



2015•16

Ottawa Humane Society ANNUAL REPORT



Mending broken bodies and hearts, with you by our side. For the animals you've helped rescue, reunite and rehome in 2015/16, we thank you.

Mission: To lead Ottawa in building a humane and compassionate community for all animals.

Changing the Future for Ottawa's Animals, With You by Our Side

Message from the Executive Director

At the request of the board, beginning in the previous fiscal year, OHS launched the broadest and deepest consultation in its history.

Nearly 20,000 donors and stakeholders were asked about the OHS and its animal welfare priorities and future in preparation for a new five-year strategic plan. You told us what you wanted the future to look like for the OHS and for our community, and the resulting very ambitious plan was launched in April of 2016.



Bruce Roney
OHS Executive Director

The main thrust of the plan is broken into eight major themes, each with a guiding premise:



Investment in the Next Generation

"Building a better future for pets by creating better future pet owners"



Pets in the Community

"Pet belong in homes, not shelters"



Ensuring Animal Sheltering Best Practices

"Good policies save lives"



Dog Behaviour Intervention

"We cannot continue to accept canine suffering because they act out"



Reducing Cat Overpopulation

"Too many cats will live wretched lives as long as there are too many cats"



Building and Maintaining the Human/Animal Bond

"Pets are a part of a healthy family"



Partnerships and Leverage

"Doing more with less because we are doing it together"



Investing in Growth

Ottawa's animals need us to ask for them as much as they need us to speak for them"



Thanks to your input and with your support, we can make this plan a reality.

Saving Lives at the OHS Clinic, Thanks to You

Surgery Only Hope Rex Would Ever Walk Again

When Rex arrived at the OHS, the boxer and Rottweiler mix was in terrible pain and every step made it worse.



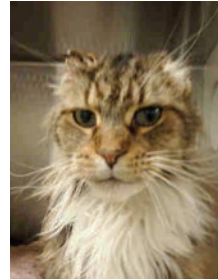
The OHS vet did an X-ray and found Rex had ruptured cruciate ligaments in both of his knees requiring two complicated surgeries if he were ever again going to walk pain free.

Dr. Leslie Davenport, an OHS volunteer vet, provided the consultation and surgery at a reduced rate to help significantly lower the cost and to give Rex a second chance.

After five months in the care of the OHS and with a dedicated foster volunteer, Rex took his first pain-free steps into the loving arms of his new forever family last fall.

Mufasa's Second Chance

When Mufasa the cat first arrived at the OHS last December, the eight-year-old Maine Coon was in rough shape. Matted fur and infected and frostbitten ears, the stray had clearly known hard times. And his teeth were a mess — he was in desperate need of oral surgery.



Left untreated, dental disease can result in pain, tooth loss, infection and even jaw fractures. It can have serious, even fatal, systemic consequences, affecting the kidneys, liver and heart. It can also mean the difference between a new home and being repeatedly passed over for an animal with healthy teeth.

After three dental surgeries, more than a month in foster care, 14 check ups, and some time in the feline enrichment program, Mufasa was adopted by his forever family last spring.

Because you care, last year the OHS was able to give 603 animals, like Mufasa, the oral surgery they needed for their second chances.

Healing the Sick and Injured

Veterinarians performed 4,096 surgeries on animals in the care of the Ottawa Humane Society last year, a 26 per cent increase from the year before.

They completed:

Spays and
neuters
3,012

Dental
procedures
882

X-rays
840

Diagnostic
procedures
199

We Couldn't Do It Without Our Volunteer Vets

In 2015/16, volunteer veterinarians logged 684 hours at the OHS, saving animal lives with specialist consultations, spays and neuters, amputations and other vital medical procedures.

Thank you to:

- Alta Vista Animal Hospital
- Cedarview Animal Hospital
- Claire Place Mobile Veterinary Services
- Ottawa Veterinary Hospital
- Queensway West Animal Hospital

- Dr. Tara Betnaza
- Dr. Don Caldwell
- Dr. Ed Cottell
- Dr. Leslie Davenport
- Dr. Beth Emans
- Dr. Deborah Gaon
- Dr. Justin Guay
- Dr. Nigel Gumley
- Dr. Kim Holzman
- Dr. Glenys Hughes
- Dr. Joannah Jarman
- Dr. Graham Johnson
- Dr. Adrian Jones
- Dr. Michael Kim
- Dr. Cheryl Laite
- Dr. Amy Lowe
- Dr. Rebecca Lynes
- Dr. Ashley Marshall
- Dr. Michelle Nicholson
- Dr. Catherine Oliarnyk
- Dr. Vanessa Papiernik
- Dr. Denis Philibert
- Dr. Maria Popa
- Dr. Sandra Romanauskas
- Dr. Karen Sime
- Dr. Jennifer Stickney
- Dr. Mark Wallar
- Dr. Amy Wilson
- Dr. Orisha Yacyshyn

Preventing the Suffering of Unwanted Pets With the New Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic

It's a tragic cycle: unsterilized cats having kittens. Then those kittens have their own kittens, leading to homeless cats and more suffering. But real change is finally here for our community's felines.

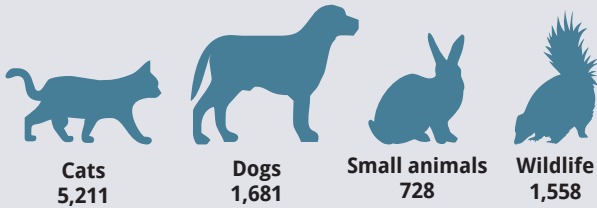
The new Ottawa Humane Society Mobile/Spay Neuter Clinic is on road this fall providing subsidized sterilizations to pet owners in low-income neighbourhoods of our city. Studies show that 6,000 surgeries a year will lead to a sharp decline in the population; the OHS expects to hit that number by the second year of the program.

While most of the capital to start the program was provided by PetSmart Charities of Canada, with you by our side we'll truly be able to change the future for cats in our community for years to come.



You Were There for 9,204 Animals in 2015/16

Never turning away an animal in need



Because of you, the Ottawa Humane Society *never* turns away an animal in need. Of the animals admitted to the OHS last year, 2,280 were surrendered by owners who could no longer care for them and 157 were transferred from other shelters. The greatest number were strays, at 4,202.

Finding Homes for More Small Animals

Princess and her five babies were surrendered to the OHS last summer when her owner could no longer care for that many bunnies, contributing to the 22 per cent increase in small animal and bird admissions.



The little rabbits spent a month in foster homes and were spayed or neutered before going to the Adoption Centre.

Princess and all her brood of lops and lionheads all soon found forever homes.

Saving More Lives by Matching Seniors and Older Felines

Launched in January, the Cats for Seniors program brings together people age 60 plus and felines age five and up. OHS staff match the cats in need with their new families for half the usual fee.

Older cats are often overlooked in favour of kittens so they tend to be in shelter longer, which increases their stress and risk of getting sick. Cats for Seniors gets them into loving homes where they belong much more quickly.

It's a purr-fect match: Nothing compares to the love and companionship of an animal. And for an animal, there's nothing like a loving forever home.

Reunited After Months at the OHS

Likos was 13 years old by the time she wound up in the care of the OHS. This senior kitty spend six months waiting for her forever home with no takers. Luckily for Likos, every adoptable animal has a warm, safe place at the OHS until they find their new families.



But it turns out Likos *already had* her purr-fect match. After searching for months, Likos' owner contacted the OHS on the off chance she was here. And she was! Her owner took her back home where she belongs.

At a steady five per cent since moving into the West Hunt Club Road shelter, the claim rate for lost cats like Likos jumped to eight per cent in 2015/16 — a 54 per cent increase over the year before. The percentage of lost dogs reunited with their families rose 12 per cent, to 66 per cent.

Thank You for More Happily Ever Afters

↑ Total adoptions: 4,247, up two per cent

↑ PAL adoptions: 2,025, up eight per cent

↑ Special needs adoptions: 329, up 35 per cent

Finding Homes for More Special Needs Pets

Mystic was surrendered to the OHS just before Thanksgiving 2014. The eight-year-old kitty was a sweet and playful boy but his sensitive stomach meant when he was adopted, he would go to his new home as a special needs pet.

The special needs adoption program at the OHS helps older animals and pets with manageable conditions get a second chance at finding a forever home. Conditions may include food allergies needing a special diet, thyroid conditions requiring regular, though inexpensive, medication, or heart murmurs that probably need nothing more than annual monitoring. It's a program that helps animals like Mystic find their happy endings.

After 242 days in the care of the OHS, Mystic caught the eye of a visitor to the Adoption Centre and went to his new home in June 2015.



Answering the Cry for Help

Skunk Rescue



In 2015/16, Rescue and Investigation Services officers saved 13 per cent more wildlife than the year before, including a little skunk who got too curious about the contents of a glass jar. The little guy got it stuck on his head and after some sedation and a little lubrication, OHS staff were able to free him. The skunk was released into the wild as soon as he slept off the sedation.

Top 3 investigations

- Dogs left in hot cars
- Not seeking vet care for sick or injured pets
- Abuse

Rescuing from Harm

Emergency calls

1,774

Investigations

1,355

Animals rescued

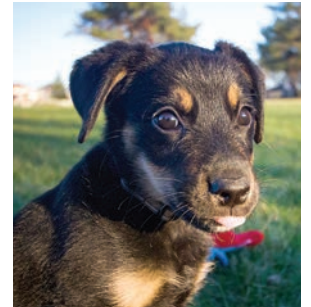
1,660

Saving Sadie

Last spring, a witness called the OHS emergency line to report overhearing punching and choking noises and someone screaming at their puppy. In grave condition when she was found, an OHS officer rushed the little dog to the OHS for emergency medical treatment.

The puppy, named Sadie by OHS staff, showed signs of brain trauma. Her pupils wouldn't respond to light and she was hemorrhaging in the whites of her eyes. She was immediately treated with oxygen, IV fluids, pain medication and drugs to stop her brain from swelling and to clear fluid from her lungs. She was in shock, her body was limp, she couldn't stand and could barely breathe. She wouldn't stop crying and whimpering.

After getting the urgent care she needed, she spent time recovering at the OHS and with a dedicated OHS foster volunteer. After she healed, Sadie was adopted into a safe and loving new home last spring.



Changing Animal Lives With Your Gift of Time



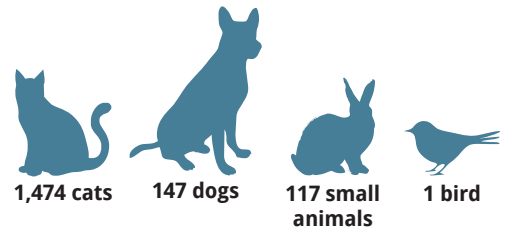
Current volunteers: 773
Total volunteer hours: 60,200

Our Four-Legged Volunteers

The cats, dogs and other animals of the Brightening Lives program made 645 visits to 82 care facilities this year, including hospitals, retirement homes and rehabilitation centres. These special volunteers provide residents with the benefits of animal companionship.

Giving the Animals a Second Chance

In 2015/16, volunteers fostered:



The number of foster volunteers was up 18 per cent in 2015/16 to 378.



Buttercup's Story

Buttercup was a scared and skinny stray when she was brought to the Ottawa Humane Society on a cold day in November 2015. She soon stopped eating and spent her days cowering in her kennel, feeling stressed and scared.

Cats like Buttercup thrive in foster homes. The TLC she got from a dedicated OHS foster volunteer helped her regain her appetite and she was adopted last March.

Telling Their Stories

Changing Lives with the Right Message

In December 2015, Kitty had been at the OHS for 218 days. She'd seen spring come and go, raincoats then winter boots. It was time for her to find her match.



To drum up interest, the OHS posted a video to Facebook asking for a home for Kitty. The video had nearly 27,000 views within 24 hours!

Kitty's new family saw the video and raced over to the OHS to adopt her. She was in her new home in time for Christmas.



Top Blog Posts

1

The Streets Are No Place for a Cat: 4,949 views

2

Light or Dark — there are no sides when it comes to helping animals (Star Wars and animals photos): 4,186 views

3

Cecil the Lion — What can you do?: 2,334 views



Top 3 Facebook Posts

1

OHS seeking tips in the case of a man seen kicking a dog on camera: July 22, 2015, 372,422 people reached

2

Raccoon rescued after being trapped in tree: Nov. 13, 2015, 163,265 people reached

3

Link to Executive Director Bruce Roney's blog on Cecil the lion: Aug. 6, 2015, 78,236 people reached

6,000

Daily website visits

16,628

Our Best Friends Newsletters distributed per edition

185

E-bulletins sent

36,998

Facebook likes

8,110

Twitter followers

Changing the Future for Ottawa's Animals

Thanks to you, the Ottawa Humane Society is able to take a leadership role in the humane treatment of all animals with the next generation of pet owners. Humane education programs teach children responsible pet ownership, promote the human-animal bond, and nurture kindness, sensitivity and appreciation for all living creatures.

Children reached last year

15,883

School presentations: 421
Children reached: 10,731

Summer program presentations: 30
Children reached: 861

In-house youth tours: 71
Youth reached: 1,005

Birthday parties: 231
Children reached: 2,288

French Programming at the OHS

The Ottawa Humane Society offers its humane education school presentations in French and English, recognizing that a great many of the human residents of the Ottawa area are francophone.

The OHS also provides many important community services, be it reuniting lost pets with their owners, finding forever homes for homeless animals, or educating the public about animal welfare, in *both* official languages. And in the coming months, the OHS will be completing the translation of key documents and materials into French with a focus on those most frequently used by the public.

Obedience Classes at the OHS

Betsy is a six-year-old Boston Terrier whose body bears the scars of a rough beginning. Passed from puppy mill to puppy mill, she spent her days locked in drafty barns and makeshift outdoor shelters with no bed and no love.

She finally made it to the OHS to get the care she needed and second chance she deserved.

She was quickly adopted and her new family signed her up for obedience training to help her become the best dog possible.

In class, Betsy boned up on her doggy manners and is now the Science Diet® Wiggle Waggle Walkathon spokesdog!



Saving Lives, With You by Our Side

The OHS depends on the generosity of its 23,442 donors to fulfill its mission to help Ottawa's animals. Last year, donations totaled \$4,241,176. That's a four per cent increase from the year before. Thank you for being right there when we rescued, reunited, and rehomed our community's animals — we couldn't have done any of this without you.

Thank You for Being a PAW Hero

The Ottawa Humane Society PAW (Pre-Authorized Withdrawal) plan allows members to make regular monthly gifts. This year there were 7,826 total PAW donors. That's an increase of 13 per cent. Thank you for your support!



Our Community's Trust

In May, the Ottawa Humane Society received prestigious accreditation by Imagine Canada, recognizing excellence in non-profit accountability, transparency and governance.

Accreditation means the OHS shows excellence and compliance in five key areas of operations:

- Board governance
- Financial accountability and transparency
- Fundraising
- Staff management
- Volunteer involvement



Thank You for Helping Patches

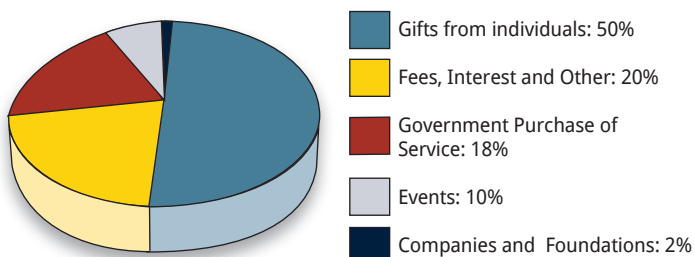
Patches the puppy was found abandoned and near death on a snowmobile trail last winter.

She had a body temperature so dangerously low when she was found that most animals wouldn't survive it.

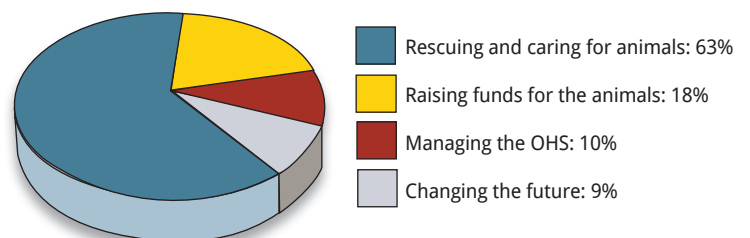
After getting the care she needed, Patches was well enough to go to the Adoption Centre last spring. And that very same day, she went to her new home!

OHS Resource Breakdown

This chart shows where the financial resources of the OHS come from.



This chart shows how OHS resources are used to help animals.



Ottawa Humane Society Supporters

Visionary+

\$25,000+

Air Canada
CTV Ottawa (Bell Media)
Emily, David and Sarah Aaron
Hill's Pet Nutrition
PetSmart Charities of Canada
The Crabtree Foundation
United Way of Ottawa Donors

Visionary

\$10,000-24,999

Community Foundation of Ottawa Donors
Costco Wholesale Social Committee
Critter Crafters
Gillin Engineering and Construction Ltd.
Goudge Family Foundation
OHS Auxiliary
OHS Bingo Volunteer Program
Pattison Outdoor Advertising
Petsecure Pet Health Insurance
Pfizer - Ottawa Laboratory
RBC Wealth Management
Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation Donors
United Way of Greater Toronto Donors

Leader

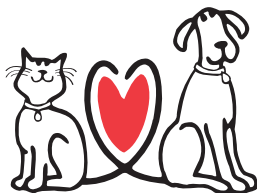
\$5,000-9,999

Canadian Bank Note
Billings Bridge Shopping Centre
DS Plumbing
EMC
Halogen Software Inc.
Hay Design Inc.
Iversoft Solutions Inc.
National Capital Marathon Inc.
Ottawa Citizen
Ottawa Pet Expo
Rings Etc.
Scott Island Foundation
TELUS

Guardian

\$2,500-4,999

1155599 Ontario Limited
Benefaction Foundation Donors
Canadian Union of Public Employees
DNS Electrical Contracting
Emond Harnden LLP
Lee Hayes Vox Choir
Marquardt Printing Ltd.
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