This Happy Tail gave us all warm and fuzzy feelings! Adorable Kovu lingered in our care for quite some time and we couldn’t figure out why, since he was such a good boy! Finally, the right family found him and took him home, and now he’s getting all of the love and spoiling he deserves.

Kovu’s dad says, “Hope that you - and the whole Humane Society of West Michigan crew - are doing well! Just wanted to let you know Kovu continues to thrive. Our son (Josh) so enjoys having him in the house. Between Josh and I, Kovu is getting 5-6 walks around the neighborhood each day. When we got the first snow, it was fun to watch Kovu’s reaction, it seems like he hasn’t had much exposure to it before!

We took Kovu to the nearby Petsmart today to get his nails trimmed and ground smoothly. The crew in the store grooming area fell in love with him as well, as they picked up on his playful and affectionate style even in the short amount of time they had with him to do his nail clipping.

Thank you again for Kovu!
Mark
Thank You For Making Paws, Claws & Corks A Success!

On Wednesday, March 9th, over 600 guests joined Humane Society of West Michigan for the tenth annual Paws, Claws & Corks gala! We were thrilled to be back in person this year and able to offer our attendees a plethora of fine wine, beer, and gourmet food, live donations, all of which we’ve missed being virtual over the past few years!

Guests sipped on fine wines and microbrews from Alliance Beverage and dined on tastings from nine of Grand Rapids’ best restaurants, Two Scotts Barbecue, CitySen Lounge, Big O, Shaker & Swine, Furniture City Creamery, Sovengard, Noco Provisions, Cannonsburg Village, and Falil. In addition to the delicious food and drinks, there were over 300 exciting auction packages and experiences for guests to bid on, and this year the auction was hot!

We welcomed the band Funkle Jesse to our event who played live music for everyone to enjoy, but by far, the best part about being in-person again was our ability to personally meet all of you--our generous sponsors and donors! We were blown away by the generosity and support of our community who joined us both in person at the DeVos Place, and virtually to celebrate the life-saving work of HSWM over the past year.

We were also so proud to feature our Humane Heroes of the year, Tom and Holly Bowley. Tom and Holly have been volunteering at HSWM for over 11 years, and they put their hearts and soul into everything they do for our organization. From dog-walking to doing laundry, fostering, and everything in between, we’re so grateful for their ongoing support. Paws, Claws & Corks we shared the stories of Monster the miracle cat, who made a full recovery from a severe bone infection, and Honey the Doberman, who surprised her foster mom with an adorable litter of puppies—all of which have been adopted!

As a 100% donor-funded nonprofit organization, the funds raised at Paws, Claws & Corks will directly benefit HSWM in our mission to promote the humane treatment and responsible care of animals in West Michigan through education, example, placement, and protection. Through the auction, sponsorships, and donations we were able to raise $190,574 for animals in need!

Thank you again to all who attended our tenth annual Paws, Claws & Corks!

Corporate Spotlight

Above Roofing

Humane Society of West Michigan thanks Above Roofing for their continued dedication to helping animals in need. Above Roofing is a local roofing company that has been in business for over 25 years. Above Roofing is passionate about supporting the community, and especially the animals that are a part of it! We want to extend a big thank you to Above Roofing for their generosity as a corporate partner!

All of our Paws, Claws & Corks attendees were in high spirits, happy to be able to attend the event in person again.

Volunteer Spotlight

Nancy Sonke

Nancy Sonke was a Humane Hero whose legacy continues to support animals in need. Nancy passed in 2013 after a lifetime of dedication to animals. She had many stories of her love for animals, but often spoke of her beloved dog Roscoe who was adopted from HSWM. Nancy devotes a major part of her life to our mission, even serving for a time on the Board of Directors. When Nancy passed, she left a planned gift to continue to care for the animals at HSWM. We are truly grateful for Nancy and her generous legacy!

Did You Know We Offer Youth Camps? 

HSWM Camps are a fun, hands-on way for kids to learn all about animal behavior and welfare! 

HSWM offers youth camps in the winter and spring, as well as a wide variety of themed summer camps from June to August. Campers take part in projects, crafts, games, learn from guest speakers, and get lots of animal interaction time!

These programs promote compassion and help kids develop empathy towards animals. We also cover responsible pet ownership, safe animal handling, and animal-based careers as part of our curriculum.

These varied programs are a great way to educate future pet-owners and teach the next generation of animal advocates how they can make a difference!

Learn more about our 11 specialized Summer Camp Programs at hswestmi.org/youth-camps.html today!