History Was Made, and You Helped Make it Happen!

Substandard breeder receives jail time; 17 dogs find a safe haven at HSMO.

Underweight and living in filth, 17 dogs rescued Dec. 27 by HSMO’s Animal Cruelty Task Force, are now recovering. The dogs rescued are mostly medium-to-large breeds, mainly Australian Shepherds, Australian Terriers, and other designer mixes. Prior to rescue, they were living in chronic substandard conditions for long periods of time, neglected far too long by an unlicensed breeder and repeat offender in Oregon County, MO.

Thanks to the constant support of our donors and sponsors, each dog is now gaining weight, recovering from infections and parasites and lapping up love and attention from our staff and volunteers. As they gain a bit more weight and are spayed or neutered, all 17 will be looking for their forever homes.

According to the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation, this case is historic. This is the first time a substandard breeder has received jail time for violating an order served under the Animal Care Facilities Act.

Allowing animals to suffer as these dogs did is unconscionable. We applaud the Missouri Attorney General’s Office for pursuing prosecution of this unlicensed breeder so that no more animals will be harmed at their hands again.

Your support helps abused animals heal!

HSMO sponsor Edward Jones helped make this rescue of animals in-need possible.
Dear Friends,

When 2020 began, we expected a year full of celebrating our remarkable history of 150 years of service to animals in jeopardy and our community. Our plans included highlighting accomplishments in preventing pet overpopulation; increasing and improving animal rescue, sheltering and adoption; humane education; veterinary care and so much more, culminating in a Gala Celebration in November.

However, our best laid plans were waylaid by a devastating global pandemic.

Thanks to your support, our dedicated employees and volunteers, the Humane Society of Missouri, Longmeadow Rescue Ranch and the Animal Medical Center of Mid-America stayed on the front lines continuing our mission of 150 years to give second chances to animals in need and good health to the companion animals of our community.

- Curbside adoptions became the norm as we paired wonderful adopters with 5,694 dogs, cats, critters, horses and farm animals.
- We instituted no-contact, curbside veterinary services to ensure the health and well-being of thousands of our pet and human clients, and have helped more than 26,000 pets in the process.
- Our Animal Cruelty Task Force continued to respond to thousands of reports of abuse and neglect, and rescued thousands of animals in jeopardy.
- Mission Impossible Kits were created for use at-home to safely engage animal-loving children in our humane education program.
- Though Bark in the Park was cancelled, we held several successful virtual events including Purses for Pooches and Simons Jewelers Paws for Celebration.
- And, our “150th Anniversary and Counting” Gala Celebration has been rescheduled for November 2021.

Perhaps most gratifying, our volunteers and donors stayed with us generously giving their time and financial support when we needed it most.

I am so very proud that, despite many challenges, your support allowed our staff to rise to the occasion and find multiple ways to continue helping animals and people safely, and with no interruption of services.

We are immensely grateful!

Kathy W. Warnick
President

You Helped Her Keep the Faith

After years of breeding, this senior dog gets a new “leash” on life

In October, the Humane Society of Missouri removed 55 dogs who were abandoned in a Franklin County home. Mostly Basset Hounds, the dogs were left alone by the homeowner, a substandard breeder who was arrested one week prior on a warrant involving fraudulent practices. Because of you, we were able to take in these abused and neglected dogs and provide them with shelter, medical treatments and compassionate care. We fought for (and won!) custody of all of the dogs. And one by one, they found their loving, forever homes — including Faith.

Faith was one of the few senior dogs among those rescued. At ten years old, she’s now in a home where she is pampered and loved. Her adopters feel pretty lucky, too.

continued on page 3
Highway Wreck Horses Rehabilitated at Longmeadow Rescue Ranch

The mid-October evening was cold and rain was falling. An out-of-control tractor-trailer carrying 29 horses to slaughter toppled onto an interstate highway median in Franklin County. MERS Large Animal Rescue and Longmeadow Rescue Ranch immediately responded to the scene. Despite bone-chilling weather and working all night, the team rescued 15 horses from the wreckage.

The survivors suffered from shock, deep skin and leg abrasions and lacerations, head and eye trauma and back injuries. Eleven surviving horses were transported to Longmeadow; four received intensive care at an equine veterinary hospital before coming to the ranch for continuing treatment and care. Sadly, three horses that survived the wreck could not recover from their injuries and were humanely euthanized.

After eight weeks of day-long wound care and other treatments, the 12 survivors were well-on-the-road to recovery. In addition to the expert care they received, these horses gained a new lease on life. They made friends with other horses at Longmeadow and enjoyed the sunshine and fresh air in the turn-out paddocks. Several are now available for adoption; others will be available soon. Visit www.longmeadowrescueranch.org to view all adoptable animals.

Thank you for saving these horses from slaughter and giving them second chances at happy and healthy lives!

continued from page 2, Keep the Faith

“Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for bringing us together,” says Shana. “I never knew my life was missing such a beautiful and sweet dog. She’s definitely the light of our lives.”
Transforming Lives: One Tail at a Time

In Fiscal Year 2020, the Humane Society of Missouri:

Placed 7,631 cats, dogs, critters and ranch animals.

Performed 8,209 spay/neuter surgeries.

Nearly 1,000 volunteers donated 35,372 hours providing animal care and shelter.

Traveled 299,451 miles to conduct 6,372 responses to reports of abuse and neglect involving 17,134 animals.

Conducted 29,959 client visits and surgeries through our AMCMA veterinary clinics.

Distributed 105,514 pounds of Purina pet food and cat litter to area food banks.

Provided foster care for 922 animals.

Reached 12,904 children and adults through our humane and character education programs.

0% euthanasia rate for reasons of time or space.
Allocated **84.6%** of every dollar toward program services.

Adopted **194** animals from Longmeadow Rescue Ranch; **49** of those were equines.

Through our Second Chances Transport Program HSMO received **867** animals from partner shelters for rehabilitation and adoption.

Adopted **5,500** animals through our innovative curbside adoption program since the beginning of the pandemic.

Provided **3,562** Operation SNIP low and no-cost spay/neuter procedures.

Accepted all animals that arrived at our doors.

Conducted **108** virtual veterinary visits at AMCMA.

Found forever homes for **100%** of adoptable animals.

Performed **26,000+** curbside veterinary pick-ups at AMCMA since the beginning of the pandemic.

Animal Cruelty Task Force on call **24/7/365** in all **114** counties of Missouri.
You Helped Tango Dance into Her Second Chance

Tango came to HSMO as a stray with a severely broken leg. The injury caused irreparable damage, and our veterinarians determined the leg needed to be amputated. After her surgery and recovery, Tango found her purrfect forever home!

Fear Free Veterinary Visits

HSMO’s veterinary hospital, the Animal Medical Center of Mid-America (AMCMA), is committed to the health and well-being of St. Louis area pets. In addition to providing high-quality medical care, we also strive to make every veterinary visit enjoyable and Fear Free®.

AMCMA is a Certified Fear Free practice, and our doctors, technicians and staff are certified as Fear Free Professionals. We go to great lengths to prevent and alleviate fear, anxiety and stress in pets. Here are just a few things we do to make veterinary visits Fear Free at AMCMA:

Providing Resources for Pet Parents
Fear Free veterinary visits start before your pet walks through our doors. We have resources on our website, AMCMA.org, so pet parents can take an active role in reducing their pets’ fear.

Understanding Your Pet’s Needs
Before each veterinary appointment, AMCMA sends pet parents a link to fill out a pre-visit questionnaire. This helps our team adjust our care to better serve and comfort each individual pet.

Bandanas for Dogs and Towels for Cats
As soon as your dog enters our building, we will give him or her a bandana to wear. And when your cat comes in, we will put a warm towel over the carrier. The bandana and towel are sprayed with pheromones to help each pet feel calmer and more secure.

Yummy Treats
When you make your appointment, you may be asked to cut back on your pet’s food that day. If your pet is a little hungry when they are at the veterinarian’s office, they will be more eager to take a treat from us. Giving treats helps send a message to your pet that the veterinarian’s office is a fun place where good things happen.

Separate Exam Rooms
Some pets get scared or upset when they know another species has been in the room. At AMCMA, our exam rooms are designated so that cats go in cat rooms and dogs go in dog rooms. Our cat rooms are equipped with cat toys, treats, and cat perches. Our dog rooms have plenty of toys and treats as well, and both have pheromone diffusers and calming music.

Special Waiting Areas
One of the most stressful part of a veterinary visit can be the waiting room, where anxious pets can smell, see and hear other pets nearby. While we try to get pets into the exam room as quickly as possible, sometimes it takes a few minutes. We have separate waiting areas for cats and for dogs.

Fear Free in a COVID-19 World
You can find more information on how we are operating during COVID-19 on our website, and as soon as it is safe for us allow people back in our building again, we will be THRILLED to have you come in!
Shown to reduce allergens 47% on average, starting in the third week of daily feeding

Breakthrough nutrition discovered through over a decade of research

The key ingredient is a specific protein from eggs
150 Years and Counting!

The 150 years and Counting Gala will take place on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at the Ritz-Carlton in Clayton. Originally scheduled to celebrate HSMO’s 150th Anniversary in 2020, COVID-19 forced us to postpone the celebration to 2021. Plans are in the works for this extraordinary milestone, and we can’t wait to commemorate 150 Years and Counting of helping homeless and neglected animals in Missouri. Stay tuned for more information.

Mark Your Calendars for Give STL Day!

**Tuesday, May 6th is a special day for Missouri pets. It’s Give STL Day!**

To help homeless and hurting pets in our community, we need the support of as many friends as possible: We need YOUR help getting the word out about Give STL Day!

Every Give STL Day donation will help rescue and shelter homeless and abandoned pets; provide medical care for those that are sick and injured; and help give second chances for thousands of deserving animals. And our very generous friend, Kim K., will be helping us with a matching gift for Give STL Day. Stay tuned for more details on how your gift can go twice as far as Give STL Day draws closer!

**Mark your calendar now to visit hsmo.org on Tuesday, May 6th to make a difference for homeless, abused and neglected animals, right here in Missouri!**

Give our Animal Friends a Ride

Donate ANY vehicle in ANY condition to the Humane Society of Missouri to make a difference in the lives of homeless, abused and neglected animals. Get that old car, truck, motorcycle, trailer or boat out of your garage now. Pick-up is free and your donation is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. For more information, please visit www.hsmo.org/vehicle-donation or call 314-951-1542.

Happiness is … A Long Walk with Your Dog

Bark in the Park is coming back, virtually! Uncertainty is still high with regard to public gatherings, so Bark in the Park will be Bark in YOUR Park in 2021! Walk, run or hike with your dog (or without!) anytime between April 1st and April 17th in your neighborhood, your local park or on your treadmill! Set up a fundraising page to ask your friends and family for donations toward your goal to raise money for homeless and neglected animals in Missouri. Stay tuned to our social media channels for fun contests and games along the way! Registration is $25 and includes an official Bark in YOUR Park t-shirt and goodie bag. Registration information and event details will be coming soon to www.hsmo.org/bark.