



*Animal Care Technician Emma Lavelle and Lil Boss*



Alice a.k.a. Daisy



**HUMANE  
SOCIETY**  
of Sonoma County

SANTA ROSA & HEALDSBURG

committed to kindness

The numbers in our 2023 Annual Report are a snapshot in time, one that captures the shared commitment of many - HSSC volunteers, staff, donors, adopters, rescue partners - working together to ensure positive outcomes for the animals at a time when shelters everywhere continue to face an unprecedented crisis of capacity. For each animal adopted, two lives are saved: the animal who finds a loving home and the one who gets a safe place at the shelter.

You'll also see metrics highlighting the impacts of our safety net services, including our Community Veterinary Clinic, our Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinics and our Community Action Team. These numbers speak volumes about the important momentum we are building to create an even better future for the animals and the people who love them.

Animal lives transformed and saved, and human lives enriched by the companionship of animals - your support makes it all possible. Thank you.

**FOR THE YEAR 2023 SHELTER OPERATIONS**

Strays	340
Transfers from other rescues	1,118
Owner Surrenders	195
Shelter Capacity	240
Animals Rescued	1,653
Live Release Rate	97%



**Adoptions**

Animals adopted	1,568
Cats	539
Kittens	550
Dogs	364
Puppies	35
House Rabbits	17
Small Companion Animals	63
Senior Animals (7+)	80
Adoptions by owner (approx.)	129

When our colleagues from an overburdened shelter in Central California called to ask if we had room for one more dog, they told us that Alice was a special girl. The sweet Doberman mix had become a favorite of all the employees there. Despite their best efforts to find her a home, it was simply a matter of timing, and the day had arrived on which she was to be euthanized for the sake of space.

Our Intake Team sprang into action to make room for Alice and, with no time to spare, we took her in. Alice was with us less than a week before her future family walked through our doors. They'd adopted their pup Rocky from us a few years ago and they thought he could benefit from another dog friend in the home. After a wonderful visit with Alice, they knew it was meant to be.

Alice instantly fell in love with Rocky and the two are now inseparable! Their adopters report the two dogs spend all their time together, from adventures on the beach to snuggling on the couch. Thanks to our hardworking rescue partners who went out of their way to find a positive pathway for this amazing dog. Alice (now Daisy) is living her best life as a beloved family member!



Sofia



Ajax a.k.a. Waffle



## Shelter Medicine

Shelter animals with medical needs	946
Spay/Neuter Procedures	812
Additional/non-routine surgeries	51
Dental procedures	60
Medical services provided	\$480,786

The capacity crisis shelters across the country have been experiencing shows no sign of letting up. We are dedicated to working with our rescue partners when they are facing tough decisions about higher-risk animals - including those with treatable medical issues - due to lack of space. Last year, our shelter hospital provided veterinary care for hundreds of homeless animals on their path to adoption. This year, the volume of shelter animals in need continues to grow.

3-month old Sofia was transferred into our care from our partners at San Francisco Animal Care and Control. She was found as an injured stray in a high-traffic area of the city. During her exam, our medical team noted she didn't want to bear weight on one of her hind legs. X-rays revealed a fractured femur and rib. They monitored her activity and administered pain medication to help keep her comfortable. As affectionate and full of purrs as Sofia was, our veterinarian knew that her damaged leg required amputation in order for the sweet young cat to have a happy, pain-free life ahead.

We are pleased to report that Sofia's surgery went well and she recovered like a pro! Best of all? This beautiful girl was adopted into her forever home after just 15 days in our care! We continue to take in multiple urgent transfers each week to help partner shelters and animals in need.



## Community Veterinary Clinic

Pets cared for	2,447
Surgeries performed	589
Dental procedures performed	159
Total cost of services provided	\$505,959
Total paid by CVC clients	\$325,303
% of costs covered by HSSC	36%
% of costs covered by Clients	64%

Ajax (now Waffle) came to us from a crowded Central Valley shelter last summer when he needed medical care that was beyond their capacity. Even though he was suffering from a severe leg injury that would ultimately require amputation, he was full of happy wiggles and marshmallow-soft personality.

In addition to his surgery, we treated him for an ear infection and skin allergies. Through it all, his happy-go-lucky demeanor never wavered. After successfully healing and rehabilitating, it didn't take long for him to get scooped up by an amazing family!

We were happy to see Waffle's sweet face again recently as a patient at our Community Veterinary Clinic. His family was referred to us from their regular vet when he developed bladder stones and they could not afford the specialized surgery. We're pleased to report that his procedure was a success! He's feeling much better and is back to bringing snuggles and smiles to his adoring family.

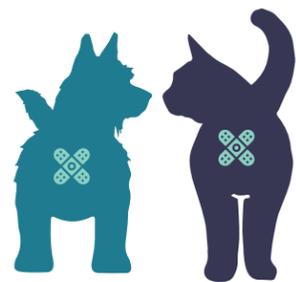
It takes all of us working together to provide this circle of care for the animals.



Rowdy



Jorge Delgado, Community Initiatives Manager



## Spay & Neuter

Rowdy came to us with an urgent need for neutering to maintain his guardian’s eligibility for HUD housing. During his visit, Rowdy received comprehensive care, including the neuter procedure, all necessary vaccinations, flea treatment, and a nail trim.

We learned that Rowdy’s guardian is battling cancer. Fortunately, with the assistance from our subsidized spay/neuter program, Rowdy’s family could focus on both his and his guardian’s health without undue financial strain.

HSSC is a leading provider of spay/neuter services in our county as well as an innovator in improving access to veterinary care for pet guardians. Our medical programs are the heartbeat of our lifesaving commitment to the animals, ensuring that every pet is healthy, safe, cared for and loved.

Total number of Feline Surgeries	1,140
Total number of Canine Surgeries	892
Total cost of services provided	\$455,801
Total paid by Spay/Neuter clients	\$263,426
% of cost covered by HSSC	42%
% of cost covered by clients	58%



## HUMANE SOCIETY of Sonoma County

SANTA ROSA & HEALDSBURG

Our Community Action Team (CAT) is focused on meeting the need where it exists – starting with making sure no pets go hungry. To better support those in need, our CAT program has been delivering bulk quantities of donated food and supplies to over 20 human service organizations in the community as well. We’re going to Redwood Gospel Mission’s weekly mobile shower sites for unhoused individuals and the monthly Guerneville food pantry, which is a program of the Salvation Army. We’re also working with Reach for Home and The Living Room for distribution to their clients with pets and partnering with Compassion Without Borders to bring a mobile pet food pantry to their monthly wellness clinics. We are committed to helping pets and their families stay together, nurturing the human/animal bond within our community.

Meals distributed: Santa Rosa	77,837
Meals distributed: Healdsburg	25,569
Number of partner organizations	23
Meals distributed via mobile events and partner organizations	58,191

### C.A.T. FREE VACCINE CLINIC

No. of FVRCP vaccines given to cats	572
No. of DAPP given to dogs	719
No. of pets microchipped	161



Volunteer Mary Munat



## Volunteers

If you ever need to restore your faith in humanity, just take a moment to consider how committed and vital HSSC volunteers are to the animals. Walking through our Santa Rosa or Healdsburg shelters, you might see one of our volunteers brushing a cat, telling them what a wonderful companion they will make. You might see another tossing a ball for a shelter pup, cheering on their fetching skills. You might spot a volunteer petting a shelter bunny, quietly reassuring them that they are safe, loved and won't have to wait long to find their forever home! And then, there are volunteers working behind the scenes to help us care for the animals and ensure that our daily operations are running smoothly.

These kind, dedicated people truly embody compassion in action. The time, skills and heart they contribute are integral to our lifesaving work. Simply put, we couldn't do what we do without them.

Total number of volunteers	299
Total volunteer hours	36,990
Equivalent no. of employees (F/T)	17.78
Equivalent employee wages	\$1,176,282
No. of program volunteers	272



## Foster Care

Number of fostered cats	43
Number of fostered dogs	86
Number of fostered kittens	873
Number of fostered puppies	50
Number of fostered rabbits	7
Number of small companion animals	17
Total number of animals fostered	1,059
Number of program volunteers	272

Our foster volunteers open their homes and hearts to animals in need of extra TLC, enabling us to expand our capacity to care for even more of the animals who need us.

"I love dogs and have loved being a dog owner, but since volunteering at HSSC, I have seen firsthand how important it is for certain dogs to have a break from the shelter. They get to relax into a loving home environment, get socialized and civilized - and I get doggy loving! Taking them home for a week or more really helps them get adopted. Keeping dogs moving along in this fashion is very satisfying and also a bit sad, but I know there's lots more where that last foster came from. It's a doggy lending library with big bonuses for all parties!"  
-Mary Munat

"I love fostering kittens. We get to socialize them and play with them and, when they leave our home, they will be going to their forever homes. Once they go back to the shelter, I get to look forward to my next batch of kittens. I grew up with cats and miss being able to have my own at this time. Fostering allows me to have pets without the long-term commitment. I love knowing we have given them a strong start in life."  
-Carolyn Bischof



**Canine  
Behavior Program**

**ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SUPPORT**

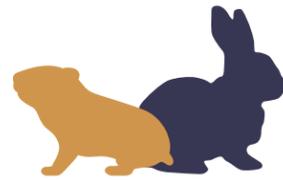
Shelter dogs supported	526
Dog post adopt consultations	301



**Feline  
Behavior Program**

**ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SUPPORT**

Shelter cats supported	1,223
Cat post adopt consultations	126



**Small Animal Care**

**ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SUPPORT**

Shelter Rabbits & Small Companion Animals	94
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**Academy  
of Dog**

The Academy of Dog teaches science-based training methods founded on principles of behavioral science and psychology to modify canine behavior. Our training techniques focus on rewarding pets for good behavior using rewards such as treats, toys, or praise. By learning fear-free, positive reinforcement methods, dogs and their owners are empowered to develop strong bonds and achieve lasting behavioral success.

**TRAINING CLASSES**

Total number of dogs trained	603
Dog training classes	127
Total number of puppies trained	191
Puppy training classes	42
Total number of puppies socialized	83
Puppy socialization classes	27
Number of pets microchipped	161

We are here for people and their pets, every step of the way.

We want to set pet parents up for success! We are continually growing our centralized resource hub for all things related to pet behavior. In addition to our popular public dog training classes and our virtual library of reference materials, we provide phone and in-person support for understanding and managing animal behavior for our community's pet owners. Knowledge is the key to strengthening the loving bonds we share with our pets, and to keeping those pets in their loving homes.



**Humane  
Education**

HSSC offers exciting youth programs designed to educate children and teens about the importance of compassion, responsibility and respect for each other, and all living things. Our camp offers engaging, interactive presentations by animal welfare professionals, visits with furry friends, as well as educational activities like communicating with cats, learning animal behavior, creating enrichment toys for shelter animals, and exploring careers in animal care!

We are honored and excited to help nurture the next generation of compassionate individuals!

**HUMANE EDUCATION**

Camp enrollment: summer	112
Camp enrollment: winter	28
After School Academy	56
Scholarships Awarded	18
Junior Counselors ages 13-18	18
Youth Interns	5
Youth Completed Community Service Hours	40

**ANIMAL AMBASSADORS**

Read to a Dog children served	800
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**INCOME TOTAL**  
\$6,297,230

Contributions, Foundation & Government Grants: \$4,502,636 (71.5%)

Program revenue: \$1,158,311 (18.4%)

City Contracts: \$253,800 (4.0%)

Investments and Rental Income: \$258,934 (4.1%)

Other Revenue: \$123,549 (2.5%)

Program Expense: \$4,133,303 (75.3%)

Development & Fundraising: \$888,865 (16.2%)

General & Administrative: \$463,512 (8.4%)



**EXPENSE TOTAL**  
\$5,485,680

**GRANTS RECEIVED: (2022-2023 Fiscal Year)**

California for All Animals, Community Foundation Sonoma County, Thelma Doelger Trust for Animals, DogsTrust USA, Thornton S. Glide, Jr. and Katrina D. Glide Foundation, Grey Muzzle Organization, Latham Foundation, Petco Love Foundation, Pets for the Elderly Foundation

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