



LOVE to the RESCUE

2023 IMPACT REPORT



BLUE MOUNTAIN HUMANE SOCIETY

7 EAST GEORGE STREET, WALLA WALLA

WAYS TO SUPPORT BMHS



KENNEL SPONSORSHIPS: Sponsoring our dog and cat kennels for 12 months provides the necessary funds to maintain our animal housing facilities, ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for our residents.

LEGACY GIVING: By including BMHS in your estate planning, you leave a profound and enduring legacy. Your donation, whether through a bequest, trust, or beneficiary designation, provides vital support for our shelter's ongoing operations and future endeavors. Legacy giving ensures our ability to rescue, care for, and find loving homes for animals in need, while also allowing us to expand our outreach programs and improve facilities. Your generosity not only sustains our mission but also leaves a lasting impact on the welfare of animals in our community for generations to come.

RECURRING GIVING: Monthly donations offer a predictable income stream that allows us to effectively budget and plan for our daily operations. Your regular contributions help us allocate resources efficiently, guaranteeing the sustainability of our programs and services.

ONE-TIME DONATIONS: Every donation, regardless of the amount, contributes to our ability to provide essential care for the animals in our shelter. Your one-time gift helps cover costs such as veterinary care, food, shelter maintenance, and other operational expenses.

VOLUNTEERING: Donating your time and skills is a valuable way to support our work. Volunteers are essential to the daily functioning of our shelter. From walking dogs and socializing cats to assisting with operational tasks and fundraising events, your volunteer efforts help us maximize our resources and expand our capacity to care for animals in need.



bluemountainhumanesociety.org/quick-gifts

Dear Friends,

Looking back on the good works accomplished here at Blue Mountain Humane Society in 2023, I feel blessed to be surrounded by such passionate, hardworking people — from our two dozen staff members to our hundreds of selfless volunteers. I am grateful to have made the acquaintance of some of the most resilient, loving, and humble cats and dogs alive. And I am honored to have been asked by the esteemed Board of Directors governing this 56-year-old nonprofit to step into the role of CEO in August 2023.

To be a leader in an animal welfare organization is to face some of the hardest decisions imaginable. I am stunned and proud every day of the way our small but mighty team handles the daily toils and heartbreaks, the joys and the chaos, of sheltering the helpless, the tormented, the hungry, the sick and the homeless dogs and cats of the Walla Walla Valley. Nothing can prepare you for what you'll confront in this job, but we wouldn't be here without the tremendous support of our community, our donors, and the caring people who keep this place going.

In this report, you'll get just a taste of all they achieved in 2023 despite the challenges of perpetually full kennels and a decline in donations. The year 2023 saw a dramatic drop in the number of people looking to adopt animals and an increase in people wanting to surrender their pets (or, unfortunately, dumping their pets) because they lacked the funds to keep them or because landlords in the valley are becoming more strict regarding pets. We saw fewer and fewer people reclaiming their pets, brought to the shelter by residents or animal control officers. And we saw astronomical increases in the cost of doing business. Yet through it all, this small but mighty nonprofit continued to fulfill its mission every day. The lives of pets in the Walla Walla Valley are a little bit brighter because of this team.

Thank you for supporting us even when times get tough, and thank you for helping us save thousands of lives!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tiana VerValle".

BLUE MOUNTAIN HUMANE SOCIETY

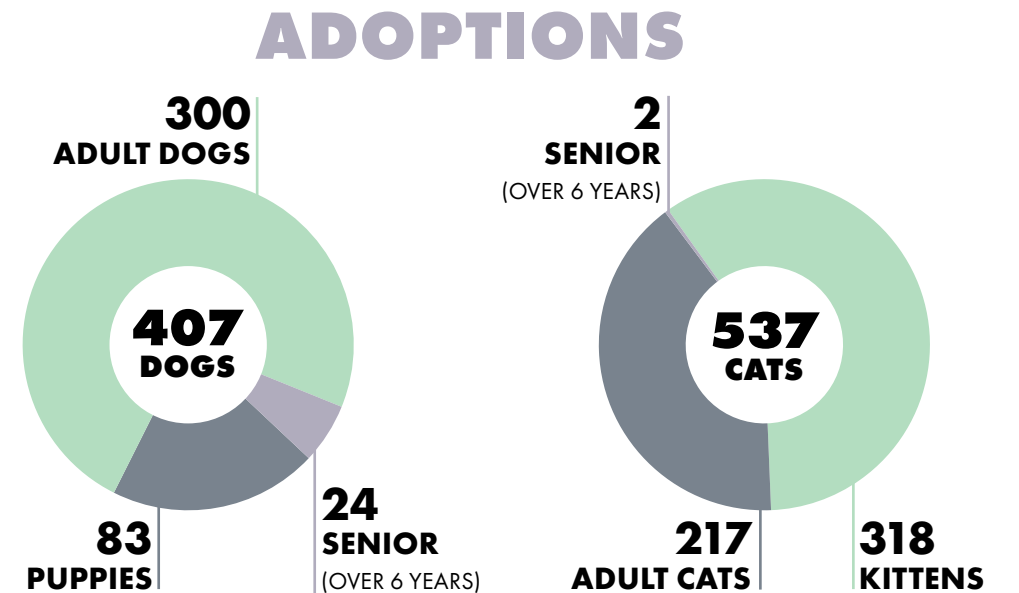
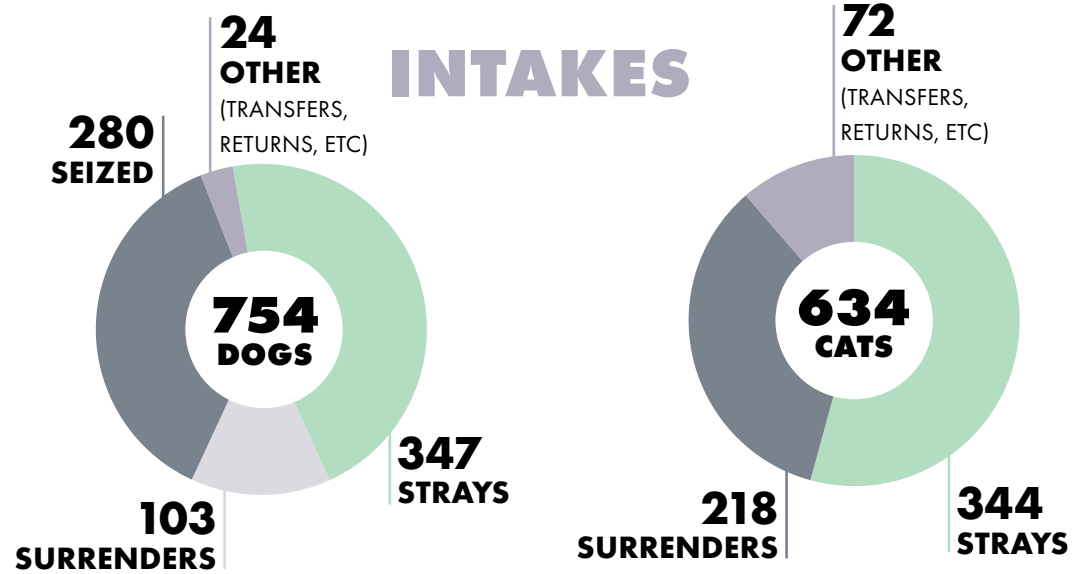


KUMBA'S STORY

At Blue Mountain Humane Society, we witness the incredible resilience and spirit of the animals we serve every single day. Kumba, a 6-year-old mixed breed dog, arrived as a stray with a debilitating hind-leg injury. Our dedicated veterinary team, animal care staff, and volunteers provided the personalized care he needed, and with the support of a loving foster home, Kumba made a remarkable recovery. Today, this energetic pup with a striking blue-and-white coat bounds through life with his new family, his past hardships a distant memory. Kumba's story exemplifies the life-changing impact we make when we come together to give homeless pets a second chance.

PAWSITIVE OUTCOMES 2023

Each year, hundreds of homeless pets find refuge and care at our shelter in Walla Walla. Every time one of these animals is adopted, a life is changed forever. BMHS serves as a safe haven for many animals who would otherwise have nowhere else to turn. Whether they need us for days, weeks, months, or even a year or longer, we are committed to providing them with the love, care, and support they need until they find their forever homes.





Total
BMHS Staff
25



Total
Volunteers
256

Total Volunteer
Hours in 2023
7,408

Value of
Volunteering Hours
in 2023
\$258,331

OUR MISSION

Blue Mountain Humane Society's mission is to promote kindness, prevent cruelty, and foster the human-animal bond.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to end pet overpopulation and homelessness and to inspire a compassionate community.



VET SERVICES

At Blue Mountain Humane Society, our Veterinary Care program consistently provides hope and healing to hundreds of animals each year. After more than a decade of service, Dr. Ken Norris retired at the end of 2023. We were fortunate to welcome local veterinarian Dr. Ashley Rice as our new Medical Director, ensuring continued excellence in our veterinary care program.

Our shelter animals regularly receive check-ups, vaccinations, and other medical treatments including interventions for those facing serious medical conditions. We also provide affordable vaccination and spay/neuter services to qualified low-income members of our community, ensuring that pets have access to this service regardless of their owner's financial situation.

As a leading animal shelter in the region, BMHS is equipped to handle cases that many shelters are unable to treat. This means animals in our care can count on BMHS to give them a second chance at a healthy, happy life. And because BMHS is fortunate enough to have a full-time veterinarian on site, we are able to provide spay and neuter services to many animal welfare organizations in our region.

Our skilled staff treat a wide range of cases every day — from kittens with upper respiratory infections to dogs like Kumba who struggle to walk because of their injuries. Each case brings new challenges but also heartwarming stories of resilience.



SURGERIES
IN 2023

Dogs

1,104

Cats

1,740



OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT BMHS:

DONATING SUPPLIES such as pet food, toys, and bedding, which helps offset our operating costs.

FOSTERING ANIMALS, providing temporary homes for pets who need extra care or socialization before adoption.

SHARING OUR MISSION and adoptable animals on social media, increasing visibility and adoption opportunities.

ATTENDING OUR EVENTS and fundraisers, which raise necessary funds and awareness for our cause.

ADVOCATING FOR ANIMAL WELFARE in your community, promoting responsible pet ownership and humane treatment of animals.

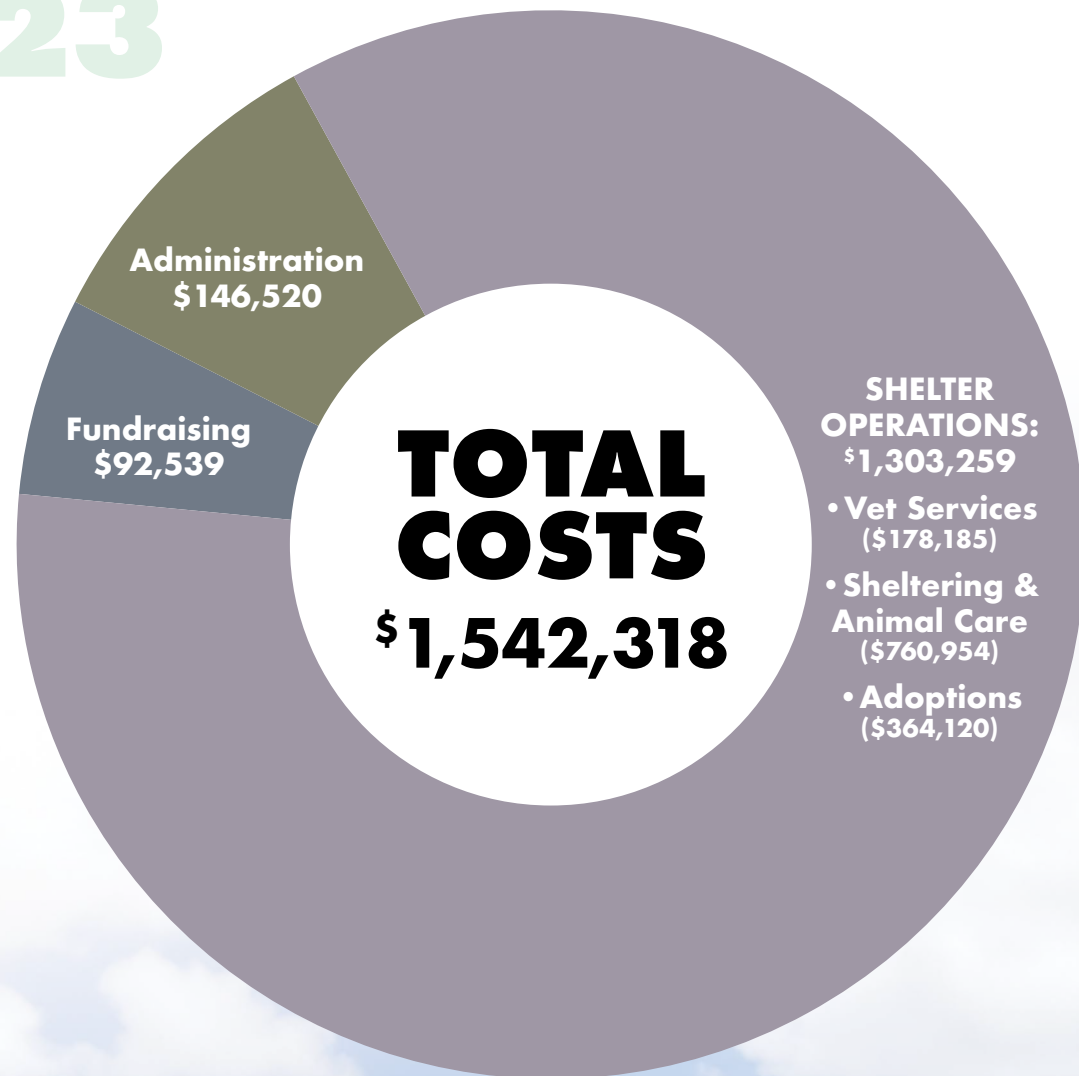
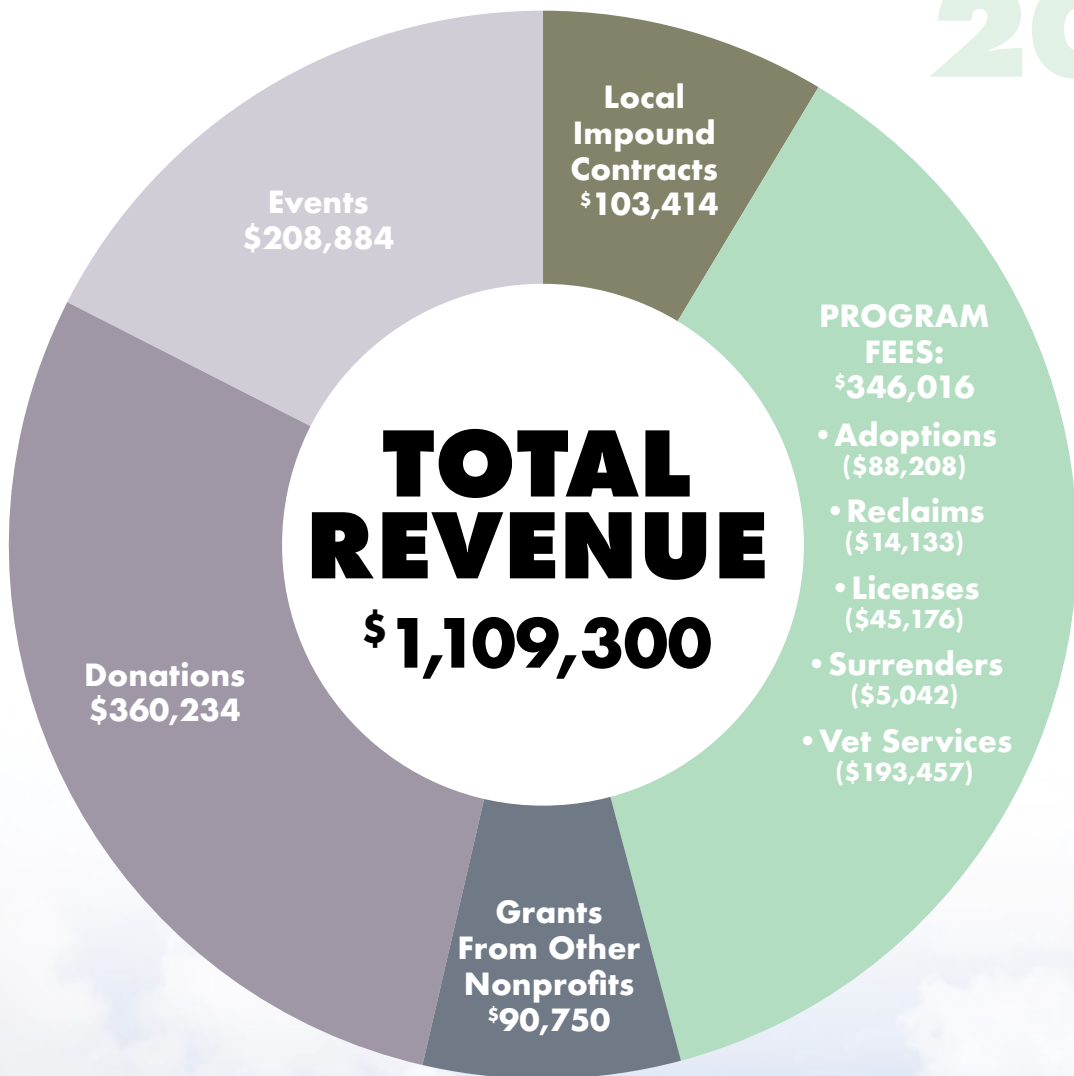


DID YOU KNOW?

BMHS participates in the Pets4Patriots program, which connects veterans with companion animals at a discounted price. We also offer discounts to seniors who are seeking the companionship and love that a pet can provide.

FUNDING OUR MISSION

2023



DONOR SUPPORTED

Did you know that BMHS does not receive any federal or state funding? We rely on the generosity of our community to continue our life-saving work. Your support is the backbone of our organization, enabling us to provide the highest level of care to the animals who need us most.

These are preliminary figures pending an independent audit of fiscal year 2023.





BEYOND THE KENNEL

BMHS has a full-time staff member and volunteers who provide enrichment for our shelter dogs and cats. This can include everything from running dog playgroups to ensuring animals get time with puzzle feeders and other interactive toys and is a critical way we help our animals combat the stresses of being in a shelter environment. It also helps us get to know the cats and dogs in our care, which in turn allows us to better match them with new families. Our volunteer-run Pawsitive Adventures program is another way that dogs receive enrichment while at BMHS by visiting different destinations, socializing at local businesses, and experiencing life outside the shelter. Our fostering program also plays a crucial role in ensuring our cats and dogs get the individualized care and attention they need to thrive.



COMPASSIONATE CARE

At Blue Mountain Humane Society, we are dedicated to finding loving homes for all our animals, including those with special health needs such as Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, or FIV. Our skilled and compassionate staff and volunteers work tirelessly to manage a variety of challenging conditions, ensuring every animal has the chance to thrive.

One heartwarming success story is Alfred, a sweet and independent cat who came to us as a stray. Despite his FIV diagnosis, which makes him more vulnerable to everyday illnesses, Alfred's charming personality quickly won over our team. With careful attention and the right home environment, cats like Alfred can lead happy and healthy lives. We're thrilled to share that Alfred has found his forever home, bringing love and curiosity to his new family.

Through our commitment and expertise, we continue to provide the best possible care for all our shelter animals, regardless of their health challenges.



PUBLIC SPAY & NEUTER

Low-income spay and neuter services is key in removing barriers for income-qualified pet owners to access this essential, preventative surgery. By making these services affordable and accessible, we as a community work together to prevent pet overpopulation. Our Mama's Last Litter initiative is also key to this mission. By offering low-cost spaying/neutering, vaccinations, and micro-chipping for offspring, along with spay/neuter and vaccinations for the mother and father, we also support responsible pet ownership and find loving homes for the surrendered offspring.

Low-Income
Spay/Neuter
Surgeries
in 2023
895



TNR Surgeries
in 2023
282

COMMUNITY CAT CHAMPIONS

Our Trap-Neuter-Return, or TNR, program plays a crucial role in preventing cat overpopulation in our communities. By humanely trapping, fixing, and returning feral and community cats to their original locations, TNR helps control this cat population and improve their quality of life. We have performed hundreds of TNR surgeries over the years, helping between 250-400 cats per year.

Linda Stevens, a dedicated TNR volunteer at Blue Mountain Humane Society since 2015, has been instrumental in managing the feral cat population in our valley. Her exceptional community engagement skills have enabled her to identify feral cat hotspots, distribute traps, and ensure the safe capture and release of countless cats. Over the years, Linda has been a key player in the TNR process for thousands of cats, significantly improving their lives and enhancing the well-being of our community.

"Education about TNR is crucial for the public," said Stevens. "People don't realize just how many feral cats are in Walla Walla city and the county. TNR is a very important program that couldn't succeed without our amazing donors."

Donors can support this essential program directly through our dedicated TNR fund, benefiting not only the cats but also our entire community.



THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are vital at BMHS, driving our impact and supporting diverse shelter departments. From adoption assistants and animal caregivers to surgery volunteers, dog walkers, event and Petco assistants, playgroup helpers, and senior center visitors, they are essential to our mission's success. In 2023, volunteer hours contributed totaled an impressive \$258,331. To volunteer at BMHS, visit our website and sign up for a variety of shifts or orientations. Email volunteer@bluemountainhumane.org for more information.



FOSTERING

Our dedicated network of foster volunteers provides short-term and long-term care for shelter pets, helping them socialize and prepare for their future adoptive families. By opening their hearts and homes, these foster families play a key role in the success of our adoption program and the well-being of our animals. The importance of our foster volunteers cannot be overstated, especially as our shelter reaches full capacity multiple times a year. Thanks to our foster families, we can rescue and rehabilitate more animals than our shelter could manage on its own.

Foster Home
Placements
in 2023

197



COME VISIT US!

In addition to our regular business hours, we have designated special visiting hours. This allows community members to immerse themselves in the shelter experience, interact with cats and dogs, and find their perfect match.

BUSINESS HOURS

Tuesday-Friday: Noon-6 p.m.

Saturday: Noon-4 p.m.

VISITING HOURS

Tuesday-Friday: Noon-4 p.m.

Saturday: Noon-2 p.m.

BLUE MOUNTAIN HUMANE SOCIETY

7 East George Street

Walla Walla, WA 99362

509-525-2452

info@bluemountainhumane.org

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Our partnership with the Washington State Penitentiary offers a life-changing opportunity for both shelter dogs and incarcerated individuals. Through BMHS's eight-week program, select shelter dogs receive essential training, equipping them with the skills needed to pass the Canine Good Citizen test before finding their forever homes.

This program not only benefits the dogs by preparing them for successful adoption but also provides a unique chance for incarcerated individuals to experience the profound bond between humans and animals. Participants gain valuable skills in dog training and care, supporting their rehabilitation and fostering a positive environment within the prison walls.

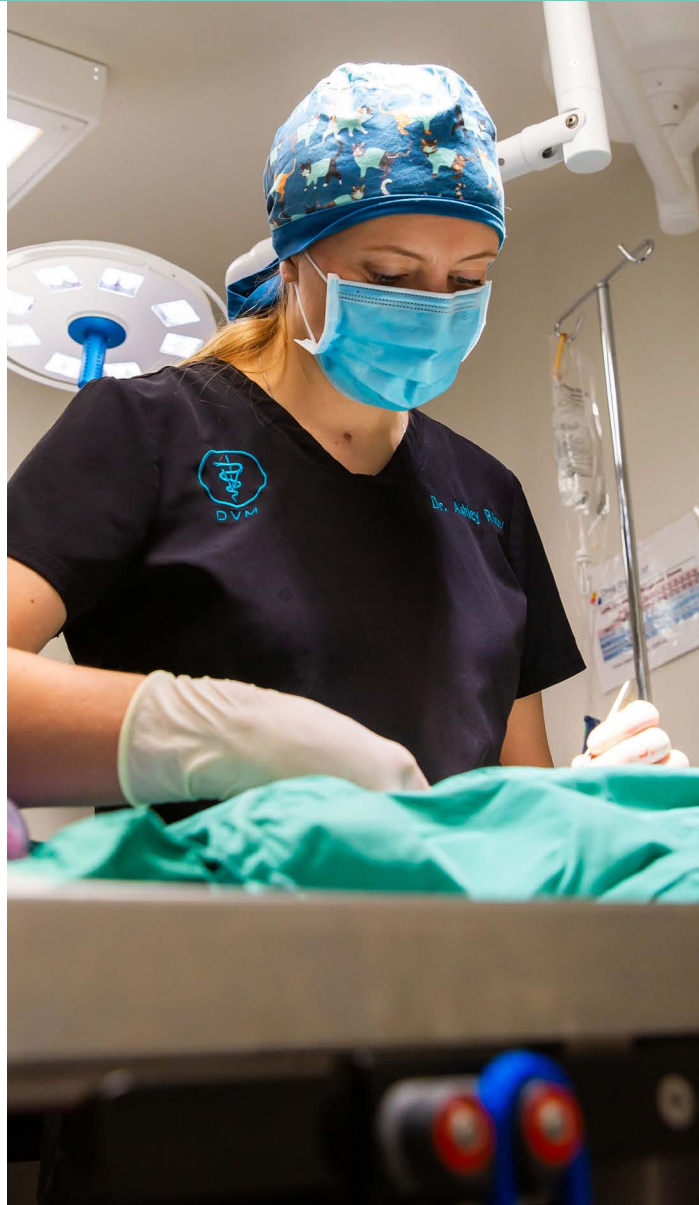
The Canine Good Citizen test evaluates dogs on ten key behaviors, including accepting friendly strangers, walking calmly on a leash, and responding to commands. By achieving CGC certification, these dogs showcase their good manners and readiness to become cherished members of loving families.





DR. ASHLEY RICE, DVM

At the end of 2023, we welcomed Dr. Ashley Rice as our new Medical Director, taking over from Dr. Kenneth Norris, who retired after more than a decade of dedicated service to our shelter animals and community. Dr. Rice has brought a wealth of experience and expertise to our organization, having earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Washington State University and dedicating her career to becoming a shelter veterinarian and High Quality, High Volume Spay/Neuter surgeon. Before joining BMHS, she played pivotal roles in establishing spay/neuter programs and enhancing surgical facilities at various animal shelters, including Benton Franklin Humane Society and Pet Overpopulation Prevention in Pasco. Dr. Rice's leadership, vision, and commitment to expanding access to care for underserved patient populations will drive BMHS forward in our mission to end pet overpopulation and homelessness.



BMHS LEADERSHIP

Dian Ver Valen
Chief Executive Officer

Hannah Granchukoff
Shelter Operations Director

Dr. Ashley Rice, DVM
Medical Director

Robert Keszeg
Development Director

Maria Torres
Business Manager

Jolee Corr
Volunteer and Foster Manager

Steve Lenz
Communications Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Krista Timm, Vice President	Jeremy Hyndman
Danielle Christopher, Treasurer	Kathy Kaping Taylor Knight
Tish Watts, Secretary	Lynn Mallory
Gary Asmus, Past President	Jayne McCarthy
Joe Burlingame	Julian Saturno



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**DONATE TODAY TO KEEP
OUR MISSION ALIVE.**

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