

News Crawl

SPRING 2020



YOUR WHS IN TIMES OF CRISIS:

Doing everything we can to support our community



Dear WHS friend and supporter,
Fighting the COVID-19 pandemic has required significant changes to our operations. We have been deemed an essential service by the Province of Manitoba, and therefore key activities in animal welfare, emergency response, animal care, and our veterinary clinic must continue. We are also trying to keep our adoption program open by scheduling appointments, as our doors are locked. We adopted out 287 pets in March, very close to the same as March 2019.



In addition to staying open to assist animals in need, we are also remaining open for emergency surrenders and veterinary medical emergencies. We are using technology and social media to provide support to people struggling with behavioural issues with their pets. We put a call out for fosters and received 551 applications in just a week and a half.

We are also continuing to enforce Animal Welfare Laws and bringing animals to the shelter facing urgent medical issues when the caregiver can no

longer afford veterinary care. And we are working to keep our staff and volunteers (true #WHSHeroes) safe throughout this pandemic.

If I could summarize our approach to the pandemic crisis in one sentence, it would be this: Your Winnipeg Humane Society will do everything in its power to help our community in a time of need.

This unprecedented response to the pandemic and our commitment to be there for animals in peril requires additional supplies, and the cost of caring for animals coming with emergency health conditions is very high. So if you could become a donor, or increase your donation, or become a monthly donor, we would sincerely appreciate the support. We are careful stewards of your donation and we make sure money goes to help animals whose very lives are at risk right now.

In service,

Javier Schwersensky,
WHS CEO

A proud team member of your WHS

BARN BUDDIES Gives Cats a Second Chance

Thomas the cat was pretty skittish when he went home to the McCallum family's rural property and even seemed sad.

"We gave him his space for a few days and then we slowly tried petting him and he let us," recalls Kahleigh.

"It's been about a year and a half and we love him so much more than we ever thought. He is the friendliest cat, he's an awesome hunter... has even caught a gopher! We thought you'd like to know what a good life he has out here in the country!"

Some cats simply cannot adapt to indoor living. They may be feral, or under-socialized and prefer little to no human contact. Whatever the reason, we still believe these cats (like Thomas) deserve a happy life and that they can be placed with families (like the McCallum's) who want them, care for them and value them.

These cats tend to struggle in the shelter environment and are difficult for staff and volunteers to handle. But often, once

out of the shelter and into their new barn or warehouse home where things are stable and routine, they become more comfortable with people and sometimes even friendly, as was the case with Thomas the cat.

Barn Buddies need to be cared for like all other cats. They need fresh food and water daily, as well as shelter from inclement weather – a place where they can stay warm and dry. They also need regular vet care including annual vaccinations and regular deworming.

The best candidates for the Barn Buddies program are cats who are social but too feisty interacting with people and thrive by having "work" to do, cats who are shy or fearful of people and prefer the company of other cats and animals, and cats whose litter box habits make them unsuitable to live indoors (and for whom medical issues have been ruled out).

"Thank you for the program that brought us such a handsome, smart, friendly boy!" says Kayleigh. "(Even our neighbors love him!)"



Education Goes Virtual

With social distancing becoming the new norm, we knew we still wanted to reach teachers and families with our educational programming.

So we moved our popular Pet Empathy sessions and all of our curriculum linked

lesson plans from K-12 online. They are great ways to incorporate animal empathy and welfare, and responsible pet care into a child's education. We moved away from our previously set prices and are now accepting donations for access to these sessions.

For more information or to book your session now, email the Education Department at education@winnipeghumanesociety.ca.

New Date for the Book & DVD Sale

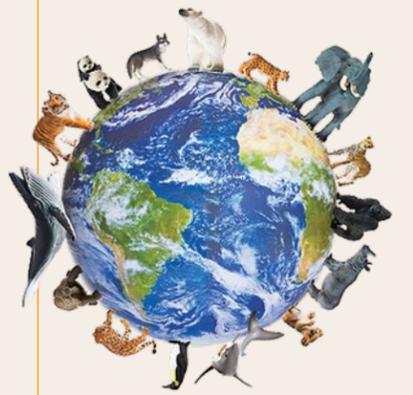
The 2020 Book & DVD Sale is being held September 12 & 13 after being postponed due to COVID-19. This is a tentative date pending updates on Health directives from the Province of Manitoba. Funds raised from the sale support the care of animals at the shelter. We are so grateful to those who donated in the spring.

We're still looking for gently used books and DVDs and they can tentatively be dropped off at the shelter starting August 10, 2020.

Animal Sanctuaries vs. Petting Zoos

The arrival of warmer weather brings with it the opportunity to visit local farm animal sanctuaries to make lifelong connections with an array of beautiful rescued animals. However, it is important to remember the difference between farm animal sanctuaries and petting zoo operations. One distinct difference being that farm animal sanctuaries do not breed their animals. Petting zoos often profit from purposeful annual breeding for cute baby animals, then sell the babies during the off season, and the cycle continues. Farm animal sanctuaries do not breed their animals. Rather, they provide lifelong refuge for rescued animals in need.

For more information on the differences between animal sanctuaries and petting zoos, or for a list of local farm animal sanctuaries, email: animalwelfare@winnipeghumanesociety.ca



A Silver Lining for Earth's Animals

As we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage supporters to try to focus on the positive ramifications that are taking place for animals all over the world.

For instance, news reports indicate the ozone layer is now regenerating itself. The water in Venice's canals is clear and blue with an abundance of fish. In short, global pollution emissions are at an all time low as a result of human quarantine restrictions. Ecosystems previously on the brink of collapsing have been granted a second chance to thrive. Perhaps humanity can use this crisis as a way to hit the 're-set' button, and truly mitigate climate change.

Animals all over the world are counting on us.

Thank You!

You support animals in need through a variety of creative events and initiatives. Here are just a few of the ways you helped support the WHS.

The good folks at Sage Creek Animal Hospital already do so much to help animals in need and comfort worried pet owners. So, you know how big their hearts are when they showed up here at the WHS to make a huge donation of pet food.



We started the New Year off with a bang when Christian (right) and his dad, Randy, along with their service dog, Chance, dropped by with an amazing donation of pet food and supplies. Christian is a Grade 12 student at Niverville High and chose the Humane Society as the benefactor for his Take Action school project. He enlisted Randy, a PPCLI veteran who served in Bosnia, and they purchased \$200 worth of supplies from RuffMutts in Niverville. The great folks at Ruff Mutts made a matching donation of supplies.



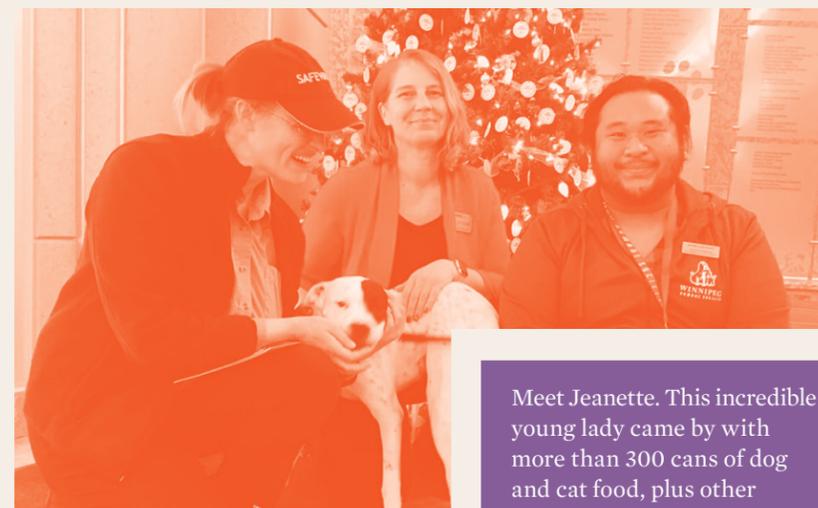
Kennedy and Reagan from Island Lakes Community School came down to the shelter to deliver over \$300 and two boxes of toys. With a passion for helping animals, they organized a school bake sale to raise money for the WHS animals. They were super excited to see the impact their donation would have on our WHS animals and even asked what age they could volunteer. Thank you Kennedy and Reagan for being WHS Heroes!



Lindsay and Stephanie from Deloitte paid the shelter a visit today to drop off a cheque for \$350 in support of our WHS animals. They generously organized a bake sale in their office, which was a smashing success!



Linda Bateman (left), winner of the Royal Bank's 2019 Community Service Leadership Award, gives a cheque for \$500 to Sharon Rubel, WHS Manager of Donor Relations. Linda was recognized for creating an event that led to 13 children getting their wishes fulfilled! She was awarded the opportunity to choose a charity to receive a \$500 donation from RBC and she chose WHS!



Meet Jeanette. This incredible young lady came by with more than 300 cans of dog and cat food, plus other supplies for our shelter. She purchased much of it herself but some of it was purchased by her coworkers at Starbucks. A big thanks to you, Jeanette, from all of the staff and our many furry friends.



A big thank you to the #WHSHeroes Bridgwater Veterinary Hospital and Wellness Centre for stopping by the WHS and presenting a cheque for over \$300 raised from their cupcake sale. Our animals are lucky to have you on their side!

It was a lovely surprise when this amazing family dropped by with a huge supply of food for the dogs in our care. From left: Ethan, 10, Ekin, 5, Kasen, 7, and Auntie Lea. "We love animals, so we like to make a donation every year," Lea said.



The wonderful staff at Kenaston Safeway that had decided to honour us with their annual Random Acts of Kindness gift. "I love pets and you're always in need," Jayson said.



For her 13th birthday, Justine (left) came up with a great plan. She took her guests on a swimming excursion and then they did a sleepover. And in lieu of gifts, Justine asked for donations for the Winnipeg Humane Society. Many thanks from all of us at the WHS.



1001 DONATIONS

RAISED A TOTAL OF \$144,745 AND COUNTING!

THANKS TO YOU AND OUR MATCHING GIFT DONORS!

Your generosity and support allows us to continue to care for thousands of animals this year!



ALL MONEY RAISED SUPPORTS ANIMALS AT THE WHS

WHS PET SHOP



THE IMPORTANCE OF ID \$12-\$30

It is always a good idea that pets have at least two forms of identification. Whether that's an ear tattoo, microchip, city license tag or a personalized tag with your information, identification will ensure your pet will always have a greater chance of being returned to you if lost. The WHS offers microchipping for \$30, or shop our colourful tags that can be personalized on the spot! Find them at the WHS Pet Shop for as low as \$12!



Wish List:

FOR THE ANIMALS

- Canned cat and dog food
- Newspapers

FOR THE OFFICE

- Black and blue pens
- Coil notebooks

ADOPTION

- Yarn for our volunteers who knit animal blankets. If you would like to knit blankets the ideal size is 2 x 2 feet
- 6 foot leashes

BEHAVIOUR

- Gentle Leader headcollars (size: medium and large)
- Soft dog treats

CLINIC

- Used medical equipment
- Puppy pee pads

EDUCATION

- Colour printer
- Non-slip gym mats

FOSTER

- Kitchen scales
- Small to medium cat carriers

ANIMAL PROTECTION

- Medium plastic carriers
- New or gently used trail cameras

AIRMILES

- You can also help the WHS help animals by using the WHS Air Miles Card. Cut out the card below and use it for your future purchases.



BMO

Every time you tap your credit card, you can help cover the cost of care for an animal in need. The BMO Winnipeg Humane Society MasterCard supports the necessary medical care and behaviour support an animal needs for a successful adoption. Every time you use the card for your everyday purchases a donation is made to the WHS from BMO at no extra cost to you.



25% OFF
entire purchase*



* Excludes food and litter. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Expires December 31, 2020

WHS PET SHOP



Thank You Satellites

Did you know that 33% of our yearly adoptions happen at our Satellite Pet Adoption Locations around the city? We want to thank all of our Satellite partners on helping us save more lives each year.

Visit winnipeghumanesociety.ca/adopt/pet-adoption-locations/ to find the nearest location to you!



Behaviour Support for the Community

With social distancing at the forefront of our minds we have launched new and exciting initiatives to continue to support the community and their pets.

1. Obedience class attendees are provided with weekly homework, so that the clients can continue on the work while receiving feedback from the class instructor via phone or web conferencing.
2. Our Behaviour Helpline continues to offer support with a new and exciting addition: clients now have the opportunity to submit questions via social media to be answered live by one of our Behaviour team members during a live broadcast. Our popular WHS biweekly 'Behaviour Tips' continues to offer insightful and to the point tips on various topics.
3. To supplement this, we have created FREE online webinars based on various workshops and are excited that we are able to share these with the community via our social media outlets.

If you need assistance with your pet, please call our Behaviour Helpline at **204.988.8808**.

NOW ONLINE & FREE

MEOWZERS! CAN'T WAIT!

GET ACTIVE, HOOMANS!

Paws in Motion

JOIN US VIRTUALLY THIS JUNE!

WHS PAWS IN MOTION.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION
FREE REGISTRATION #PIM2020

PRESENTED BY Fairmont WINNIPEG

What's New AT THE WHS?



Shelter Euthanasia Rate Drops to 11%

Five years ago, roughly 29% of the incoming animals to the Winnipeg Humane Society were euthanized because animals became too ill, or were deemed too aggressive, or we simply had no space for them.

In previous years to that, prior to implementing the Capacity for Care model, we were commonly facing euthanasia rates of 28–37%.

Over the last two years, we've been able to drop that number down to 11% being euthanized, with the rest proceeding to adoptions, or finding another safe and happy placement.

As part of the new Capacity for Care model that we have implemented over the last few years, we have:

- reduced our capacity in half and given many animals twice the space.
- implemented an appointment-based Intake process that asks a lot of questions.

- seen if the finder or caregiver can, with our help, find a new home or keep the pet using diversion programs like Care to Adopt, Care to Foster or receiving support from our Behaviour team.
- given people seeking to adopt a pet less choice and removed breed labels.

If common sense is the barometer, it would seem counter-intuitive to accept less animals and yet adopt more out, but that is what we've achieved. In 2019, we took in 6582 animals and completed 4438 adoptions (an increase over the previous year by 10.5%).

45 Hurst Way • Winnipeg, Manitoba • Canada R3T 0R3
P 204.982.2021 • F 204.663.9401
E reception@winnipeghumanesociety.ca

WinnipegHumaneSociety.ca

Prefer to receive your newsletter by email?
Email: donations@winnipeghumanesociety.ca

Animal Intake, Lost & Found
204.982.2025 (option #5)

Behaviour Help Line:
204.988.8808

Animal Welfare Complaints
204.982.2028

Emergency (Animals in Distress)
204.982.2020

Donations & Tax Receipts
204.982.2041

Pet Loss and Grief Support
204.988.8804