

All the little things add up



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



# From our CEO, Tanya Hilgendorf

As you know, animals can't speak for themselves; they need us to advocate for them. And in 2024, we certainly did.

From meeting with legislators and providing expert testimony in Lansing to gathering locally with animal advocates and educating others working in animal welfare, HSHV helped lead crucial efforts to protect animals across the state.

Every day, with your generosity and support, HSHV provides essential care—rescuing, sheltering, and finding loving homes for animals in need. Yet, an equally critical part of our mission involves advocacy and education: working "upstream" to prevent harm, cruelty, and homelessness before they happen.

Through legislation and community education, we strive not just to react to animal suffering, but to prevent it. Advocacy is key—changing laws, shifting attitudes, and creating protections for animals that stop cruelty before it starts.

But 2024 wasn't without big challenges. At the year's end, Michigan's House was unable to vote, leaving hundreds of bills to expire—including many critical bills we worked so hard to advance, including:

- Pet license plate (funding spay/neuter and supporting shelters)
- Cat declaw ban
- Animal Bond and Forfeiture (streamlining placement of cruelty-case animals into loving homes)
- Queenie's Law (ending painful experiments on dogs)
- Veterinary telehealth expansion (improving access to care)
- Ban on pet stores selling dogs, cats, and bunnies
- Greater protections for outdoor dogs

Tragically, not a single meaningful animal-friendly bill passed. At times, it might feel like these efforts don't matter. But as someone who's dedicated two decades to animal protection, I can assure you—it does. Every voice, every effort, and every step forward is essential, even when progress feels painfully slow.

As Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Nothing worth having comes easy." At HSHV, we will never give up and we hope you won't either. Together, we'll continue advocating, educating, caring, and loving; knowing that our collective efforts are building a safer, kinder future for all animals.



Thank you for your ongoing commitment and incredible support!

**1 OF 10**  
ON OUR EMAIL LIST  
IS AN ADVOCATE

Animal Defenders  
sent over

**2,000**

emails and postcards to legislators



Humane Society of  
Huron Valley

in 2024

95%

save rate

5,200

animals adopted  
into loving  
homes

4

-star Charity Navigator Rating



Our 14th consecutive, rating  
us among top 1% of charities

Over  
1,100  
wildlife  
animals aided

532

lost animals reunited  
with their families

Over  
450  
junior  
volunteers

Over  
2,000  
adult  
volunteers

92.9%

rate our customer service  
“highly favorable”

Responded to

6,100

rescue and advice calls

Provided

10,862

days of care to cruelty victims

Distributed nearly

65,000

lbs. of food to  
pets in need,  
and added 2 new  
pet food pantries

Provided emergency  
harbor to

73

pets, helping them keep  
their homes while their  
families were in crisis

*Love Train*

transported

>700

animals from shelters  
struggling to care for them  
and find them homes

269

cruelty complaints  
investigated





Buddies Freeling and Tartt share a life-threatening medical condition.

"Funnel chest" means their rib cages curved inward, leaving scant room for their hearts and lungs to grow. It's rare to see kittens with this condition. And two at the same time? They were lucky to have each other-- and you.

While "funnel chest" is often fatal, **thanks to supporters like you, and foster parents who donate their time and loving care**, both Freeling and Tartt received lifesaving specialty surgery, and the time they needed to find loving families where they can grow up.

Nearly

1/2

of all adopted animals  
were cared for by loving  
foster families

2,189

animals received  
foster care

Over

700

foster parents  
opened their hearts  
and homes to help  
keep HSHV open  
admission, no-kill

+24%

increase in foster  
care placements over 2023

+48%

increased foster  
placements for dogs

+103%

increased foster placements  
for bottle baby kittens







Served

345

new clients (148 more than 2023) via Friends for Life, a program that helps seniors and other pet owners keep their pets

Spayed/Neutered

4,300

animals, including 400 community cats

Gave over

\$214,000

of medical care away to help low-income families keep and care for their pets

Vaccinated

300

dogs and cats at no-cost vaccine clinics

Served over

7,200

clients with high-quality yet affordable veterinary care

Introduced

Telehealth

to help more people and their pets





RESCUE

Humane Society of  
Huron Valley



Provided humane  
education to over

5,000

children and young people



Developed new curriculum  
focused on developing

*empathy*

Expanded bilingual offerings  
for our diverse community

Found loving homes for

537

cats and kittens and shared love with over

*tiny lions?*  
LOUNGE & ADOPTION CENTER

18,000

visitors to our cat cafe  
(+1.7% over 2023)



## ADVOCACY FOR THE FUTURE

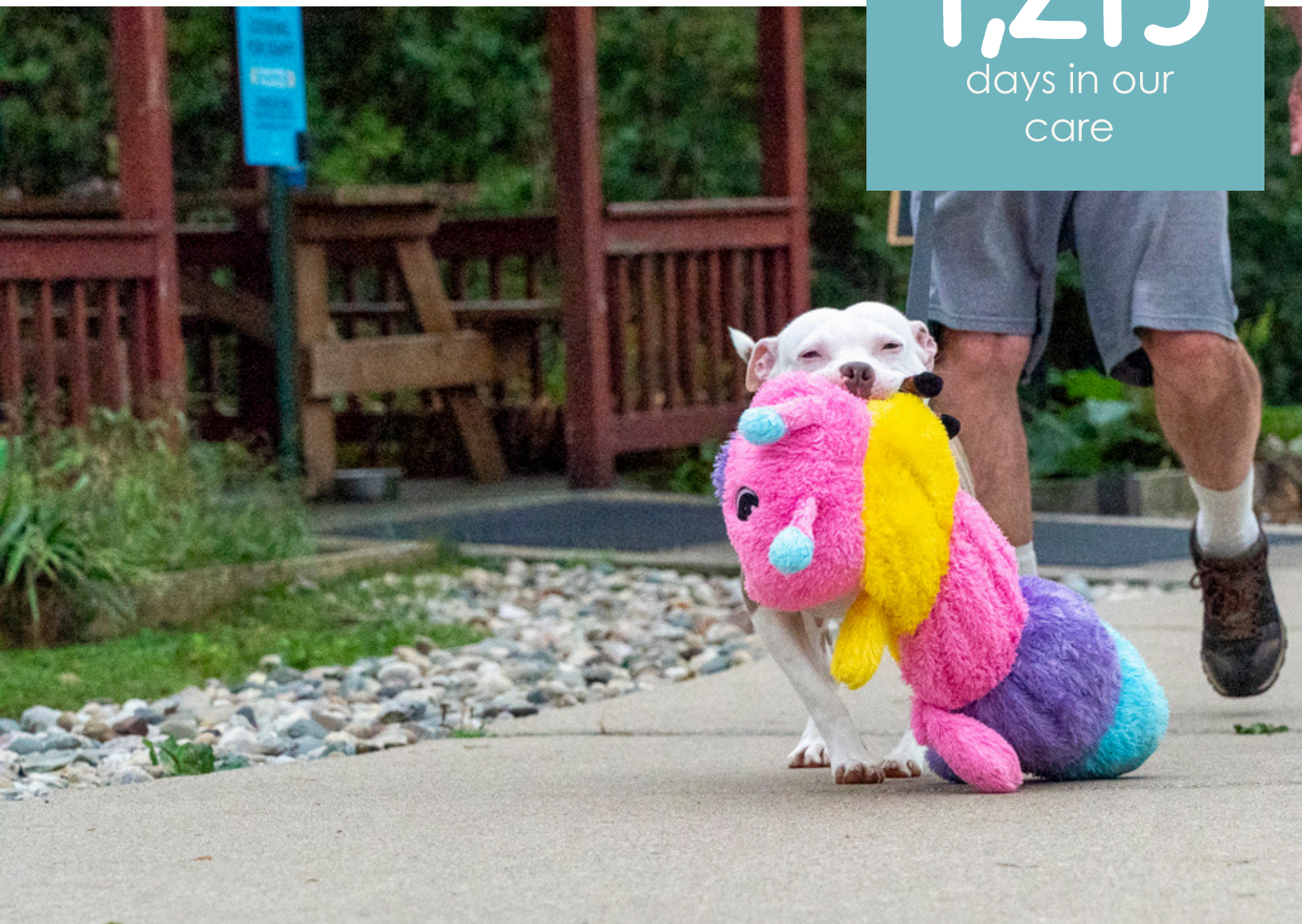
We took care of Titi nearly her whole life. In June 2021, when she was just 7 months old, she was rescued from an abusive owner. This October, her owner was found guilty of animal cruelty, and Titi was finally released to find a new home.

Staff and volunteers fell in love with her, seeing her grow from a timid puppy to a happy dog, trying to do the best job we could raising her in a shelter, when we really knew she deserved a home.

We will continue to advocate for laws to help animals just like Titi.



Titi spent  
**1,215**  
days in our  
care





"Titi is an innocent victim of human cruelty. It is completely unjust that she and those like her get stuck in shelters, waiting for so long for their cases to be resolved. They aren't the ones who should be punished. There is state legislation pending that could change that for the better.

**SB 657/658 would allow abused animals to be adopted to a loving home instead of waiting in a shelter for the defendant's case to wind through the system."**

-Tanya Hilgendorf, CEO



# Standing up for the Innocent

My partner and I had been wanting to adopt our own dog for quite some time and decided the new year was it. No one caught our eye the first time we went, but upon our second visit, we saw (Titi) Winnie.

She was circling her crate while holding a stuffie in her mouth and wiggling her butt from side to side (things she still does every single day). We really wanted to give her a forever home after hearing her story and decided to take her home for a PJ party that same day.

**After seeing how loving and affectionate she was in just a few short days, we knew that we would never make her spend another day in a shelter.**

She has been a delight to have at our home every day, and is the most loving and caring pup we could have ever wished for! She loves playing with her toys, and snuggling on top of you when it's time to lie down for the day.

We are so happy to add Winnie to our family, and could not imagine life without her! We even gave her a Valentine's Day photoshoot!









# Making every dollar count

Programs and Services

78%

Core mission support:  
Development

12%

Core mission support:  
Management and General

10%

## STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Contributions, Special Events, and Bequests	\$6,809,950
Clinic, Adoptions, and Special Programs	\$5,806,224
Investment Income	\$1,374,012
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$13,990,186</b>
Programs and Services	\$9,450,845
Management and General	\$1,199,530
Development	\$1,466,093
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,116,468</b>
<b>Net Operating Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>\$1,873,718</b>

\*Based on 2024 unaudited financials. Audited statements available Summer 2025.



