



2023

Impact Report

HOUSTON
HUMANE
SOCIETY

Non-Profit • Supported by Donations



52,000

Animals
Served



2,700
Adoptions

1,200
Fosters



12,000

Education
Reach

162,000

Pounds
of Food



519,000

Meals
Provided

Houston Humane Society provides lifesaving aid to animals and the people who love them. We serve people, pets, and wildlife through our affordable Veterinary Clinic, Shelter Services, Pet Resources Program, Animal Cruelty Unit, Wildlife Center, and Humane Education program. Our service region covers the greater Houston area including residents from Harris, Brazoria, Galveston, Fort Bend, Waller, Liberty, Chambers, San Jacinto, and Montgomery Counties.



2023 in Review

Last year marked a significant milestone as we celebrated 65 years of dedication to improving the lives of pets and people in our community. Your support during this milestone year has been crucial in our ongoing dream of creating a world free from animal suffering and neglect.

In the Fall of 2023, we were thrilled to introduce the Pets for Life (PFL) program to the Houston area, focusing on underrepresented communities like the Braeburn Glen Subdivision in southwest Houston. Our team has been on the ground, going door-to-door to build trust and relationships with pet owners. This approach has helped overcome misconceptions about spay and neuter procedures and connected residents to our free services. In the first two months of the program, we reached 46 clients and provided services to 93 pets, ensuring they remained healthy and safe in their homes.

Thanks to your generosity, we have also continued our work of rescuing vulnerable pets from city and county shelters—ranging from young puppies and kittens to senior pets and those with medical needs. Your contributions have empowered our staff, volunteers, and fosters to provide the lifesaving care these animals desperately need.

The demand for our services is higher than ever. As we look to the future, your continued support is essential to sustain and expand our efforts. We are committed to saving the lives of tens of thousands of homeless, abused, and neglected animals, and your assistance is pivotal in this mission.

We are incredibly grateful for your partnership and hope you will continue to stand with us. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of animals in need.

With gratitude,

Gary Poon
President & CEO



Shelter and Adoptions

In 2023, HHS provided shelter and care for thousands of homeless pets without a safe place to turn. Operating 365 days a year, our life-saving efforts focused on preparing these animals for adoption, providing behavior support, and honoring the cherished bond between pets and people.

Thanks to our dedicated team, generous supporters, and more than **1,100 dedicated volunteers**, we welcomed thousands of animals into our care including **769 at-risk animals** from overcrowded city and county shelters, and found loving homes for an incredible **2,744 animals**. Together, we're empowering second chances and creating a community where animals are respected and cherished.





HHS Veterinary Clinic

At HHS we believe high-quality veterinary care should be accessible and affordable for every pet owner in our community, and that the joy and companionship of pet ownership should be enjoyed by all. HHS Veterinary Clinic is a product of this belief, offering high-quality, affordable veterinary services to pet owners and empowering them with the necessary tools and resources to keep and care for their beloved pets. Our full-service veterinary clinic is open 7-days a week and recently expanded service hours and appointment availability to better accommodate the busy schedules of working families.

HHS Veterinary Clinic is proud to host the annual **Fix Felix** and **Spay Day** events, both of which are large-scale, single-day spay or neuter events that serviced a combined **829 pets** in 2023.

Also, in 2023, HHS Veterinary Clinic provided care for **30,956 animals**, including administering **39,650 vaccines** and performing **10,245 spay and neuter surgeries**, all to ensure the health and well-being of beloved animal companions in the community and those in our care at the shelter.

The HHS Externship Program has helped us realize our vision of a more humane Houston. By recruiting and training veterinary students from local, national, and international backgrounds, we've introduced budding professionals to shelter medicine and increased diversity in the veterinary medicine field while also addressing the pressing need for skilled veterinarians in our community. In 2023, **23 veterinary students** completed veterinary externships at HHS, contributing to the growth of veterinary expertise and services available to our community.



Animal Cruelty

The HHS Animal Cruelty Unit continued to play a vital role in combatting animal cruelty in our community. Through forensic examinations, autopsies, reports, and expert testimony, we aided our law enforcement partners in pursuing justice for animals who don't have a voice themselves.

HHS's Animal Cruelty Unit has made history as the first animal welfare organization in Texas to employ not only one, but two Forensic Veterinarians. In 2023, this groundbreaking team aided in the investigation of **114 animal cruelty cases** involving **525 animal cruelty victims**. Together with our law enforcement partners, we're establishing protocols for an evidence-based community response that will improve protections for animal cruelty victims, reduce incidences of animal cruelty, and strengthen our joint pursuit of justice.

Foster Program

Our foster heroes played a central role in our animal care efforts, offering love and compassion to **1,164 animals**, many of whom were some of the most vulnerable in our care, including newborn puppies and kittens, sick or injured animals, victims of animal cruelty, or those simply in need of a quiet break from shelter life.

Behavior and Enrichment

New in 2023, HHS's Behavior Rehabilitation Center (BRC) was fortunate to receive specialized training from Dogs Playing for Life! This exciting opportunity enabled our staff to implement safe and enriching daily playgroups for animals sheltered at HHS, allowing them to socialize, play, and stretch their legs, which has made a marked difference in the adoptability, comfort, quality of life, and health of the dogs in our care. The BRC proudly facilitated **135 playgroup sessions** in 2023 and provided behavior and enrichment support to all animals in our care.

Volunteer Program

At HHS we offer the opportunity for individual volunteers and corporate volunteer groups to be an essential part of our mission to help homeless and abused pets. Each year more than 1,000 volunteers donate their time to provide comfort and care to the abused, neglected, and abandoned animals in our shelter. Volunteers assist with animal care and enrichment, clinic operations, wildlife rehabilitation, and educational programs. HHS volunteers contributed **6,212 service hours** in 2023.



Pet Resources

Families in southeast Texas have increasingly struggled to afford their most basic needs. For many families, the expense of veterinary care and pet food is simply out of reach and they must make the heartbreaking decision to relinquish or rehome their pet. Pet Resources shines as our signature pet owner support program alleviating the financial burdens of pet ownership and enabling pets to remain in their homes with the people who love them.

Through HHS Pet Resources, we strive to ensure that every household has access to life-saving veterinary care, nutritious pet food, and essential pet care supplies. In 2023, Pet Resources distributed **519,097 free pet meals** at pet pantry events in underserved areas, and delivered **21,419** meals to homebound clients, including the elderly, enabling **21,350** pets to remain in their homes. The program also provided free spay and neuter surgery, microchips, and pet vaccinations to income-qualified pet owners.

19,200

**Pet Pantry
Pets Served**

1,800

**Monthly Assistance
Program Pets**



Creating Connections through Education

The HHS Education Department had a profound impact on our community last year, **reaching 11,944 individuals** through humane and wildlife education programs. An innovative collaboration between Karla Cisneros (Houston City Council District H), Houston ISD, and Museum of Fine Arts Houston yielded the **Love Your Pet program**, which engages elementary students in photography inspired by their beloved pets.

Supported by funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, our HHSWC Education team motivated more than 200 students to **“Keep Houston Wild!”** through an immersive environmental program that sheds light on the critical connection between the coastal prairie and Texas wildlife.



A highlight of the year, the ever-popular **Camp Pawsome**, excited and inspired **nearly 400 2nd-8th graders** by educating them about the humane and ethical treatment of all animals.



The HHS Wildlife Center extended the reach of **“Keep Houston Wild!”** to more than 200 underserved students in the Houston area. This year-long initiative engaged students in enriching wildlife workshops and field trips, fostering a deep appreciation for the natural world through experience-based instruction. Emphasizing the vanishing Texas coastal prairie ecosystem and the significance of native Texas wildlife, the program also addressed human impacts on these vital ecosystems. Moreover, students took practical action by establishing a pocket prairie on their campus to support urban wildlife.



3,088
Wildlife
Admitted
compared to 2022



12,037
Hotline
Responses



172
Species
Cared For
new Center record



Our commitment to delivering top-tier care for wildlife increased in 2023. The number of injured, ill, and abandoned **wildlife entrusted to us surged by 21% compared to 2022**. Moreover, our efforts resulted in a **39% increase** in the number of **wildlife successfully rehabilitated and released** over the previous year. We set a Center record by providing care for an impressive **172 wildlife species**.



10,200
Spays and
Neuters Performed



40,000
Vaccinations
Administered



55,000
Animals
Microchipped

1,570
Volunteers



9,531
Volunteer
Hours





Join us in our mission to improve the quality of life and care for animals, end cruelty, and protect our wildlife.

Visit houstonhumane.org to learn more about how you can get involved with or donate to the Houston Humane Society.

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