

Community Impact Report 2023

CENTRAL MISSOURI
HUMANE SOCIETY



celebrating

80
CENTRAL MISSOURI
HUMANE SOCIETY
YEARS

of putting pets with people



A Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

At the Central Missouri Humane Society, we are thrilled to celebrate 80 years with a renewed sense of hope and gratitude. Our founders paved the way for a more humane Columbia and stood up for the voiceless, as we still do today. We are committed to compassion and supporting our community's diverse needs. **Our CMHS family is making a difference in our society each day. And we couldn't do it without you! Whether you have adopted, volunteered or donated, you are an essential part of all we do.**

In 2023, we provided free and low-cost wellness exams, vaccinations, microchips, spay/neuter surgeries, behavior support, and free pet food and supplies. Since January, we've served hundreds of families and their pets through these programs. We can all be incredibly proud that at CMHS, no treatable, adoptable, or healthy animal is ever euthanized, and we have achieved and maintained a placement rate of over 95 percent for the past several years!

During the summer, when we struggled under the weight of the number of pets coming into the shelter, our volunteer foster families stepped up to help, and we moved hundreds of our pets into loving foster homes. More than 300 foster volunteers expanded our ability to help more pets by providing housing, hands-on care, and love to 1,500 animals — more than 40 percent of them tiny, vulnerable kittens and puppies. We know many of those vulnerable pets would never survive without the round-the-clock care our foster families provide. Fostering truly saves lives, and we are incredibly grateful for the kind hearts that help make our mission possible. **Our 250 active volunteers donated enough time and energy to equal ten additional staffers. As a private shelter that receives no funding from any national humane organizations, our volunteers make a meaningful difference for our staff and the pets in our care.**



At CMHS, we understand that preventing suffering, reducing inequality, and supporting happy, healthy lives for all requires a holistic community approach. **With the announcement of our Give Them Love capital campaign for a new facility, we need your help now more than ever.** With so much already accomplished and so much more on the horizon, the Central Missouri Humane Society will continue to depend on guidance and support from our community. **Our dreams are only possible with your support. We extend our deepest gratitude for all you have done for pets this year. Thousands of lives were impacted, and many more were saved, all because of you.**

For the pets of CMHS,

Julie Aber
Julie Aber
Executive Director



> Mission

In continuous operation since 1943, the Central Missouri Humane Society promotes the well-being of companion animals — pets that enrich the lives of the people who love them.

> Vision

The Central Missouri Humane Society envisions a time when no mid-Missouri pet is homeless, abused or neglected.

> Open Admission

As the only open-door shelter in Boone County, we provide safe haven and care for thousands of animals in need each year.

> Collaboration

Fulfilling our mission is best achieved through the exchange of ideas, talents and contributions from other organizations in our community. We welcome the opportunity to partner with others to expand our impact in mid-Missouri.

> Adoption Hours

Monday-Saturday 12 pm to 5 pm
Sunday 12 pm to 3 pm



**Adopt.
Donate.
Volunteer.**



616 Big Bear Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65202
cmhspets.org
P: 573.443.7387
Tax ID Number:
43-0666742

2023

in review

celebrating

80

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MISSOURI
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YEARS

of putting pets with people

2,464

animals came
into our care

Community Pet Care



435 vaccinations



Free spay/neuter:

381 TNR

156 cats | 172 dogs



64 medical cases

3,217

spay/neuter
surgeries

2,175

adoptions



995 dogs



975 cats

25,054 pounds
of pet food given out



340

families helped



191
pocket pets



14 livestock

329

foster homes

1,584

pets
fostered



273

volunteers

3,095

hours



97%

placement rate



- Announced acquisition of land for our new building
- Achieved a 4 star rating on Charity Navigator
- Placed at the top of the leaderboard for CoMoGives fundraising for a record of \$101,260

Our Story: Now and Then

80 Years of Changing Lives

As the oldest local animal welfare organization, we have been serving companion animals in need and providing refuge for over 80 years. The Columbia Humane Society was formed in 1943 to provide shelter and care for Columbia's abandoned animals. The organization has since grown into a vibrant community resource, the Central Missouri Humane Society, which cares for thousands of animals annually and provides a multitude of services to local citizens. For more than 80 years, CMHS has been Boone County's only open-door shelter that accepts and cares for any homeless pet. We treat all animals as individuals and do not turn them away based on health, age, breed, or temperament.

Most people know us as an adoption facility, but we are so much more than that. In addition to offering low-cost veterinary services to those in need, we also offer a multitude of programs to serve the people and pets in our community, including safety net programs to keep pets out of the shelter.



1943: The Columbia Humane Society is formed as a regional animal welfare organization operating out of a small building on Creasy Springs Road.

1976: New shelter is built at 616 Big Bear Blvd.

2009: Won the Zootoo.com Shelter Makeover Competition.

2017: Achieved a 95% placement rate

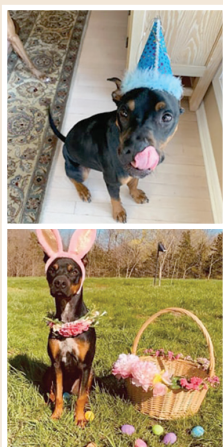
1968: Renamed the Central Missouri Humane Society and recognized as a nonprofit.

1988: Building addition to house more kennels.

2014: Changed intake policy to open-admission for all of Boone County.

2020: Expansion of services to the community

2023: Celebrated a 97% placement rate



Meet Rufus, CMHS's Longest Canine Resident!

A Love Letter from His Foster Mom

Oh, Rufus. What a dog. He's been in foster with me for over a year and what can I say — he's one of a kind. Rufus came to CMHS with a heart defect and had months of recovery before he was ready for adoption. He's one of the sweetest dogs I've ever come across. There is never a dull moment with Rufus around. The amount of love in this dog's eyes when he looks at me warms my soul. **I've never had a dog who's a better cuddler, and I can't remember the last time I went to sleep without Rufus being my little spoon. Looking for some extra love in your life? Rufus is your man!**



Programs and Services — Keeping Pets and People Together

Veterinary Services and TNR: Our CMHS clinic supports low-income pet owners by providing affordable veterinary services such as vaccinations, microchipping, and spay or neuter surgery. Each year, our veterinary team spays/neuters thousands of owned animals in the community. In addition to providing affordable essentials to the community, we can treat and medically care for most of our animals right here at the shelter. But sometimes we are presented with special cases. Our CRASH (critical recovery and specialized healing) program was created to help shelter pets and pet owners in the community experiencing a costly medical emergency. We also operate a trap-neuter-release (TNR) program to help control the community cat population in Boone County and the surrounding areas. CMHS is proud to better the lives of community cats through sterilization and vaccination.



Humane Education: CMHS teaches Humane Education in Columbia schools through our Be Kind Program. This program was designed to benefit the community by teaching students about caring for companion animals through

an in-person learning experience with our canine ambassador, Precious. Many people have followed Precious' journey with us over the past several years. She was one of the worst neglect cases we had ever seen, and she now visits schools to tell her story and encourage kindness for all. This program inspires students to recognize their value and the value of those around them. Precious is a perfect example of how kindness can change a life and make the world a better place for pets and people everywhere.



Behavior Modification and Training: CMHS is dedicated to both the physical and emotional health of our pets. This program is supported through positive, science-based, force-free training and behavior change methods. Our behavior team begins working with animals upon intake and creates a comprehensive behavior plan to address issues such as anxiety and fear aggression.

Pet Food Bank: It all starts with prevention. Pet owners shouldn't have to choose between feeding themselves or their pets. Our Community Pet Food Bank served hundreds of households in 2023. Thanks to generous donations, we distributed over 15,000 pounds of pet food to families in need.



Shelter Medicine Program: CMHS is grateful to partner with the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine and their Shelter Medicine Program. Each year, hundreds of shelter animals are spayed and neutered and receive comprehensive health examinations through this innovative partnership. Veterinary students are provided with the opportunity to learn about the most current medical practices and gain valuable experience that will allow them to better serve animals as veterinary professionals. In addition to surgeries and examinations, students also provide shelter animals with vaccinations, microchips and preventatives.

Contracting with Animal Control: CMHS partners with the city and its animal control agency to provide housing and care for the city's stray, lost, and abandoned animals. Contractual funding to CMHS provides Animal Control with access to our shelter for the impoundment of stray and lost animals, animals being held on a bite quarantine, and those deemed dangerous and aggressive. CMHS provides these animals with daily care, safe shelter, and medical attention. If adoptable animals go unclaimed, we find them homes.

Thank You to Our Shelter Me Sponsors!

CATS

Janet Sue Crosby
Friends & Family in memory of
Caden Hastie
Karen Johnson in honor of
Cassidy Johnson
Matthew Knowlton & Kathy Doisy
Peter & Chris Koukola
Becky McHugh
Carl Morris & Larry Kantner
Carl Morris & Larry Kantner in
memory of Bette Weiss
Joe & Carol Moseley
Dennis O'Brien & Sarah Myers
In memory of Erik Patchell

Judy & Steve Richey
Nancy Rogers
Steve & Pat Smith
Jeanne Schwartze
Austin & Ellen Snipes in
memory of Rocco
William Tratchel in memory of
Donnie Tratchel
Karla Watson
The Winkelmeyers in memory
of Heidi Drechsel
The Winkelmeyers in memory
of Caroline Slomianowski

DOGS:

Jerry & Kay Benedict in
memory of Johnny Keller
Billiards on Broadway
Michael Boicourt &
Judy Freeman
Doug Bowles & Yvette Nieto
In Memory of Morgan Buckler
Robert & Barbara Churchill
Ann Cleek
Dennis Cravens
Cameron Dunafon
Ava Fajen & Scott Christianson
in Memory of Max
and Bruce

In loving memory of
Justin Foster
Joseph Ganz & Cynthia
Morrison in honor
of Quinn
Renee Hoagenson
James Jennings
Matthew Knowlton &
Kathy Doisy
Don & Linda Ladd
Linda McCoy
Becky Morton
Jim & Abby Owen
Jon & Carol Rhodes

Nevada Shelkey
Steve & Pat Smith
Steve & Sherry Smith of
New Bloomfield
Bobb Swanson
Bonnie Trickey
Fred & Kathi vom Saal
Richard Wallace
Steve Williams in memory
of Dr. C. Philip Meyer



To learn more about this life-saving program, visit cmhspets.org/shelterme.

Capital Campaign

The Urgent Need: We have been operating continuously in our current building since 1976! The facility has heavily degraded over the years and can no longer meet the current and future needs of our ever-expanding community. We face challenges each day in our facility, including structural failure, inadequate ventilation systems, lack of isolation space for contagious diseases, and severe deterioration of kennels, including rust and corrosion. After a thorough external needs assessment by Animal Arts Design, it was determined that the cost to renovate our current building would be nearly as high as building a new facility.

Paws On the Ground: People outside the industry are usually surprised that animal housing facilities are so expensive. Animal care facilities are unique, and therefore one of the most expensive to design, engineer, and construct. The combination of animal density, multiple disease paths, humidity control, odor and cleaning considerations, and noise control within relatively small spaces makes animal care facilities among the most difficult and deeply coordinated types of building engineering. We are building more than a shelter; we are building a facility that will not only serve as a companion animal adoption center but will also become a community asset. **We believe that the CMHS Animal Care and Adoption Center can be the central resource for people and pets in and around Boone County.**

As animal welfare professionals, we have a unique responsibility and opportunity to speak for those that have no voice. Every donation we receive, big or small, makes a measurable and meaningful difference in the lives of so many deserving animals. Please consider making a campaign gift today to support our mission and help us expand our lifesaving efforts for years to come.



Interested in learning more about our campaign? We'd love to welcome you to the shelter for a tour! Reach out to our Campaign Manager, Michelle Casey, at michelle@cmhspets.org.



- ✓ Proper HVAC to decrease disease/odor
- ✓ Acoustical designs to decrease noise in animal housing areas
- ✓ Indoor meet n' greet rooms and playrooms for dogs and cats
- ✓ Separate entrances for Adoptions and Admissions/Vet Clinic
- ✓ Outdoor enclosed "catio" spaces for shelter cats to get fresh air
- ✓ Focused effort on "fear-free" housing with separation of species throughout the facility
- ✓ Sustainability features, including solar panels, fresh water collection tanks and energy-efficient systems

GET INVOLVED: BECOME A PART OF OUR CMHS FAMILY!

Volunteer Program

Our work would not be possible without our incredible network of volunteers and foster parents. In 2023, we had over 1,200 recorded volunteer hours. Our volunteers keep things running at our shelter, while providing the enrichment, socialization and love that all our animals need. Volunteers assist in almost every aspect of our organization. Our volunteer opportunities include dog walking, socialization and event support. We also offer a Doggy Day Out Program, which allows volunteers to take adoptable dogs off-site for an afternoon of adventure at staff-approved locations around town. We are fortunate to have an ever-growing team of mission-driven animal lovers to help make the work we do possible. There is no better feeling for our volunteers and team members than seeing pets we've come to know and love find their perfect match. Become a CMHS volunteer today!



Foster Program

A robust foster program is an integral part of our strategy to manage our shelter population and provide the individualized care some pets need before they are ready for adoption. Our dedicated foster parents open their hearts and homes to pets in need and make a life-changing difference for hundreds of pets each year. The exceptional care and positive socialization animals receive in foster homes increase adoptability and help pets build the skills they need to succeed in their new homes. Our foster program is free to join; we provide the supplies, you provide the love!



Chopstick's Tale

Chopstick is one of the many injured animals CMHS takes in each year. He was found early in the morning on a rural road in Boone County. His tail had been degloved and was barely attached to the rest of his body. An infection had spread quickly, and he had no mobility in his front leg. Although he was in immense pain, Chopstick was one of the friendliest kittens ever in our care. He was an excellent patient and tolerated all the treatment he received from our veterinary team. All this sweet guy wanted was to be close to someone. After all he has been through, Chopstick deserves the best in life. We amputated his tail, and he made a full recovery in a loving foster home. He spent a ton of time cuddling and playing with the other cats in the home. His stubby little tail is the cutest! Chopstick was adopted by a wonderful family and will have a great future, all because of the generosity of kind people like you. **The work we do would not be possible without your support!**

10th Annual Whiskers and Wine Gala

On October 5th, we welcomed nearly 275 guests to the Country Club of Missouri for our 10th Annual Whiskers and Wine Gala. This incredible event raised \$60,000 for the pets in our care. A big thank you to those who joined us — your generosity will impact thousands of needy animals!



Thank you to our sponsors!

- **Top Dog:** Eric & Tracy Barnes, KT Diamond Jewelers, Suzy & Durk Price and their Top Dog, Lilly Belle.
- **Cat's Meow:** Creekside Pet Center, Bruce and Lynda Baker, First State Community Bank, Heather and Mike Grote, Lizzi and Rocco's Pet Market, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Missouri Cotton Exchange.
- **Table Sponsors:** Central Bank of Boone County, Commerce Bank, University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, Randa Rawlins and Blaine Einspahr.

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President

Samantha Potter
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Steve C. Smith
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Leona Rubin
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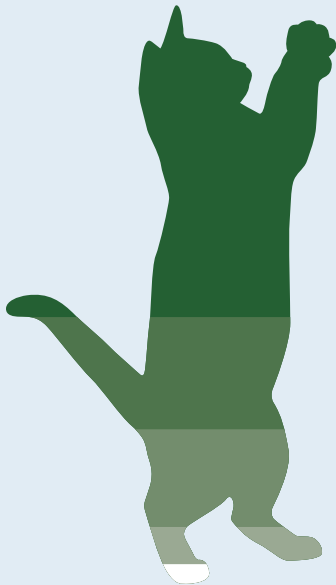
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Renee Hoagenson

Abby Owen
Jessica Schlosser

Mary Lee Siebert
David Whelan
Stephanie Browning
Ex-Officio
Amy Burling, DVM
Ex-Officio



Fur the Record



Revenue

- Donations and Fundraising – **54%**
- Contracted Services – **19%**
- Operating Income – **17%**
- Veterinary Income – **7%**
- Grants – **3%**



Our efforts are made possible through your generous financial support. With your help, we can continue to provide a refuge for neglected, unwanted animals in need. The Central Missouri Humane Society is recognized as a non-profit under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) status. Donations to CMHS are tax deductible. Donors should consult their tax advisor for questions regarding deductibility. Central Missouri Humane Society's EIN is 43-0666742. A copy of the CMHS's determination letter is available upon request.

616 Big Bear Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65202
Phone:
573.443.7387
Tax ID Number:
43-0666742