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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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## VISIT US



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## Special Delivery: When disaster strikes, we all join together to protect animals in need

It was a chilly Sunday afternoon when a flight from Texas landed at the Morristown, NJ, airport. St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center staff and volunteers worked quickly to unload the precious cargo of cats and dogs to transport them to the warmth and safety of our shelter in Madison.

These animals came to us from Texas shelters that were struck by the severe February winter storm. Lost power coupled with frozen and exploded pipes resulted in dangerously low temperatures, and shelter staff were desperate to find safety for the animals in their care.

Thanks to the help of Wings of Rescue and the ASPCA, the dogs and cats in greatest peril were flown to safety through our WayStation partner program. These animals were already up for adoption in Texas, so moving them north brought them out of an area of need and into a place of opportunity where they can unite with loving families who are looking to adopt a pet.

Back at the shelter, dogs were taken on a quick walk, then fed dinner and were tucked in for the night with cozy beds, blankets, and toys. The cats were given a quiet place to unwind from the long day of travel, while the kittens opted for some shenanigans with new toys and room to stretch and play.

We are forever grateful to our generous donors and volunteer community for their support to make this important work possible. Together, we are saving lives.



## A Message from Lisa LaFontaine

I've always believed you get way more done when you collaborate than you can on your own. As I look back on the past year — which was by turns tragic, traumatic, and difficult — that belief has intensified, and has been affirmed. It's remarkable to look back at what our organization achieved, and we couldn't have done so without the

determination, grit, creativity, and compassion of our team members, board members, volunteers, foster families, and donors.

I'll be forever grateful for that web of support. And it seems especially fitting because something else was affirmed in 2020. We are an organization of people and our work is integrated into the fabric of our communities, where so many human social services groups are making an impact.

As individuals, many of us faced extraordinary challenges: sickness, caring for family members, homeschooling children, financial stress, grieving deaths, and missing friends and family. It has been tough. We have been challenged in ways we could have never imagined.

But as I look back, my overwhelming emotion is pride rather than sadness. Together, we were able to build new muscles and develop new approaches and efficiencies that will long outlive this pandemic. In some cases, we used new lenses on old challenges; in other ways, we were creative and tried new things that would have been scarier in a more placid time.

Looking ahead, there are two bright spots that give me tremendous hope and optimism. First, the challenges and disruptions forced our staff to question, innovate, and approach our work in a different way. This was replicated in organizations around the country, and because our approach is collaborative, we learned.

And so collectively, our professional innovation bank is even more impactful, and we will be stronger advocates for animals *and* people. Second, I believe when we look back on 2020, this will be the year when animals were firmly established as members of the family. It is an affirmation of our many years of work and the enduring strength of the human-animal bond.

I am so thankful for your support — you have helped put us in a position where together, we can realize a bright future.

All my best,

Lisa LaFontaine  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## Saving lives and uniting families A year like no other

For many of us, the month of March will mark the anniversary of COVID-19, when our world forever changed. When the virus arrived rapidly in New Jersey, we had to transform almost everything we do in a matter of days.

We immediately expanded our foster program and pivoted to virtual adoptions — 2,500 people signed up to foster, and we placed over 2,200 animals in loving homes through a combination of appointment-based and virtual adoptions.

Our field services team never paused its critical work. From rescuing severely injured animals like Lux and Ladybell to saving dogs and cats from unsanitary neglectful conditions, the team has worked 24/7, at great personal risk during the height of the pandemic, to save lives.

And amid the economic crisis, families with pets have needed us more than ever. So, we launched drive-thru pet food banks and distributed pet food and supplies to local food pantries supporting the most heavily impacted communities in the mid-Atlantic to make sure no animal has an empty food bowl.

Despite the challenges, these are just a few of our many accomplishments. With a lot of creativity, teamwork, and support from our generous donors, we have been able to serve New Jersey and expand our reach to build a safety net for the most vulnerable animals in need. Thank you to all who support our critical work!



## Setting your animal up for success when you return to the office post-pandemic

*Dear Adrienne: I'm starting to get anxious about leaving my dog alone when I have to go back to the office. How can I make sure she feels safe when I'm away? -Anxious Pet Owner*

**Anxious Pet Owner:** This is a great question, and one that I have been asked a lot lately. There are several training steps you can take to set your pet up for success when you have to go back to the office. You can start by giving your animals alone time every day, even if it's for one-half to one hour. This will help them learn how to occupy themselves while you're away and understand that you will return. It's important that this becomes a predictable part of their days, not something that only happens once a week. Routine is the key.

Next, implement enough enrichment and exercise in a routine that will stay similar when you go back to work. Whether you have a dog or a cat, they want to keep busy; the more you can give them to do, the better they will acclimate when by themselves. If you determine now that your animal is unable to tolerate being alone for any short period of time, you can seek help for separation-related problems from trainers who specialize in treating these issues, as well as veterinarians who can provide medications to support their emotional well-being as they learn to cope with separation. Visit our website for more resources about pet behavior: [sthuberts.org/behavior-help](http://sthuberts.org/behavior-help).



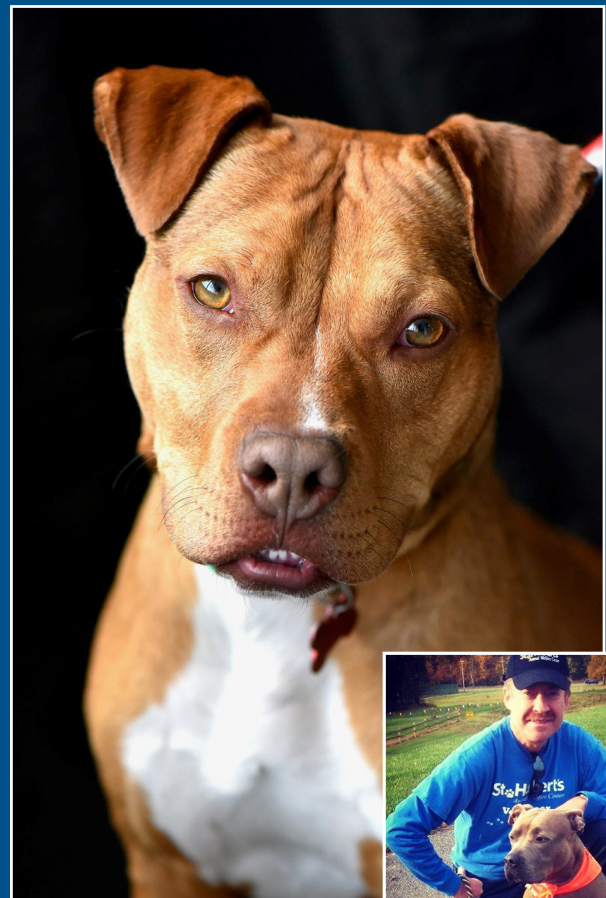
## Volunteer Spotlight

Mark Lovretin started volunteering at St. Hubert's in 2009. Since then, he has helped and interacted with thousands of animals and people within all facets of the organization — from serving as feline adoption counselor to photographer and dog walker to basic obedience trainer — Mark has seen it all. We are tremendously grateful to Mark and all that he has done for St. Hubert's. When recently asked why he volunteers, this is what he told us.

*"I just enjoy giving to my community, sharing my professional skills, my passion for cats and dogs, and [being] a spokesperson for the voiceless animals. [I like] talking with people about their pets and how I can make a connection for them by just listening. When I can make [an adoption] happen, it is a rewarding experience. I can go home with a big smile on my face. One more homeless animal safe and sound. Giving is better than taking." – Mark Lovretin*

**Thank you, Mark,** for your many years of dedication, support, and striking animal photography. We appreciate all you have done to help the animals and people in our community.

To learn about volunteer opportunities, please go to [www.sthuberts.org/volunteer](http://www.sthuberts.org/volunteer).



## GIVING BACK

# A story of courage and unconditional love

In July 2019, Ian Azeredo suffered a catastrophic skydiving accident. He spent nearly nine months recovering at a Morristown, New Jersey, hospital, where he was comforted by therapy dogs trained at our St. Hubert's campus in Madison.

“Besides the incredible medical team, the best thing about the hospital was their volunteer therapy dog program,” said Ian’s wife, Linda Farkas. “Even when [he was] in excruciating pain, the friendly, judgment-free dogs would bring a smile to Ian’s face.”

Ian was released from the hospital in March 2020, just days before COVID-19 shut down New Jersey. He and his wife decided to adopt a shelter dog named Otter from St. Hubert’s, who has become the couple’s best friend.

Otter has brightened their days and profoundly changed their lives. “He is always ecstatic to see us, no matter how rough our days are. It is impossible not to grieve our lost time and capabilities, but Otter never fails to cheer us up.”

Life after trauma has been full of uncertainties but adopting Otter inspired the couple to share their story as part of the *Petco Foundation’s Holiday Wishes* campaign.

Their journey of courage and unconditional love was chosen as one of 50 winning entries to the campaign and helped us win a lifesaving \$25,000 Petco Foundation grant — funds from this grant will go toward the rescue and care of homeless animals as well as community programs, such as our pet pantry and vaccine clinics.

Linda and Ian were thrilled to hear that their story would benefit animals in need. “It was our honor to be able to contribute to this cause,” said Ian. “Truthfully, we didn’t expect much from our story when we wrote it, but at this point, we are humbled by the reaction it has gotten.”



## YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

# Saving Grace

As a donor, you are part of a dedicated group of caring and generous individuals who are creating something greater than could be created alone. Donors power our work, and it is only through the generous support of people like you that we are able to rescue, protect, and heal animals in our community and beyond.



When Grace, an 11-year-old German Shepherd, was brought to us by her owner — with tears in her eyes and scared because she had no idea what was wrong with her beloved companion, nor did she have the means to afford critical care — we quickly stepped in to help.

Our medical team quickly identified the issue. Grace was suffering from pyometra, a painful uterine infection that, left untreated, could be fatal. Grace was immediately scheduled for surgery the very next day.

Today, Grace has made a full recovery and is back to where she belongs, with the people who love her. This is your support in action — helping us come together to build a better place for our community, our neighbors, and the animals we love. We are so grateful for our donors’ continued dedication and support. We could not do it without you!

**Thank you to our friends at Morris Animal Inn for their continued support!**

