



2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT





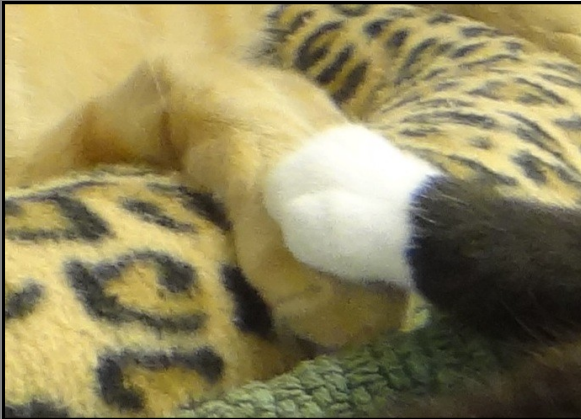
Mission and Vision Statement

Mission Statement

Our mission is to improve the quality of life and welfare for domestic animals and to provide a safe haven while finding lifelong homes for the animals in our care. We embrace the No Kill philosophy, seeking to end the euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals.

Vision Statement

A community where there are no abandoned, unwanted, neglected or abused animals, and where everyone understands and practices the level of commitment and responsibility that pet guardianship entails.



Board of Directors

Reva Laituri, President
Ann Brownell, Vice-President
Joan Mulder, Treasurer
Lynn Andronis, Recording Secretary
Roger Bentlage, Corresponding Secretary
Jennifer Huetter, Board Member
Liz Peppin, Board Member

Committees and Chairpersons

Board Development: Lynn Andronis
Finance: Joan Mulder
Fundraising: Reva Laituri
Long Range Planning: Roger Bentlage
Personnel: Reva Laituri
Policy/Bylaw: Reva Laituri
New Shelter: Roger Bentlage

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Report from the President

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

Conferences/Workshops:

Three Board Members and the Shelter Manager attended the Annual Michigan Pet Fund Alliance's No Kill Conference in Lansing.

Two board members attended the Annual Great Lakes Center for Youth Development's Non-Profit Conference in Marquette.

The Fundraising Chairperson attended a one-day workshop Best Practices for Fundraising Workshop put on by Carol Pence in Marquette.



Three Board Members attended The Capital Campaign Workshop put on by Carol Pence in Marquette.

Awards/Recognitions: UPAWS received the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance's 2012 "Outstanding Shelter Award" for a medium sized, open-admissions shelter in Michigan.

New Donor Database: A donor database software program, Basic Funder, was purchased. This software will help with fundraising, newsletter mailing lists, planned giving, generating reports, membership administration, and much more. Current data is being entered, but it will take some time to transfer historical information from the old Access program.

Volunteer and Community Outreach Programs: A new employee, Melanie Bell, was hired at the end of May to organize and manage our volunteer program. Melanie will be interviewing all volunteer applicants to determine what opportunities will best suit the volunteer and UPAWS. Once everything is set up, she will also be conducting orientations and training sessions. In addition to her Volunteer Coordinator duties she will also be working in community outreach...conducting shelter tours, doing presentations to groups, and attending various events on behalf of UPAWS.

Mission and Vision Statements: Every few years the Board reviews the UPAWS Mission Statement to see if what it says is still relevant and accurately reflects the direction we want to go. At the same time the Board decided to formulate a vision statement...a snapshot of the "ideal" world for animals. Both statements serve as rudiments in decision and policy-making and in allocation of resources (time and money). In April, a new mission and vision statement were adopted (see page 2).

Self-Perpetuating Board: UPAWS was one of only a handful of non-profits that still had the membership electing board members at the annual meeting. The process was lengthy and cumbersome. In addition, only a very small percentage of the members attended the meeting and voted. To ease the process, it was decided at the last annual meeting to move to a self-perpetuating board, where the Board Development Committee would interview candidates, make recommendations based on a wide range of criteria, and submit their recommendations for the sitting board to vote on. The process is very similar to what was already being done to fill unexpired vacancies.

Report from the Shelter



Nothing is more important to UPAWS than providing the community and its members an accurate account of what has been happening at their shelter over the last year. Our ability to grow and change is only possible because of the support of our community. Keeping those who support us informed is vital.

We must continue to improve our practices to provide a safe and healthy environment for the animals, visitors, volunteers and staff. This is essential for the shelter now and into the future. New safety and cleaning protocols were put into place and we are continually making improvements to make the shelter a cleaner and more inviting facility. The staff had various meetings this year to discuss and implement treatment ideals, ways to make the animals stay more positive and to talk about making a difference in every interaction, with both the animals and visitors. We are striving to provide the best care possible by working with the local vets, hiring caring and compassionate individuals and following the most innovative shelter care practices. We feel the UPAWS needs to provide services that benefit the animals we care for and also the community that cares about them. We looked to other successful shelters to find ways to provide needed services to the community and to grow in our ability to be a resource for those in need.

But beyond that we began looking at *why* animals were being surrendered and have taken steps to address those needs prior to a situation escalating to a point where someone felt they had no choice but to relinquish their pet. While not



every problem can be resolved, many can. For instance, through expansion of our Spay It Forward (community spay and neuter assistance program), the number of kitten litters overflowing our shelter and foster homes have significantly been reduced, and many pet owners have been relieved of problems associated with their pets being in heat. Early results from our Spay It Forward Program have already been catching national attention and we have recently been awarded a grant from the ASPCA as a pilot program. Through social media, many lost animals have been reunited with their owners before even reaching the shelter (a plus for both the animal and owner). When re-homing is inevitable, our Home-2-Home program assists owners with privately placing their animals, bypassing the sheltering step. Again, this program has piqued the interest of other shelters and staff have been invited to give presentations at regional conferences.

These, and other Innovative and progressive programs and procedures are helping to decrease our intake numbers without sacrificing the overall welfare of any individual animal. Proactive measures to successfully resolve problems and forgo admissions means more resources in time and money can be devoted to caring for and re-homing those animals that need our services the most. We are very happy with the progress we have seen so far, and look forward to even better things in the future.

Thank you for supporting UPAWS and providing a second chance and brighter future for our domestic animals.



We cannot do great things...



...only small things with great love.

Here's what's new at the shelter!



Building Improvements: Thanks to the kind and wonderful support of our community and McCabes flooring, UPAWS was able to install industrial animal friendly floors. This much needed improvement gave the staff the ability to provide a clean and healthy environment for the animals and provide a friendlier visiting experience for adopters. In years past the heat was something that was just dealt with at the shelter. During the brutal summer months the animals were hot, uncomfortable and UPAWS staff often saw an increase in shelter disease. But thanks to generous donations and volunteer time we were able to install air conditioning in our cat area. This has greatly decreased the cost of medical treatment for the animals, provided a much more comfortable environment for their stay and greatly changed their quality of life at the shelter. This has been one of most significant improvements at the shelter and we are thrilled to see the concrete results from funds well spent.

New Adoptions Programs: Last year saw the implementation of new adoption programs that will not only help the animals find homes, but will also provide adopters with wonderful incentives to adopt from UPAWS. One such program is our new *Aged to Purr-Fection Adoption Program*, which provides adoption incentives to the senior community by matching our senior animals to senior homes. These adopters are provided with a supply of animal products and the adoption fee is waived!

New Support: New programs and support are key to moving forward and providing innovative and progress animal care. This year we saw many new programs that helped us provide for the animals. One of the most successful was our Amazon Wish List. This great new program brought the ability for supporters to donate to the animals without leaving the comfort of their home. Amazon provides UPAWS with the ability to build a wish list of items needed. We then advertise the program and our wonderful community is able to click on the items, buy them and send them right to us. It is amazing to see the generous support of those that care for the animals. Packages arrive daily with treats, toys, supplies and more! We have been very happy with the number of successful new programs that provided for the animals, reduced the cost and changed the way we do business. We saw an increase in Wish List Drives, Volunteer Vets and Business Partnerships. These programs are the backbone of continued success.



Grants: Although we consider ourselves a community run and funded shelter, supplemental funds are important for making your donation dollars go further for the animals. This year UPAWS was awarded the Department of Agriculture Companion Animal Grant. This will provide over \$7,000 to spay and neuter the pets that are up for adoption. These funds will make a great difference in making your donation dollars go further.

Spay it Forward Program: In 2010 we saw the beginning of our Spay it Forward Program. Funds were set aside from specified donation dollars, grants and fundraisers to be able to offer low income homes get their animals fixed. This program grew from \$400 and five pets getting fixed the first year, to \$19,000 and over 140 animals getting fixed this past year. But how does this help the shelter and why spend some much on animals that are not in our care? Because of this program UPAWS saw the intake number drop significantly. Thirty percent less kittens and puppies arrived at our doors and we saw a reduced intake of over 300 animals. These dollars are well spent and we expect this program to grow significantly in the coming years. We hope to continue to see our intake numbers decrease... and less homeless animals is never a bad thing.



Animals travel through life...



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

UPAWS Statistics

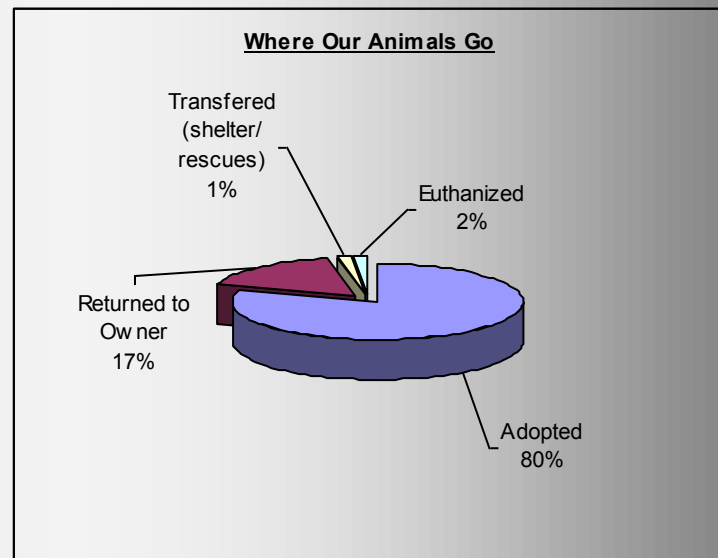
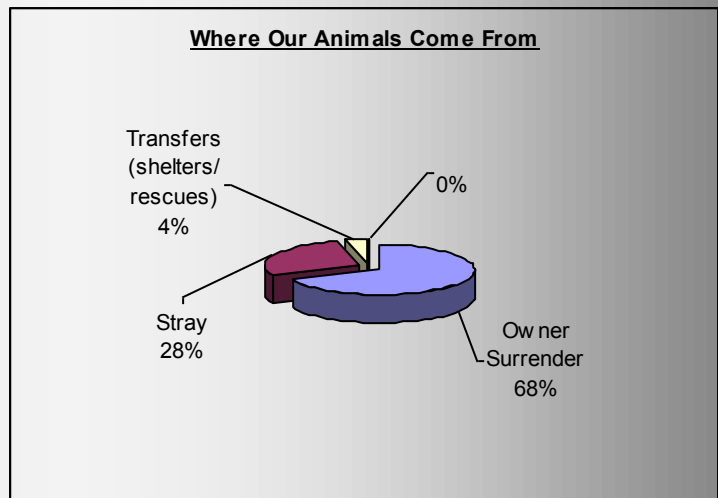
Where Our Animals Come From:

Owner Surrendered	1110
Stray	446
Transfers from other Shelters & Impounds	<u>64</u>
Total Incoming	1620

Where Our Animals Go:

Adopted	1326
Returned to Owner	282
Transfers to other Shelters & Rescues	20
Euthanized*	<u>29</u>
Total Outgoing	1657

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



UPAWS Staff

Shelter Manager: Lareina VanStrien

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

Animal Caregivers: Brooke Wursuri, Jacy Madden, Kaitlyn Keto, Jacie Fisher, Chloe Macbeth, Jenny Jorns and Kim Malcom

Community Outreach Coordinator: Melanie Bell
Bookkeeper: Ross Broughton



Report from the Treasurer

Unaudited Financial Report

Where Our Money Comes From:

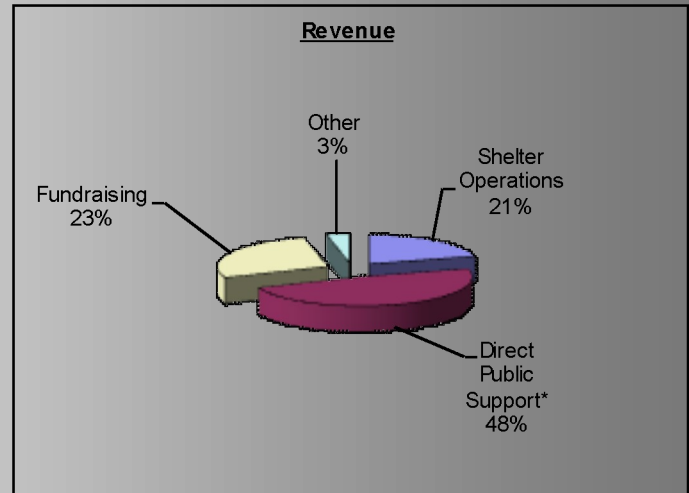
Revenue:

Shelter Operations	\$	97,515
Direct Public Support*	\$	228,510
Fundraising	\$	131,798
Other	\$	16,034
Investment Revenue	\$	<u>24,130</u>

Total Revenue **\$ 497,987**

*Includes:

Donor Restricted Donations	\$	36,205
Bequests	\$	15,975
Grants	\$	2,050



Where Our Money Goes:

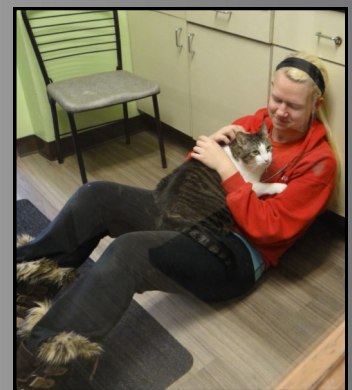
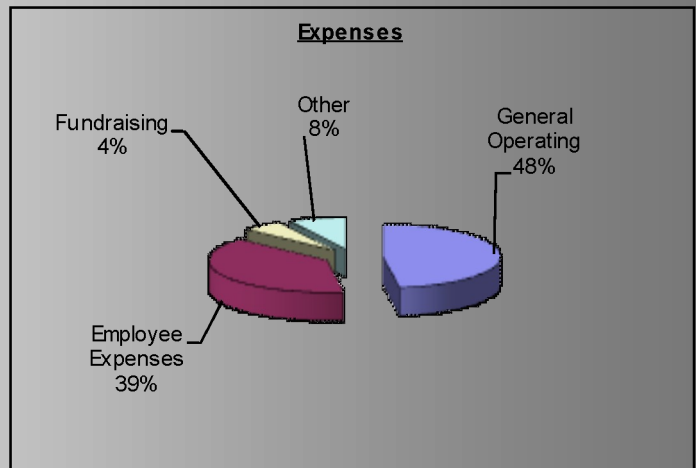
Expenses:

General Operating**	\$	212,867
Employee Expenses	\$	173,299
Fundraising	\$	24,410
Other	\$	36,268
Building Improvements	\$	<u>11,085</u>

Total Expenses **\$ 456,930**

**Expense Includes

Donor Restricted	\$	43,068
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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.

What tracks.....



....will you leave behind?