

BARRY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

We provide a wide range of services to the people living in our county. One of our major goals is to promote spaying and neutering to prevent pet overpopulation. Residents of Barry county who require financial assistance can contact us for a \$40 spay/neuter voucher at any time of the year. The voucher can be used at participating veterinarians to defray the cost of spaying or neutering. From January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022, area residents received over \$21,160 in spaying and neutering assistance.

In addition, we have funds to assist those in financial need to cover other medical expenses for their pets. Since January 1, 2020, we paid over \$16,425 in veterinary services. And we provided \$3,000 in Good Samaritan vouchers for people who have rescued stray animals that needed medical attention.

We have set up a partnership with Green Gables Haven to provide funds to house pets for those who are seeking shelter from abusive relationships. By eliminating the threat of violence against a beloved pet, victims of domestic abuse have more freedom to seek the help they need. Our hope is that this program will provide families in crisis with the courage and peace of mind to leave unsafe circumstances. We have also partnered with the Red Cross to make funds available to house pets that are displaced because of natural disasters or other emergencies.

Educational outreach is another pillar in our program. Our Caring for Pets presentation is available to all second grade classes in the county. After COVID upended everything, we recognized the tremendous pressure facing teachers, students, and staff and we were looking for a way to ease that strain. We'd met Beasley, the Southeastern Elementary School Facility Dog, during one of our pre-COVID presentations and realized the Facility Dog program might be the perfect solution. We contacted several schools throughout the state who were already working with Facility Dogs. Their enthusiastic endorsements were all we needed. We contacted Paws With a Cause in Wayland about participating in their Facility Dog program and our partnership was born.

We have been so impressed with the compassion and commitment embodied by Paws With a Cause, and we are really excited to see this dream become a reality. This year, we sponsored two Facility Dogs. Pluto is assisting at Star Elementary School and Halo is assisting at Hastings Middle School. Our long-term goal is to raise enough money to sponsor a Facility Dog for every Barry County school that wants one.