

MARQUETTE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY 2008-09 ANNUAL REPORT

The Marquette County Humane Society, Inc., is an independent, non-profit, community-supported, open admission animal welfare organization. Our mission is to: Aid in the sheltering and adoption of animals; Promote responsible pet ownership; Actively educate and promote the importance of spaying and neutering to help alleviate pet overpopulation; Assist in strengthening the human-animal relationship.

The Society is dedicated to educating and working with county-wide agencies concerning the welfare of animals.

This past year has been extremely challenging for the MCHS. Our nation's economic difficulties over the past few months have led to many people surrendering their animals to us due to their personal troubles. Since we are an "open admission" shelter, no animal is ever turned away – no matter what our current census may be at the time. Every healthy and adoptable animal is given the chance of finding a new home (whether it is a dog, cat, rat, gerbil, guinea pig, or snake). Staying true to our vision and finding new forever homes for our animals has been difficult and thinking of alternatives to euthanasia, where appropriate, has made our work much more difficult and involved.

Thankfully, we have been able to maintain our commitment to finding new "forever" homes for the animals that have been placed in our care. Lifesaving is, and will continue to be, a top priority as we go forward into a new fiscal year. There has never been a better time to help us uphold our mission. We are especially grateful to our members this year because without their support none of this would have been possible.

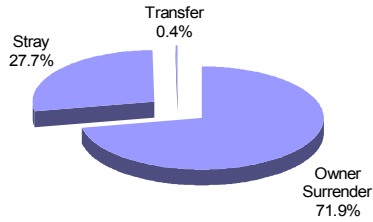
The programs and services offered by the MCHS are funded by donations from people who share our belief that every animal has inherent value and deserves to have a voice, an advocate and a second chance for a forever home. In addition to straight-forward donations and memberships, there are many other additional options. Some of these are Memorial/honorarium gifts, Pet Sponsorships, Guardian Angel Program, planned giving, and Will bequests. In fact, we now have two funds set up to help provide for our shelter's future needs – Marquette Community Foundation and an Endowment Fund at Wells Fargo Bank.

We appreciate our "Community Connections"!

- Legitimate Rescue Groups have been utilized over the past year for some of our hard to place animals. For example, since FIV positive cats are extremely difficult to place in a home, we now have an on-going relationship with a sanctuary in downstate Michigan for them and volunteers undertake their transfers.
- We have been fortunate over the past year to have some of our local businesses support us by hosting off-site adopt-a-thons to showcase some of our animals to the community.
- Foster Families - A shelter environment is often detrimental to the healing process of an animal recovering from illness, abuse/neglect, or young kittens and pups with their mothers. It is also not an optimal setting for those animals with *correctable* behavior issues. By utilizing our foster homes in these situations, we can save animals that would otherwise be sacrificed due to lack of required resources and facilities.
- The backbone of our shelter is our dedicated volunteers who give so generously of their time and talent to help our residents during their stay at the shelter. The unconditional love and work of our volunteers throughout the year helps to support our shelter in so many ways, which then allows us to serve as many animals as possible. We couldn't do it without them!

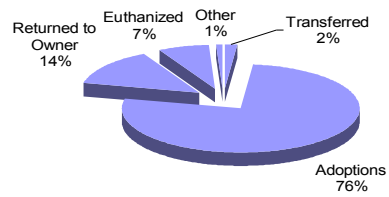


WHERE OUR ANIMALS COME FROM



1838 animals came through our doors this year
 1297 owner surrendered
 499 strays
 7 wild

WHERE OUR ANIMALS GO



1435 were adopted
 252 were returned to owners
 127 were euthanized (7%)

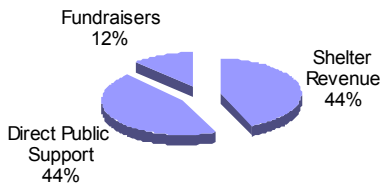
Save Rate 93%

Explanation of Save Rate - of all the animals that walked through our doors, how many were either adopted, returned to their owners or transferred to rescue groups.

NOTE: *Of all the animals that were unfortunately euthanized, the decision for 100 of them was based on valid rationales and assessments (either they were too aggressive to re-home, mortally injured or ill, positive for FIP/FIV, feral and owner requested)..*



2008-09 REVENUE



2008-09 EXPENSES

