Agenda - HSU Annual Membership Meeting

1. Welcome/Opening Remarks
   Craig S. Cook - President & General Counsel

2. Executive Director’s Report
   Gene Baierschmidt - Exec. Dir. - Humane Society of Utah

3. Individual Department Reports
   HSU Dept. Heads

4. Introduction & Election of Candidates - Board of Directors
   Eric D. Belnap, DVM - Michelle Lynn Christensen - Janet E. Haskell

5. Closing Remarks - Craig S. Cook
2010 Annual Report
Humane Society of Utah

April 12, 2010
Prepared for Craig S. Cook • President, Board of Directors
Submitted by Gene Baierschmidt, Executive Director

The Humane Society of Utah ... dedicated to the elimination of fear, pain and suffering in all animals!
As the Humane Society of Utah celebrates its’ 50th anniversary, the organization continues its’ quest to eliminate fear, pain and suffering in all animals. HSU provides shelter as well as in-house and outreach adoption programs for homeless animals. We address pet over-population with low cost sterilization and vaccinations in our state of the art clinic. An extensive animal transfer program is increasing overall adoptions and reducing the number of animals being euthanized. A highly successful foster program for animals who need extra care and attention continues to flourish. And the same can be said for the Humane Society’s education programs for school children on the Wasatch Front. Investigation of animal neglect, cruelty and abuse remains a high priority ... as do pet-facilitated therapy sessions at area nursing homes, in-house professional dog training and informative publications distributed to all HSU members.

As a 501(c)(3) charitable, non-profit organization in good standing with the United States Department of Treasury, we are eligible to receive deductible contributions from our members and the public in general. The Humane Society of Utah receives no funding from any government agencies.
Humane Society of Utah 2010 Introduction

The Humane Society of Utah is governed by an independent, voluntary Board of Directors who serve without pay or other compensation, and whose responsibility it is to formulate the policies governing all activities and positions taken by the Humane Society.

HSU’s financial activities and standing are professionally maintained and audits are conducted by the independent accounting firm of Tanner & Company. Copies of these documents, as well as tax reports and other documentation are available upon request.

The present Annual Report of the Humane Society of Utah covers the period from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, including activities of the clinic, adoptions, outreach adoptions/volunteers community interaction, animal transfer, animal fostering, investigation, publications/membership fund-raising and education/shelter departments, as well as an overview of the Humane Society’s overall progress. The primary emphasis of the Humane Society of Utah in the year 2010 and the years to follow will be ending the need to euthanize any adoptable animal. The organizations’ goals for 2010 will be met not only through our own efforts but by working in cooperation with other animal welfare agencies and rescue groups.
2009 was a record year for the Humane Society of Utah. Overall, HSU placed a total of 7,421 animals. More significantly, 2009 proved to be the first time in the 50 year history of our non-profit organization that all adoptable dogs found homes...HSU did not have to euthanize a single adoptable dog! In fact, there was a 4.1% increase in dog adoptions despite the economic downturn.

Unfortunately, cat adoptions declined by 13%, accounting for an overall decrease of 4.8% in the total number of animals adopted out in 2009. Still, in a year which saw our community struggle with record unemployment rates, we are proud to have found homes for almost 98% of the adoptable cats and dogs who came into our care.

A Team Effort!

2009’s adoption rates can be attributed to team work and a proactive approach. HSU’s outreach, foster care and animal transfer programs all contributed greatly to a successful year. By taking animals to off-site adoption sites such as Petsmart and Petco, we have been able to place animals with families who may have never visited our shelter. The animal transfer program takes dogs which are not in high demand in one area to shelters in other areas where they are more popular and likely to be adopted. Meanwhile hundreds of families in our community are fostering animals, taking special needs or hard to place cases into their homes and working with them until they are ready to go to new families in permanent homes.
GETTING THE WORD OUT

The Humane Society continues to get good “mileage” from the electronic billboards facing I-15. Working with YESCO, HSU is able to incorporate animated billboards into our signage rotation, improving our ability to get various messages out to the public.

In addition to our billboards, several marketing tools were employed during 2009 to tell our story. Outreach conducted extensive promotional campaigns with the Utah Jazz and the Salt Lake Bees. Work was initiated by Love Communications on new public service announcements to be aired on local television and radio stations. Love also commenced work on a new website for the Humane Society, and the company created and helped place billboards throughout Salt Lake Valley on major thoroughfares.

The annual Pet-A-Thon on KUTV brought in more the $50,000 in donations while providing valuable exposure, branding and positioning. In addition, the annual “Picture Your Pet With Santa” event was once again a successful fundraiser generating positive public relations.

The news media provided excellent coverage of the shelter, as well as our various programs and initiatives, particularly the anti-tethering ordinance adopted by Salt Lake County. The Humane Society’s long time cruelty investigator John Fox was the subject of a long form feature story in the Deseret News. And thanks to our new in-house video production capability, HSU is now able to provide interviews and footage to local television stations for use on their newscasts (i.e. the LA Transport/Heigl Hounds of Hope story).
In addition to the continued use of mass e-mails and regular mailings to our membership, 2009 also saw an even greater emphasis placed on social media, particularly Facebook. HSU’s Facebook page has seen an increase in the number and quality of its postings which in turn has helped grow our online base of followers to more than 2,000 “friends.” Our Facebook page automatically links with the Humane Society of Utah’s Twitter page. Ideally all of these social media outlets are driving traffic back to HSU’s website.

FROM A LEGAL STANDPOINT...

The Humane Society was once again a driving force behind the fight for animal rights. In August, Executive Director Gene Baierschmidt introduced an anti-tethering ordinance, which was unanimously adopted by the Salt Lake County Commission in December. Our organization also became involved with writing the language for Senate Bill 218, the Engine Coolant Bittering Agent Act, which was ultimately passed by the Utah Legislature and signed into law by Governor Herbert.

In 2009, the Humane Society also remained the only organization in our state employing a full time cruelty investigator. Last year, John Fox conducted a total of 1,843 investigations, inspections, etc. throughout the state of Utah.

Our humane education director once again visited thousands of school students, making presentations on kindness and compassion for animals. Carlene Wall also made countless pet facilitated therapy visits to nursing homes and residential centers.

CLINICALLY SPEAKING....

The Humane Society Clinic essentially matched the record number of sterilizations performed the prior year, while dramatically increasing the number of vaccinations and heartworm tests conducted. The clinic also experienced an amazing 82% increase over 2008 in the number of microchip implants, due in large part to a major promotion during September when more than a thousand microchips were implanted during that one month period.
The Humane Society clinic continues to see a tremendous increase in the number of vaccinations given, heartworm tests performed and microchip implants.

In 2009 our staff implanted 2,733 microchips, representing an **82% increase** over 2008. Thanks to a special promotion, more than 1,000 of those chips were implanted during the month of September. All told, this increase will help ensure even more animals are reunited with their owner(s) in case of accidental separation.

Vaccinations and heartworm tests each increased **14%** over the preceding year, as 56,251 vaccinations were administered and 931 animals were given heartworm tests.

Moreover, our clinic nearly matched the record number of spay and neuter surgeries performed in 2008. During 2009 **11,092** animals were sterilized, just 7 less than the previous year. Maintaining this high rate of surgical procedures can be attributed to the efficiency of our veterinarians and clinic staff, as well as various special promotions.
Outreach continues to be one of HSU’s most effective programs, steadily growing the number of off-site animal adoption locations. In 2009 Outreach was able to adopt out 1,000 animals, which represents approximately 14% of all our organizations’ adoptions this past year. This successful track record is attributable to HSU’s fleets of trucks, frequent media exposure on Comcast, regularly scheduled television & radio appears, increased PetSmart & PetCo participation, ads in City Weekly, and special events at Utah Jazz as well as Salt Lake Bees games. PetFinder.com and PetArk.com have also expanded our adoption capabilities, as have professional training sessions and the efficient use of volunteers at special events.

Volunteers & Special Events

In 2009, HSU volunteers donated almost 6,000 hours of their time walking dogs, socializing cats and assisting at special events. An increasing number of groups continue to contact us about volunteer work, including food drives. A new software program enables us to keep track of volunteer hours & training while a new mentoring system ensures new volunteers have more experienced volunteers show them” the ropes.” Adopt-A-Thons, Course a’Lure, Picture Your Pet with Santa & charity golf events have all helped build the HSU’s volunteer & special events program.
The Humane Society made history in 2009, finding homes for each and every one of our adoptable dogs...a "first" in the 50 year history of our shelter! HSU was successful in placing 3,019 dogs which represents an increase of 4.1% over 2008. The total number of animals adopted out of our shelter was 7,415...a slight decrease (4.8%) from the year before. This was due in large part to a decline in cat adoptions (which could be traced to other area shelters offering free cat adoptions). 3,139 cats were adopted from the Humane Society, representing a 13% decrease. Bottom line? The HSU still found homes for 98% of the adoptable cats and dogs that came in to our care.

Animal Transfer Program

Thanks to this innovative program, dogs for whom there is not great demand at our shelter are taken to other animal welfare organizations where those canines are in greater demand. Our staff follows up to make sure these transfers are successfully adopted. By the same token, small dogs from the Los Angeles metropolitan area are routinely transferred to our shelter, saving the lives of thousands of dogs.

In 2009, our Animal Behavior and Transfer program placed a total of 460 HSU shelter animals with reputable rescue groups in Utah and surrounding states, surpassing the previous years’ record. At the same time, HSU took in 1,155 animals from other shelters where they were in jeopardy of being euthanized (794 were small bred dogs and puppies from California). 893 of these “imported” animals were adopted out by HSU, 155 were placed with rescue groups and 2 were returned to their owners. From a financial standpoint the program generated $110,685.00 in revenue. The ABT department also performed 461 behavior assessments, screening all 424 pit bull type dogs received over a six (6) month period of time.
The Animal Foster Care program, started in 2003, continued expanding in 2009. The staff now consists of two full time employees (including the program director) as well as one part time assistant. Focusing attention on litters of puppies and kittens too young to be adopted out, Foster Care now works with more than 300 families who have participated in our program. In addition to puppies and kittens, Foster Care works diligently with sick animals who need to recuperate and others in need of extra socialization.

Thanks to the participating foster care families/providers, who supply their own food, kitty litter, toys, etc., this vitally important operation accounted for 1,300 of the cats, dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs given to good homes. Not to be forgotten are the countless animals given hospice care, allowing them to spend their final days in loving homes cared for by people who value the lives of these wonderful creatures.

INVESTIGATIONS

Led by 37 year veteran John Paul Fox, the HSU Investigation Department continued exerting its influence upon the animal community in our state. All told, the department was involved in 1,843 investigations, inspections and related activities during the calendar year of 2009.
INVESTIGATIONS. CONT.

Mr. Fox conducted 240 investigations involving more than 800 animals (68% of the complaints were in Salt Lake County). 839 facility inspections were conducted (nearly an 8% increase over 2008). 501 pet stores received visits from the HSU, which also inspected 282 city and county animal control facilities. Monthly inspections were carried out at Hogle Zoo, Willow Park (Logan) Zoo, Thanksgiving point, the Tracy Aviary and Wheeler Historic Farm. The HSU also responded to 658 requests for information and attended 100 meetings and hearings.

Among the extensive list of special activities and projects performed by the Investigations Department are the following miscellaneous duties:

a) Preparing monthly & annual reports

b) Assisting with facility maintenance and repairs

c) Maintaining state wide animal control officer & pet store lists

d) Attending Hogle Zoo scientific review committee meetings

e) Researching the Leona Helmsley trust for executive director and board president

f) Researching special group license plate laws

g) Researching Utah income tax “check-off” laws

h) Joining Tracy Aviary’s animal care & use committee

i) Prepared draft for proposed layout of new facilities

j) Updated state code of animal related excerpts to reflect changes made by the legislature

k) Prepared Investigation Department “succession manual”

l) Created plan for proposed staffing level for new facility

m) Researched and provided language for anti-tethering ordinance

n) Drafted letter sent to the mayor of Hinckley, Utah regarding that town’s euthanasia policy
o) Reviewed & commented on Tooele City animal control ordinance

p) Researched HSU’s historical position on “pound seizure”

q) Prepared letter to the President of the University of Utah regarding use of animals for medical research

r) Created historical record of HSU and other animal cruelty court cases and their dispositions on a year by year basis

s) Reviewed Wasatch Country animal control ordinance

Our Chief Investigator also assisted with management of the membership computer system, acted as the system supervisor of the Administration Department’s computer network and was responsible for both safety and security systems throughout the Humane Society facility.
Looking Back...

2009 will be a year remembered for many reasons. In March, we celebrated 10 years of service by Drs. Paul & Shama Chapin at the Humane Society of Utah. April saw the HSU rescue 30 cats from an animal hoarder in Lehi. May brought one of two annual adopt-a-thons at a local Petsmart store, while June was marked by the intake of 30 poodles from a hoarder in Tabiona (all 30 poodles were adopted out). Pioneer Day featured the HSU’s “Adopt A Kitty” Float and in August, we introduced the anti tethering ordinance and filled the newly created position of Director of Communications. September saw the safe return of “Sammy” the chihuahua stolen from the home of adoption counselor Mary Rancipher, as well as the installation of a new x-ray machine in the clinic. Cruelty Investigator John Fox celebrated his 37th anniversary at the HSU in October while the holiday season was highlighted by “Picture Your Pet with Santa” & the 2nd annual telethon at KUTV.

Looking Ahead...

The Humane Society looks ahead in 2010 with ambitious goals of increasing adoptions while expanding our outreach, volunteer, foster care, education and animal transfer programs. Meanwhile, the HSU clinic hopes to install a fourth (4th) workstation at the reception desk to handle the increased demand for vaccinations. In addition, the clinic is interviewing candidates for the HSU’s third full-time veterinarian position, while increasing the daily hours of operation and remaining open on Monday.