



Wanderers' Rest Humane Association 2018 Annual Report

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Wanderers' Rest Humane Association



Mission and Purpose

Wanderers' Rest Humane Association is the sole open admissions dog and cat shelter in Madison County serving between 600 and 1,000 cats and dogs each year. Having a contract with Madison County ensures that all unwanted or stray dogs picked up by dog control in Madison County will have a safe place to stay while waiting to be redeemed by their owner or to get adopted into a new family. Our doors are always open to individuals from all over who wish to adopt a dog or cat. We accept owner surrendered animals from Madison County, as well as individuals who reside out of county, if possible.

Our Mission

WRHA is dedicated to providing the highest quality care and compassion for the animals entrusted to us, striving to enhance adoptability, and re-homing adoptable animals at the highest rate possible, while educating and leading our community in creating a more humane society. Through our public education programs, the shelter promotes responsible pet ownership and humane treatment of animals everywhere.

Wanderers' Rest is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that welcomes any and all contributions, as well as volunteers and fosters, in order to continue to accomplish our daily goals and achieve our overall mission.

EIN: 16-1191312

Comments from the Executive Shelter Manager

The entire staff at Wanderers' Rest cares so deeply about each and every animal that comes through our doors, which helps in our team effort of finding every animal a new forever home. This dedication and effect is obvious in our numbers. Even so, we are continuing to work towards improving the shelter to be the best that it can be, and I am extremely proud of how far we have come so far. It is not only the staff that help us in these efforts as we have to give a lot of our credit to the volunteers, fosters, and supporters that have the same vision of the shelter as the rest of the staff and I.

In the past year, we have grown in our community and beyond, and want to continue growing through the use of media outlets and by partnering with more rescues and shelters. As the years continue, the number of stray dogs and cats that are brought into our facility decreases; therefore, our intake numbers have decreased. However, in 2018, we did not have any hoarding cases where we had to take in many animals at once. We did nonetheless take in over 50 cats from one household over the course of 4-5 months. One of my goals in 2019 is to increase our adoption rate through better advertisement and adoption specials, especially during the holidays. This, in turn, will increase the number of animals we will be able to help.

I am excited that we have been able to provide Spay and Neuter Vouchers to low-income individuals in Madison County through the help of a grant provided by the ASPCA. This assists in our efforts to reduce the amount of unwanted cat and dog litters, ultimately helping to reduce the number of strays in the county.

In 2019, I am looking forward to developing new relationships with other supporters and organizations. I love the fact that we have been able to take animals from other shelters, helping them out and giving those animals the chance to be viewed by new eyes. We all have the same goal, so why not work together to meet that goal?

We have been fortunate enough to have a few of our dogs participate in a training program, where two have already graduated. This gives us an opportunity to make the dogs that need some work better candidates for being adopted. It has been my mission to ensure all of the animals that come to Wanderers' Rest receive a fair chance and that all avenues are exhausted in the attempt to find them all new homes.

While the current staff and volunteers have made a huge impact on this shelter, I believe the shelter has also made a huge impact on us. The animals are always on our minds and we are constantly trying to find new ways to adopt out the animals that have been at the shelter a long time. This is more than just a job to everyone that works here and I couldn't be more proud of the team that we have.

I am excited to see what comes of 2019 in relation to events, adoptions, new volunteers, and new partnerships. As a team, we will continue to save these animals—one paw at a time.

Sabrina Wilcox
Executive Shelter Manager



WHO ARE WE?

BOARD MEMBERS

Lewis Carinci—President

Gerald Taylor, Esq—Vice President

Kevin Coursen—Treasurer

Rachelle Keator—Secretary

Julie Koelsch

Kerry Brown—DVM

Rachel Elder, MD

STAFF MEMBERS

Sabrina Wilcox, Executive Shelter Manager

Joanne Cronan-Hamoy, Humane Educator

Brandy Jeffris, Animal Care Coordinator

Mason Groesbeck, Foster Coordinator

Vicky Arnold, Adoption Coordinator

Lance Dolan, Kennel Attendant

Danielle Schermerhorn, Kennel Attendant
and Office Manager

Kyle Buda, Animal Care Specialist

Kasey Dunn, Animal Care Specialist

Jacqueline Brown, Kennel Attendant

Lindsey Hurlbut, Kennel Attendant

Employee Comments

Joanne --- Humane Educator and Public Outreach Coordinator

Humane education in schools or with community groups such as churches/religious institutions, civic centers, libraries, senior centers, and more, is very important in order to share the message of care, compassion, and empathy to individuals, as well as many more animal related topics.

My wish and interest is that many more groups will take advantage of the programs that are offered through Wanderers' Rest. We take this job seriously as we are the only dog and cat shelter in Madison County and we want to reach all of our county schools, as well as youth groups.

Humane education is vital for so many reasons. Character education as well as NYS Teaching Standards are easily met through the lesson plans which are offered as age appropriate lessons for any class level. With this education, we teach respect and care about animals to our youth in hopes of teaching the need for compassion that can be geared towards both animals and people. This can also nurture a new generation of animal care career workers, shelter supporters, and future pet owners. In addition, we try to bring an animal to every visit in order to help spark interest, catch attention, and show the proper way to treat an animal.

I am hoping that we can strengthen our outreach program in order to expand our education program into every school in Madison County, as well as other groups and organizations. We want to reach everyone with our message of hope, compassion, and respect by encouraging enthusiasm for humane education to improve the lives of those that depend on us. Let's start with one human heart at a time.



Employee Comments Continued...

Vicky --- Adoption Coordinator

As the adoption coordinator, I would like to say that I consider 2018 a success in relation to adoptions and animals returned to owners. While I recognize that our numbers are down a bit from last year, I realize that is because our stray intake numbers were also down. I am taking this as a sign that people are beginning to act more responsibly when it comes to their 4-legged family members—which is fantastic.

In 2019, I would like to try to increase our adoption numbers, in hopes of being able to help more animals. We see some of the larger shelters holding adoption specials that unfortunately we cannot compete with financially, but we are thrilled to see that their animals are being adopted! We can only offer small discounts, so our goal is to be more creative to draw people in and find new incentives to increase adoptions.

I still would like to have a designated meet and greet room where potential adopters can spend time comfortably with the cats/dogs that they are interested in adopting. I believe if people are able to do so without feeling rushed we could have many more adoptions. Even though I do the adoptions and can get several animals out in one day, I cannot take all the credit. Let's face it... in a shelter there are so many moving parts that need to be taken care of each and every day to ensure the health, safety, and rehoming of the residents here that, in all actuality, it takes a village to do what we do. And we are quite an amazing village here at Wanderers' Rest.



Employee Comments Continued...

Brandy --- Animal Care Coordinator

I am incredibly proud of Wanderers' Rest and the caring communities within this county. We have accomplished so much these past years which is due to the dedication of staff, volunteers, fosters, and those who have partnered with us. The animals that come to us have a better chance of finding new homes than ever before. We have a lot more opportunities when it comes to finding homes for FIV positive cats, heartworm positive dogs, and other special needs animals. We search every avenue in order to get these animals into loving homes. Thankfully, we have been able to use a lot more resources to help these animals that never could be helped in the past including training, sponsorships, rescues, grants, and help from other facilities. I am determined to help these animals who are less adoptable—giving them an equal chance to find the right forever home because they deserve it, too. We would like to see more of this help in 2019, with fostering and other opportunities for animals with special needs. My goal here is to make every animal as comfortable and as happy as possible while they are in our care, which means we need more volunteers and even something as simple as media support. I am really excited to see what 2019 brings us!

Mason --- Foster Coordinator

I honestly couldn't be more proud of where I work, what I do, and how far we have come. With the amount of animals we were able to move into foster care this year, we were able to help many others as it frees up space in the shelter. For 2019, I hope to expand our foster base for both dogs and cats as well as see more donations come in that we can use to care for those we have both in the shelter and in foster care. Fosters are so important and we rely heavily on them for many reasons. For instance, not only does it help free up space in the shelter, but fostering also saves the lives of kittens and puppies that are so susceptible to diseases in the shelter environment. In addition, it gives the foster the opportunity to get to know the animal's true self in the home environment, as their personality may differ from the shelter environment. In turn, this helps us match these animals with the perfect families. It is my goal to help people understand the benefits of fostering, including the positives for the animals and fosters alike. I hope anyone will reach out to me with questions or interest. I am excited to see what bigger and better things are coming in 2019!



Adoption Events—2018

Wanderers' Rest Humane Association participated in numerous adoption events in 2018. These adoption events were important because they allowed us to highlight certain adoptable animals, solicit donations, and raise awareness about the shelter.

Along with the adoptable animals that are taken to the events, we also have a table with information about the shelter. Displayed on the table are general shelter information, adoption applications, volunteer applications, foster applications, humane education request forms, spay/neuter information, and upcoming events.

Many of the events that Wanderers' Rest participates in are attended by other shelters and rescue groups. These events help build our relationships with other organizations so that we can help each other find homes for as many adoptable animals as possible. Every event that Wanderers' Rest participates in provides a means to highlight the shelter and its mission to the general public. This is so important in helping the shelter find forever homes for the animals in the shelter.

In 2018 we had 46 events, adopted out about 100 shelter animals, raised around \$6,000, and received numerous donations of toys, food, blankets, and many other items for the shelter. These events, along with many other key factors, are important in maintaining a "live out of shelter rate" that actually qualifies the shelter as a no-kill shelter as defined by the ASPCA and other major animal related organizations. We are proud of this accomplishment.

Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers and staff for making these events so successful.

Butch Hall – Volunteer
Adoption Event Coordinator



Adopt

Our goal is to get every animal out of the shelter and into a new home as quickly as possible. Adoptions are the key to this success. Through our adoption application process, we try to find a perfect match for each animal, ensuring each are going into a home that matches their lifestyle and will be the best environment. In 2018, WRHA facilitated 411 adoptions.



Foster

WRHA's Foster Program was in full force this year, helping to save more lives. Kittens are very prone to illness in the shelter environment, which is why it is our goal to get kittens out into foster care as soon as possible to help prevent this. Fosters are an important asset to the shelter, giving animals a chance to get out of the shelter environment while waiting for a forever home. In 2018, WRHA sent over 160 animals into foster care, whether for a night or until that animal was adopted.



Volunteer

We cannot do what we do without the help of volunteers. They are the glue that holds us together, showing their big hearts that truly just want to help out these animals. This year, we honored Cindy Stashefski as the Volunteer of the Year due to her years of dedication to the shelter, especially cleaning Cat Room 2, and continuation of support for the shelter every single day. She has been a volunteer for over 10 years and WRHA is really grateful for all of the effort Cindy provides for the animals ensuring that they have clean cages and are healthy. In 2018, WRHA hosted orientations for over 50 new volunteers, with some volunteering regularly at the shelter; however, we are always looking for new volunteers that want to come on a regular basis.



Animal Care: Intakes and Outcomes

2018

INTAKES

OUTCOMES

	Dogs	Cats	TOTAL		Dogs	Cats	Total
Stray	237	170	407	Adoption	121	290	411
Owner Surrender	45	119	164	Euthanized	6	7	13
Seized	6	0	6	Returned to Owner	168	3	171
Return	13	13	26	Transfer Out	7	7	14
Transfer In	4	1	5	Died in Care	2	9	11
TOTAL	305	303	608	TOTAL	304	316	620

PAST YEARS

INTAKES

OUTCOMES

	2017	2016	2015		2017	2016	2015
Stray	503	554	711	Adoption	439	457	545
Owner Surrender	163	283	198	Euthanized	30	168	224
Seized	7	26	9	Returned to Owner	209	186	163
Return	32	28	42	Transfer Out	9	21	31
Transfer In	3	1	0	Died in Care	7	52	48
Service In	0	0	1	Missing	0	1	8
				DOA	0	0	1
TOTAL	708	892	961	TOTAL	690	885	1020

Animal Care Continued...

***In the 2017 Annual report, Live Release Rates were calculated using the total number of intakes in a given year and the total number of animals that left the shelter alive in the same year (adopted, transferred, or returned to owner).

By doing it this way Live Release Rates are as followed:

2015: 77%

2016: 74%

2017: 93%

2018: 98%

***However, the ASPCA states that the Live Release Rate is calculated using the following formula:

(Live Outcomes) divided by (All Outcomes)

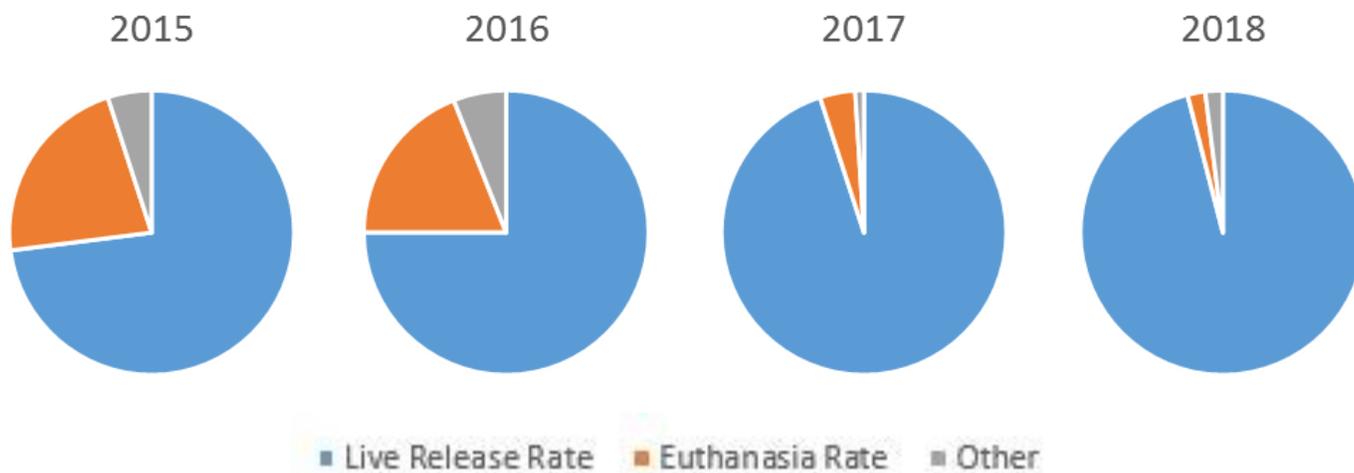
Therefore, actual Live Release Rates are as followed:

2015: 72%

2016: 75%

2017: 95%

2018: 96%



“Other” represents animals who may have died onsite or went missing (none went missing in 2017 or 2018).

The live release rate in previous years may have been influenced by the number of hoarding cases or seized animals that came in potentially sick or aggressive and euthanized.

BEFORE AND AFTER

WHAT LOVE AND CARE DO FOR AN ANIMAL

- **Clayton** (top pictures) came in as a stray very scared and was not feeling well. After love, patience, and attention from staff members, Clayton did a complete turn around. He was playing, having fun, and feeling a lot better sooner than expected. Clayton was adopted shortly after becoming available.
- **Kimble** (bottom left pictures) was found on the side of the road, believed to be hit by a car. When he was brought into the shelter, we immediately contacted a foster to help get this boy healed up. With proper medical care and attention, in less than two weeks, Kimble was completely healed up and doing great! He was adopted by the individual who found him!
- **Zoey** (bottom right pictures) is a sweet pit mix that came to the shelter on May 16th, 2018 completely torn up by another dog. Zoey was very nervous and would not let anyone come near her for a couple weeks, but staff were still able to treat her wounds from a distance and make her comfortable. With a lot of patience and love, Zoey started to warm up to those who were caring for her. After a few months, Zoey began warming up to even more people and even sat on our float during some parades. Now, Zoey is still shy at first, but is the sweetest, most loyal dog that wants a family to call her own.

Before



In order to continue to provide the best medical care to the dogs and cats in the shelter, we have **Archie's Fund**, dedicated to covering the costs of procedures/tests/medications that the shelter would not normally be able to cover. This fund was named after a young dog who arrived at the shelter with heartworm. Archie is now heartworm free and has a perfect family to call his own.

After



SPAY AND NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM

The ASPCA® (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) has awarded Wanderers' Rest Humane Association with \$40,000 to assist low-income Madison County families with costs of spaying and neutering. With this grant, hundreds of cats and dogs in Madison County will be fixed, preventing countless animals from unplanned litters from entering the shelter system.

Wanderers' Rest is covering the entire cost of the spay/neuter surgery for dogs and cats of low-income Madison County residents by using the funds provided through this grant. Per grant requirements, pet owners will be asked to pay a co-payment of \$1.00 toward the spay/neuter surgery cost. The grant does not cover additional veterinary costs that may be associated with the surgery, such as bloodwork, vaccinations, or other requirements of each individual veterinary practice.

In order to qualify, an individual must provide proof of the following:

- Madison County resident
- Proof of low income from any of the following items
 - Most recent tax return (*must meet household size maximum gross monthly income guidelines*)
 - Medicaid
 - Food Stamps
 - HEAP
 - SSI
 - Safety Net Assistance
 - Family Assistance

MADE POSSIBLE BY
A GRANT FROM THE



53 cats and dogs have been spayed or neutered through this program in 2018

NEW LOOK! PAINTING THE SHELTER

The 585 Community Bank office donated to the shelter to help give the shelter a makeover. Even more, their staff also came to help paint! We still have a little ways to go, but the new look will help brighten the shelter! Thanks to everyone involved!



Save-A-Life Campaign

2018

For another year, the Staffworks of CNY “Save-A-Life” Campaign matched donation amounts given to Wanderers’ Rest Humane Association, dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000, from November 26th — December 31st, 2018. We rely heavily on the donations from our generous community in order to be able to fulfill our mission of saving as many lives as possible and placing the animals in their new forever homes.

This time we raised over \$50,000!! Thank you to everyone who donated and supported us this past year. We cannot do what we do without your help!

Thank you to our corporate partner, Staffworks, for matching donations and working with Wanderers’ Rest to help ensure the cats and dogs get the best care possible while searching for their new forever homes.



~ In 2019, expect to see many more fundraisers, events, and ways to help out the animals at WRHA.
Every little piece makes a huge difference. ~

UPCOMING: What to expect in 2019

- More E-blasts
- Our Largest Event!
 - ⇒ Woofstock: August 17, 2019
- Adoption specials for every holiday
- Many more television appearances



—these help to get animals and the shelter the exposure that can help increase adoptions, awareness, and potential fosters and volunteers.

- You can catch us in many parades: including Oz Fest, Boxing Hall of Fame, and Memorial Day



If you would like to:

- Be an active member on one of our event committees...
- Be on our mailing list or update your current address...
- Be on our e-mail list...

...Please contact the shelter at
(315) 697-2796

or

info@wanderersrest.org

Contact Us!

WANDERERS’ REST HUMANE ASSOCIATION

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Adoption Coordinator	Vicky Arnold	v.arnold1981@gmail.com
Foster Coordinator	Mason Groesbeck	masonnn82093@yahoo.com

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