



2024 Impact Report

Saving lives since 1906

ASSOCIATED HUMANE SOCIETIES | POPCORN PARK ANIMAL REFUGE





Our Mission

Rescue. Rehabilitate. Rehome.

The Associated Humane Societies (AHS) 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.

“

In 2024, the stakes were higher, the challenges greater, and the need more urgent than ever. But thanks to our incredible supporters, the impact was even stronger—more lives saved, more second chances given, and more hope restored. Every adoption, every rescue, and every critical medical case was made possible by you. As we look ahead to 2025, your support remains the driving force behind every life we touch. Together, we can do even more.”

Jerry Rosenthal, CEO

9k+

Pet Lives Impacted

Year Highlights



3,050
Pets Adopted
+29% from 2023



2,189
Transferred to our
Rescue Partners



1,223
Pets Fostered
+8% from 2023



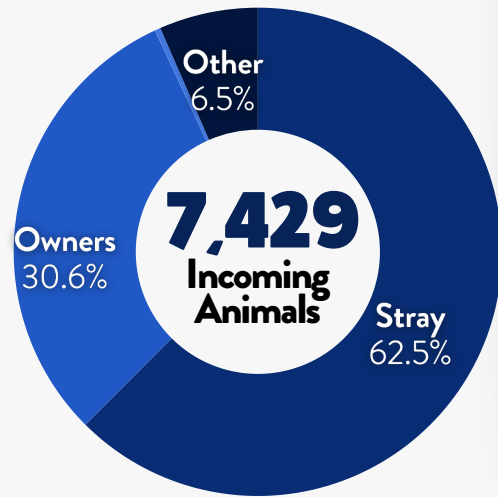
116,841
Pounds of Pet
Food Distributed

Intakes Surge at AHS & Nationwide

In 2024, our shelters faced a record-breaking influx, with **7,429 animals arriving**—more than **60% of them strays**—pushing our resources to the limit.

While adoptions increased, even more animals needed help, reflecting a nationwide crisis. Across the country, shelters are overcrowded as rising costs, housing instability, and financial hardships force pet owners to make difficult decisions.

Through it all, we remained a lifeline for animals in need, ensuring they had a second chance at a better life.



Always on Call, Always Ready

Serving over 20 towns across five counties, our Animal Protection Officers are the first to jump into action when animals need help. Whether responding to a stray in need, rescuing injured wildlife, or assisting in emergencies, they work around the clock to protect animals and support communities. Just this past year, our officers were on the front lines of a late-night fire at a dog boarding facility in Fairfield, NJ, ensuring all 46 animals were safely transported and cared for. **Their dedication never wavers—no matter the time, no matter the challenge!**





Adoptions on the Rise

Despite facing record-breaking intake numbers in 2024, **AHS** saw a **29% increase in adoptions** from the prior year. This growth was fueled by our dedicated marketing efforts, strong community partnerships, and refined adoption policies. These combined actions allowed us to connect more animals with loving families, ensuring that even in the face of increased need, more animals found their forever homes.



Powerpuff Rescue Trio

Blossom, Buttercup, and Bubbles, just 6 months old, were rescued after being handed off to a teenager in a parking lot. Like their Powerpuff namesakes, these three sisters quickly stole hearts at AHS and were adopted together in August 2024, ready for their next big adventure!

3,050 Pets Adopted +29% from 2023



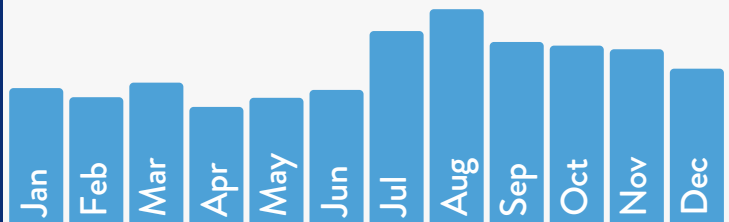
1,228
Dogs & Puppies



1,634
Cats & Kittens



188
Small Animals



A Perfect Match for Beta

Beta's journey started as a skinny stray, but 2024 brought him the happiest ending—finding his perfect match. This two-year-old Pharaoh Hound mix, with his silky brindle coat and love for belly rubs, won the hearts of a family searching for a new best friend after losing their beloved dog. Now, Beta spends his days playing fetch with his favorite tennis balls, soaking up love, and proving that second chances lead to the best forever homes.

Happy Tails



Like Magic, Ike's Home at Last

Ike spent 686 days in our care, but every single one was spent preparing him for success. Found as a stray, he arrived in 2023 and quickly stole hearts with his big smile and playful spirit. Our trainers and staff worked tirelessly—providing daily enrichment, treadmill sessions, training, and offsite events to give Ike the best chance at finding a home. After nearly two years of waiting, Ike's patience paid off—just in time for Thanksgiving, he finally went home, proving that every day of dedication was worth it.



Full of Beans, Full of Second Chances

Beans arrived at AHS as a 7-month-old puppy in 2021 and spent 1,072 days in our care. Growing up in a shelter is never ideal, but our team was determined to prepare him for a successful future. With daily training, offsite adventures, and even overnight stays in a home, Beans transformed into a well-mannered, loving dog. Volunteers and staff poured their hearts into his journey, never giving up on him. Finally, he met the family who saw what we always knew—Beans was meant for more. Today, he's thriving in his forever home, proving that time, training, and dedication can change lives forever.



Feeding Pets, Keeping Families Together

Changing Lives with Greater Good Charities

As shelters across the country see rising intake numbers, more families are faced with the heartbreaking decision to surrender their pets due to financial hardship. At AHS, we're committed to keeping pets and families together whenever possible.

As a proud Ambassador for Greater Good Charities, we partner with local food banks and rescue groups to distribute pet food and essential supplies to those in need. By providing these critical resources, we're helping families care for their pets and preventing more animals from entering shelters.

The Impact of Giving

 **25+**
Food Banks & Rescue Partners

 **40**
Pallets of Supplies

 **116k+**
Pounds of Pet Food



A Little Sass and a Lot of Love

Rosie was surrendered at five years old when her owner felt she was too much to handle, calling her "spiteful" for her sassy personality and occasional accidents outside the litter box. But when she arrived at our shelter, we quickly saw a different side—Rosie was a certified lap cat expert, always ready for cuddles and cozy naps.

Shelter life in a cage didn't suit her, so she was moved to our Tinton Falls location, where she could roam freely. Along the way, our team managed her medical needs, including a corneal ulcer, arthritis, and mild kidney disease. After two years in our care, Rosie found her perfect match in August 2024, proving that sometimes, all an animal needs is the right home to truly thrive.



A Future for Every Cat

3,774
Incoming
Cats

1,634
Cats Adopted
+12% from 2023

77
Career Cats
Placed

1,492
Transferred to
Rescue Partners

Career Cats, Meaningful Matches

At AHS, we take in hundreds of cats each month, many feral or struggling to adapt indoors. Our team carefully evaluates each cat, and for those who won't thrive in a home, our Career Cats program provides a safe, structured alternative in barns, farms, and other outdoor settings. This ensures they live comfortably while still receiving proper care, **giving every cat the best chance at a fulfilling life.**



Lights, Camera, Rescue!

In 2024, AHS gained national and local attention through incredible PR opportunities, helping us reach new supporters and amplify our mission. From heartwarming features on **Good Morning America** and **The Drew Barrymore Show** to local spotlights on **News 12 NJ**, our work was seen by millions. These moments didn't just highlight our work—they helped bring attention to the shelter overcrowding crisis, connect animals with loving families, and inspire more people to support our mission.



2,189
Transferred to our
Rescue Friends

250+
Partner
Organizations

Expanding Lifesaving Partnerships

A huge shoutout to our incredible rescue partners who have helped us give so many animals a second chance this year! Through our growing partnerships, we've been able to connect pets with breed-specific rescues, specialized medical care, and new adoption audiences, all while easing overcrowding in our shelters. Whether it's a pup in need of a fresh start or a medical case requiring extra TLC, these lifesaving transfers are making a world of difference. We're so grateful for the teamwork that's helping more pets find their perfect homes!

Little Lives in Crisis:

AHS Faces the Growing Puppy Wave

In 2024, AHS saw a 32% increase in puppy intakes, reflecting the growing crisis in animal welfare. These puppies require constant care, medical attention, and additional resources—often around the clock—making their care much more demanding than adult animals.

As the number of vulnerable puppies continues to rise, AHS is committed to giving them the best chance at life, but the escalating numbers highlight the urgent need for more support to help us provide these animals with the care they desperately need.

16 Lives Saved from Hoarding Situation

In 2024, AHS stepped in to rescue 16 Maltese-Yorkie mixes from a hoarding situation in Toms River. The dogs were severely neglected, covered in painful mats and infested with fleas. Among them was Dew, who arrived with her 5-day-old puppies by her side.

With round-the-clock care, this little family flourished in foster care and all of them have since found their forever homes!



Abandoned in a Bucket, AHS Rescues 8 Puppies & Gives Them a Fresh Start

In 2024, AHS responded to the heartbreaking discovery of nine puppies abandoned in a five-gallon bucket in Clark, NJ. Found by a Good Samaritan, one puppy had already passed, and the remaining eight were freezing, starving, severely dehydrated, and infested with fleas. At just two weeks old, they were rushed to our veterinary team for urgent care. The puppies required round-the-clock attention and a dedicated team effort. They were placed into foster homes where they received the care they desperately needed. By early 2025, all of the puppies had been adopted into loving homes, thanks to the tireless support from our staff, volunteers, and fosters.





Advocacy in Action

AHS is committed to more than just caring for rescued animals—we **fight for stronger laws to protect them**. Through advocacy and legislation, we work to end cruelty at its source, promote humane policies, and create a better future for animals across New Jersey.

AHS Advocates to Stop Puppy Mill Cruelty

AHS co-leads a large coalition of national, state, and local organizations to pass priority legislation, A.4051 / S.2511, which will protect consumers and animals. It will stop the cruel puppy mill to consumer pipeline into New Jersey by promoting humane pet businesses, prohibiting the retail sale of puppies, kittens, and rabbits in pet shops, and promote responsible pet acquisition by promoting animal shelters and responsible rescues.

Thanks to our work, an unprecedented and impressive bipartisan list of 40 Assembly members and 12 senators have signed onto the legislation. We look forward to continued work to advance this bill in 2025.



AHS is a Voice for Community Cats

AHS partnered with Essex County Commissioner Tyshammie Cooper to secure continued county funding of at least \$100,000 annually for our Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) program, supporting community cats brought to our Newark clinic by Essex County residents.

In 2024, this funding helped nearly 800 cats, preventing thousands of litters and saving the shelter nearly \$200,000 in related costs. We also collaborated with several contracted municipalities to advance TNVR ordinances, strengthening local efforts.

On a statewide level, AHS is co-leading a coalition with Best Friends Animal Society to advance the Compassion for Community Cats Act, which aims to define community cats in state law, incentivize TNVR programs, and reduce the burden on shelters. This critical legislation is expected to move forward in early 2025.



More Than Rescue: A Team Commitment

They say it takes a village—at our shelter, it takes a dedicated team. From veterinarians and caregivers to adoption counselors and volunteers, hundreds of people are invested in each animal's journey. Some need urgent care, others time to heal—physically or emotionally. We're here to provide the care and compassion they deserve.



Dior Gets a Fresh Start After a Fire

After surviving a devastating house fire this past December, Dior was abandoned outside, left to fend for herself as her family faced overwhelming hardship. She came to us as a stray, with only minor injuries, but emotionally, she was struggling. Not only was her world suddenly turned upside down, but Dior's canine companion had sadly perished in the fire. When she arrived, Dior was confused and unsure of her future.

Recognizing her needs, our team worked together to provide her with the care and support she needed to heal. Thankfully, Dior found a wonderful foster home, where she's able to decompress and regain her trust in people. Now, we're hopeful that the new year will bring Dior the loving forever home she deserves.



A Perfect Match for Matcha

Matcha was 13 when she was abandoned outside with several other cats after her owner moved away, left to fend for herself. She arrived with severe dental disease, ultimately losing most of her teeth, and battled painful stomatitis that required weekly laser therapy. Beneath her tough exterior was a cat who longed for love but was sadly overlooked for years. After more than 1,100 days in our care, Matcha—now nearly 17—finally found the quiet, loving home she always deserved, where she can spend her golden years safe, comfortable, and cherished.





What is there to see?

 200+
Animals

 40+
Species

 Rescue
Stories

 7 Scenic
Acres

 Immersive
Learning

What makes us different?

Popcorn Park is a unique place, set apart from traditional zoos by our unwavering commitment to saving animals from uncertain circumstances. Our focus is not on entertainment, but on compassion, offering these remarkable animals a second chance at life.

Popcorn Park's Impact



400+
Animals
Helped



80k+
Visitors



134
Education Talks



121
Animals
Rescued

Popcorn Park Animal Refuge

A Refuge for Animals in Need

Established in September 1977, Popcorn Park has been a sanctuary for animals for 48 years. 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.

Meet Our Newest Arrivals!



Sammy the Serval

Sammy, a 2-year-old African Serval, arrived at Popcorn Park in October 2024 after his owners could no longer meet his specialized needs. Now thriving in a safe, enriching habitat, Sammy is free to live more like the wild animal he is, as he educates visitors about wildlife.



Hershey's Sweet Rescue

5-month-old Hershey was rescued after she was found wandering in New Egypt, NJ. She quickly stole our hearts, with her sweet, friendly nature and chocolate-brown coat inspiring her name. Hershey is now thriving in a safe environment, where she can enjoy a peaceful, worry-free life filled with love.



Donate Now to Save Lives



Your support provides animals with the care, shelter, and second chances they deserve. **Help us make a difference today!**

Join us in 2025!

Be a part of something bigger in 2025! Join us in making a real impact for animals in need.

- Donating
- Adopting
- Fostering
- Volunteering
- Attending Events
- Supporting our Mission

Other Ways to Give:

- Donor Advised Funds
- Stocks/Mutual Funds
- Give in Memory
- Give in Honor
- Workplace Match
- Planned Giving
- Donate Supplies
- Car Donations

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Thank you for your support!

