



2014
Annual
Report

RESCUE HEAL ADOPT



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



Fresno (now Sam)



I consider myself lucky to be a part of an organization that passionately cares for the homeless and victimized animals in our community. I had the pleasure of joining PAWSibilities®, Humane Society of Greater Akron, as President and CEO in January 2015, and I have seen the amazing things this organization does for our community. Our humane officers, administration, kennel staff, and volunteers are always willing to go the extra mile and give everything they have for animals in need. The amount of dedication and passion that lives in PAWSibilities® is truly inspiring.

What drew me to this organization was the outstanding precedent it set for not only animal welfare organizations, but also the non-profit community. In 2014, PAWSibilities® rescued over 2,500 animals, all the while maintaining a professional and positive reputation in the community. They were also able to impact the

lives of over 3,000 Summit County residents by providing humane officer services, education programs, as well as animal adoptions.

I, myself, found a new companion animal through PAWSibilities® in 2014; a cat named Fresno. Fresno arrived at the shelter as a sick and injured stray in March 2014. Hungry, homeless, and in need of medical care, Fresno was taken in by the shelter and given a warm bed. Months later- after Fresno was given ample food, socialization, and medical care- my sons and I fell in love and adopted Fresno into our family. Fresno is currently enjoying life with a home to call his own, and we could not be happier.

As we look forward to the future, we will continue to fulfill our mission to protect and care for the mistreated animals of Summit County with the utmost integrity for the animals we serve. Thanks to your continued support, PAWSibilities® can annually give thousands of abandoned and neglected animals a second chance at happiness. I am grateful to be a part of such a meaningful venture. Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Johnson".

Diane Johnson
President and CEO

ABOUT US



As Mahatma Gandhi once said, “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way that its animals are treated.” Since 1968, PAWSibilities®, Humane Society of Greater Akron has been Summit County’s trusted caretaker for underserved animals, and 2014 was no exception. We are the only animal entity in Summit County that has the legal authority and capability to protect abused, abandoned, and neglected companion animals, as well as severely sick and injured stray animals. We accept the toughest cases, and work every day to rehabilitate animals and find them great homes.

2014 was a record breaking year for PAWSibilities®, rescuing over 2,500 animals from abhorrent situations. A strong staff, volunteers, as well as community partners made it possible for thousands of animals to have a second chance at life. Thank you for all of your support; you really have saved the lives of countless animals.



MISSION:

PAWSibilities®, Humane Society of Greater Akron is the trusted caretaker and advocate for the abused and abandoned animals of Summit County.

VISION:

Create a community where animals are treated humanely.

CORE VALUES

COMPASSION

We demonstrate kindness and respect to the animals in our community. We rescue and care for abused, neglected, and abandoned animals. We heal, rehabilitate, and strive to ensure the futures of these animals are filled with safety and love.

INFLUENCE

As the voice of the animals we serve, we bring awareness of their plight. We promote continuous improvement in animal welfare by communicating and advocating best practices in animal care. As leaders, we set the standard of excellence for the treatment of animals in our community.

ENGAGEMENT

Our mission is only achieved with the collaborative efforts of our community, staff, and volunteers. Our community partners support and promote our mission as well as report suspected abuse to us. Our staff and volunteers are critical to our mission's success, and as such, we promise to provide them with a supportive and positive work environment.





RESCUE

For over 47 years, PAWSibilities® has rescued thousands of animals in need. We are the only animal entity in Summit County that has the legal authority and capability to protect abused, abandoned and neglected companion animals and severely sick and injured stray animals. Our staff includes two full-time Humane Officers who respond to emergency calls, investigate animal cruelty and, as warranted, prosecute offenders. In addition, Good Samaritans can bring sick or injured animals to the shelter to be evaluated by a staff member for intake.

Our Humane Officers deal with unimaginable acts of human malice on a daily basis. They dedicate their lives to rescuing animals in need and witness the worst of humanity. One officer recounts, "Sometimes an animal will be in such horrendous shape and have suffered so much abuse or neglect, it is unknown whether our best of efforts will be able to save them. What keeps us holding strong through the toughest of cases is being able to give the animals all of the love and rehabilitation they require and watch them start a well-deserved brand new life." We work hard every day to give animals a second chance at life.

2014 Stats

- 🐾 Rescued 2,714 abused, abandoned, sick and injured animals- an average of 7 animals daily
- 🐾 Our Humane Officers investigated over 750 reports of cruelty, neglect, and abandonment
- 🐾 Investigations resulted in the seizure of 963 animals
- 🐾 Annually officers respond to almost 1,500 emergency calls for sick and injured strays

RESCUE SUCCESS

In mid-November, our officers received a call about a dog in a vacant backyard that was in dire need of help. When they arrived on scene, they saw something lying in a pile of leaves and upon further investigation, found a completely lifeless dog. They made noise and saw her paw move ever so slightly, indicating she was alive, but just barely. She was nothing but skin and bones and could not sit up nor stand. She was extremely dehydrated and one of her rear legs was bruised, bloody, and hanging on her body. Additionally, her eyes were infected and she had a noticeable tumor on her abdomen. Officers knew it would be a challenge to save her, but they knew they had to try and work quickly.

For the first 24 hours, the dog could barely move her head and would not eat or drink on her own. Things did not look good for this sweet girl, but after fluids and some love and care, she slowly started to gain strength. “We almost started to wonder if we were fighting a losing battle, and that maybe she had suffered too much neglect to recover. Then all of a sudden,

light was coming back into her eyes and for the first time she was not just eating on her own but scarfing down food! This girl was a fighter and it was so amazing to watch firsthand,” says Officer O’Herron.

The shelter named the dog Ulyssa, and with extensive medical care including a leg amputation, tumor removal, and treatment for mange, she was able to make a full recovery. Weighing an emaciated 38 lbs upon intake, Ulyssa has gained over 30 lbs and weighs close to 70 lbs! Additionally, Ulyssa was a bundle of pure joy. While in our care, she loved everyone she met and was always happy to greet staff members. One staff member in particular who was nursing Ulyssa back to health, fell in love and ended up adopting this beautiful girl into his family. Ulyssa’s recovery was miraculous- the fact that she was able to survive one of the worst neglect cases we have ever seen was truly unbelievable.



TOP RESCUE CASES FROM 2014



HOARDING OF 2014

In August 2014, on one of the hottest days of the year, our two Humane Officers executed a search warrant for a home located in Akron, Ohio. Condemned by the Summit County Health Department, this small house was filled with hundreds of animals and pocket pets living in horrible conditions. PAWSibilities® rescued a total of 628 animals from this hoarding situation; 334 birds, 236 guinea pigs, 9 mice, 2 rats, 3 frogs, 9 snakes, and 35 rabbits. Animals were receiving no medical care and forced to live in overcrowded, feces-filled cages without access to food or water. Cages upon cages of animals sat in unventilated areas, filled with the smell of ammonia. Animals were piled on top of one another; some not even able to stand due to their living constraints.

Rescuing over 600 animals in one day was no easy feat. From the animal seizure and transport, to shelter life accommodations with proper housing, care, and medical attention; this was a huge undertaking. A limited staff had to care for an additional 600 animals every day, not only cleaning hundreds of cages, but also supplying proper nutrition and medical care. However, seeing the joy and life come back to these animal's eyes made all of the hard work well worth it. Through dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners, we were able to rehabilitate and rehome adoptable animals to loving families.



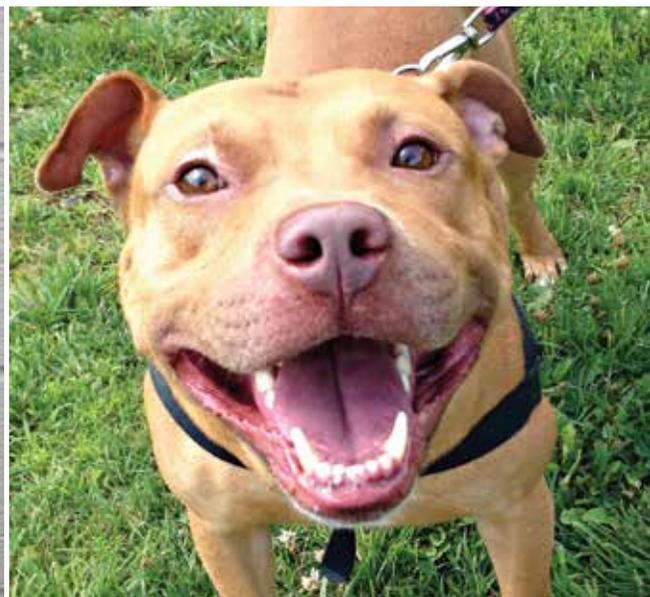
TOP RESCUE CASES FROM 2014 - continued

FIGHTING FOR A SECOND CHANCE

While executing three different search warrants over the course of two months, PAWSibilities®, Humane Society of Greater Akron rescued more than fifteen dogs from dog fighting affiliates in Akron, Ohio. The first wave of dogs came on November 15th, when our two Humane Officers, along with local law enforcement and the FBI, raided an active dog fighting ring. Authorities arrested 48 people, 47 for felony dog fighting, in the City of Akron. When officers first arrived on scene, they confronted a crowded garage, filled with a concession stand, dog fighting equipment, and unfortunately two bloodied dogs in a ring. Two dogs were immediately taken for emergency veterinary care, while the other six were transported back to our shelter. Showered with food, love, and affection from staff members, these dogs slowly gained back their strength.

The next set of dogs came from a horrific scene in a vacant garage, owned by an affiliate of an arrested party from the November 15th raid. Acting on a tip that dogs could be heard barking inside of a vacant garage, our Humane Officers walked into one of the most gruesome scenes either of them had ever experienced before. Six emaciated and bloody dogs were found- some caged in their own waste, while others were loose in the unsanitary and very cold garage. None of the dogs had access to food or water and several of them displayed numerous injuries and wounds which needed immediate medical attention. Sadly, 2 deceased dogs were amongst the 6 that were still alive. The dogs were all brought back to our facility to begin their road to rehabilitation.

The final group of dogs came in as a Christmas miracle. On December 24th, Christmas Eve, our Humane Officers removed multiple dogs





and other evidence of dog fighting from an Akron residence. The owner was ultimately charged with several counts of animal cruelty and was also one of the 48 people arrested on November 15th. Humane Officer Shannon O'Herron stated, "The very first dog I saw in the line of kennels was a female chocolate colored pit bull with the most outgoing personality. She was tied on a very heavy chain in a waste-filled kennel, was underweight, and had no reason in the world to be so happy, but she certainly was. Maybe she knew her day had come or maybe she was just that great of a dog. Regardless, I proudly took her off that chain and out of that kennel and walked her back to my van. She was such a doll and I knew we could find her a great home if given the chance. This was the day that was going to change her whole life, and I was happy to be a part of that for her and the others."

Since all of these dogs arrived at our facility, they have received thorough medical care from our veterinarian. They have survived so much, and we are happy to report that they have been cleared medically and behaviorally for adoption. And some have already found a forever home! Each dog has a unique personality and is energetic and enthusiastic about life! It is a common misconception that these dogs cannot live a normal life focused around a loving family. Certified dog trainer Kristin Branagan comments, "The amazing thing about these dogs is that they live in the moment. Despite their past, they do not let the trauma they experienced determine who they are. My hope is that people will mirror these animals in the same respect and not allow the dogs' pasts affect how they are viewed in the future." Through all of the scars, their adorable smiles still show through, and they are eager to have a loving family!





HEAL

Here at PAWSibilities®, we rescue the underserved animals of Summit County, and unfortunately, the majority of these animals are usually in dire need of medical attention. The healing and recovery process is a key component to animal rehabilitation. With a full medical and surgical suite on site, PHSGA has an on staff veterinarian, as well as a certified vet tech and an experienced medical director. Animals are regularly seen by our veterinarian and checked daily by staff members. Additionally, all spay and neuter surgeries for cats, dogs, and rabbits are performed by our veterinarian prior to adoption. Since the build-out of our medical-surgical suite in 2011, we have performed over 14,000 exams and surgeries. We pride ourselves in our ability to provide the best quality care to the largest quantity of shelter animals in Summit County.

2014 Stats

- 🐾 Performed over 1,475 surgeries- including 1,175 spay/neuter surgeries
- 🐾 Performed close to 5,000 veterinary exams



HEAL: ENRICHMENT

During the healing process, not only do we focus on an animal's physical and medical needs, but also the mental and emotional aspect of rehabilitation. Because of the animal population we accept, rehabilitation takes longer than the average healthy stray animal. To that end, we try to enrich our animals' lives in every way possible while they are in our care. For cats and small animals, staff and volunteers spend time petting and brushing them outside of their cages. We also have two large free roam areas and air conditioned rooms where animals get to play and socialize.

Dogs are walked at least three times a day by staff members and also get the opportunity for off leash play time in outside dog runs. Volunteers supplement the dogs with additional walks and play time. While in their kennels, they enjoy yummy treats and toys for enrichment. Furthermore, PAWSibilities® staff dog trainers hold weekly classes to enrich the lives of our canines and increase their adoptability. With a relaxing class for shy dogs, a basic manners class, and a trick class, all different kinds of dogs have the opportunity to learn! We take the time to nurse animals back to health and then find them loving, permanent homes through adoption.

2014 Stats

- 🐾 Cared for an average daily census of 350 dogs and cats
- 🐾 Logged 210 hours of dog training classes
- 🐾 Average length of stay for an animal was 49 days



ADOPT

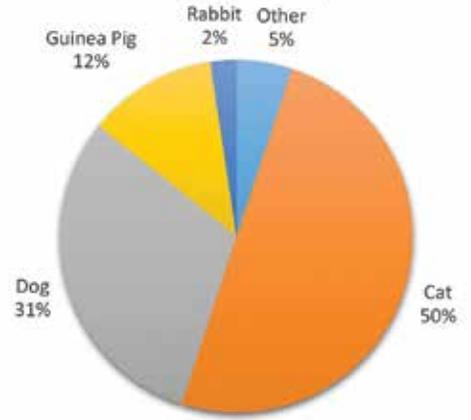
We work tirelessly to find amazing, loving homes for the animals in our care. At PHSGA, there is no better feeling than knowing an animal that was once a victim is now a cherished member of a family. PAWSibilities® is a no-time limit facility and adoptable animals are cared for until they find their forever home. All of our animals are current on age appropriate vaccinations, spayed or neutered, de-wormed, de-fleaed and micro-chipped before adoptions are finalized. All dogs over six months of age receive a Temperament Assessment by our Certified Professional Dog Trainer to encourage appropriate placement.

We adopt out a variety of animals, such as dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and other small animals. We offer free behavior training and advice throughout an animal's lifespan. In 2014, we became a leader in small animal adoption and rehomed more than 605 critters. We are grateful to have the opportunity to give even the smallest animal a second chance for happiness!

2014 Stats

- 🐾 Successfully adopted out 1,470 companion animals- enriching the lives of over 3,000 Summit County residents
- 🐾 Placed 188 dogs and cats with partner rescues

2014 Animal Adoptions



HAPPY ENDING

NOLA...

Precious little Nola (now Tipper) was rescued by our Humane Officers. She was abandoned inside a carrier and left in someone's front yard. Sadly, by the time they called, she had been there terrified, hungry, and thirsty for two days. Once safe from harm, she was showered with love by staff members who just could not resist her! It's hard to understand how this little puppy ended up in her predicament but we were all-too-happy to help her find her perfect forever home.

Her new parents are just smitten with her (it's impossible not to be). This is what they had to say:

Things are going great with our new addition. She has enjoyed some nice long walks and outside play (she loves to play ball). Our new baby is doing great with potty training and only had one potty accident yesterday! She has already mastered "sit" and she likes cat kisses (our one cat is obsessed with her). She has won the hearts of our neighbors, she's eating like a little maniac, and we are absolutely 100% in love with her. We really enjoyed the adoption process and would recommend your shelter to anyone in need of a pet.





EDUCATION

We firmly believe that education is a key component to improving our community, and offer free programs to promote kindness and the appropriate treatment of animals. Community education programs include, but are not limited to: dog bite prevention, basic pet care, how you can help make a difference, how to treat a dog or cat properly, and canine and feline safety. With an educational blog on our website, weekly education articles, as well as monthly education bulletin boards, we aim to provide relevant and reliable information for humane treatment and the prevention of animal abuse. We strive to provide the best quality education programs to the residents of Summit County and plan to increase the number of our education programs 10% per year.

2014 Stats

-  250 educational programs on-site and throughout our community



VOLUNTEERS

We are so thankful to have dedicated volunteers that donate their time to help animals in need. With over 910 volunteers (715 active), they are crucial to our operation. Our volunteers give the animals the enrichment and socialization they need to be happy! Most of our animals have never experienced the love of a family, so volunteers provide a much needed outlet for love and attention. Volunteers help in a variety of ways including dog and cat interaction, laundry, helping at events, and more! We would not be the organization we are today without them. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for all of their time and dedication.

2014 Stats

 Received 20,120.95 hours of donated time from over 715 volunteers

FINANCIALS



SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Public support:

Donations	932,650.00	50.00%
In-kind Contributions	79,353.00	4.25%
Special Events	349,929.00	18.79%
Bequests	291,076.00	15.61%
Government Agencies	97,000.00	5.20%
Adoptions and Surrenders	70,430.00	3.78%
Merchandise Sales	7,717.00	0.41%
Animal Services and Fines	2,405.00	0.13%
Miscellaneous	34,708.00	1.86%
Total Public Support	1,865,268.00	100%

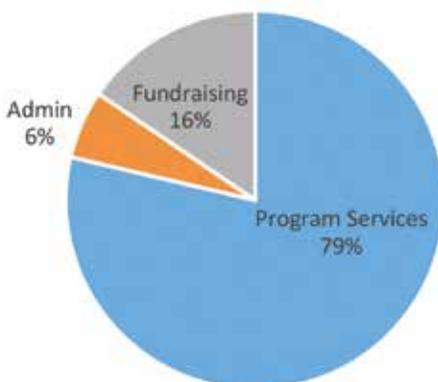
EXPENSES:

Program Services	\$1,250,916	79%
Management and General	\$92,847	6%
Fundraising	\$246,562	16%
Total Expenses	\$1,590,325	100%

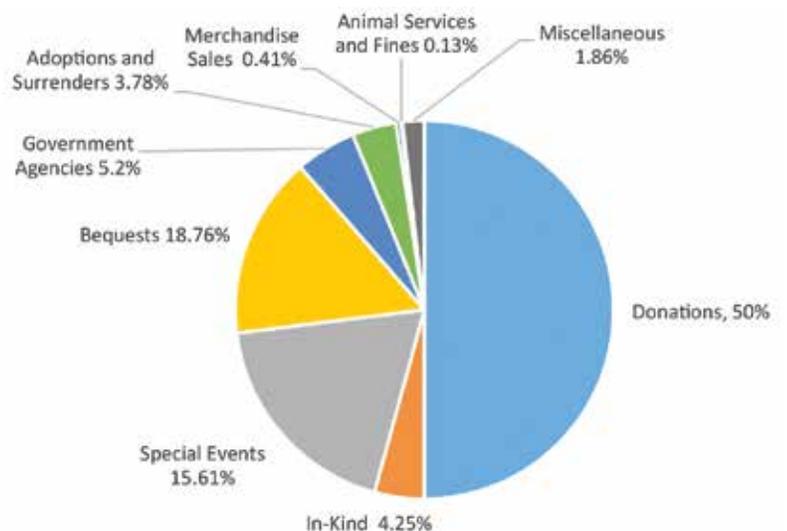
OTHER INCOME:

\$9,596

2014 EXPENSES



2014 INCOME





RESCUE HEAL ADOPT

THANK YOU

We are very pleased to acknowledge the following foundations who generously supported our work in 2014:

Akron Community Foundation
Albert W. & Rose E. Kimak Charitable Foundation
Ohio Pet Fund
The Grainger Foundation
Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation
Lisle M. Buckingham Endowment Fund
Lloyd & Louise K. Smith Memorial Foundation
Dalton Family Foundation
Lucy & Emily Beasley Charitable Trust
Sisler McFawn Foundation
Samuel Reese Willis Foundation
Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust
Matthews Family Foundation
Pedigree Foundation
W. Paul Mills & Thora J. Mills Memorial Foundation
Weitzel Family Foundation
Evenor Fund
Annabelle Foundation
Connecting For A Cause
Betty V. & John M. Jacobson Foundation
James & Ellen Ott Foundation
Patricia and Harvey Graves Family Foundation
Hudson Community Foundation
Robert O. & Annamae Orr Family Foundation
Lorraine G. and Donald R. Fair Fund

2014 AWARDS

Akronlife 2014 "Best of the City"

BOARD

Lisa A. Hibbs
Judy Steiner
Patrick Weschler
Valerie Wawrin
Steve Barry, Ex-Officio
Bob Cailor
Megan Bobula
Mark Fechtel
Kevin McCauley
Theodore Moore
James Sebastian
Judge Mary F. Spicer
Erin Wojno Demiray
Bob Zajac



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