



# 2023 IMPACT REPORT

ASSOCIATED HUMANE SOCIETIES | POPCORN PARK ANIMAL REFUGE



## HIGHLIGHTS

92.6% Save Rate

Wellness Clinics with VEG

New Lion at Popcorn Park

2,364 Animals Adopted





# Mission Statement

*RESCUE. REHABILITATE. REHOME.*

The Associated Humane Societies rescues stray and homeless animals, both domestic and wildlife, providing quality care and sanctuary until loving homes can be found.

As a community-based organization, we provide low-cost veterinary care and humane education to promote responsible pet guardianship throughout New Jersey.

Each year, our Impact Report serves as an opportunity to showcase our proudest accomplishments for the animals. Within these pages, you'll discover the many victories that were made possible through your invaluable support. **Thank you for standing by our side!**

## What We Do

- 🐾 Adoptions
- 🐾 Animal Control
- 🐾 Rescue & Rehabilitation
- 🐾 Public Wellness Clinics
- 🐾 Advocacy
- 🐾 TNVR
- 🐾 Humane Education
- 🐾 Volunteer Opportunities
- 🐾 Outreach & Events
- 🐾 Pet Food Pantry
- 🐾 Popcorn Park Animal Refuge



**Jerry Rosenthal, CEO**

## Board of Directors

Robert Baerenbach - *President*  
Sean Byrnes - *Treasurer*  
Dante DiPirro - *Secretary*  
John Bergmann - *Board Member*

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Rodney Watson - *Board Member*



# Notable Moments



## AHS Newark Partners with VEG of Union

*Providing low-cost wellness visits to the community*

Both AHS and our partners at the Veterinary Emergency Group (VEG) recognize that there is a severe lack of veterinary accessibility, and we're both determined to change that. We're so excited to announce that AHS has teamed up with VEG to provide medical care to owned pets in our community. Once a month, two veterinarians and veterinary technicians from VEG will assist our team in providing low-cost wellness visits to the Newark Community. Working together, we are helping people provide their pets with vital wellness services.



## AHS hosted our 2nd Annual Lions, Tigers, & Beers Festival

On June 10th, AHS hosted our 2nd annual Lions, Tigers, & Beers festival at Popcorn Park. The 900+ people in attendance enjoyed 30+ local beers, craft cocktails, and wine while strolling the Refuge and learning more about our mission. This event has quickly become our most-anticipated of the year, reimagining the visitor experience and bringing an 86% increase of new supporters.

## Phoebe Receives Emergency Vet Care After Hit-And-Run Accident

Phoebe is the unfortunate victim of a hit-and-run. Found on the side of the road, she had 2 broken bones in her hind legs and was covered in road rash and bruises. With emergency vet care and lots of TLC, Phoebe is recovering in a loving foster home while she waits for a forever family.



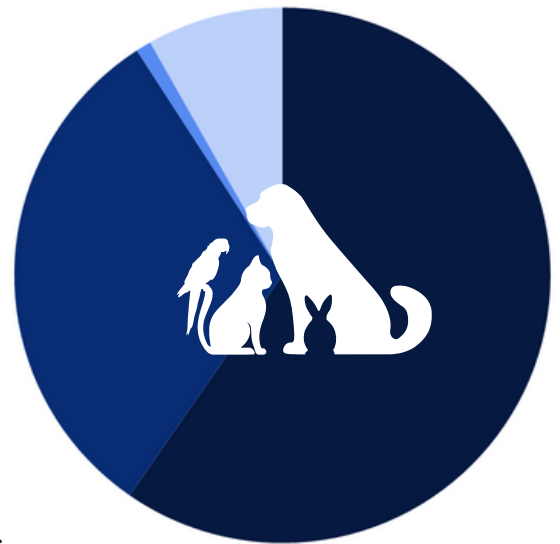
# Community Intakes

WHERE COMPASSION MEETS COMMITMENT

## 6,579

### Incoming Animals

60% of incoming animals are lost pets



## Increased Intakes



+11.3%  
FROM  
2023

The rising costs of pet care and pet supplies due to inflation alongside other issues has led to approximately 11.3% more animals entering our shelters than in 2022.

*“Everything’s more expensive these days – food, housing, and people have to make hard choices.” - Jerry Rosenthal, CEO*

### Incoming Animals

- Lost Pets
- Surrendered by Owner
- Transferred In
- Other Intake

## Cocker Spaniel Puppy Receives Lifesaving Care

Little Grasshopper was only 3 months old when a Good Samaritan found him at night on the side of the road just in time. A crumpled heap of black fur, Grasshopper could barely be seen in the dark. He had a litany of injuries including trauma to his chest, a collapsed lung, and a fractured femur.

Luckily, the amazing woman who found him called us for help. We brought Grasshopper to one of our emergency veterinary partners straight away where he received the lifesaving surgery he needed. After his rehabilitation, Grasshopper found a loving, adoptive home. With the help of our supporters, Grasshopper’s future is bright and he is ensured a lifetime of happiness.



# Community Outcomes

BUILDING BRIDGES TO FOREVER HOMES

**2,364**

**Animals Adopted**

5% Increase from 2022

**1,127**

**Animals Fostered**

102% Increase from 2022

**784**  
**TNVR**  
**Surgeries**

**92.6%**  
**Save Rate**

**458**  
**Pets Reunited**  
**with Owners**

**2,314**  
**Transferred to our**  
**Rescue Partners**  
33.7% Increase from 2022



## Get Involved

*Volunteering Has Increased 120%+ in 2023*

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of AHS! We revamped our volunteer programs, seeing an amazing increase of over 120% each month! With increased volunteer opportunities and new systems in place, we have seen a profound benefit for the animals in our care and support of our mission.



  
**Scan to**  
**Learn More**

*"It is extremely rewarding to see volunteers dedicating their time to our animals here and it's really an honor that I get to help grow the program!" - Beth Elasser, Volunteer Coordinator*



# Renovations to Popcorn Park

## Education Center

Exciting news! Our new Education Center at Popcorn Park is now complete, marking a significant stride in our mission to educate and inspire visitors about animal welfare. With expanded outreach, people from all walks of life can now explore Popcorn Park's world, discovering the stories of 200+ rescued animals and learning about the challenges their species face.

The Center provides diverse educational programs for all ages, fostering a deep appreciation for animals and promoting conservation and animal welfare.

[Check out our Programs & Book a visit!](#)



## Lion Habitat Reno



We have a passion for providing the best care and enrichment for our residents. In 2023, that meant providing the very best home for our lion siblings, Savannah and Aslan. We enlisted a hardscape architect and completed renovations in February 2023. The enclosure has been filled with boulders to climb, grasses, and plenty of natural areas for mental stimulation. With your incredible support, Savannah and Aslan have a wonderful space to play, explore, and lounge in the sun, without a worry in the world.

## Facility Upgrades

From new fencing, leveled pathways, all-weather drainage, redesigned parking, signage, and more, our team has been busy at work making some necessary upgrades to the Refuge. With these new upgrades, we hope to enhance the visitor experience and help share our mission.



# Popcorn Park

A REFUGE FOR ANIMALS IN NEED

**81,000+**  
VISITORS

**249**  
ANIMALS

**47 Years**  
OF SERVICE



## A History of Hope

Established in 1977, Popcorn Park has proudly served for 47 years as a sanctuary for animals in need of a second chance. With a diverse mix of wildlife, exotics, farm animals, reptiles, and birds, all our animals have a story to tell. Located in the scenic Pine Barrens, Popcorn Park ensures each animal receives a lifetime of quality care and love.

## New Lion Welcomed

In 2023, we were thrilled to welcome a new African Lion, Kanu, into our Popcorn Park pride! Kanu previously resided at an animal care facility in Pennsylvania. However, when his mate sadly passed away of old age, his caretakers made the thoughtful decision to relocate him to Popcorn Park where he could have the companionship of nearby lions and our other Big Cats.

Kanu arrived just before Christmas, on December 19, 2023, and settled in quickly. Kanu formed fast bonds with his keepers, enjoys the company of his neighbor, Simba the Lion, and shows a curious interest in visitors. Kanu isn't just any lion; he's a character! Known for his friendly demeanor, he fits right in to our family of Big Cats at Popcorn Park.

As Kanu adjusts to his new home, we are dedicated to providing him with the best care, including medical attention, a nutritious diet, enriching activities, and, most importantly, the love and companionship he deserves.



**Read Kanu's  
Story here**





**NEWARK SHELTER  
EXECUTIVE OFFICES & ESSEX COUNTY**

124 Evergreen Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07114

P: (973) 824-7080

F: (973) 824-2720

E: Newark@ahsppz.org



**POPCORN PARK  
Shelter & Popcorn Park Animal Refuge  
OCEAN COUNTY BRANCH  
HOME OF POPCORN PARK**

1 Humane Way, PO Box 43  
Forked River, NJ 08731

P: (609) 693-1900

F: (609) 693-8404

E: AHSLacey@ahsppz.org

**TINTON FALLS  
MONMOUTH COUNTY BRANCH**

2960 Shafto Road  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07753

P: (732) 922-0100

F: (732) 922-4032

E: TintonFallsAHS@ahsppz.org

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