

Save the Date

Paws, Claws & Corks
Monday, March 15, 2021
WINE | FOOD | AUCTIONS

We are excited to invite you to join us for Humane Society of West Michigan's ninth annual Paws, Claws & Corks! Attendees, both local and national, will join together for a hybrid-style event to raise funds to support animals in need.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit: www.pawsclawsandcorks.com

Impact Report



2,391 animals
were adopted
from HSWM in
2020 alone!

SC
SARA COZOLINO



Visit us on social media

A Special Thanks to

2020 Bark in the Dark Leading Sponsors

Meijer
Joyce Wisner
Fox Subaru
Donald Tassell
Independent Bank
Chow Hound Pet Supplies

We are so grateful for your support of our animals in need. We couldn't do it without you!

We need your help!
Donate today at
www.hswestmi.org/give
or call 616.453.8900x209

3077 Wilson Drive NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Please email us at
development@hswestmi.org



Maggie's Happy Tail

Maggie needed a shave to help remove all of the mats from her coat when she first arrived, so her foster mom crocheted her this adorable sweater to keep her warm while her beautiful hair grew back!



Sweet Maggie, (originally named Madison) was surrendered into our care matted, shy, and scared. We immediately got to work giving her the care she required before placing her in a foster home. We were shocked that this gorgeous girl ended up waiting nearly 100 days for her adoption, but then the purr-fect family finally found her! We received a follow-up letter from them recently that we couldn't wait to share with you!

"Our experience adopting Maggie from Humane Society of West Michigan was really smooth! The staff members were very helpful in answering my questions, as well as scheduling a Zoom call with Maggie's foster parent. The foster parent even provided some of Maggie's favorite toys and a blanket to ease her transition! Maggie has lots of comfy spaces in our home to curl up and nap, and she LOVES to chase a string! She likes a good scratch and neck rub, and will flop down in front of us and roll over when she's ready for petting or play! Her soft chirp of a meow is so sweet, and she's not afraid to let you know when her food dish needs refilling. We love Maggie and her low-key personality!"

*With love from her new family,
Ginger and Mike*





Sheltering in a Pandemic

Living through a pandemic is a once in a lifetime experience. It changed the lives of each individual, our community, state, and nation. Many businesses closed and life as we know it came to a grinding halt for entire parts of the year. Despite all of these changes, there were still animals that needed our help.

Humane Society of West Michigan has had animals in our care every day since we were launched as an organization in 1883, and this year was no exception. Because of this amazing community we were able to place over 90% of the animals in our care in foster homes during the stay-at-home orders and reduce our shelter staff to one to two people per day. We were able to limit our veterinary staff to emergency needs only and do virtual check ins with animals in foster. We also launched a virtual adoption program to keep our adopters safe and healthy. HSWM dropped off pet food for those who fell into financial hardship, and supported those who needed it when they had nowhere to turn with their beloved animals.

We were only able to do this lifesaving work throughout the pandemic because of you! This community propelled us forward, and helped us continue our day-to-day services for pets in need. The outpouring of interest in fostering the animals in our care stunned and humbled us. As restrictions were loosened, this community shifted support to virtual events, new (socially distanced) volunteer opportunities with health screenings, and Dog's Day Out enrichment activities. Through all of the challenges of 2020, we were forced to make changes and in turn we have learned a great deal about what our future can look like moving forward and how we can make animal sheltering more innovative and effective. We look to 2021 with hope. Hope that, as we move towards a new normal, we are able to help even more animals and their loving families in our community--and a hope that you will be there to do this needed work with us.

Holly Guild - Executive Director

▲ *Geno had a rough start before entering our care. He had gasoline dumped on him and was lit on fire, but despite his trauma, nothing would keep this happy boy down! HSWM took him in, helped him heal physically and emotionally, and found him a furever family where he's happy, spoiled, and very much loved!*



How Your Donations Help From 1.1.2020 -12.31.2020, **2,391** animals were adopted from HSWM!

Animals Adopted in 2020

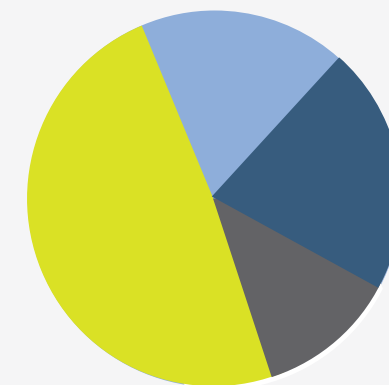
1,178
cats



907
dogs



306
small critters



ANIMALS IN FOSTER IN 2020

50%
CATS, 541

20%
DOGS, 228

20%
SMALL ANIMALS, 197

10%
MINI PIGS, 6

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS FOSTERED IN 2020

972

TOTAL NUMBER OF FOSTER FAMILIES IN 2020

283

We had **61** "foster fails" in 2020, meaning families that decided to **adopt their fosters!**

During **2020**, fosters made such a difference, that shelters worldwide are changing to more **foster-based** care.

Thank You for Being Humane Heroes!