# Speaking of Animals



## Summary



3: Letter from Executive Director

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of our new Executive Director, Alexis Pagoulatos. In her inaugural letter, Alexis shares an inspiring roadmap for our future, emphasizing collaboration, innovation, and our shared commitment to our life-saving mission.



4: Heartstrings and Hope When Ethel, a tiny black puppy with a critical heart condition, arrived in need of urgent, complex surgery, it was the generosity of our supporters that made her life-saving operation possible



5: Goals Achieved in 2023

In 2023, our organization experienced significant growth, with adoptions increasing by 8.5% and a surging demand for our pet retention and shelter diversion programs that help keep pets with their loving families.



7: Financials

We prioritize responsible financial stewardship and are committed to transparency and efficiency in utilizing these resources to advance our life-saving mission.

## **Our Mission**

We are dedicated to the elimination of pain, fear, and suffering in all animals.

## **Our Vision**

Our goal is to keep pets and people together, bring them together, and help move each animal to their most appropriate outcome as quickly as possible.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Craig S. Cook – President and General Counsel, Attorney, private practice, **Dr. John Ziegler** - Co-Vice President, Physician, Premier Healthcare Partners, **Randy John** - Treasurer, Credit Officer, Bank of the West, **Steven Starley** Retired, **Tim J. Williams** President, !Ignition! Consulting Group, ULCT, **Molly Spain** Attorney, **Mike Barker** State Farm Insurance Agent, **Devin Pope** Senior Advisor / Managing Director at Nilsine Partners.

## **Embracing a Legacy, Envisioning the Future**

Dear Friends,

It is with a profound sense of honor that I write to you as the new Executive Director of the Humane Society of Utah. As I join this incredible team of dedicated professionals who are fueled by passion and kindness, I am overwhelmed by the warmth and compassion that define the legacy of this vital organization. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who has been a part of our journey. Your unwavering support and help have shaped HSU into a beacon of hope and compassion for animals in what is often their greatest time of need. It is a privilege to join such a compassionate community, and I am excited about the incredible strides we will continue to make together.

The legacy I inherit is one filled with passion for this cause, resilience, and a deep commitment to the well-being of animals. Over the years, HSU has touched countless lives through its tireless efforts to provide shelter, medical care, and love to animals in need. I am proud to stand on the shoulders of those who have dedicated their time, talents, and resources to create a safe haven for our four-legged friends. As we reflect on our past achievements in 2023, let us celebrate the countless success stories of animals who found their forever homes, the lives saved through medical interventions, the families who remained whole because they were given support so they didn't have to part with their pets, and the educational initiatives and programs that have fostered a greater understanding about the importance of creating humane communities through action.

Looking ahead, I am excited to share with you the ambitious plans we have for the coming year. Our commitment to the welfare of animals remains steadfast, and we are determined to expand our impact even further. We will be working to expand our services, strengthen the organization to prepare for growth, and engage in an in-depth strategic planning process to set an innovative roadmap for our vision for the remainder of this decade. That involves engaging in community conversations, analyzing Utah's ever-changing animal welfare needs and industry trends that we see emerging, and continuing to focus on bringing innovative programming that maximizes the impact we can deliver. We commit to listening, learning, and trying creative solutions to push ourselves to do more, be more, and save more lives.

We know that it takes a village to do this work. None of these initiatives would be possible without the continued support of our compassionate community - YOU make this work possible. Whether you have volunteered your time, donated resources, shared our stories, or opened your hearts and homes to our furry friends, you are an integral part of our success. Together, we can create a future where every animal is treated with kindness and finds the love and care they deserve.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the warm welcome I have received in this new role. I am inspired by the extraordinary acts of kindness that surround me and am eager to contribute to the next chapter of

our remarkable journey. With your support, we will continue to be a force for good, making a lasting impact on the lives of animals in Utah.

Thank you for being a vital part of the Humane Society of Utah family. I look forward to the incredible journey ahead with the unwavering belief that together, we can make a difference.

With heartfelt gratitude, Alexis Pagoulatos Executive Director



## Heartstrings and Hope: How You Saved a Brave Puppy



When Ethel, a tiny black puppy with eyes full of curiosity, arrived at our doorstep, she carried with her a silent challenge—a grade 6 heart murmur, the worst level possible. If Ethel hadn't undergone immediate and complex surgery, her story would have had a very different ending.

But in this moment of need, you, our compassionate supporters, stepped in as the unsung heroes. Your generous contributions enabled us to collaborate with the skilled team at Mountain West Veterinary Specialists, ensuring that Ethel received the life-saving heart surgery she so desperately needed.

Post-surgery, Ethel's journey of recovery began in the loving embrace of a foster home. Here, she wasn't just a puppy with a medical condition; she was a part of a family. The dedicated veterinarians at our shelter and Mountain West Veterinary Specialists continued their vigilant care, ensuring Ethel's heart healed as beautifully as her spirit.

Then, the news we all hoped for arrived: Ethel's heart murmur was completely healed! Not long after receiving a clean bill of health, Ethel found her forever home! Your support made this possible. You didn't just help save a life; you gave Ethel a chance to live it fully. Stories like Ethel's are a heartwarming reminder of the impact we can have when we come together for animals in need.

As we celebrate Ethel's new beginning, let us remember the countless other animals still needing our help. Your continued support allows us to offer second chances to animals like Ethel, ensuring they, too, find the love and care they deserve.

## We're Better Together!

## **YOUR 2023 IMPACT**



Pet Adoptions **5.529** 



Pets Transferred in from Overcrowded Shelters 780



Owned Pets
Served through
Shelter
Diversion
1,889



Vaccines Given 114,380



Bags of Pet Food Distributed to Food Banks & Local Rescues 3,943



Pets Spayed/Neutered 11,971



Pets Fostered 1.438



Free Behavior Consults **593** 

## **Upcoming Events**



## Day of Giving: March 21st

An extraordinary day of generosity to support HSU - the largest private nonprofit shelter that saves the most lives in Utah.



## Bark at the Moon: May 18th

Part doggie date night, part doggie festival, this is one of the local dog lovers' favorite events of the year! So bring your pup for a night of furry fun at the Gateway Plaza.



## An Injured Cat Steals Our Veterinarian's Heart

Mango was an injured cat with a severe facial wound and necrotic toes. One More Chance Rescue brought him to the Humane Society of Utah's St. George Clinic via the Trap-Neuter-Return program. Dr. Gray treated his injuries, including amputating three dead toes. Due to Mango's disabilities, Dr. Gray decided he couldn't return to a feral life. Mango showed an unexpectedly easygoing temperament, which led to him being nicknamed "Shaka" for his unique paw gesture resembling the "hang loose" sign. His behavior also revealed his likely past as a domestic pet.

During his recovery, Mango's affectionate and gentle nature made him a "cat nanny" at the rescue, caring for kittens. He bonded deeply with Dr. Gray, who ultimately adopted him. Mango is now integrated into her family, where he thrives and is loved by humans and dogs alike. This heartwarming story highlights the impact of compassionate veterinary care made possible here at the Humane Society of Utah by individuals like you, our generous supporters.

## COMMUNITY SPONSORS

GEORGE S. AND DOLORES DORÉ ECCLES F O U N D A T I O N







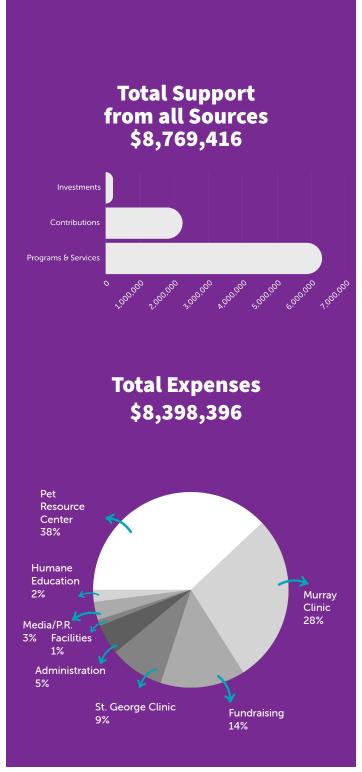


## FINANCIALS

Our organization is sustained by diverse funding sources, encompassing community donations, grants, corporate partnerships, bequests, and revenue from services such as adoptions and clinics. We prioritize responsible financial stewardship and sustainability and are committed to transparency and efficiency in utilizing these resources to advance our mission. We rely on community support to continue our vital life-saving work.

These are preliminary figures pending an independent audit of fiscal year 2023. Detailed audited financial statements are available at UtahHumane.org.

Humane Society of Utah's fiscal year is January 1 to December 31.





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## Become a monthly donor

As a monthly donor of the Humane Society of Utah, you will play a crucial role in helping every animal who comes into our care. Sustaining gifts are an easy and convenient way to change lives every month. utahhumane.org/monthly-giving

## Match your gift

Many companies match their employees' charitable donations. Double your contribution through a matching gift from your employer. doublethedonation.com/utahhumane

## Leave a legacy gift

Leave a lasting impact on animals by including the Humane Society of Utah in your will or estate plan. With an estate gift you can leave a legacy of kindness and generosity that will have a positive impact for many years to come. legacy.utahhumane.org

## Make a memorial or tribute gift

Honor a loved one or pet with a memorial or tribute donation. You can make a gift in memory or in tribute through our donation page: utahhumane. org/donate. You can also purchase a memorial or honorary brick for a pet or loved one on our plaza. https://www.utahhumane.org/ways-to-give/bricks

## Contribute to our wish list

With more than 9,000 animals to care for every year, the Humane Society of Utah needs a substantial amount of supplies. You can donate needed items at any time.

utahhumane.org/how-to-help/ways-to-give/wish-list

### Donate a vehicle

Donate your car to care for animals in need. Your vehicle will be towed free of charge, and you'll be eligible for a tax deduction. utahhumane.org/donate/vehicle

## Volunteer

Help make the world a more humane place for animals by volunteering with us. From walking dogs to assisting with adoptions, events or administrative projects, volunteers are integral to the work that happens every day at the Humane Society of Utah. utahhumane.org/volunteer

### **Foster**

From the comfort of their own homes, our foster volunteers provide essential care for animals that aren't yet ready for adoption. utahhumane.org/foster