



# 2019 | ANNUAL REPORT



**Humane Animal Rescue**

*Care they need. Love they deserve.*

# Executive Summary

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am thrilled to share our 2019 Annual Report with you! Our devoted employees and faithful volunteers stepped up to meet every challenge we faced this year by truly **going above and beyond our highest expectations** to help further our mission and vision.

This past year, we focused on **best practices** to find ways to better serve the animals in our care to reduce animal stress levels, increase adoption rates, and help more wildlife return to their natural habitats. **We added new services and programs** to do this, including our Pet Helpline where a live person is available to answer pet-related questions all day. We were also able to expand our Transport Program by **partnering with over 35 animal shelters and animal control facilities across the East Coast**.

Humane Animal Rescue has again earned Charity Navigator's highest rating with its Platinum Seal of Transparency. **Our 4-star rating places us in the top 8% of all charities rated nationally**. This ensures that **we use your donations in an effective manner** and are fiscally responsible while adhering to good governance.

On behalf of our staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, and the thousands of domestic and wild animals who depend on us, **we thank you for your support and express our most sincere gratitude**.

Warm regards,



Dan Rossi  
Chief Executive Officer



## Mission

The end of animal abuse, suffering, and homelessness.



## Vision

Caring for animals, inspiring communities.

## Our Values:

**Accessible** – As one of the largest animal resource centers in Pennsylvania, we strive to accept all animals and offer services to everyone within our communities.

**Ethical** – We challenge ourselves to be ethical in all encounters with animals and people, and to apply strong moral principles to everything we do. We treat all animals and people equitably, honestly, and with compassion and respect.

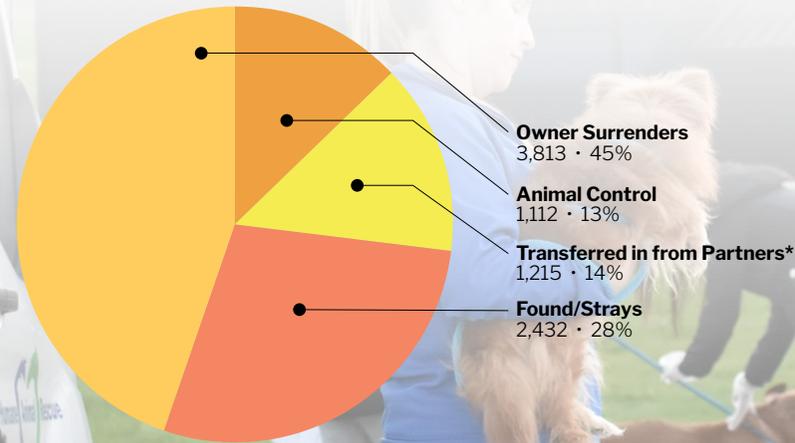
**Innovative** – We continuously improve upon the services we provide, as well as incorporate new ideas and strategies into our practices with the ever-present vision of ending animal abuse, suffering, and homelessness.

**Inclusive** – We commit to diversity and inclusion in our staff, volunteers, and customers. We strive for full participation in policy formation and decision making.

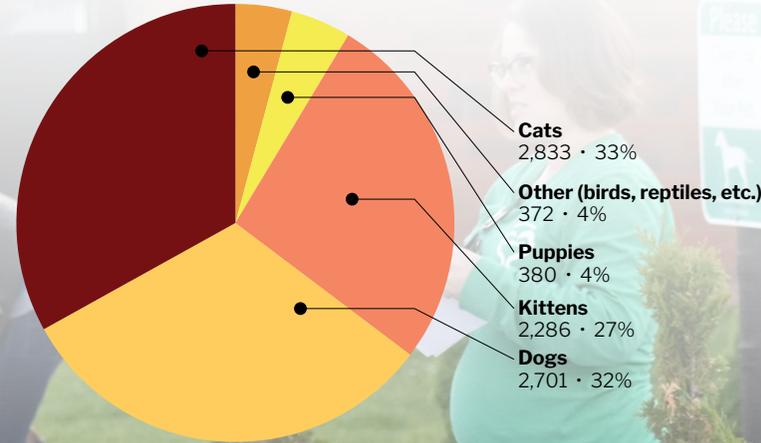
# Companion Animal Intake

TOTAL: 8,572

## Intake by Type:



## Intake by Species:



Humane Animal Rescue follows an Open Managed Admission policy as part of being a socially-conscious shelter. This means that we ask the public to make an appointment to bring us their pet so we can ensure we have the proper resources prepared and available to provide the best care possible for each pet.

This model doesn't mean we'll turn away a pet in need or limit taking a pet, but instead allows us to provide the quality care that each pet needs and deserves. As part of ensuring we have appropriate space, there may be a wait between calling to schedule an appointment and us accepting a pet. We strive to create a supportive environment to make the best decision for each pet and family without judgment and scheduled appointments allow us to meet that need.

## To Their Rescue!

Equipped with a brand new, retro-fitted animal transport van, our Relocation Team increased its geographical reach to save more lives.

We partnered with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and **37** rural, high-volume shelters to transport at-risk animals to our shelters in Pittsburgh for adoption. In 2019 alone, **we traveled over 8,500 miles to save 1,215 furry lives!**



## Keeping Pets in Homes

Veterinary care for pets can be very expensive, but our goal is to give everyone in our community the ability to care for their pets properly.

Brutus's owner was referred to our **Pet Helpline (412.345.0348)** when Brutus became ill after eating something he wasn't supposed to. When he arrived, our medical staff performed **bloodwork and radiographs** that showed he had foreign material in his stomach and intestines.

Surgery revealed he ate a sock and it perforated his intestines in multiple locations. Our Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Ariella Samson, performed a successful bowel resection and Brutus was able to **return to his loving family** less than a week later!

# Saving Wildlife

Our Wildlife Rehabilitation Center has treated over **45,000** native Pennsylvania wildlife **since opening its doors in 1997**. We treat over **4,000** sick, injured, or orphaned wild animals annually in an effort to return wildlife to their natural habitats.

To further assist our community's native animals, we introduced the Wildlife Helpline this year. **We've received over 3,000 phone calls** from concerned members of the public asking for advice specifically for wildlife animals.



# Educating the Community

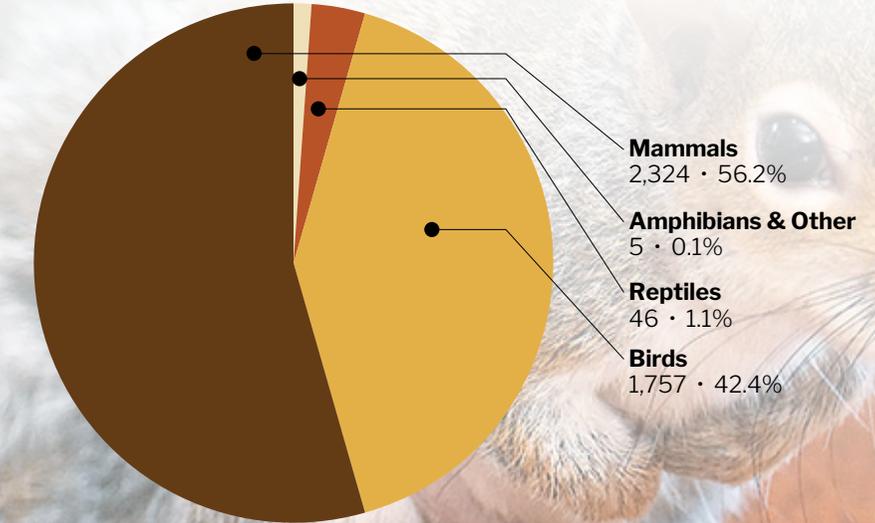
The community relies on Humane Animal Rescue as a resource for all animals. Our Humane & Wildlife Education Department has programs for people of **all ages** on humane care and interacting with animals, both domestic and wild. Our goal is to reduce pet overpopulation and negative relationships with native wildlife.

In addition to our human educators, **we have 26 Education Animal Ambassadors** – a mix of domestic and wild animals – who assist the Education Department! These ambassadors give our community a unique way to learn about Pennsylvania's wildlife up close.



# Native Wildlife Treated

TOTAL: 4,132



Our Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is a fully licensed wildlife clinic with 20 State & Federal Permits that specializes in caring for sick, injured, and orphaned native wild Pennsylvania Species. Studies show that releasing an animal into the wrong habitat usually results in the animal's death within two weeks. Only Wildlife Rehabilitation Center staff and volunteers are permitted to perform releases to ensure safety, proper habitat, time of day, and time of year criteria are being met. Sometimes it is important to release animals back to their own territory, but other times it is not essential. Staff will consider each animal's individual case and make this determination.

## Pickles the Cat

Pickles was brought to our North Side Campus by good Samaritans shortly after the Fourth of July when she was found severely injured near their house. During the initial triage exam, our medical team realized that **firecrackers had been tied to her front left paw** with rubber bands and ignited.

There was very little left of her paw as her leg had become severely infected and infested with maggots. Our veterinarians determined that due to the extent of the injury, the best course of action was to amputate the entire leg. **Pickles made a full recovery and was adopted** just two weeks after entering our care!



## Alligators in Pittsburgh

On June 11th, City of Pittsburgh Animal Care & Control called to tell us they were on their way to our East End Campus with animals seized from a home in Beechview.

When they arrived, **our staff was shocked to find 33 exotic animals, including three alligators!** Our medical and animal care teams worked quickly to set up temporary habitats for the large menagerie that included guinea pigs, iguanas, Chinese water dragons, rabbits, hairless rats, yellow belly sliders, a Nile Monitor lizard, and a 6-foot long Burmese Python.

We partnered with exotic and reptile-specific rescues to move the animals we weren't equipped to care for into more appropriate habitats.

## Dog Found After 12 Years

In October of 2019, we received a toy fox terrier who was found hiding under a backyard shed in Carnegie. During her initial exam, we found that she was microchipped!

We immediately contacted Katheryn, who was listed as the owner on the microchip to tell her we found her dog, Dutchess. In disbelief she said, "I can't believe you're calling me right now. It's been **12 years**. I can't believe this is happening!" She drove over 18 hours from Florida to be reunited with the 14-year old dog **she last saw as a puppy in February of 2007**.

In 2018, **only 4%** of stray animals brought to our shelters were microchipped, which is consistent with the national average.

To encourage local pet owners to have their animals microchipped, we offer the service for just \$15 at our monthly low-cost vaccine clinics.

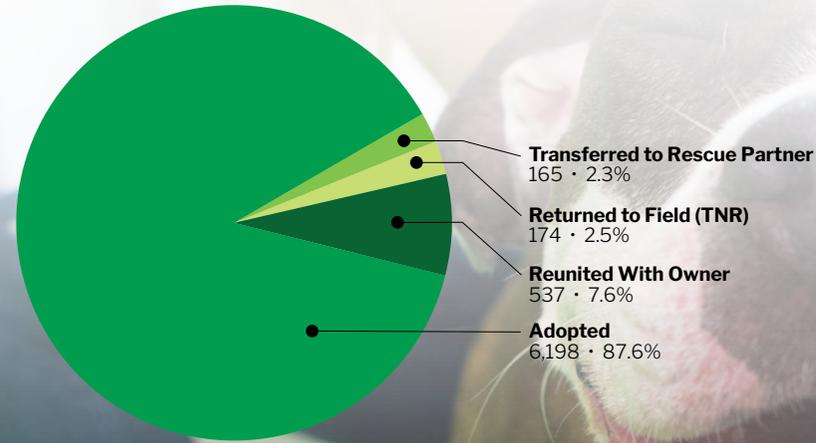
“ I can't believe you're calling me right now. It's been 12 years. I can't believe this is happening! ”



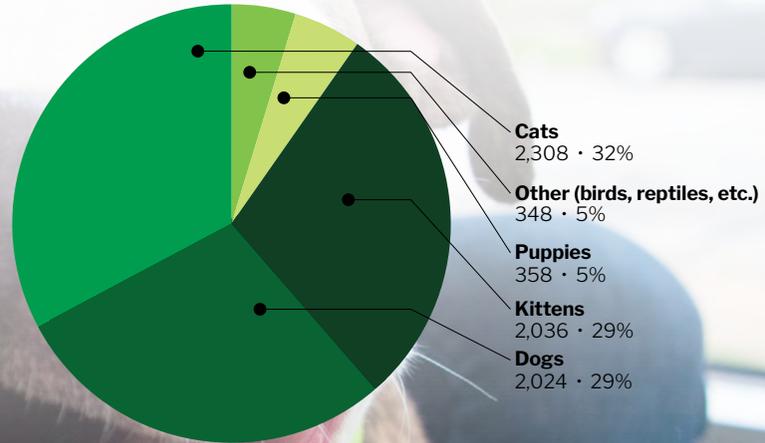
# Companion Animal Placement

TOTAL: 7,074

## Placement by Reason:



## Placement by Species:



As the largest and most comprehensive animal resource center in the region, we take great pride in finding good homes for the companion animals in our care. Our adoptions team works to match people with the perfect adoptable animal. To assist with making a match, an adoption counselor will learn more about the adopter and share information about the animals.

All adoptable pets at Humane Animal Rescue have been spayed or neutered, as well as micro-chipped, treated for worms and fleas, and their vaccinations and other necessary medical care are up-to-date. While all animals have been thoroughly checked by our veterinarians, we cannot guarantee the health of any animal.

# Smuggled Out of Prison!

Carlos Santana was brought to our shelter as a **rambunctious puppy** who needed extra behavior training. He was adopted but then returned due to his lack of manners.

We turned to the DAWG (Developing Animals With Goals) Program at SCI-Fayette for help. Carlos lived with an inmate who worked with him on behavior training every day!

**He eventually became an A+ student** with perfect manners and was adopted in early September after **spending 149 days in our care**. Carlos was **one of over 30 dogs** who went through the DAWG Program this year!



# Senior Spotlight: Chloe

Chloe was left tied to a fence outside our East End Campus overnight in early August with a note stating **“This is Chloe, she is 10 years old and very sick.”**

Our medical staff determined that she was suffering from pyometra, a uterine infection that occurs in unaltered female dogs. They completed an **emergency spay surgery** to stabilize and treat Chloe, but during her recovery, we found that Chloe was suffering from a number of medical issues. She had dental disease, osteoarthritis, mammary masses, and a heart murmur.

**Our staff and volunteers kept this sweet girl happy for 88 days** until she found the perfect mom!



## Veterinary Services

Thanks to the generous support of our patrons, we were able to **expand** the veterinary services we offer to both the community and our shelter animals.

**Our Veterinary Medical Centers provide full-service veterinary care.** That includes general wellness exams, vaccinations, dentistry, general soft tissue surgery, illness and injury care, spay and neuter surgeries, and end of life care.

In line with our mission to decrease pet overpopulation, all animals that utilize our wellness clinics must be spayed or neutered or scheduled to be spayed or neutered.

Our clinics are staffed by **licensed veterinarians**, veterinary technicians, and dedicated animal care specialists. **All proceeds generated by our veterinary centers help cover the cost of medical care for our shelter animals.** Using our clinic for your pet's care is a wonderful way to keep your pet healthy AND pay it forward — providing care and shelter for the pets awaiting adoption!

## Operation Snip & Tip

We are committed to reducing the number of unwanted pets in our community, and spay and neuter is a critical part of controlling this problem. **We offer affordable options to our community**, but also host high volume free spay and neuter clinics throughout the year.

Our second annual Operation Snip & Tip, a **24-hour Spayathon**, provided free spay and neuter surgeries for community cats. With the help of **73 veterinarians, veterinary technicians, staff, and volunteers, we completed 310 surgeries!** This event saves thousands of lives each year as it significantly reduces the number of unwanted litters born.



## Medical Spotlight: Fawn

Fawn was dropped off at our East End Campus as a stray dog in need of medical care. She was **severely emaciated and underweight**, so our medical team quickly examined her to determine the best course of action to get her healthy. She was put on a **strict feeding schedule** of digestive health prescription food to ensure she gained weight but didn't get sick from eating since had been starving for a long time.

Fawn also received pain medication to alleviate discomfort and antibiotics to treat the infection from her open pressure sores. One of our staff members fell in love and decided to foster Fawn **so she could relax and get healthy in the comfort of a home.** Soon after returning, she found a wonderful family **just in time for the Holidays!**



# Community Cats

In an effort to improve the lives of cats in our community and **reduce unnecessary euthanasia** of healthy cats, we introduced our Community Cat and Working Cat Programs in 2019.

Community cats are un-owned cats that live outdoors; they may be feral or friendly, or may be lost or abandoned pets. **The safest and most efficient way** to decrease the population of these cats is through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

In addition to TNR, we are able to place some Community Cats into our Working Cat Program where they are **“employed”** as rodent and pest control! This allows us to manage overpopulation and disease control, while **giving the cats the life they want.**



## Justice For Bruce

When Pittsburgh Animal Control officers brought in an **extreme case of neglect and abuse**, our staff was ready. Our medical team sedated the dog, nicknamed Bruce, cleaned his many wounds, gave him IV fluids, and regulated his temperature. Undernourished and emaciated, Bruce had puncture wounds, scarring, leg lacerations, and was facially degloved.

But, it was too late. Our veterinarians, with the help of **Board Certified surgeons**, determined that euthanasia was the most humane outcome for this fatally injured dog.

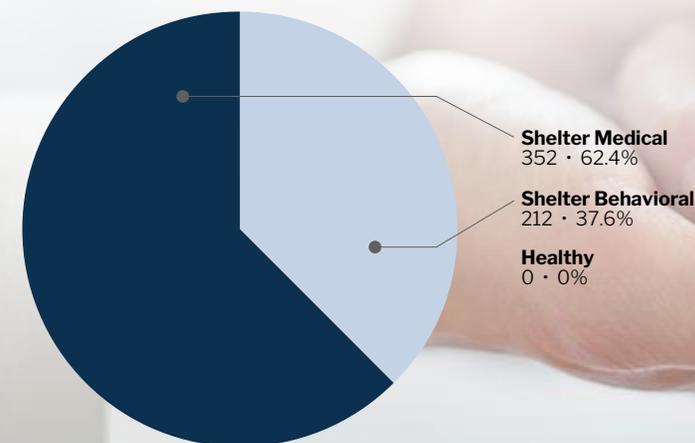
We were heartened to see our community support Bruce by sharing his story to hopefully **lead us to the person responsible** for Bruce’s inhumane treatment. **It is because of this support that we are able to continue fighting for animals like Bruce.**

# Companion Animal Euthanasia TOTAL: 564

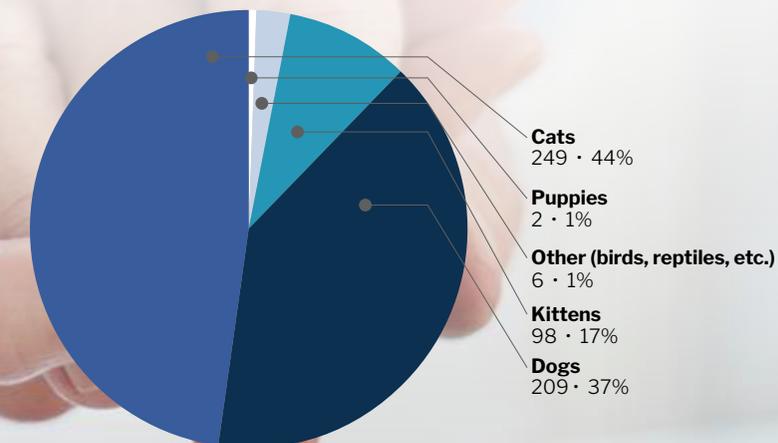
Humane Animal Rescue is committed to welcoming every animal in need. Unfortunately, some animals come to us with severe and untreatable illnesses or behavior issues that prevent us from safely placing them in the community. If we are not able to help an animal become healthy or suitable for adoption, humane euthanasia is often the most compassionate alternative.

We do not euthanize healthy animals and there is no space or time limit set for animals in our care. **Our Live Release Rate\* was 93% in 2019, we are proud that this number is well above the national average.**

### Euthanasia by Reason:



### Euthanasia by Species:



\*Our live release is based on the Asilomar Lite model. For more detailed statistics, please visit [HumaneAnimalRescue.org/statistics](http://HumaneAnimalRescue.org/statistics).

# Community Support

We truly wouldn't be able to do what we do without the support of our volunteers, fosters, and donors. Our animals rely on you to help us provide the care they need and the love they deserve. Thank you to everyone who helped make 2019 such a great year for the animals!



**59,676**  
Volunteer Hours



**984**  
Active Volunteers



**400+**  
Active Foster Families



**16,729**  
Individual Donors



**418**  
Constant Companions



**575**  
Corporate Supporters

# Our Dedicated Volunteers

We are very proud of the commitment and dedication of our volunteers.

At our shelters, we have an **enhanced safety and training program** to provide new skills and learning to our volunteers, and to increase the adoptability of our animals. Our animal handling volunteers are skilled in understanding animal behavior and communications and know how to help modify behavior problems and fearfulness.

We rely on a unique and dedicated group of foster volunteers who help us care for the thousands of homeless animals who enter our shelters each year. Many of these homeless pets are not quite ready for adoption and **require additional care and love to prepare them for their forever home.**

At our Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, volunteers receive **hands-on experience working with Pennsylvania's native wildlife** and have the satisfaction of helping injured and orphaned animals return to the wild.





## Annual Gala

Our annual Wags, Whiskers, & Wings gala is our largest fundraiser and draws support from across the Greater Pittsburgh Region through our community and corporate sponsors. This year, we followed the hare and journeyed down the rabbit hole to an **Alice in Wonderland** themed soiree.

Our guests were greeted by the **Mad Hatter and his adoptable rabbit, Remi**, then taken through the **Queen of Heart's Rose Garden** for drinks, live music, and, of course, animals! Puppies and dogs from our shelter and transport program gave the best kisses, kittens put on their best show, and our wild Education Animal Ambassadors were something to marvel.

We are thrilled to report that it was our most successful event by raising over \$650,000! These funds allow us to **provide the most comprehensive, compassionate, and humane care to all animals – domestic and wild!**

## Financials

### SUPPORT & REVENUES

Adoption Fees & Program Revenue	\$1,314,380
Veterinary Services	\$1,197,045
Contributions – Operating	\$2,995,765
Wills & Estates	\$1,586,263
Special Events & Promotions	\$1,046,187
Net Investment Income	\$1,815,147

**TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES \$9,954,787**

### EXPENSES

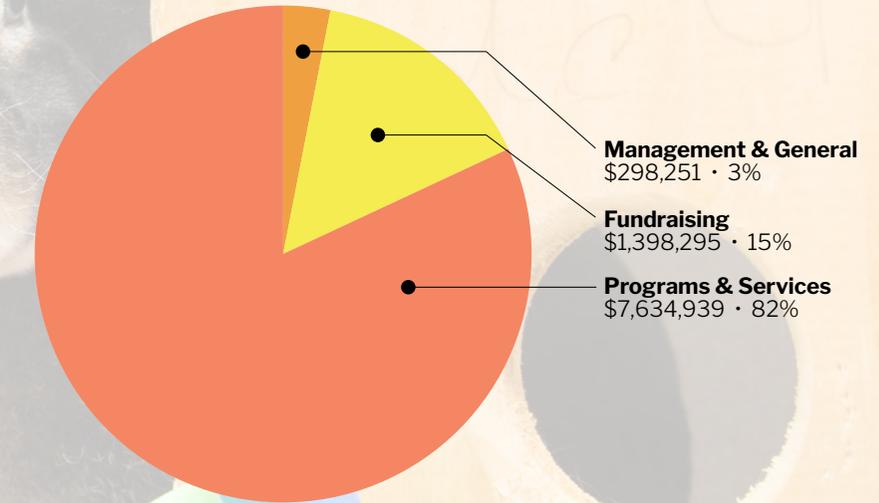
Programs & Services:	
Rescue & Outreach	\$406,829
Adoptions & Intake	\$5,114,760
Veterinary Services	\$1,481,813
Wildlife Rehabilitation Center	\$631,537

Supporting Services:	
Management & General	\$298,251
Fundraising	\$1,398,295

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$9,331,485**

**CHANGE IN ASSETS \$623,302**

### Expenses:





# Humane Animal Rescue

*Care they need. Love they deserve.*



## **East End Campus**

6926 Hamilton Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15208  
412.345.7300 x150



## **Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**

6000 Verona Road  
Verona, PA 15147  
412.345.7300 x500



## **North Side Campus**

1101 Western Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233  
412.345.7300 x150

**[HumaneAnimalRescue.org](https://HumaneAnimalRescue.org)**

**412.345.7300**