



## **2008 Annual Report of Whitman County Humane Society, Inc.**

### **Mission Statement**

*Whitman County Humane Society values the human/animal bond, provides stewardship for homeless pets and promotes compassionate treatment of all companion animals.*

### **Vision Statement**

*Out of deep respect for companion animals, WCHS provides:*

- ❖ A modern, humane sheltering facility for homeless pets*
- ❖ Affordable spay/neuter program*
- ❖ Adoption services for homeless animals*
- ❖ Community education and opportunities for community service*

### **Community Services**

The Spay Neuter Program (SNAP) coupons cover 75% of the cost of the spay/neuter procedure, up to \$50. They continued to be distributed to area clients and were accepted by most Whitman County veterinarians. Supporters donated \$410 to the SNAP fund and WCHS reimbursed nearly \$4,800 for 111 procedures.

The microchip program was funded by WCHS at a cost of ~\$2,800 to increase the probability of lost pets being returned quickly and safely to their owners. Every animal adopted from WCHS left with a microchip embedded under its skin. This service was also provided to the public for a nominal \$30 fee. Registration of the owner with the microchip company was included in the fee. There was a sharp decline in the public's use of this service. Only 7 pet owners took advantage of this service and generated \$210 income.

The PawFest Open House was held July 12, 2008 with the goal of making more people aware of our location and services. Retail vendors, balloon animals, a drug dog demonstration, microchipping clinic and Blessing of the Animals were repeat activities. For the first time, with the help of Matt Mickas, DVM and the WSU Shelter Medicine Club, we were able to offer a shot clinic to the public. Many area citizens took advantage of the shot clinic and attendance was much improved over last year's event.

### **Public Volunteer and Training Programs**

WCHS worked with state and local community service agencies and law enforcement agencies such as Whitman County probation program, to provide volunteer opportunities for youth job training programs and citizens under court order to serve community service hours. Students from local high schools participated in training programs at the shelter as part of the Career

Builder program. WCHS was again on the list of approved agencies for the Center for Civic Engagement at Washington State University for students who need to perform community service for their class requirements.

Approximately 85 citizens volunteered their time at the shelter or in the administrative office. More than 2700 hours were logged by these dedicated volunteers. The second annual Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Bryston Myrhang, a Pullman 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Sunnyside Elementary School, for his dedicated service, donating food and supplies to the shelter as well as organizing a bake sale at his school on behalf of the animals. The shelter manager halted the acceptance of new volunteers for the second half of the year due to the lack of personnel to adequately train new volunteers. Community and collegiate organizations continued to help with group projects, such as cleaning the cat bus, walking the dogs, and painting the shelter office.

## **Animal Care and Adoptions**

500 animals came through our doors in 2008. Service fees at the shelter generated more than \$25,000 to help defray the increasing cost of care. We found homes for 485 adoptable animals, including transfers to rescue groups for adoption. No adoptable animals were euthanized because of time limitations or shelter overcrowding. 1 cat and 6 dogs were euthanized for medical and/or behavior reasons. 79 pets were returned to their rightful owners.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Surrenders</b>	<b>Adoptions</b>
<b>Dog</b>	80	258
<b>Cat</b>	109	218

The Hope Fund provided life-saving veterinary care for five (4) injured dogs and one (2) injured cats that otherwise would have been euthanized due to lack of funds for treatment. WCHS paid almost \$6,300 for pre-and post-operative care as well as recovery and convalescent costs. Generous supporters donated close to \$4,300 to reimburse the fund so it will be ready to meet the challenges coming with the next injured animal. All Hope Fund animals were adopted and placed in homes where they were wanted and will be loved. Maddie, one of the success stories from 2008, will be an honored guest at the second annual Fur Ball and Yappy Hour fundraiser.

## **AnimalHaven**

A bid meeting was held in May 2008 for the purpose of soliciting bids from area contractors. In June 2008 the board voted to enter into contract with KACI General Contractors after accepting its bid for the construction of the entire project. Due to the escalating costs, the board decided to break the project into phases, with Phase I including the underground infrastructure, canine building #1, and an interim cat building.

Donors continued to give to the AnimalHaven project without a formal capital campaign. Donations increased 102% over the previous year. Plans for a capital campaign were begun and a campaign coordinator was hired in November 2008. An additional \$500,000 will be needed to complete Phase I.

Ground breaking for the construction of AnimalHaven occurred on Saturday, October 4, 2008. Several local dignitaries, including Pullman's Mayor, City Supervisor, and Chief of Police spoke at the event. Close to 85 attendees were treated to a reception following the ceremony.

Projected move in date is September 2009.

## **Financial Health**

Citizens of Whitman County continued to generously support WCHS. Total Income increased 32% over the previous year and Total Expenses again this year increased 10%. The significant increase in income can be attributed to the success of the first annual Fur Ball and Yappy Hour fundraiser as well as the selection of WCHS as the beneficiary of the proceeds from WSU's Greek Week festivities.

Growth in selected income items was mixed in 2008. Donations from the coin cans we have in businesses throughout the community increased again this year by 17%. Unrestricted donations (those funds not designated for a specific fund, such as The Hope Fund, SNAP Fund, or Building Fund) decreased a disappointing 20%. Income from the sale of promotional items increased 30%. Continued participation in WSU's Combined Fund Drive netted a 14% increase in donations from their employees.

However, costs continued to rise in almost every area. Some of the increase was due to economic factors over which we had no control. Others were due to additional activities and new programs the Board implemented to improve services or increase membership. Shelter veterinary expenses increased a minimal 3% with increased monitoring of medical decisions by the board supervisor. The first board retreat held in July 2008 caused a significant increase in the Management Training budget item by 166%. The retreat offered the new board an opportunity to focus on decision making strategies and goal setting for the upcoming year. Payroll costs increased 22% due to increased hours worked, promotions with pay increases, and increased payroll liabilities. The board's vote to increase the scope of its advertising plan caused a 25% increase in this budget item.

There were a few encouraging signs of cutting expenses in 2008. Diligence on the part of the staff kept the cost of shelter supplies at 5% below the previous year and administrative office supplies were 6% below the previous year.

2008 was a banner year for organized fundraising events and special projects. The first annual Fur Ball and Yappy Hour fund raiser netted over \$17,000 for the general operating fund. Proceeds from WCHS members, directors, and volunteers worked in the Lentil Festival's Beer Garden for 40% of the proceeds. Our annual Santa Paws Giving Tree campaign resulted in more donations than ever before. We placed trees in 9 participating businesses in Colfax and Pullman. Our neighbors and friends donated hundreds of pounds of pet food, dozens of sacks of litter, many food bowls and toys, treats, and even cash!

## **Membership**

Membership renewal decreased as evidenced by the 37% decline in renewal dues collected in 2008. With 286 active members included in the over 700 active donor list, members make up approximately a third of the Society's supporters. A good number of former members chose to

simply be a donor rather than rejoin the organization. WCHS gained several new members but recruitment of new members continued to be a struggle.

## **Board of Directors**

At the end of 2008 the WCHS board consisted of the following volunteers:

*Officers:* Becky Bitter, President; Trevor Bice, Vice President; Susan Hardy-Gormsen, Treasurer; and Debbie Bikfasy, Secretary.

*Directors:* Gwen Anderson, Judy Dunn, Colleen Harrington, Tom Harris, Sonia Husa, Matthew Mickas, Emily Mowrer, Corinna Nicolaou, Britta Nitcy, and Susan Wang.