St. Hubert’s Merges with Humane Rescue Alliance

St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center and the Humane Rescue Alliance of Washington, DC, have merged to create the first regional, community-based, multi-state animal welfare organization in the nation. Both organizations are individually strong by nature of our experience and expertise; now we have combined these strengths and are investing in the best elements of each organization to increase efficiencies of precious donor dollars, provide more comprehensive services, and significantly increase the number of animals and people we help.

Lisa LaFontaine, President and CEO of the Humane Rescue Alliance and a nationally recognized leader in animal welfare, leads the combined organization as President and CEO. In 2016, LaFontaine oversaw the merger of the Washington Humane Society and Washington Animal Rescue League, resulting in the formation of the Humane Rescue Alliance – the first unified organization in a major urban area to provide all the animal welfare programs and services to the community.

The St. Hubert’s brand will remain in the community and all the programs and services that are cherished will become stronger than ever. We will continue to serve our local areas with the same focus, compassion, and services, as we combine our strengths to significantly increase the number of animals and people served across the country. The Humane Rescue Alliance is also committed to continuing and expanding St. Hubert’s Sister Shelter WayStation Program, which has moved more than 11,600 at-risk dogs from crisis to care since its inception three years ago.

This merger means that your contributions will go further toward realizing our mission of protecting animals, supporting pet families in need, and advocating for positive change to create a world where all animals thrive.

As St. Hubert’s embarks on its 80th anniversary, we hope you’ll join us in celebrating this historic step that will greatly benefit the animals and people in our region and beyond.
Dear Friends,

I’m thrilled and honored to be serving as the President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center, now a part of Humane Rescue Alliance. Following our merger in July, I have spent a great deal of time in New Jersey working with staff and learning the ins and outs of the wonderful St. Hubert’s programs. It’s clear to me that through your support, St. Hubert’s is doing an amazing job both helping people and animals in the surrounding communities. Your impact is felt just as strongly through the Waystation Program, which serves animals in need throughout the nation.

When I first heard that Heather Cammisa was planning to leave St. Hubert’s, I got to thinking about how we could help preserve St. Hubert’s lifesaving work. When she and I talked, we quickly learned that both organizations share similar visions and goals, which made a merger a natural decision.

Three years ago, I oversaw the merger of two very distinct organizations, the Washington Humane Society (WHS) and the Washington Animal Rescue League (WARL). The result was the formation of the Humane Rescue Alliance (HRA), the first unified organization in a major urban area to provide all animal welfare programs and services to the community. Although the two legacy organizations had worked well together, during the process of merging we discovered we were duplicating many of our efforts, and also that there were gaps in critical services that we needed to fill. Through this merger, we know that combining the strengths of St. Hubert’s with HRA will result in consolidating our resources to better serve all the communities we work in, and the animals and people whose lives are touched.

Early on in the merger process, I appreciated a small sign that showed me we were on the right path! As you probably know, the St. Hubert’s custom-built transport vehicle was named “The Zephyr” after a beloved shelter dog. My grandfather was also named Zephyr – named after Zephuros, Greek God of the western wind – a wind that carries us into new destinations. It’s an exciting and apt metaphor for our new relationship! I already feel at home in the surrounding St. Hubert’s community, and look forward to meeting you in the coming months as we work together to help even more animals, and the people who love them.

All my best,

Lisa LaFontaine
President and Chief Executive Officer

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**Calendar of Events**

**6th Annual Tricky Tray**
Saturday, October 26, 2019
Doors open at 6 p.m.
St. Hubert’s Training and Behavior Center
575 Woodland Ave, Madison
Join us for our popular basket raffle event to win great prizes and raise money for animals in need. We are also seeking donations of prizes and baskets. Contact events@sthuberts.org if you can help.

**Wine Tasting**
Friday, December 6, 2019
6 - 9 p.m. at the Morris Museum
6 Normandy Heights Rd, Morristown
St. Hubert’s is partnering with Main Street Wine Cellars to host a fun and elegant holiday wine tasting to benefit homeless pets.

**Pet Loss Support Group**
First Tuesday of each month from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Third Sunday of each month from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
St. Hubert’s Community Room, Madison, NJ
Free group support sessions facilitated by professional counselors in a compassionate environment. Visit sthuberts.org/petloss for more information.

For up-to-date, detailed information on all events, visit sthuberts.org or call 973.377.7094.
This past June, St. Hubert’s led the removal of 188 Parson Russell Terriers from a single property following the issue of a warrant by a Humane Law Enforcement Officer. We provided expertise in both the removal and the triage, emergency sheltering and care of the dogs.

The dogs had been living in terrible conditions, most inside of small crates sitting in their own filth. They hadn’t seen the light of day in quite some time and had little human interaction. Most suffered from intestinal parasites and dirty coats, and many had tumors and skin conditions. A handful of the females were pregnant.

As the days went on, we evaluated each of the dogs’ individual needs and placed them on appropriate behavior and medical treatment plans. Our behavior team introduced the dogs to a variety of tastes, scents and experiences. When dogs come from situations like this, they’ve often never experienced the simple joys in life. Enjoying treats, walking on the grass and playing with toys are all new to them.

Many of St. Hubert’s partner shelters throughout New Jersey and up the East Coast welcomed groups of the dogs into their care. We work with these organizations regularly as part of our WayStation Transport Program and rely on them during emergency situations.

All of the dogs were spayed or neutered before adoption, and also received a microchip, follow up vaccinations, worming medications, flea/tick preventative and heartworm tests. Given the severity of the situation from which they were rescued, some dogs needed extra time to adjust before being placed for adoption.

St. Hubert’s is grateful to its community of supporters who jumped in to help at a moment’s notice. The initial cost of taking in such a large group of dogs weighs heavily and quickly drains resources, especially during the busy summer months when animal intake is high and donations are low. We know when called upon to assist, we can always say “yes”, knowing our supporters are behind us. Thank you for making this rescue possible.

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**Kitten Nursery Grand Opening**

St. Hubert’s is happy to announce the grand opening of the brand-new Kitten Nursery, a room at our Madison shelter dedicated to saving the lives of the smallest, most vulnerable animals in our care, orphaned kittens. On any given day during the spring, summer and even into the fall, we have up to 300 kittens in our shelters and foster program. Many come to us needing round-the-clock neonatal care including multiple feedings per day, medications and treatments in specialized incubators, which help stabilize body temperature and use a built-in nebulizer to heal those suffering from upper respiratory infections. The nursery is run by experienced staff and volunteers who dedicate their time to ensuring each kitten receives the care he/she needs to thrive. Once healthy and stable, kittens enter volunteer foster homes who will continue to care for them and provide socialization outside of the shelter until they are large enough to be spayed/neutered and be placed for adoption. At the start of this project, our community of supporters joined together to stock the shelves of our nursery by sending donations of kitten milk, canned food, heating pads and more. To learn more about the Kitten Nursery and how you can help, visit sthuberts.org/kittennursery.
Shelter News

Engaging the Next Generation of Animal Advocates

St. Hubert’s launched its Youth Task Force welcoming youth volunteers ages 15-17 to our Madison location to volunteer directly with our animals. Youth volunteers work 2 hours per week in groups of 4 to 6 alongside an adult volunteer and can be seen at our shelter 7 days a week. In total, our Youth Task Force members put in about 70 volunteer hours per week. They are also involved in fundraising and promoting animals for adoption via Instagram @sthuberts.youth.task.force. The program has been very successful, making a difference in the lives of many of our shelter animals who receive direct care and daily interaction from our youth volunteers. Not only does the program benefit our animals, but it also makes quite an impact on the teens. Annika says, “I love being a member of the Youth Task Force program. Being able to care for and see relationships form between animals and myself has been an amazing experience.” For more information, visit our website at sthuberts.org/youth-task-force.

St. Hubert’s was honored to be selected for the second year in a row to host guests from Humane Society International’s Veterinary Training Internship Program. Dr. Dalia and Dr. Noura (front), both from Egypt, spent one week at St. Hubert’s learning new techniques with Dr. Perrin and our medical team. We are thrilled to have two new international friends in animal welfare.

Thanks to our friends at Maddie’s Fund®, we have hosted three successful sessions of their Hands-Up Hub and Spoke Transport Model Apprenticeship program at St. Hubert’s, with a fourth session planned for fall. Led by our Sister Shelter WayStation team, 27 animal welfare professionals from 25 organizations nationwide were in attendance to learn how to advance their transport programs and reduce the euthanasia of healthy and treatable dogs. Lifesaving partnerships continue to enrich and increase positive outcomes for at risk animals.