

Saving pets, serving communities: *300 procedures and a lifetime impact*

At St. Hubert's, we pride ourselves in breaking down barriers to help provide care and, thanks to generous supporters like you, we can reach underserved communities whenever, and wherever, they need us most.

During a recent vaccination clinic, we served over 500 animal friends and their families in need. More than half of the pets we served during that clinic were also signed up by their families to be spayed or neutered, free of charge. With help from our incredible staff and volunteers, we were able to schedule spay/neuter days where our team met pet families at 6 a.m. at an accessible location, loaded their pets into our vans, and set off to have each animal altered.



Thanks to our relationship with low-cost spay and neuter clinics in the area, including T.A.R.A., a clinic in Middletown, New York, we were able to ensure every pet received the care they needed in time to be brought back to their families by 7 p.m. the same day they were picked up. In December and January, we were able to spay or neuter an additional 300 animals in need. These community programs allow us to serve every call that comes into the shelter, especially those from underserved areas with the highest rates of need.

This kind of work is only possible because of kindhearted supporters like you, who continuously keep animals and families in their sphere of generosity. Every day you support St. Hubert's is a day you are helping us transform lives. From all of us here at St. Hubert's, thank you.



A Message from Lisa LaFontaine

For many of us, the past two years have been rife with challenges, adjustments, and most of all, unknowns. Despite all the uncertainty, we know that our new “normal” encourages us to embrace constant change and sometimes reprioritize our activities in real time. Together, we have built an organization that is ready to rise and adapt to any challenge. In fact, for every challenge we face, we seem to come out stronger.

This past year, more people united around a shared belief that caring for animals brings comfort in times of grief, and joy during ongoing uncertainty. Because we believe this so strongly, we have sought out new ways to keep families together through crisis. With initiatives like our *Emergency Boarding* program, we have given emergency care and shelter to hundreds of animals (like Boots, who you will read about in this issue). This has helped give people who are struggling the bandwidth and peace of mind to do difficult things—escape domestic violence, find stable housing, recover from illness, or manage other life challenges that would have otherwise led to separation.

With your unwavering support, we have also expanded our community outreach, and provided spay/neuter services to more than 300 family pets in December and January alone. Our staff and volunteers continue to show their compassion to every animal who comes into our care, no matter what their stage of life. In this issue, you’ll meet Tucker, who first received our help as a puppy, and later found the love and care he needed at St. Hubert’s as a senior when his life was turned upside down.

From helpful tips to on-the-ground updates, I hope this issue of *Humane News* provides you with some hope for all the good we will accomplish this year. Please know that the accomplishments you see on these pages—the families we have helped stay together, the animals we have saved, and the lives we have touched—reflect your unwavering dedication to St. Hubert’s. Our life saving work would be impossible without generous people like you. On behalf of our entire team, thank you for everything you do to make our work possible.

Countless animals and people have already found joy this year because of you. Countless more animals remain with their families today because of you. Thank you for stepping up to lend a helping hand whenever we needed you.

As you read about how our work makes lasting impacts in our community, I hope you reflect on the impact you’ve made through your compassion and support—you make these stories possible.



All my best,

Lisa LaFontaine
President and Chief Executive Officer

The Journey: *Supporting Tucker’s life from puppy to senior*

Tucker was just a small puppy when he was adopted from St. Hubert’s. Eight years later, he was brought back to the shelter when his older owner fell ill and could no longer take care of him.

This sweet dog had lost the only companion he’d known his whole life, and despite our best efforts to make him comfortable, transitioning back to the shelter made Tucker so nervous and stressed he stopped eating. That’s when loving foster Rhea stepped in to help.

Rhea took Tucker home, and within days he was eating again. But soon after, Tucker developed a respiratory infection and Rhea had to bring him back to the shelter for treatment. While Tucker was back in the shelter, Rhea made sure he felt supported. She emailed every day to check in on him, and even stopped by to drop off the rice-and-chicken mix that had spiked Tucker’s appetite.

Weeks passed, and when Tucker started feeling better, Rhea was ready to welcome him home with open arms. Slowly but surely, Tucker’s confidence grew, and now he enjoys spending his days playing outside or getting some exercise with his foster mom while he waits for his new home.

Our foster program, made possible by generous donors like you, gave Tucker a home to recover in when he needed it most. Your support of St. Hubert’s allows us to give animals, especially those who might be overlooked, a second chance at a fulfilling life. Rhea knows it, too. In her words, **“Tucker had his whole world turned upside down, lost everything he knew, but came out of that still having an endless capacity for love and loyalty. There is something special about this dog, and I know someone out there will be able to see that the way we did.”**

Rhea was right, and we’re happy to share that Tucker is now with his new adoptive family.

Mark and Arlene—two St. Hubert’s superstars

Mark and Arlene Swotinsky have always loved animals. That’s why, after retiring in the summer of 2016, they decided to follow their hearts and join the St. Hubert’s volunteer team.

In the five years since Mark and Arlene joined our shelter family, they have been involved in every aspect of our lifesaving work—from lending their time as foster parents to a mom and her six six-week-old puppies, to attending as many fundraising and adoption events as they could fit in their calendars, to matching countless animals with their loving homes.

As a volunteer adoption counselor, Mark especially enjoys helping older dogs find a place to live out their golden years, while Arlene takes pride in ensuring everything is running smoothly once an animal is in a new home by performing post-adoption phone calls. “We both appreciate the dedication of the staff and how well looked after the animals are,” says Mark. “All of this could not be accomplished without the support of those who give donations.”

Our lifesaving work is only made possible when kindhearted people join together to help animals in need, and we’re so grateful to have volunteers like Mark and Arlene form part of our St. Hubert’s family.

If you’re interested in joining the volunteer team at St. Hubert’s, please visit <https://www.sthuberts.org/volunteer> for more information.



Tucker loving his foster home.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

A temporary home for Boots to keep a family together

With continual support from kindhearted donors like you, St. Hubert’s can secure safe housing for pets when their people are most in need of a shoulder to lean on. Our Emergency Boarding program allows us to help families in need of boarding a pet. This can include helping domestic violence victims leave abusive or unsafe situations by ensuring that their beloved animals will remain cared for while they relocate. In addition to providing emergency sheltering or foster care, generous donors also make it possible for us to supply necessary medical care, like spay/neuter, for all animals we take in—at no cost to their guardians.

This program also aids with displaced animals like Boots, a cat who found himself living in a truck with his family after they were evicted from their home. Boots’ family reached out to several places for help, but no one could take the cat in. When he arrived at St. Hubert’s, we brought Boots into emergency boarding and cared for him while his person secured new housing. Two and a half months later, Boots was reunited with his family.



Things to know: Caring for a larger dog (doesn't have to be scary)

Dear Adrienne: I'm thinking of fostering a larger dog, but I'm worried a large dog might be too big for me to handle. Do you have any advice for potential large dog fosters and owners? —BigDogLover

Dear BigDogLover: You are not alone! We get a lot of questions on social media from nervous potential large dog fosters and owners like you—and I'm here to assure you, caring for a larger dog doesn't have to be scary. Large dogs, when given

the chance, have a lot of love to give, but one thing to keep in mind is that larger dogs do have different needs than our smaller dog friends.

If you are interested in owning a large dog, it is good to know that dog beds, crates, collars, and other supplies all come with a higher price tag when they are made in larger sizes. Larger dogs also eat more than smaller dogs, so you will go through food faster. As a foster with St. Hubert's, we provide food and any items needed for the dog's care and comfort. Other expenses to consider if you own a large dog and plan to fly, a small dog can fit in the cabin in a carrier, but a large dog will need to travel with cargo. Aside from that, your large dog's individual exercise needs (and any other need) will depend on their personality, just like it would for a smaller dog.

If you're a first-time large dog foster or owner, it's important to keep these simple but important safety tips in mind. Larger dogs can reach places smaller dogs can't, so make sure to keep tempting but dangerous foods, kitchen sponges, and utensils out of reach. When feeding larger dogs, veterinarians recommend using a slow-feeder bowl to reduce their eating speed and prevent gastrointestinal issues. When it comes to training large dogs, a harness, a six-foot leash, and some treats are all you need. Take your dog on plenty of outdoor walks, reward them when they stay by your side, and stop immediately if they start pulling.

In short, dogs of all sizes make excellent pets. With proper training and a little bit of knowledge, you can have the big dog you have always dreamed of.



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with us this April and help us cover the cost of care for animals in our shelter.

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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