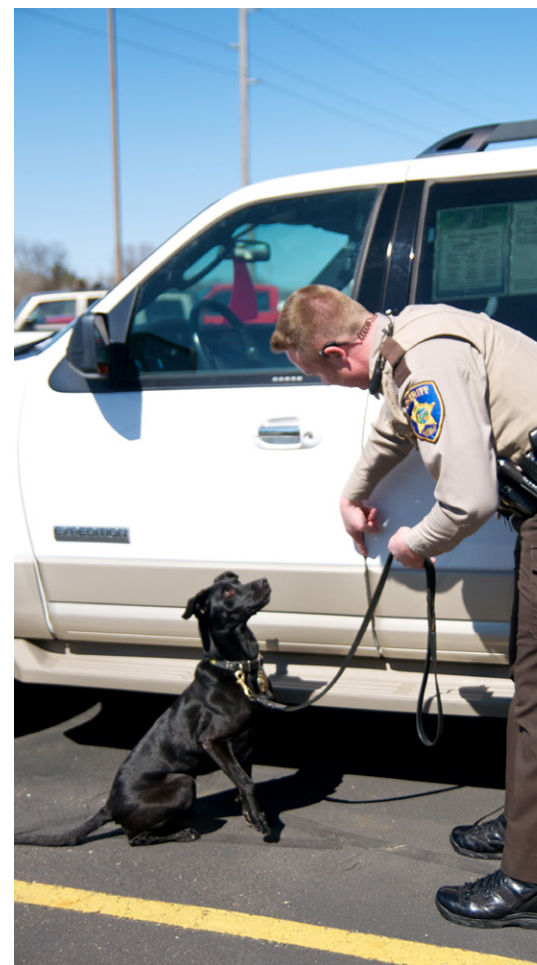
themselves. He uses batteries as an example.

“We don’t want her to alert to a battery, which could be a component, but we do want her to alert to a bomb,” says Collier.

Over the years, both Mesa and Chaos have gone out on countless calls, but none have ever led to the discovery of an active explosive device. That doesn’t mean these dogs’ skills aren’t appreciated and valued.

When called to search and clear a suspicious package, Collier explains, “It gives us peace of mind until a bomb squad can get there.” He says if Mesa clears a package before other agencies arrive on scene, he’s pretty confident the area is safe.

A lot of pressure and trust are placed on these former shelter dogs. Although as skilled as ever, Collier admits Mesa is beginning to slow down. The puppy-like



energy can still be seen, but not on the same levels as six years ago.

“For the first several years, I could search a very large venue for a good 50 minutes without her tiring out, and now I can probably only go 20 minutes,” Collier says.

When it comes to Chaos, Richardson is quick to point out that her partner doesn’t look her age and is still very active.

“She still loves to work. She still has a really good drive. She knows the days when we go to work and she runs to the door. Even at 8 years old, she still has a lot of energy and wants to work.”

Both handlers acknowledge that their dogs are partners, not pets. At home, Mesa has a stricter regimen than a pet dog. Play time is converted into training time, and there is a firm no table scrap rule. It’s all in an effort to keep these working dogs at the top of their game. Of course Collier and Richardson recognize

both their dogs are closer to the end of their careers than the beginning. In a few years, retirement will be inevitable.

“You look forward to her retirement, but you don’t. I love working with her, but I can’t wait to reward her for all of her good work,” says Collier.

Looking back, Richardson adds, “It’s amazing watching and seeing how she came from this wild puppy to where she’s at now. So intelligent and driven.”

Once it is time to retire, Mesa will stay with Deputy Collier and Chaos with Officer Richardson. Their much deserved reward for all the years of service? To spend their golden years enjoying the easy life: naps on the bed, walks around the park, and plenty of treats. Collier also plans to repeal that no table scrap rule.

“I look forward to finally being able to give her a bite of my steak and let her relax.”



We were able to give her a second chance, and now she’s incredibly valuable — not only to me as a handler, but to the whole state.

—Anoka County Deputy Brian Collier

Mesa is trained to sniff exactly where Deputy Collier points. She sits if she detects the odor of a possible explosive.





Before adopting Fritz and Nutmeg, Ramy Turf was losing around \$10,000 worth of seed each year.



Meow hiring: Fritz & Nutmeg

Jim Trenter knows mice are bad for business. “The mice have just been killing us here,” says Trenter, who works at Ramy Turf in St. Paul. The company sells grass seed, and for years they’ve fought an uphill battle to keep rodents and birds out of the warehouse. “They rip open the bags and eat the seed, cutting into our profit.”

One day Trenter approached his colleagues about the idea of getting a cat. But not just any cat — he had something specific in mind. “I didn’t need a friendly cat that sits in your lap,” Trenter explains, he wanted a cat that was up for working.

He learned of Animal Humane Society’s Working Cats program and

soon became the proud caretaker of two working cats, Nutmeg and Fritz. Nutmeg was found as a stray in Minneapolis and Fritz was surrendered after his owner lost his home. Both cats were young and healthy, but neither reacted well to being handled by humans.

AHS staff determined both cats would do best outside of a traditional home environment. The Working Cats program places healthy cats that aren’t suitable as pets into environments where they can flourish, working alongside humans to control pests. The two cats were sterilized and quickly found placement at Ramy Turf. Nutmeg has been working in the warehouse since January, and Fritz came along in March.

Trenter says the felines have been a fantastic addition to their crew. Although

Nutmeg is hardly ever seen when people are around, she’s starting to warm up, occasionally coming out to rub against a worker’s leg. That’s hardly the case with her outgoing colleague Fritz, who uses the Ramy Turf warehouse as an oversized cat jungle gym. Jumping on bags of seed, climbing into the rafters, and crawling under pallets, he has plenty of entertainment.

More importantly though, Trenter says the cats are doing their job — and doing it well. They’ve even established a natural division of duties. Fritz guards the rafters to keep birds from tearing into seed bags, while Nutmeg stalks mice at ground level. Trenter says he’s tried everything, even professional pest control services, and nothing has been as effective as having Nutmeg and Fritz patrolling his warehouse.

The best teacher’s pet: Zoe

Molly Cirillo and her husband Ben are no strangers to AHS. The couple volunteered at the Woodbury location for nearly five years. Cirillo was always drawn to the dogs. “Every time we went, I would want one. My husband would be the logical one and say *not now*,” she explains.

But one January day, that changed. Cirillo’s husband took her to a kennel to meet a black lab mix. “He pointed to her and said, ‘If we did get a dog, this would be her.’” That’s how Zoe entered their lives.

Cirillo began taking Zoe to training classes. Zoe aced her classes and eventually passed the American Kennel Club’s Canine Good Citizen test. That qualified her to enter therapy dog training at AHS, which she passed with flying colors in 2011.

Initially, Cirillo and Zoe volunteered at a local hospital. “Zoe is very lazy and laid down a lot, so people in hospital beds couldn’t always reach her. So we found the behavior health area was a good fit. She was just such a calm presence there,” says Cirillo.

As an elementary school social worker, Cirillo felt her students would also benefit from that calm presence. She proposed the idea to the school’s principal and began working out logistics. Zoe began working in August at McAuliffe Elementary in Hastings. At 10 years old,

this senior dog has quickly become a school fixture, not just with students, but with faculty and parents as well.

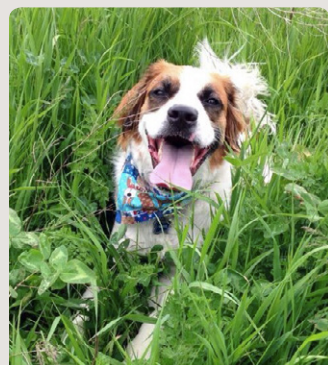
Cirillo admits most of the time Zoe just lays in her office, but adds that just her presence is therapeutic. She recalls one day when a student was upset about her family’s sick dog. “She looked sad and distraught about it, and Zoe just walked over and laid by the two of us. It could have been total coincidence, but I’m not sure. It’s just neat that Zoe could provide that little gleam of light for that girl.”

Zoe puts McAuliffe Elementary students at ease.





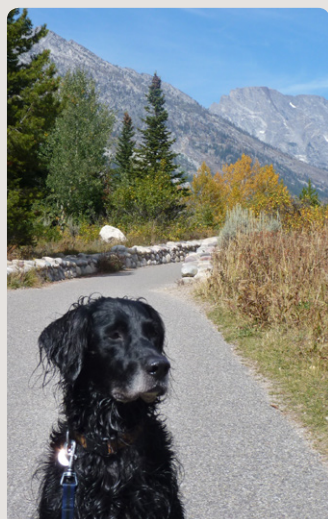
♥ Gatsby



♥ Bowie



♥ Mavis



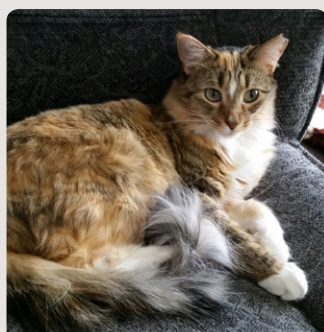
♥ Zorro



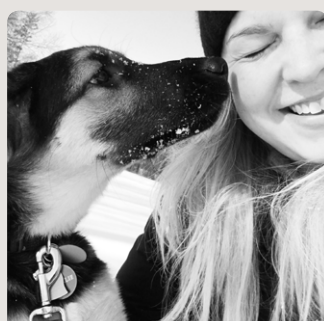
♥ Lea



♥ Grinchy



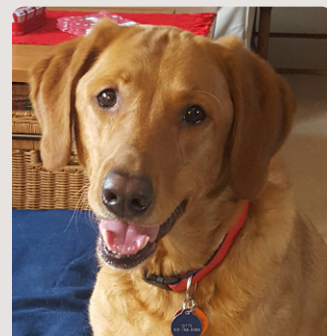
♥ Matilda



♥ Charlie



♥ Ingrid



♥ Molly

There's no place like home



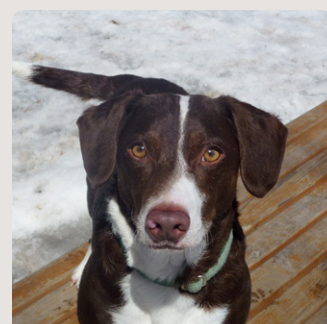
There is nothing we love more than reading updates about animals adopted from Animal Humane Society. We are thrilled to hear about their new lives and see how happy (and spoiled) they are in their new homes.

Rather than keeping all of that joy to ourselves, we are sharing these amazing stories and photos on our "Happy Tails" blog on Tumblr. Visit animalhumanesociety.org/happytails and prepare to have your heart warmed!

Submit your adoption story and photos at animalhumanesociety.org/stories. We'd love to hear from you!



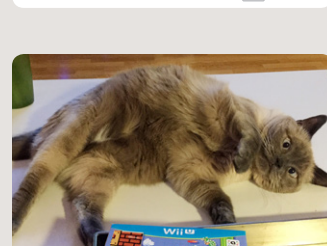
♥ Eve



♥ Chevy



♥ Rita



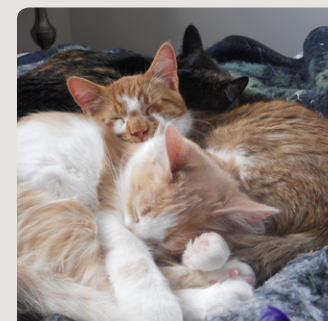
♥ Khaleesi



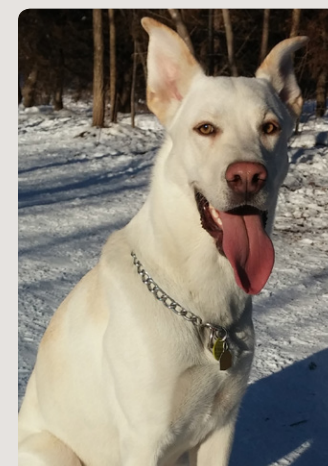
♥ Etta



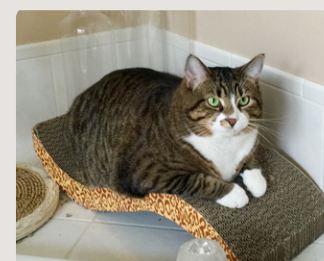
♥ Sherlock



♥ Jerry



♥ Milo



♥ Jasmine



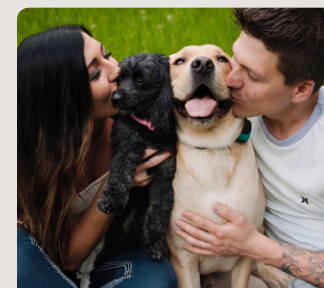
♥ Georgie & Pinecone



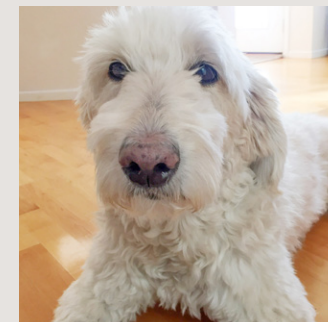
♥ Dexter



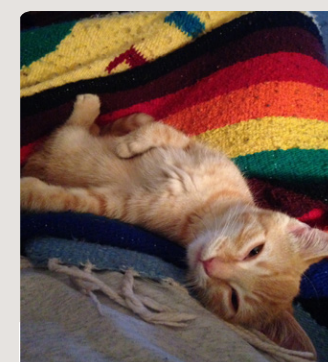
♥ Leo



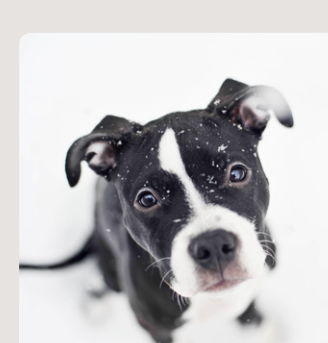
♥ Hunter



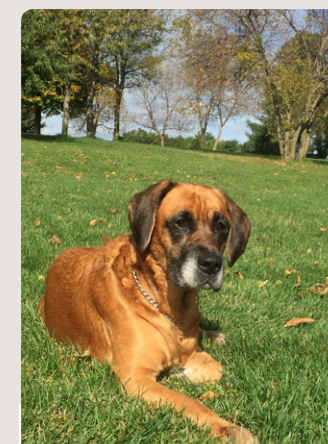
♥ Indigo



♥ Bridget



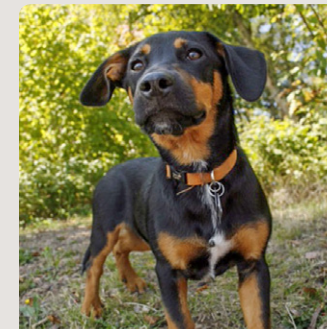
♥ Luna



♥ Lola



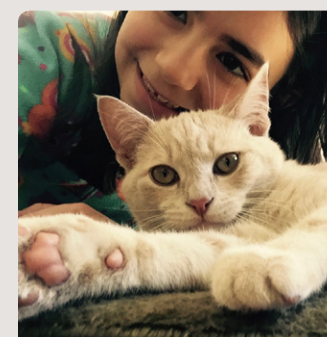
♥ Theo



♥ Hiccup



♥ Bella



♥ Sven

THANK YOU!

Thousands of animal lovers and their pets came together to donate, walk, and celebrate, making this year's Walk for Animals a monumental success!

Together, we raised more than **\$1 million** to support animals in our community in need of second chances. Every dollar contributed helps Animal Humane Society provide lifesaving treatment and attentive care to the thousands of animals that come through our doors each year. **Thank you for supporting animals and Animal Humane Society.**

ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY
**Walk FOR
Animals**
2016



Contact Us
763-522-4325
animalhumanesociety.org

Locations

Buffalo
4375 Hwy. 55 S.E. • Buffalo, MN 55313
763-390-3647

Coon Rapids
1411 Main St. N.W. • Coon Rapids, MN 55448
763-862-4030

Golden Valley
845 Meadow Lane N. • Golden Valley, MN 55422
763-522-4325

St. Paul
1115 Beulah Lane • St. Paul, MN 55108
651-645-7387

Woodbury
9785 Hudson Road • Woodbury, MN 55125
651-730-6008

Now Boarding
6002 28th Ave. S. • Minneapolis, MN 55450
612-454-4850

Hours

Adoption Centers
Monday through Friday 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Incoming Animals
Please call 952-435-7738
to make an appointment
to surrender an animal.

Appointments are available:
Monday through Friday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Our Services

Adoption
Check out the cats, dogs, rabbits,
birds, and small critters available for
adoption at our five locations.
animalhumanesociety.org/adoption

Surrender
Companion animals may be
surrendered at any of our five open
admission locations. We provide a safe
refuge for thousands of animals each
year and no animal is ever turned
away. Appointments required.
952-HELP-PET (952-435-7738)
animalhumanesociety.org/surrender

Pet training
Think you can't teach your dog
new tricks? Think again! We offer
more than 70 classes a week in
Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, Woodbury,
and at Now Boarding.
763-489-2217
animalhumanesociety.org/training

Pet food and supplies
Stock up on all your pet needs – from
Purina One® dog and cat food and
treats and Tidy Cats® litter, to collars,
leashes, toys, and grooming supplies.
Available for purchase at all five
locations.

Youth programs
We offer fun, educational experiences
for kids who love animals, including
Unleashed Camps, scout programs,
PetSet Youth Club, birthday parties,
preschool story times, and more.
763-489-2220
animalhumanesociety.org/youth

Tours
Tours of our facilities are available by
appointment. Maximum group size is
determined by location.
763-489-2220

Low-cost spay/neuter and
wellness
AHS partners with Kindest Cut
to provide high-quality, low-cost
sterilization, dental, and wellness
services to pets of people in need
through a mobile surgical unit and at
Melrose Animal Clinic in Golden Valley.
763-489-7729
kindestcutmn.com

Pet boarding
We offer peace of mind pet boarding
at Animal House at AHS in Golden
Valley and at Now Boarding near the
Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport.
763-489-222
animalhumanesociety.org/animalhouse
612-454-4850
nowboardingpets.com

Humane investigations
Our humane agents work with law
enforcement officers and respond to
thousands of reports of animal neglect
and cruelty each year.
animalhumanesociety.org/prevention

Microchip and nail clinics
Microchip and nail trim clinics are
offered monthly at our five locations.
animalhumanesociety.org/microchip

Lost and found pets
Post missing or found pets or view stray
animals in our care on our online lost
and found bulletin board.
animalhumanesociety.org/lostandfound

Outreach
AHS offers education programs and
free or low-cost services that empower
low-income pet owners and improve
the lives of pets in underserved
communities.
651-788-4685
animalhumanesociety.org/outreach

Pet help
Our free Pet Helpline at 952-HELP-
PET will connect you to caring,
compassionate advice and resources
for whatever animal issues you may be
experiencing.
952-HELP-PET (952-435-7738)
animalhumanesociety.org/pethelp

Pet loss
Humane euthanasia and cremation
services are available to the public and
a pet loss support group is offered on
Monday evenings in Golden Valley.
animalhumanesociety.org/lossofpet

Ways to Give

Donate
AHS relies on the generosity of
individuals like you to care for thousands
of animals every year. Your donation
helps provide food, shelter, medical care,
and most importantly, the love animals
deserve while they await loving new
homes.
animalhumanesociety.org/donate

Become a Sustainer
By making an ongoing monthly
sustaining gift, you're providing a
reliable source of funding that enables
AHS to help animals all year long.
Sustaining gifts are an easy and
convenient way to make a big impact
every month.
animalhumanesociety.org/sustainer

Match your gift
Double your contribution by matching
your gift through your employer. Many
companies match their employees'
charitable donations.
animalhumanesociety.org/matchmygift

Make a memorial
or tribute gift
Remember or honor a loved one or pet
with a memorial or tribute donation.
animalhumanesociety.org/donate
Every year, a list of these gifts of \$100 or
more can be found online.
animalhumanesociety.org/tributegifts

Leave a legacy
Make a lasting impact on animals by
including AHS in your will or estate plan.
Find out how you can make a difference.
animalhumanesociety.org/legacy
Contribute to our wish list
With more than 20,000 animals to care
for every year, AHS needs a substantial
amount of supplies. You can donate
needed items any time.
animalhumanesociety.org/wishlist

Donate a vehicle
Donate your car to care for animals in
need. Your vehicle will be towed free of
charge and you'll be eligible for a tax
deduction.
animalhumanesociety.org/vehicle

Volunteer
Help make the world a more humane
place for animals by volunteering with
AHS. From walking dogs, to assisting
with adoptions, volunteers are integral to
the work that happens every day at AHS.
animalhumanesociety.org/volunteer

Foster
Don't have time to volunteer in shelter?
From the comfort of their own homes,
our foster volunteers provide essential
care for animals that aren't ready for
adoption.
animalhumanesociety.org/foster



Connect



Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/animalhumanesociety



Follow us on Twitter:
twitter.com/animal_humanemn



Follow us on Instagram:
instagram.com/animalhumanemn



Subscribe to our
YouTube channel:
youtube.com/animalhumanesociety



Follow us on Tumblr:
animalhumanemn.tumblr.com





animal humane society
845 Meadow Lane N.
Minneapolis, MN 55422

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID

Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 3866

If you are moving or have received duplicate copies of this magazine, please call 763-489-2210 or email giving@animalhumanesociety.org.

Whether you need help
managing your pet's behavior
or a referral for pet-friendly
housing, low-cost spay/neuter,
or other local assistance
programs, let us help you
with your pet questions!



952-HELP-PET
(952-435-7738)

