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3077 Wilson Drive NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Please email us questions at
adoptions@hswestmi.org



A Special Thanks to

Joyce Wisner

Joyce's support has given countless animals a second chance at life! "I have a deep love for children and animals! I firmly believe every home should have a pet to help teach children what love is all about." -Joyce Wisner

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Impact Report

From 1.1.17 - 6.30.17,
1,688 adoptions have
occurred at HSWM



Animals adopted from HSWM!

Cheeks & Kittens - Trudy Jeffers, Executive Director

Cheeks came to HSWM from a Humane Society in South Carolina. Gaunt and pregnant, HSWM staff fostered her during her pregnancy and the birth of four kittens. While nursing her brood, another kitten came to HSWM, in need of a mama to nurse him. His name is Bear Cub, and Cheeks graciously took him in and nursed him as though he was her very own. My kids and I had the opportunity to foster this fine feline family until the kittens were 8 weeks old and weighed over 2 pounds. It is at this age and weight kittens can be placed up for adoption and be spayed or neutered.

Cheeks is still a kitten herself, she's only a year old. Cats can become pregnant when they are as young as four to six months old, and they can have up to three litters every year. One unsprayed cat and her offspring could produce 420,000 cats in only seven years, stressing the importance of spay and neuter. Each spring and summer, during "kitten season," HSWM is filled with cats and their kittens. And as always, we are full to capacity with dogs, puppies, and small critters. Without your financial support, we wouldn't be able to provide care, supplies for foster families, and shelter for these precious animals. Thank you for helping us help them!



Bear Cub, the abandoned kitten

Josh & James

Mama Cheeks & Bear Cub

Cheeks and her kittens were adopted into loving homes. While their story has a happy ending, there are so many other animals waiting for their forever homes. Thank you for generously offering second chances to homeless pets.



Finding a Second Chance in West Michigan

At HSWM we know it takes many people working together to help homeless animals in need of their forever homes and reduce pet overpopulation in our community. Our network of staff, volunteers, donors, sponsors, adopters, and community partners made it possible for 3,768 animals to find their loving homes in 2016. This simply couldn't have happened without all of these people working together towards a common mission.



It is our belief that when we have the space and resources to assist other communities, that we extend a hand and offer to help. This means that we transfer animals into our facility from other animal shelters locally including: Kent County Animal Shelter, Harbor Humane, and Genesee County Animal Control. We also partner with shelters and rescues in Illinois, Mississippi, Tennessee, and other Southern States to transfer in puppies, adult dogs, and senior dogs when their shelters reach critically high capacity.



When shelters reach high capacity, some are forced to euthanize. Long term high capacity without the flow of adoption can lead to animals getting sick or developing behavioral problems. HSWM partners with ASPCA to receive transports through their network, in addition to working directly with source shelters. So far in 2017, there have been 888 animals transferred to HSWM. Without the opportunity for a second chance provided in West Michigan, these puppies, adult, and senior dogs could have become medically ill or behaviorally unwell due to overcrowding. We are so grateful to our generous community for caring for homeless animals in need, both locally and beyond!



Summer Safety

Summer brings a lot of fun activities for us humans, but not all festivities are as enjoyable for our companion animals. Many dogs are afraid of thunderstorms and fireworks that are part of summer events. Fireworks in particular bring additional challenges because of a lack of predictability in when it happens. Unlike thunderstorms, fireworks are not preceded by any particular events. Dogs, like people, can handle uneasy situations better when they know it is coming, rather than facing it unexpectedly.

What should you do when your dog seems bothered by storms or fireworks? Many dogs find a shelter in spaces like a closet, under a bed, or bathroom where noises can be buffered. Others find comfort by their favorite person. It is important that you allow access to these safe places. If your dog opts to be by you, constant gentle pressure like leaning in can be more comforting than quick strokes. Minimizing outside noises and playing white noises are some examples of environmental management, but in many cases, that may not be sufficient. There are also supplements and pressure wraps available to promote calming responses.

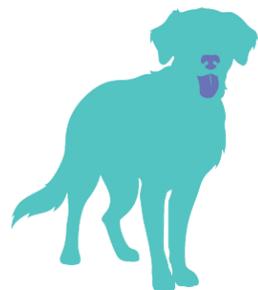
When your pooch is in a panic mode, it severely affects his welfare and safety. If it happens frequently, it may be time you consult with your veterinarian about options for medication. To keep your furry friend happy and safe, don't wait to find out what you can do to improve their quality of life.

Try some of the tips mentioned above!

-Namiko Ota-Noveskey, M.S., CPDT
Director of Animal Care and Behavior

Get ready for Bark in the Dark

Saturday, October 7th 2017



Humane Society of West Michigan is hosting the fifth annual Bark in the Dark on Saturday, October 7th, 2017 at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids. This family and dog friendly glow-in-the-dark 5k and 1 mile fun run/walk is bound to be a blast! All proceeds from the event benefit Humane Society of West Michigan.

Before the race, attendees will enjoy family activities including balloon animals, face painting, and a pup-a-raZZi photobooth! Afterwards, enjoy local beer, wine, hard cider, treats, and music with your fellow animal lovers. For more information and to sign up, please visit www.hswestmi.org.

Volunteer Spotlight Sue Dixon



Sue Dixon was drawn to HSWM back in 2013 due to her love of animals. She started volunteering in the Cattery by helping to socialize cats. Sue enjoys getting to know the personality of each individual feline. She says "Little did I know that I would reap rewards from doing this work! Whether it's helping the office staff, visiting with the kitties, or helping at the vaccination clinics, I am truly blessed to work with such a great group of people and animals!" Big thank you to Sue for her time, passion, and desire to help.

Corporate Spotlight D&D Building



D&D team at HSWM helping bring dogs and puppies off the transport vehicle and into our shelter

D&D Building is a commercial construction company focusing on providing industry-leading skilled trades professionals for commercial projects. While directing their efforts to provide building services to West Michigan, D&D has remained a supporter of several community based organizations, such as Humane Society of West Michigan. "D&D is proud to be a partner of HSWM and wishes to further recognize the selfless efforts of their staff, volunteers, and donors in making this rescue a staple in our community." We are so grateful to them as they donated funds to help with animal transports. Thank you for your support D&D Builders!

