

PAWTENTIAL

2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT



SPCA
HAMILTON/
BURLINGTON

🐾 SINCE 1887 🐾



Max, a 10 year old dog with many health issues, received a new beginning thanks to the dedication of the HBSPCA Team. Read about Max's story inside.

All animals have the opportunity to enjoy the five essential freedoms. Freedom from:

1. Hunger and thirst
2. Pain injury and disease
3. Distress
4. Discomfort
5. Freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being

A STORY OF RESILIENCE RUFFSILIANCE

Max arrived at the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA suffering from a host of medical issues. This senior dog, equipped with his big personality, had a long road ahead of him.

Staff from HBSPCA's on site Companion Animal Hospital quickly got to work addressing all of Max's complex medical needs. Max was diagnosed with chronic dry eye, which would require lifelong medication. He also suffered from a severe skin infection, as well as joint pain.

As Max's health improved, and despite the potential damage to his eyesight it was clear he had no trouble getting around. He showed off his silly antics every single day, sending staff members into fits of laughter.

While Max waited for his forever family, he settled into a routine at the HBSPCA. He was very social, and interested in saying hello and checking in on all our staff. After two months of medical treatments, Max was given the "all clear" from the staff at our Companion Animal Hospital and was adopted into a loving home by a wonderful family.

Max's days now consist of joining his family at the office as the newly appointed *Chief Happiness Officer* (with his own business cards). Max continues to make his daily rounds, visiting staff and helping with productivity and morale. His inspiring story is one of resiliency and overcoming life's challenges. Today, Max continues to make a *pawsitive* impact on everyone he meets. 🐾



SHIFT TO VIRTUAL ADOPTIONS

It goes without saying that 2020 was a difficult year for all of us, with unexpected changes around every corner. Here at the HBSPCA, we faced some hurdles of our own. We needed to pivot and come up with a way to continue to provide support to pets and their people – despite a global pandemic.

New lockdown protocols lead us to reimagine the way we deliver our programs and services. Suddenly, it was far more difficult to offer our help to pets in need: welcoming them into the safety of our shelter, providing them on-site veterinary care, and ultimately matching them with a loving home committed to giving them the life they deserve.

Moving to no-contact adoptions came with its own set of challenges. Could people choose their pets without interacting face-to-face? Would we be able to safely continue rescuing and rehoming pets? The answer eventually came after a lot of careful consideration, and it was a huge, resounding yes!

Taking adoptions virtually has allowed us to enhance our adoption program by creating a better one-on-one adoption experience, ensuring pets are matched with their ideal new family. This has resulted in smoother transitions for pets from shelter to home, as well as a dramatic reduction in adopted animals being returned to shelter when things do not go as expected.

Here at the HBSPCA, caring for the welfare of animals and finding them loving homes has not only continued in the face of COVID-19, but has been improved upon. Now, we can look forward to bettering the lives of pets and the people they love no matter what happens to come our way. 🐾



THE **WATER DISH**
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THE DIFFERENCE COMMUNITY MAKES

GIVING FOUNDATIONS AND GRANTS

Fidelity Investments in Honour of Brian Lewington

Hamilton Community Foundation

- Apollo Fund
- Joe, Filomena & George Seliga Holdings Fund
- Karen and Peter Turkstra Foundation
- Phenix Fund for Animal Welfare
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- Vera and Percy Tomlinson Fund

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- Dr & Mrs Bernard A. Wiechula Foundation

Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation

- Cheryl and David Sargeant Trust
- Lucky Lacey Foundation
- Marjorie Pearce Foundation
- McLennan Family Charity Account
- Wilson and Becke Foundation



FINANCIALS



Operating Revenue

Program Fees	518,123
Fundraising	1,146,251
Grants	571,728
Membership & Merchandise	87,971
Other	10,335
Other Revenue	2,334,408
Bequests	790,152
Interest on reserves	18,618

Total Revenue **3,143,178**

Expenses

Program Costs	878,092
Fundraising Costs	370,894
Operating Expenses	770,229

Total Expenses **2,019,215**

**Excess (deficiency) of revenue
over expenses before other items** **1,123,963**

Amortization	-171,885
Amortization - govt assistance	37,966
Amortization - deferred capital contributions	1,842
Unrealized gain on investments	312,121

Excess of revenues over expenses **1,304,007**

HBSPCA Fiscal year is April 1st - March 31st

Audited financial
statements for the
HBSPCA prepared by
SB Partners, available
at: hbspca.com



WITH THANKS TO THE ESTATES OF

Lenore Anglis 🐾 Bernard Apps 🐾 Mary Frances Briere-Edney 🐾 Jane Jantje Devries 🐾 Lois Fitzgerald 🐾
Betty Albertine Hoadley 🐾 Betty Jane McDermott 🐾 Isobel McDonald 🐾 Nancy Dianne McInnes 🐾 Joyce Perrin
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RESILIENCY DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC



I am so thrilled to be a part of the HBSPCA's mission to help vulnerable pets and their people throughout the community. The incredible work that is done each day in the HBSPCA's Companion Animal Hospital and in the shelter is beyond what I ever expected. Starting a new job, in a whole new sector, and during a global pandemic has been very challenging, to say the least. I am so grateful for the support of HBSPCA's prior leader, Marion Emo, the Board of Directors and for the unwavering resiliency of the caring staff, volunteers, and the animal-loving community.

Last year, the HBSPCA completed an important Stakeholder Survey, in which several recommendations were identified. The results included clarifying HBSPCA's unique role in the community as a leading source for animal welfare, promoting its highly impactful programs that assist both pets and people, and increasing HBSPCA's ability to assist vulnerable populations throughout the community. Recently, HBSPCA launched a new awareness campaign, #WeCare4AnimalWelfare and over the next year will strive to answer the call of the stakeholders and step into the future with pride, optimism, and continued resiliency. 🐾

Melanie Barlow, CEO



FAREWELL, AND THANK YOU MARION!

In December of 2020, the HBSPCA said a fond farewell to Marion Emo, who led our organization for the past 8 years as Chief Executive Officer. Her leadership style was always compassionate, and her dedication to animal welfare (including the Five Freedoms, as well as our mission, vision and values) was unwavering. We are so incredibly grateful! Marion plans to find new adventures and spend more quality time with her cat, Curry, who undoubtedly loves having Marion home with him a little more often these days. Thank you Marion, and we wish you continued health and happiness! 🐾



751 *Rescued*

Providing animals in need a safe place to stay and be protected. This includes owner surrenders, and vulnerable pets in custody through Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS).



589 *Adoptions*

Ensuring homeless animals always have a warm, loving, and forever home.



2,652 *Spay/Neuters*

Increasing the overall health and wellbeing of pets while helping to control the pet population.



2,684 *Microchips*

Helping lost animals find their way home.



364 *End of life care*

Offering families, a way to say goodbye to their loved one with dignity and compassion. Providing meaningful ways to remember their loved pets through cremation services, legacy gifts, bereavement support, and memorials.



2,687 *Rabies vaccines*

Keeping pets and the community healthy and reducing the risk of rabies transmission.



12,000+ *Food bank donations*

Donated and redirected 12,000+ pounds of food to local food bank programs to assist pet owners.

COVID-19 IMPACT ON COMMUNITY CATS

TNVR PROGRAM



Last year, due to the onset of COVID-19, it seemed as though the world came to a stand-still. We were all afraid of the unknown and, for pets and pet parents alike, day-to-day life began to look very different.

To Hamilton's community cats, though, life was the same as it had always been. Pandemic or no pandemic, they spend their days foraging for food, warding off predators, battling disease and, at the end of the day, trying to find a warm, safe place to sleep.

Our HBSPCA team recognized that these cats consistently move past every challenge they meet, and we needed to continue to provide much needed medical care to community cats here in Hamilton. After many discussions HBSPCA Staff pivoted and found a way to move forward, despite the pandemic.

Contactless, curb-side drop-off and pick-up of animals in need was just the beginning. We enhanced protocols in the HBSPCA Companion Animal Hospital and sought the co-operation of our team of volunteer Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) caregivers to ensure that this important program continued.

HBSPCA was able to spay/neuter and vaccinate an impressive total of 602 community cats, helping to reduce over-population and improve overall health. Our TNVR Program, like all our programs, is made possible because of your generous donations, the dedication of our community caregivers, and a shelter full of dedicated staff that never give up. 🐾

CHERYL HOUGH

2021 RECIPIENT OF THE DR. JEAN RUMNEY AWARD

Cheryl Hough is a quintessential cat lover. She even goes so far as to refer to herself as a “true blue cat rescue person.”

Cheryl dedicates countless hours and immeasurable effort to community cats, who have no permanent home or a family of their own. She has single-handedly trapped and provided care for over 200 cats, and has provided a safe, warm and loving foster home for yet another 200 cats and kittens while they awaited adoption.

Cheryl is a Registered Colony Caregiver with the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA's TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return) Program. She provides daily food and care to approximately 40 community cats, and is a supportive resource and mentor to other Colony Caregivers in our community.

Cheryl says, “it takes a village to do cat rescue,” and she has proven time and again that it is possible to save and improve the lives of cats and kittens across our community. The TNVR program is a community effort and Cheryl is grateful for the support she receives from the HBSPCA, local rescues, vet clinics and colony caregivers. We are so proud to recognize Cheryl Hough as this year's Dr. Jean Rumney Award Winner. Congratulations Cheryl! 🐾



*proudly supports HBSPCA
spay/neuter efforts*



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- College of Veterinarians of Ontario
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- Good Shepherd, Hamilton
- Hamilton Community Cat Network
- Hamilton Regional Emergency Vet Clinic
- Hamilton Street Cats
- Neighbour to Neighbour Centre
- Ontario Veterinary College
- Positive Pups Dog Training
- Provincial Animal Welfare Services (Solicitor General)
- The Cat Clinic
- Village Cat Clinic
- Watzin's Animal Hospital
- Zachary's PAWS for Healing

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*interim appointment

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