

Save the Date: 

137th Birthday Party!

Sunday, June 14th, 2020  
Humane Society of West Michigan  
[www.hswestmi.org/birthday](http://www.hswestmi.org/birthday)



Instagram: @hswmi

We need your help!

Donate today at [www.hswestmi.org/give](http://www.hswestmi.org/give)  
or call 616.453.8900x209

3077 Wilson Drive NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Please email us at  
[development@hswestmi.org](mailto:development@hswestmi.org)



A Special Thanks to

Paws, Claws & Corks 2020 Sponsors

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Sleepy Hollow

# Impact Report

From **1.1.20 - 4.1.20**,  
**610** animals have been  
adopted from HSWM!



## Gable's Happy Tail

*Gable relaxes with a feline  
sibling in his forever home*



Gable arrived at Humane Society of West Michigan from Clarksdale Animal Rescue Effort & Shelter in Clarksdale, Mississippi in September of 2019. Gable was heartworm positive, extremely nervous, and struggling to settle in. Staff and volunteers worked with Gable day after day to help him gain confidence in hopes of finding the perfect

home. Months went by without the right match until one day in January, when Gable's future family came to visit. They fell in love, and decided to bring him home despite his lack of history with cats.

In a post-adoption email from March, Gable's new mom shared that he was now truly part of the family. The transition into a home was bumpy at times but Gable overcame them with plenty of patience and love. He now spends his days cozying up with his feline sibling.

Gable's mom was also impressed with his journey from Mississippi, and was so thankful that HSWM's transport programs were able to give him a second chance. Stories like Gable's and so many others are only possible with your support. Thank you.





### COVID-19 Updates (adapting, etc)

Like millions of other organizations, animal shelters are not immune to global health crises. This year’s COVID-19 pandemic has presented a number of challenges and decisions to Humane Society of West Michigan. In March, we made the difficult choice to postpone Paws, Claws & Corks, the shelter’s largest annual fundraiser just days before it was scheduled to take place. The implementation of Michigan’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order led to the cancellation of numerous other community programs, including youth spring break camp and low-income vaccination clinics. Adoptions were temporarily put on hold and animal admissions limited to emergencies only, with our local and national animal transport schedule coming to a halt.

Despite all of this, there is a silver lining to our current circumstances. In this time of uncertainty one thing has become increasingly clear: our community will not compromise on the wellbeing of animals. Families and individuals from all over West Michigan chose to fill their newfound free time by fostering animals in need. For the first time in recent history, more animals were living in foster homes than in the shelter. This reduction in our shelter’s population has allowed critical staff to continue providing a high level of care each and every day.

Utilizing social media, we were able to successfully host a virtual Paws, Claws & Corks with a broader audience than ever before. HSWM has resumed adoptions in a contact-free way, letting adopters fall in love through video call before bringing their new companion home. Our community resources are adapting, too. Restrictions on the Kibble Konnection pet food bank have been eased to help those experiencing hardship and food continues to be donated.

In a matter of months, COVID-19 has greatly impacted not only HSWM but the animals and families we serve. With compassion, creativity, and your support we will endure this challenge as an organization and as a community. Now more than ever, generous donors like you make a difference in the lives of animals.



▲  
*Animals of all species, shapes, and sizes enjoy the comforts of a foster home.*

*To inquire about foster availability, please visit:*  
  
[www.hswestmi.org/foster](http://www.hswestmi.org/foster)

## Focus on Fostering

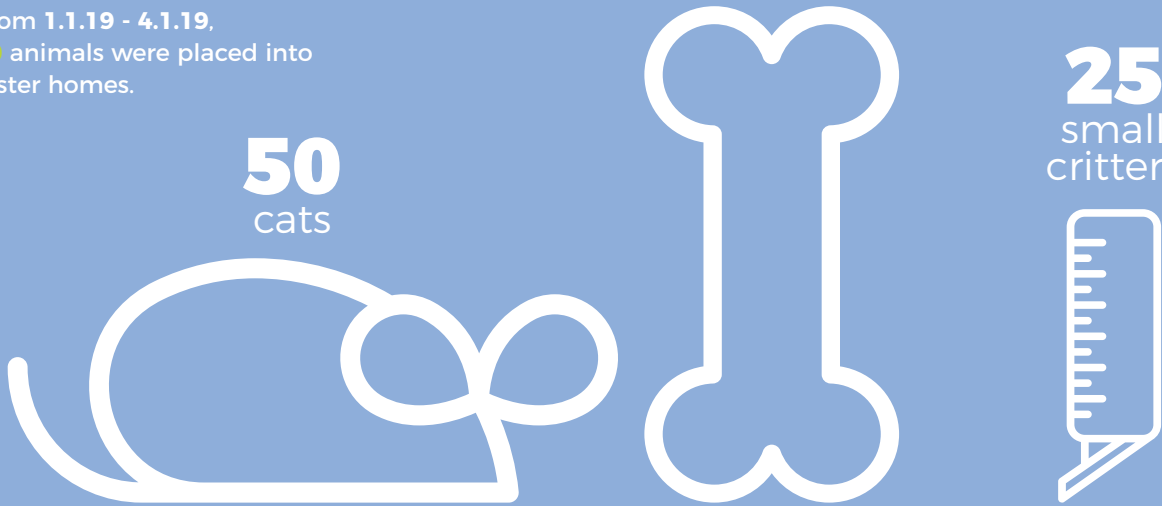
From 1.1.20 – 4.1.20,  
**117** animals were placed into foster homes!

From 1.1.19 - 4.1.19,  
**60** animals were placed into foster homes.

**42**  
dogs

**50**  
cats

**25**  
small critters



ONLINE PROGRAM & AUCTION  
[www.facebook.com/hswestmi](http://www.facebook.com/hswestmi)



### KITTEN SEASON IS COMING!

With warmer weather comes hundred of kittens! We’re collecting food and supplies to support these tiny lives. To learn more about needed items, please visit:

[www.hswestmi.org/wish-list](http://www.hswestmi.org/wish-list)

### 8th Annual Paws, Claws & Corks

Now in its eighth year, Paws, Claws & Corks has become a tradition for animal lovers in West Michigan. The gala-style event features tastings from local restaurants, wineries, and breweries as well as silent and live auctions. Paws, Claws & Corks is the largest annual fundraiser for Humane Society of West Michigan.

Due to COVID-19 and mandated social distancing, this year’s event was held entirely online. The virtual event featured

a live premiere video program, interactive digital auctions, and text to give utilization for Fund the Mission.

Though we couldn’t replicate the evening as it was planned, we’re thrilled to announce that this year’s event was still a success! Together, we raised **\$160,983** for animals in need. Thank you to all who helped make this possible. We cannot wait to see you, in-person, next year!

