

2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

MCHS

d/b/a

**UPPER PENINSULA
ANIMAL WELFARE
SHELTER (UPAWS)**

PO Box 968, Marquette, MI 49855
906-475-6661
www.upaws.org

Mission Statement

The Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter (UPAWS) 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 over-population
- ◇ Assist in strengthening the human-animal relationship

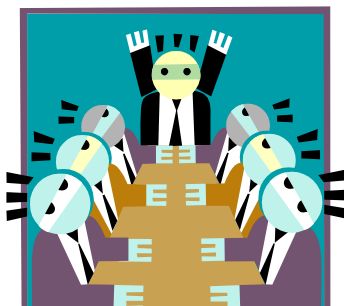
The Society is dedicated to educating and working with county-wide agencies concerning the welfare of animals.

Board of Directors

Reva Laituri, President
Ann Brownell, Vice-President
Joan Mulder, Treasurer
Jackie Winkowski, Recording Secretary
Roger Bentlage, Corresponding Secretary
Lynn Andronis, Board Member

Committees and Chairpersons

Community Relations (incl. Newsletter): Ann Brownell
Finance/Long Range Planning (incl. Grants, Membership, Planned Giving): Joan Mulder
Fundraising: Reva Laituri
Humane Education: Jackie Winkowski
Personnel: Reva Laituri
Policy/Bylaw: Reva Laituri
Volunteer: Lynn Andronis
Website: Joan Mulder
New Shelter: Roger Bentlage



Report from the President

Once again it has been very busy year for UPAWS. What follows is a brief overview of what has been happening with UPAWS in general. The Shelter Manager's report will address many of the events and programs that specifically affect the shelter. If you would like to learn more about anything listed below or have any comments or questions on anything, please feel free to contact us! We always enjoy talking about one of our favorite topics...UPAWS!

Conferences/Workshops: Board President Reva Laituri and past Shelter Manager Dayna Kennedy travelled to Washington, D.C. in July to attend the national No-Kill Conference. They were invited to share their experiences in achieving a save rate of over 90% and becoming a part of the "90% Club". Nathan Winograd, Executive Director of the No-Kill Nation and author of *Redemption*, a guide to becoming a no-kill shelter, referred to UPAWS' success as "the nation's best kept secret".

In October, the Board President and Board Development Chair attended the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development's Annual Non-Profit Conference at Northern Michigan University.

In April, members of the Board Development Committee attended a workshop hosted by the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development at the Peter White Library.

Awards/Recognitions: For the second year running, UPAWS received the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance's "Outstanding Shelter Award" for a medium sized, open-admissions shelter in Michigan. Representatives will be attending the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance's No-Kill Conference to be held in Lansing this September. Shelter Manager, Lareina VanStrien, will be presenting a workshop which will focus on our Home2Home program.

While not a formal recognition, it was exciting to learn that, based on population, our achievements in animal placement are more than double the national average. We should have been able to place 671 animals and we placed 1550! And it even more exciting and gratifying to learn is that we've managed to do it at much less than the cost per animal of other shelters. Average cost per animal for shelters in U.S. is \$400 and rises to \$1,000 and up to \$3,000 for no-kill shelters. UPAWS spends \$236 per animal.

New Shelter Committee: In May the committee met with Animal Arts, a shelter design and architectural firm to review our current needs and tour the shelter. An initial needs assessment with cost estimates was drawn up and is currently under review. Next step will be to create a conceptual floor plan and rendering of the facility and determine whether UPAWS has the support to raise the necessary funds to build and maintain the facility.

Planned and Major Gift Giving: In March, Patrick Bray of UP Fundraising Services was hired to assist in setting up planned and major gift giving programs and obtaining workable computer software to support those programs. He is also working with our Board Development Committee to assist in ways to improve board member recruitment, training and retention.

Membership Structure: Our membership structure received a makeover this past spring. There are now just two levels...individual and lifetime. Dues are \$20 per person or a single lifetime membership is \$500.

Volunteer Committee: The volunteer committee has been working on a web-based volunteer program to not only make it easier and more convenient for the community to help the animals, but also for UPAWS to better utilize the many talents our community has to offer. Once fully up and running, this program will allow for volunteer opportunities to be posted, people to sign up and keep track of hours, and for UPAWS to stay in contact with its volunteers...and all from the convenience of a home computer!

Helping animals...



...one step at a time.

Report From the Shelter Manager

In April 2012 UPAWS saw the departure of Shelter Manager, Dayna Kennedy, who moved back to her hometown in Wisconsin. While Dayna left big shoes to be filled, I was excited to accept the challenge and position of Shelter Manager. Working for the last four years with UPAWS as an animal caretaker and then supervisor, I became familiar with the inner workings of the shelter and now look forward to the chance to serve the animals in a different capacity and work closely with the community. While UPAWS has come a long way in the past several years, there are still many challenges to be faced and goals to be attained. I look forward to being an active participant in what I see as an exciting future.

Anytime an animal leaves our building on their own four feet we celebrate a little. Coming to the conclusion of our fiscal year, we find reason to celebrate a lot. Because of you and supporters like you we saw 96% of our furry friends go home! We are excited and pleased to thank you for your help throughout this last year and for your help in the future.

Although our staff does a wonderful job and brings into their hearts and homes many of the animals, we couldn't do it without the community. Case in point, our Foster Care program is a big asset to UPAWS this recent year. During our most busy months we saw a record number of new fosters step forward and we also renewed relationships with past fosters. Many animals went into loving foster homes over the summer, opening up much needed room at the shelter and getting the animals a break from shelter life. But you didn't stop there! We also saw the community show a wonderful innovativeness to put together many great fundraisers and adoptathons. This support is truly the backbone to our ability to provide for the animals.

But getting the animal home is only half the task; keeping the animal comfortable and cared for is the other half. We were very excited to see an enormous amount of community support for our new Wish List Drives and Volunteer Vet Program - two great programs that have saved UPAWS funds and helped the animals during their stay at UPAWS.

So, to summarize, we want to thank you for your support and generosity this last year. We feel that our reason to celebrate needs to be shared with you, because it could not have been done without you.

With much love and admiration,

Lareina Van Strien

Shelter Manager

Please continue to read to learn more about the exciting events happening at UPAWS!

We cannot do great things...       ...only small things with great love.

Here's what's new at the shelter!

H2H Revamped: The Home-2-Home program was started to give our community options. Many times people have to re-home their pet, but don't necessarily want to bring the pet to a shelter. This program allows these people to place their pet on our website, but keep it in their home. This gives the pet a chance for a new home but keeps it away from the stress of the shelter. In addition, owners have absolute over choosing a new home for their pet.

Allegan Dogs: In March of 2012, Michigan saw one of the biggest rescue events and hoarding situations of our time. Over 350 dogs were rescued from a neglect situation in Allegan County. Because of the overwhelming need for help, Allegan County Animal Control put out a plea for other shelters to step forward. UPAWS had a previous relationship with the Allegan Shelter so when we heard about the hoarding situation, UPAWS jumped at the chance to help (along with many other shelters in Michigan) by taking 3 of the dogs from the situation and 3 other dogs from the shelter itself, saving 6 lives and giving much needed relief for Allegan County.

Pink Lady: Hope For Healing Fund: This fund continues to be a lifesaver. Donations made to Pink Lady go directly to an animal in need of medical care. Some animals, like Sassy, come to UPAWS in need of extensive surgeries or emergency medical care. Sassy, a Shepherd/Rottweiler mix came to UPAWS in July of 2011. For her entire life she endured ear infections so horrible that they caused her ears to swell shut. She also suffered trauma from being hit around the ears.. Sassy needed surgery to remedy the problem. Because of the community's support through our Hope for Healing Fund, Sassy was able to get her surgery and was soon adopted. In many shelters a medical need like this would result in euthanasia, but because of the dedication of the staff, volunteers and the community – UPAWS didn't allow that to happen.

Spay It Forward Fund: This year we saw a great leap forward in our community spay/neuter program. This fund was developed to help low income households fix their pets for little to no cost – resulting in animals staying with their owners and fewer unwanted litters arriving in shelters. UPAWS received much needed funds from the Macomb Foundation, the Johnson Foundation, a rummage sale fundraiser and many private donors. A re-organization of the program this last year has helped UPAWS help those in need – resulting in over 100 animals being spayed or neutered.

Expanded Hours: The shelter extended its Thursday hours to 6:30 p.m. This allows visitors, particularly those who work standard work weeks, more flexibility to visit the shelter. It is hoped to gradually expand the days as finances permit.

Pet Point: In January, UPAWS entered into an agreement with Pet Point, a free shelter management system, to keep track of all animal-related shelter activity. This program allows us to easily pull reports and statistics as needed for things such as grants. It also helps us to keep more accurate and complete records of animals from intake through adoption. As part of this system, adopters receive one full month of free pet health insurance, and every adopted animal goes home with a microchip which will quickly help get lost pets home.

Animals travel through life...

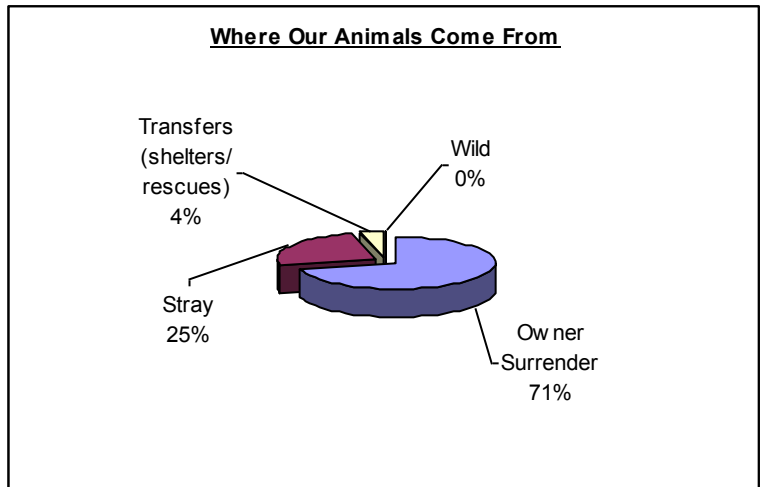


...not asking for tomorrow, just living today.

Shelter Stats

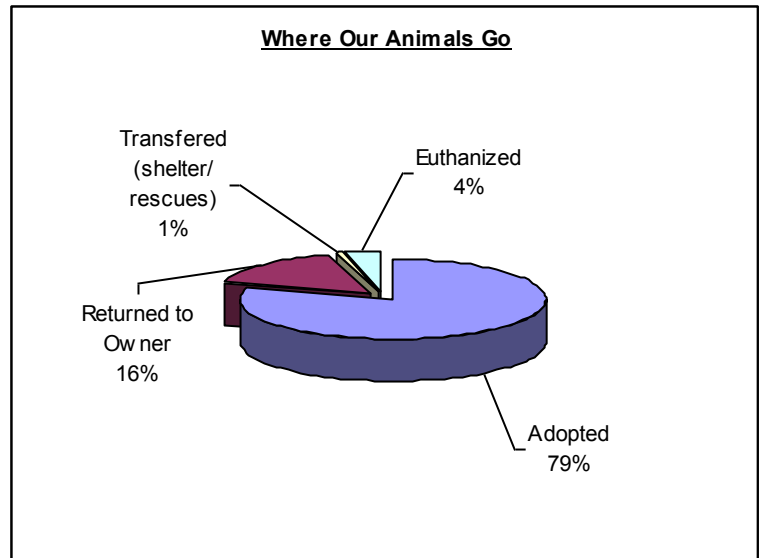
Where Our Animals Come From:

Owner Surrendered	1,371
Stray	489
Transfers from other Shelters & Impounds	76
Wild	<u>0</u>
Total Incoming	1,936



Where Our Animals Go:

Adopted	1,536
Returned to Owner	309
Transfers to other Shelters & Rescues	11
Euthanized*	<u>76</u>
Total Outgoing	1,932



**The animals that were euthanized were done so as owner requested euthanasia or because the animals had severe illness/injury, very aggressive and dangerous behavior or were feral. Not one single animal was euthanized for space. Not one single animal was euthanized for a treatable medical condition.*

Staff

Shelter Manager: Lareina VanStrien

Supervisors: Rachel Holman, Ashley Maska-Herman, Theresa Wipperman

Animal Caregivers: Brittany Carlson, Christina Edwards, Bailey Hoerner, Jennifer Irish, Hannah Juntunen, Adda Lamon, Brooke Wisuri



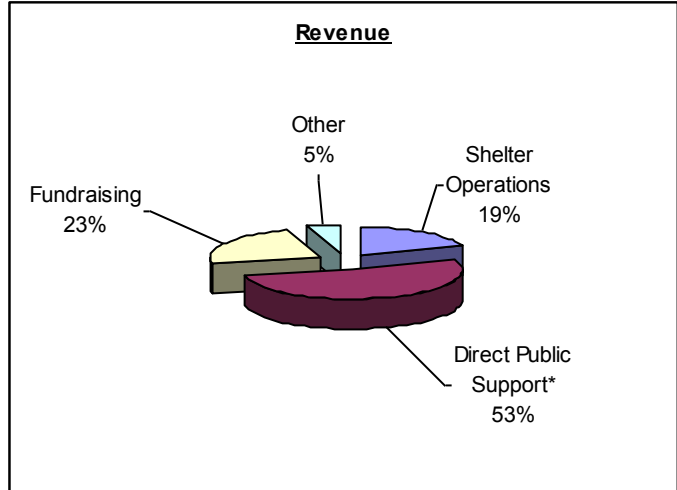
Report from the Treasurer

Unaudited Financial Report

Where Our Money Comes From:

Revenue:

Shelter Operations	\$ 80,376
Direct Public Support*	\$ 222,643
Fundraising	\$ 98,929
Other	\$ 21,382
Total Revenue	\$ 423,330



**Includes:*

Donor Restricted Donations	\$ 49,666
Bequests**	\$ 14,951

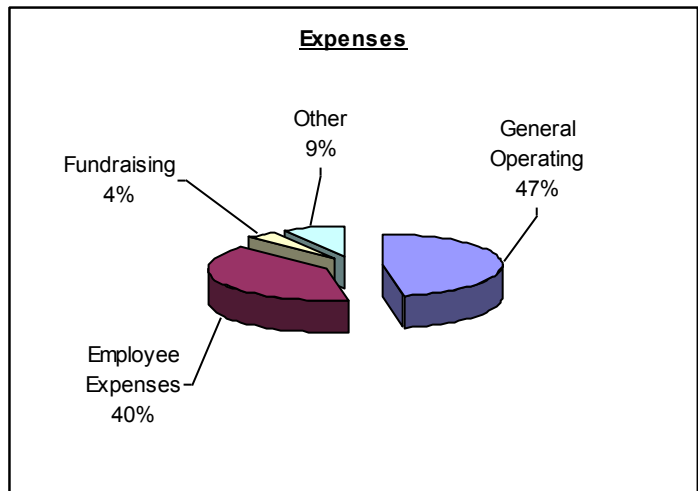
**Loretta Acocks, Jeanette Johnson, Sanfred Olsen estates.*

***Pedigree Foundation*

Where Our Money Goes:

Expenses:

General Operating	\$ 205,591
Employee Expenses	\$ 174,974
Fundraising	\$ 17,876
Other	\$ 37,643
Total Expenses	\$ 436,084



What tracks.....



....will you leave behind?

Please consider the Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter in your will/estate planning. For more information, call Joan Mulder, Treasurer, at 906-475-6661. A planned gift today will benefit the animals of tomorrow.