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Impact Report



Mr. George, Governor of Broken Town
Rescued November, 2019



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pawsclawsandcorks.com



Saving Mr. George

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In November of 2019, HSWM received a call to action from a local emergency veterinary hospital. A young, grey cat had arrived with two broken femurs and no family to be found. Despite the odds against him, we instantly knew that we had to help.

George went in for surgery shortly after coming to HSWM, where the veterinary team worked to set the broken legs and prevent the need for amputation. Thankfully, George made it through the procedures and began his long road to recovery with the help of dedicated volunteers and staff members.

George's medical costs far exceeded our capabilities with a bill of \$5,600. After exhausting grant funding, we asked our community to come together for Mr. George. In a matter of days we raised over \$2,500 for George and animals like him.



George is now in a foster home, where he is healing and gaining strength until he is ready to be adopted.

Stories like Mr. George, Governor of Broken Town, would not be possible without your help. Thank you for your continued support!



Anna Grace Goes Home

If you've been to Humane Society of West Michigan, you've probably heard staff or volunteers mention Anna Grace. Anna Grace captured hearts with her enormous personality and penchant for being a princess. Despite becoming somewhat of a local celebrity, Anna Grace spent nearly two years in and out of our shelter after arriving in January of 2018 from Mississippi.

Over time, she began to decline both physically and behaviorally, in the stressful environment. Anna Grace braved not one, but two ACL surgeries and was exhibiting signs of early kidney disease. Perhaps the most challenging development, however, was Anna Grace's growing need to be the only pet in a home. Months and months of being in a kennel had made her less than fond of her noisy canine neighbors.

HSWM searched far and wide for a home for this special girl. Our efforts included launching "Dates With Anna Grace", a program in which the public could take Anna Grace on an outing beyond the shelter. Dates gave Anna Grace a chance to strut her stuff and capture the hearts of potential adopters. While many families took Anna to the hardware store, for walks in the park, or to their homes to watch a movie, the right match still never turned up.

As we moved into the fall, Anna Grace's health began to deteriorate. Bloodwork revealed that she was now in later-stage kidney failure. Though we cannot know for

sure, Anna Grace was given an estimated six months to a year to live. HSWM knew that getting Anna Grace into a home of her own was more important now than ever before, and began to search for compassionate hospice adopters.

One of Anna Grace's dates, a young family from Middleville, who loved her beyond compare were deeply saddened to hear the news. They determined that their home and lifestyle could be altered to give Anna Grace the life she so desperately deserved and shortly after asked to adopt her.



On October 29th, Anna Grace's favorite volunteers threw her a going away party with cake, a mountain of toys, and plenty of blankets. Everyone joined together to watch Anna Grace leave the shelter with her new forever family.

Anna Grace now lives an idyllic life. She has her own bedroom and parents who adore her. She's found the home she always needed and we couldn't be more grateful. Animals like Anna Grace remind us that the right home is always worth the wait.

Want more Anna Grace? Follow her new Instagram account! @KeepingUpWithAnnaGrace

▲
From left to right:

Anna Grace enjoys a trip to the beach as part of our "Dates With Anna Grace" program.

Anna Grace poses with her new mom shortly before heading home.

◀
An early photo of Anna Grace, not long after arriving at HSWM.



Giving Tuesday 2019



Giving Tuesday 2019 was an incredible success for Humane Society of West Michigan! Thanks to Chow Hound Pet Supplies and anonymous donors, we were able to offer up to \$20,000 in dollar-for-dollar matching on Giving Tuesday.

Together, our community raised a record-breaking total of **\$56,407.94** for animals in West Michigan! Our sincerest thank you to all who contributed to this year's Giving Tuesday!

Dear HSWM Friends and Family,

It has been a wonderful 5 months since I joined the team here at HSWM. Our donors, staff, and volunteers have been so supportive of me as I have started learning about how HSWM functions, our programs, and how best to move our organization forward. My ultimate goal is to have Humane Society of West Michigan be a one-stop resource for our community for anything animal related.

Our team is working hard to decrease the length of stay for our pets and move them more efficiently through the adoption process at HSWM. We will also be looking at ways to make our available animals more accessible to visitors. Unsurprisingly, direct interaction with a pet is the way to a person's heart! Stay tuned for more exciting updates as we work toward making HSWM the premier shelter in West Michigan!

Holly Guild – Executive Director

Year of the Cat

Humane Society of West Michigan intakes and adopts out thousands of animals each year. The majority of these animals are cats. What many don't realize, though, is that cats around the country are often not given the same chance as their canine counterparts.

At Humane Society of West Michigan, we do not euthanize animals due to length of stay or need for space. Animals stay with us until they are adopted and every effort is made to save each animal.

In 2019, 2,238 cats were admitted into HSWM care. 97% of those cats were adopted, returned to an owner, transferred to other rescues, or placed as a working cat. This percentage, known as the live release rate, is one of the highest on record for HSWM! An achievement like this for cats is only possible with the trust and support of our community. Thank you for making 2019 an unforgettable year for cats in Michigan.

2019:

2,238

CATS ADMITTED TO HSWM

97%

CAT LIVE RELEASE RATE



2012:

1,728

CATS ADMITTED TO HSWM

61%

CAT LIVE RELEASE RATE