



Letter from the President

“When will we get back to normal?”
That is a question many people have been asking over the last year – and rightfully so! But when it comes to our work, I think the most important question is, *“What did we learn in the past year, and how do we use that to help more people and animals going forward?”*

There was a point last spring when I realized that the field of animal welfare had changed forever. When we asked for help last March, over 2,000 people from New Jersey to DC offered to foster animals for us – and fostering has worked. While telemedicine initially emerged as a socially distant alternative to vet visits, we quickly realized that many people prefer this approach for minor pet health issues.

With your support, our WayStation program has played an enormous role in reimagining animal welfare. By creating partnerships between source and destination communities, leveraging low-cost veterinary services, and training expert volunteers on either side of every animal transport, we’ve moved over 20,000 dogs (like Gracie) from areas of animal overpopulation to loving homes. Our WayStation program gives back a portion of the adoption fees to the source shelter to provide lifesaving services for even more animals during these difficult financial times.

One of our core beliefs is that sharing our lives and homes with animals brings joy and happiness. Animals are family, and we don’t want anyone to have to give up their animal family member because they have fallen upon hard times. Through your generous support, we are expanding our community outreach and safety net services and keeping more pets with their loving families.

Please know that your support of St. Hubert’s has brought love and joy to countless animals and people who might not otherwise have made it through this year together. *Thank you.* I hope you enjoy the updates about our progress, and I wish you a healthy and joy-filled summer season!

All my best,
Lisa LaFontaine
President and Chief Executive Officer



Amazing Gracie

One Animal’s Journey from Crisis to Care

Thanks to our wonderful donors like you, the St. Hubert’s WayStation program is moving animals out of crisis due to overpopulation or natural disasters to places where more foster and adoptive families are available to love and care for animals in need. It’s an added bonus if we manage to place an animal into a home that especially needs the love of a pet — and that’s exactly what happened for Gracie, an Alabama pup happily living in the Garden State.

Gracie, homeless and pregnant when she arrived at our partner shelter in Shelby, Alabama, came to St. Hubert’s through the Waystation before being adopted by a loving family with a special-needs child.

Because Gracie has such a sweet and patient temperament, her new owner, Karen, thinks she would make a great therapy dog and is pursuing that certification. “Meanwhile,” Karen says, “she’s making a 12-year-old girl with special needs feel, well, pretty special.”

We’re so grateful to generous friends like you who make our Waystation program possible. Thank you for helping us to create loving families like Karen and Gracie’s!





Changing Animal Welfare for the Better: Our Sister Shelter WayStation Turns Five

Founded in 2016, our WayStation program has created unprecedented collaboration among 93 organizations to save lives and address root causes of animal overpopulation. Through our unwavering network of committed people and organizations, Waystation has been able to transport over 20,000 animals from crisis to care since its inception. In honor of the WayStation's 5th birthday, we've created this Q&A to fill our supporters in on what your donor support makes possible.

Q. Who are the WayStation's partners?

A. Our 57 "source partners" are animal welfare organizations that are over capacity with limited resources that need assistance relocating homeless animals. Our 36 "destination partners," organizations with plenty of shelter space and potential adopters, span the Mid-Atlantic and Canada.

Q. What causes animal overpopulation in source shelter communities?

A. Animal overpopulation is impacted by social norms, economics, and landscape. It is especially high wherever spay/neuter programs are either financially or geographically out of reach. In warmer Southern states, dogs can have puppies year-round. We have brought together a powerful network of like-minded shelters that work together to save lives. Our destination shelters all return a portion of the adoption fee for every dog relocated back to the source shelter to be invested in community spay/neuter programs.

Q. How is St. Hubert's working to address this issue?

A. St. Hubert's and our destination partners help a great deal, by returning a portion of the adoption fee for every relocated dog back to the source shelter to be invested in spay/neuter programs. St. Hubert's provide funds to shelter partners to cover the medical costs of preparing dogs for transport — such as vaccinations, testing and preventative medications. We also provide support to our destination partners via mentorship, training, and resource sharing.

Q. How does a typical transport work?

A. The WayStation team coordinates and plans every trip. Once we know a transport of animals is coming from a source shelter, staff and volunteers head to the airport in our transport van to place the animals in the van and drive them to our WayStation. When the ground transports happen, our dedicated team meets the animals at WayStation directly. Upon arrival at WayStation, several teams spring into action: the Operations Team cares for the arriving animals; the Behavioral Team assesses each animal for any special services they might need; the Foster Department identifies foster families; and the Adoption Team gets to work finding families for animals ready to be adopted.

Q. How does my donation help?

A. A great deal of veterinary and triage care is needed to move animals from crisis to care. To reduce the number of homeless puppies, we provide source shelters with give back funds for spay and neuter efforts which source shelters utilize based on their community's need—from vouchers for owned pets to targeted bully breed spay/neuter initiatives or spaying mothers of puppies being surrendered. Staff and volunteer training is also necessary to ensure all transports are conducted smoothly and safely. Also, transport costs as gas and vehicle maintenance add up. Donors power our work. Thank you for all that you do to make this possible!

"The Waystation Program at St. Hubert's has not only impacted the lives of abandoned animals in East Tennessee but also the shelter staff who work so hard, every day, to save more lives... Humane Society, Tennessee Valley is constantly learning how to improve our program, and the staff at St. Hubert's are always ready to guide us based on their knowledge and experience. We are excited to be part of the Waystation Program and can only imagine the thousands of lives that will be saved in the coming year and beyond."

- A. Constance Paras, CAWA

Executive Director, Humane Society, Tennessee Valley

Adele the Foster Supermom

Adele Cockrill wanted to teach her children the value of sharing our lives with animals. After seeing post after post in her social media feeds about wonderful pets who needed love, care, and a temporary home, she decided to become a foster volunteer.

Adele's first foster was a special needs cat named Mookie. For the first few weeks, Mookie was fearful of everyone and everything — but soon enough, he realized he was loved and morphed from a fearful cat to a “loving cuddle bug.” Adele quickly realized she had found a new calling: to prepare shelter pets for a family that will love them as much as she does. “Fostering has been an enriching and rewarding experience for our entire family,” she says. “My children have learned what it means to contribute — and they have fun participating in the animals' care. As an added bonus, we have adopted new family furballs.” Most recently, Adele was able to step in and care for Lux, a sweet boy who was found tied to a pole outside of an apartment complex in the freezing cold.



We're so grateful for volunteers like Adele! **If you're interested in becoming a foster volunteer for St. Hubert's, please visit sthuberts.org/volunteer for more information.**

WAYS TO GIVE BACK



Your Legacy with St. Hubert's

A planned gift can take many forms, from stocks, bonds, and life insurance benefits to a bequest from your will or trust. Some choose a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), which allows individuals at least 70½ years old to donate to nonprofits like St. Hubert's directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions.

Planned gifts have significant advantages — for both you and St. Hubert's. A bequest is easy, revocable, and personally rewarding. While you may not be comfortable with the idea of a large gift right now, a bequest is a wonderful way to dedicate your legacy for good and contribute to the organization you support in life. If you'd like to explore your planned giving options, just call the VP of Development, Erika Mathews, at 973-377-7094 or email her at emathews@sthuberts.org. Thank you in advance for leaving a legacy of love for animals in our region and beyond.



Keeping Your Animal Safe Through the Dog Days of Summer

Dear Adrienne: This is my first summer with my dog. How do I keep him safe, happy and healthy in the summer sun? – Summer-Lovin' Dog Owner

Summer-Lovin' Dog Owner: I am so glad you asked this question, because there are indeed pitfalls to watch for to keep your pooch safe in the summer months. First of all, exercise your pet in the morning or evening, when it's cooler. If the ground seems hot, place your finger or hand on the ground to the count of 10. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for your dog. Dog pads burn easily, so avoid hot surfaces like asphalt on hot days.

Make sure your pet has ready access to clean, cool drinking water at all times — and if your pet must stay in the yard, make sure he has adequate shade and ventilation. Clip long or matted coats short, but not too short — remember, pets can get sunburned just like people!

While traveling, never leave your pet in a parked car. The temperature inside can hit 160 degrees within minutes, even with the windows open, and the consequences could be deadly. When bringing your pet to areas known to have ticks, check him as soon as you get home. And because all this outdoor time increases the chances of your pet getting lost, make sure he is wearing proper ID and is microchipped, and that your account info is up to date.

Enjoy this summer and check our website for more resources about pet behavior: sthuberts.org/behavior-help.



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OUR MISSION

St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center is dedicated to the humane treatment of animals. We believe in and provide services that support the human-animal bond and seek to foster an environment in which people respect all living creatures.

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