Capacity for Care - Cat Portals

Did you know that shelters can house fewer pets at any one time while saving more over the course of a year? This intriguing initiative is known as Capacity for Care. Considered holistically, capacity for care means meeting the physical and mental needs of each animal admitted to a shelter. The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare provide a framework to define what it means to meet these needs. Assuring a capacity for care also supports success in achieving a Sixth Freedom, the freedom from euthanasia for cats that are neither terminally ill nor dangerous. Providing high-quality housing and minimizing the length of stay through proactive management are two critical factors in assuring capacity for care for every cat in our shelter.

Because of the tight relationship between housing, stress, illness, and length of stay, it makes sense to start with housing when working towards a capacity for care. Although there are many nuances to excellent housing options, double compartment housing is an incredible benefit to cats. By keeping space for food, bed, and litter separate, and allowing cleaning and daily care with minimum disruption, stress and illness are reduced to eliminated. Cats are able to find homes faster, and HSU is able to save more cats overall.

As a Million Cat Challenge shelter, the Humane Society of Utah is proud to be on the cutting edge of capacity for care initiatives. In the back holding, medical isolation, and foster care areas at HSU, cats have been kept in standard aluminum cages. By installing portals in these cages, we were able to offer extra space per cat.

This project was made possible by our generous corporate partner, PetDoor Products. Company employees volunteered their time installing 72 portals. Thank you, PetDoor Products!
Scout’s Story

Scout, a 4-month-old Border Collie, was surrendered to HSU with an unknown medical condition. Our veterinarians determined that this young puppy was suffering from trauma-caused bilateral hip dysplasia. An HSU Foster Care staff member took Scout home while we awaited an orthopedic consultation at Advanced Veterinary Care (AVC). In pain and not able to play as a puppy should, Scout had to minimize his activity in the home under the watchful eye of his foster guardian.

After a promising assessment at AVC, Scout underwent a femoral head ostectomy or FHO, which is the surgical removal of the “ball” part of the ball-and-socket that makes up the hip joint. This procedure eliminates the pain that is caused by the abnormal contact of the bones. Scout’s right hip was done first, then his left hip five weeks later. After each surgery, Scout received hydrotherapy at Utah Pet Rehab & Acupuncture Center. These multiple water therapy sessions were donated by Utah Pet Rehab and greatly helped Scout’s recovery. Scout slowly built up strength in his legs, and now nothing slows him down!

Finally able to be a puppy, Scout was adopted by his foster family and chases his new sister, Ellie around the house. He is now able to jump on the couch and cuddle. “He is truly an amazing dog with the sweetest soul I have ever met,” said Chelsea, HSU employee, and Scout’s foster mom. We are so grateful that we have been able to care for him through the whole process, and that he has become a part of our family.”

Scout’s journey through the many lifesaving programs of HSU is just one example of the nearly 3,000 pets who receive medical and foster care support every year. These happy endings are made possible by the generous donations that make up our medical fund, and the countless hours of TLC in the homes of foster volunteers. Visit UtahHumane.org to become a foster volunteer!

Picture Your Pet with Santa!

The Photo Box Photography will be at the Humane Society of Utah again this holiday season for our annual portrait fundraiser! A variety of backdrops will be available. Portrait sessions can be scheduled with or without pets, kids, family, or Santa. The $30 sitting fee includes a same day 8x10 portrait and is a tax-deductible donation to HSU. You also have the option to purchase additional prints or holiday greeting cards after your photo shoot.

Appointments are available for the following dates:

Nov. 3 & 4
Nov. 10 & 11
Nov. 17 & 18
Dec. 8 & 9

Book your appointment at www.UtahHumane.org/PYPWS today!
A Fond Farewell by Gene Baierschmidt

I accepted the position as Executive Director of the Humane Society of Utah in April 1988, and it is with bittersweet emotion that I announce my retirement after nearly 31 years. I have seen incredible progress in animal welfare over the past three decades, and I’m honored to have been a part of the legacy that is the Humane Society of Utah.

When I began with HSU, we were located in a small building in West Valley City where a few dedicated staff tirelessly worked to house 3,000 animals each year. In 1992, we received a generous gift that allowed us to build at our current location in Murray. We struggled through some difficult years as we developed and expanded our programs, and began a four-year remodel that would double our square footage in 2010. With more space, additional professional staff, and support from the community, the dream of Kitty City and a larger Clinic became a reality, and we reached our goal to save 10,000 lives by 2012. In 2014, The Wait Is Over Rover dog adoption remodel was completed, and we were able to adopt out more pets than ever before. I never thought I’d see the day when we were saving so many animals in a beautiful, progressive facility.

Over the years, I’ve seen many great milestones reached. After 13 years working to make the torture of a companion animal a third-degree felony offense, HSU was instrumental in helping to pass what is known as Henry’s Law in 2008. Before this critical legislation, cases of animal cruelty were not often prosecuted. Increasing the penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony put teeth into the law, so to speak. In 2015, we achieved no-kill standards for dogs and cats combined. HSU is now the largest private animal shelter in Utah that is open-admission and maintains no-kill status, making us one of only a few shelters with this designation in the country.

There are too many fond memories and achievements over the past 30 years to list. I remember spending a couple of weekends living in a dog run during the winter to raise funds and bring awareness to pets left outside in the cold without proper shelter. Conversely, I sat in a vehicle for over 30 minutes to demonstrate the danger of leaving a pet in a hot car during the summer. I’ve advocated for many animal welfare laws and have held more homeless pets than I can count; however, everything that has happened to this date has been made possible because of the dedicated Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, donors, sponsors and supporters in our community. I feel that the Humane Society of Utah is a social movement greater than any of us. My 30 years is a contribution to something more substantial than myself, and I extend great appreciation and respect to those who came before me and those who will follow in the many years ahead.

I’m excited about the future. We have a robust and professional team of passionate, loyal employees and volunteers who care for our animals and our mission. Remember that every one of you contributes to an organization that is better because of you, and the legacy we leave will be the thousands of happy families and pets whose lives were made better because of our love, compassion, and good work. Thank you for allowing me to be part of it all.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 1-31 - Catober Adoption Special
Oct. 27 - Subaru Loves Pets Free Microchip Clinic
Nov. 23-24 - Fall In Love Adoption Special
Nov. 27 - Giving Tuesday
Nov. 21, Dec. 24 - Home for the Holidays
Dec. 2-15 - 13 Days of Giving
Visit UtahHumane.org/events for details.
The Sixth Freedom

At the Humane Society of Utah, we embrace the Five Freedoms as a baseline of animal welfare. We cannot guarantee humane care if we do not ensure that we maintain a humane capacity. Stressed staff and overcrowded animals are common problems in shelters, and as a humane-minded organization, HSU is committed to providing the best possible outcome for the animals in our care and for our community through a Sixth Freedom — the right to the most appropriate outcome in the optimal amount of time for every animal.

With the help of grant funds, HSU has developed a Pet Retention Program as a critical component to our Coordinated Entry System (CES).

The Pet Retention Program is intended to provide help for owners who wish to keep their pet but are experiencing hardship.

The Humane Society of Utah receives over 12,000 pets each year, and the majority are owner-surrendered. HSU is an open-admission facility that provides lifesaving resources for animals in need. Owners may decide to surrender their pet to HSU if they have no other available options; however, the goal of pet retention is to help pets stay in their home or find a positive outcome without entering the shelter system. Placing your pet in a shelter will be stressful and difficult for them, and should only be done as a last resort.

During a private consultation with an owner, trained HSU Admissions Placement Coordinators will discuss alternatives to surrendering a pet and available resources for affordable vet care, housing, behavioral issues and more, all with the goal in mind of keeping families together whenever possible. For example, many cats are surrendered to HSU for house soiling, a problem that may be caused by medical or behavioral issues. HSU can test a cat for health problems and provide behavior tips for owners to resolve this problem on their own, thereby allowing the owner to retain their beloved pet and resolve this frustrating issue to the best outcome for both the cat and family.

For owners who decide that rehoming their pet is in their best interest, we can provide tips for owners to rehome their pets through trusted sites like Rehome. This website, founded by Adopt-a-Pet.com and the Petco Foundation, allows owners to rehome their pet with peace of mind. You can create a profile for your pet, review applications of potential adopters, screen and meet adopters, and finalize the adoption with Adopt-a-Pet’s personalized adoption agreement. You can even ask for an adoption fee for your pet. Through this process, your pet can go straight to a new home without experiencing the stressful shelter environment. Rehoming can be done safely and responsibly making it a viable alternative to surrendering.

It is difficult to witness is owners facing the decision to surrender a beloved pet to a shelter. They may feel like they don’t have any other option, and they want to do what is best for their pet. They trust HSU to help them in this dire moment, and we are here to offer compassionate support. Pet retention services are vital to the future of animal sheltering, and we’re proud to offer this program to help not only the pets in our community but their owners as well.

The Humane Society of Utah is a local, private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that does not receive any tax dollars or government funding, and is not a branch of any other local or national group. HSU is funded by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, and foundations.

www.UtahHumane.org
Halloween Pet Safety Tips

The increase in treat-seeking visitors, seasonal festivities, and open doors pose risks for pets during the Halloween season. The Humane Society of Utah wants to remind you that this spooky time of year may be stressful for your furry family members. We encourage careful attention when opening doors to costumed visitors and partygoers. You may also like to dress up your animals during Halloween. We ask that you keep your pet’s comfort in mind and make sure costumes don’t restrict movement or cause undue stress.

Keep these tips in mind during the holiday season.
- Keep pets away from trick-or-treat candy and chocolate. Children may hide their candy away in their bedroom, but pets have a keen sense of smell and may find the stash. Contact your local veterinarian if your pet consumes candy, especially if it contains chocolate or is sugar-free and contains xylitol.
- Bring pets inside and keep them contained in a safe room during festivities. Be aware that the increased number of people and costumes may cause stress to your pets and they may bolt out an open door.
- Ensure your pet wears proper ID, is microchipped, and owner information is updated.
- Do not keep lit pumpkins, candles or glow sticks around pets. While most glow sticks are labeled as nontoxic, they do have an extremely bitter taste and may cause pets that bite into them to have a reaction.
- Only dress your pets in a safe and unrestrictive costume if they tolerate it. Ensure that the costume fits well and doesn’t slip or tangle the pet, or cause a choking hazard if chewed. Never leave a costumed pet unattended.

Don’t forget, winter is also around the corner!
- When you take your inside dog out for bathroom breaks, stay out with them. If you’re cold, it is probably too cold for your pet to stay out.
- If you notice your dog whining, shivering or appearing anxious, or she stops playing and seems to be looking for places to burrow, then it’s time to bring her inside.
- Outdoor cats may seek warmth near or on a car engine. Before starting the engine, rap on the hood a couple of times.
- Never shave your dog. If your dog is long-haired, trim and clean off snow, salt, and de-icing chemicals. Don’t neglect the hair between the toes. If your dog is short-haired, consider getting him a coat or sweater. Bathe your pets as little as possible during cold spells.
- If dogs are left outside, they should have a draft-free shelter large enough to stand and turn around in, yet small enough to retain body heat. Use a layer of straw or other bedding material to help insulate them against the cold.
- Pets’ cold tolerance can vary based on their coat, body fat, activity level, and health. If your dog is sensitive to the cold due to age, illness or breed type, take him outdoors only long enough to relieve himself. Longer-haired and thick-coated dog breeds may be more tolerant of cold weather, but no pet should be left outside for long periods of time in below-freezing weather!
Pre-order your HSU 2019 calendar for only $10!

Order online at www.UtahHumane.org/calendar

Earlier this summer, we asked our animal-loving friends to show off their adorable pets to help raise money for Utah’s homeless animals. Over 1,000 pets were entered into our Humane Society of Utah 2019 Calendar Contest. The contest was conducted by voting for the most popular pets to win a spot in our 2019 calendar. Each vote for a pet raised a $1.00 donation for HSU. In the end, $10,329 was raised through voting! Our top ten winners will be featured with a full-page picture for the month. In addition, two hundred other pets in the contest will be used in smaller features, such as daily thumbnails and a pet collage.

Our calendar makes a great holiday gift for your friends, family and coworkers and 100% of the proceeds directly benefits HSU’s many lifesaving programs including spay/neuter, pet retention, adoption, transfer, foster care, humane education, animal welfare advocacy, and more.

You can also make your generous donation by providing your credit card information.

Please consider becoming an automatic monthly donor to help the Humane Society of Utah plan for the future. By joining our Humane Heroes monthly giving program, you are giving so many animals another chance at life. Your monthly gift will be charged to your credit card automatically each month, and you can cancel your gift at any time. You’ll feel great knowing that you are saving lives year-round.

☐ For a one-time gift of $ _____________

☐ I would like to become a Humane Hero by making an automatic monthly gift of $ _____________, starting _____________ (mo./day) until I cancel.

* An email address is required to become a Humane Hero.

* Email ____________________  * Phone ____________________

Account Number ____________________  Expiration Date ______________/______________

Signature ____________________

For an even easier way to donate to the Humane Society of Utah, take the hassle out of remembering to make your gift by signing up to become a Humane Hero at www.UtahHumane.org/humaneheroes.