

2023 Annual Report



The National Humane Education Society

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Our Mission:

"Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals in children and adults."



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Programs of NHES:

Briggs Animal Adoption Center

Spay Today



Message From the President

In FY 2023, we had hoped for a full return to normalcy relative to the public's utilization of our program services, but the lingering effects of the pandemic stayed with us. Continued inflation caused even greater challenges for individuals and families and, yes, charities like ours, The National Humane Education Society (NHES). As a result, we saw across the board reductions in requests for animal adoptions, spays/neuters, and humane education presentations.

The adoption of companion animals was put on hold by many in the middle class resulting in significant decreased visitation to the NHES Campus. Despite supplementing our reduced-cost spay/neuters services by providing more financial assistance to those in need, the spaying/neutering of the family pet seemed to be placed on the bottom rung of the family budget. Continued inflation also brought about financial challenges for NHES as well. But we, the Board of Directors, had once again prepared accordingly and with your help, were able to meet these challenges for yet another year.

Still, as a small national nonprofit, whose annual operating budget pales in comparison to those of the large national nonprofit animal welfare organizations, we feel a sense of pride in the positive impact that NHES made in FY 2023 to help decrease animal suffering and create a more humane world.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for doing your part to help create this much-needed humane world because without you—our supporters—our important work on behalf of animals would not be possible. NHES is, in a very real sense the embodiment of your compassion for animals, and we need your support to continue our standard-setting program services that include:

- **Humane Education & Advocacy** that provides free humane education presentations for schools, churches, clubs, libraries and other venues across the United States.
- **The Briggs Animal Adoption Center** is NHES' flagship, no-kill, animal care and adoption facility where hundreds of sick, injured, neglected and/or abused cats and dogs come to know their first gentle touch from a human hand.
- **Spay Today** that serves to decrease animal suffering through the humane solution of providing reduced-cost spay/neuter services to the general public.
- **Alliance Partnerships** whereby we establish cooperative funding efforts with other standard-setting organizations such as The Network for Endangered Sea Turtles, Friends of Felines—Hatteras Island, Operation Catnip, Suwannee Paws, and Soul Dog Rescue.

In FY 2023, we:

- Welcomed 4,446 visitors from 16 states, Washington, D.C., and Spain to the NHES campus.
- Spread our humane message of treating animals with kindness and respect to 4,448 children and adults across the country.
- Rescued, spayed/neutered, rehabilitated, placed in quality adoptive homes 589 cats and dogs.
- Provided reduced-cost spay/neuter services to individuals and families in need of assistance for 2,770 companion cats and dogs in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Florida.
- Distributed nearly 8,000 lbs. of emergency animal foods to individuals and families to help feed their companion animals.

Provided funding to:

- microchip hundreds of cats in well-managed feral colonies along North Carolina's Outer Banks.
- spay 351 medium and large female companion dogs belonging to members of the Ute, Northern Cheyenne and Navajo Indian Reservations in Arizona, New Mexico, and Montana.
- help enable 112 unique vet students garner practical spay/neuter experience under the direction of season veterinarians.
- rescue/rehabilitate 157 injured sea turtles and monitor 34 sea turtle nests.

I invite you to come visit with us and take a tour of the NHES campus so that you can see first-hand how your charitable donations are being put to work to help animals in need. I believe you will like what you find here. We're located a little more than an hour's drive from Washington, D.C., in beautiful and historic Jefferson County, West Virginia. We hope to see you soon—and we thank you!

Best regards,



Jim Taylor



Since 1948, we at The National Humane Education Society (NHES) have been tirelessly working to “foster a sentiment of kindness to animals in children and adults” through written articles, educational materials, free educational programs, offering assistance with spay and neuter services, and rescuing and rehabilitating cats and dogs. These efforts emulate the philosophical belief system of Anna C. Briggs and founder of NHES that all “animals have intrinsic value in and of themselves and are deserving of our protection.” We are so grateful to you, our supporters, for joining us to create a more humane world for animals.

Animal welfare highlights throughout the United States impacting the sentient creatures of the air, land, and sea. It is only through collective efforts that we can make a positive difference in the lives of animals.

NYC Paws Up!

Efforts to Ban Horse-Drawn Carriages

NYC Councilmember Robert Holden is advocating to end the use of horses to pull carriages in Central Park with the introduction of Int. No. 573 that would replace them with electric carriages.



Protecting Marine Life From Human Entertainment

Representative Adam Schiff, a group of representatives, and Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced Strengthening Welfare in Marine Settings Act of 2022 (SWIMS Act of 2022), on July 26, 2022. This bill prohibits the capture, importation, exportation, or breeding of certain species of marine mammals for display purposes. The only exception would be relocating them to a sanctuary or back to the ocean.



Connecticut Protects Migrating Birds

Birds are part of nature's orchestra. They brighten many listeners' days with their melodious songs. Along with the auditory pleasure they bring to nature lovers, they also provide relaxation and smiles to onlookers who observe these feathered creatures

Animal advocates in Connecticut played an integral role in getting House Bill 6607 signed into law. HB 6607 mandates "state-owned and leased buildings to turn off nonessential outdoor lighting during peak avian migration periods in order to assist in preventing birds from flying into the sides of such buildings." Governor Lamont signed the bill on June 27, 2023.

Our Humane Education Team (Education Team) presented programs to over 4,000 elementary students in Maryland, New York, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. In their travels, they meet so many wonderful people, like our donors, desiring to make a difference in the lives of animals. The Education Team tailored the Kindness in the Classroom program to meet the needs of each school they visited.



One school program coordinator shared, "Megan has been to our afterschool program several times. The kids absolutely LOVE the activities she brings. She teaches the kids about dogs and cats. She brings games and art for the children to do. One of the activities the children like the most is the canvas paintings. Megan and her staff sketch pictures of dogs and cats at the shelter on a canvas for the children to paint. She brings actual pictures and descriptions of the animals for the kids to see. They work very hard on their pictures. Megan and her staff are so enthusiastic! We love them and always look forward to their visits."



Students have the opportunity to complete service projects for the rescued dogs at BAAC by stuffing dog treats and learning the care animals need to live happy and healthy lives.

Girl Scouts learning to read cat body language while in the open cattery.

Through your kindness and generosity, we were able to rescue countless cats and dogs from abandonment, neglect, and abuse. We are also able to have a veterinary team (one full-time veterinarian and a veterinary technician) dedicated to caring for the animals we rescue. This is especially vital when animals arrive through our doors needing immediate medical treatment. Here are two precious animals that we were able to give quality care to with your support at our flagship animal facility, the Briggs Animal Adoption Center, in Charles Town, WV.



Upon Carmen's arrival at the beginning of July 2022, we immediately noticed she was having trouble walking. After our veterinarian examined her, she was diagnosed with a neurological disorder, cerebellar hypoplasia, affecting coordination and balance. She never let her condition stop her from exploring the world around her and she found a foster family who loves her unconditionally.



Hunny Bun was found on the side of a rural highway in West Virginia by a Good Samaritan. This precious little girl weighed less than one pound which was half of what she should have weighed. Her ears were filled with mites. She was wet, dehydrated, and infested with fleas. Scabs littered her tail and most heartbreaking of all—her left eye was ruptured and had to be removed. She was fostered by a loving staff member until she found her forever home with a wonderful family who adores her.



BAAC's Happy Tails for Kojo and Coby: Two Seniors Who Found Their Forever Homes

The Adoption Department had 116 dog adoptions and 78 cat adoptions. Of those 194 adopted out, 15 of them were considered harder to place. Kojo, an estimated 12-year-old dog, was a part of those 15. Kojo first came to us in the summer of 2017. He was originally an owner surrender of our local animal control agency because his owner could no longer care for him. Through his time with us, he was adopted and returned 3 times because of his history with being protective of his humans. After 6 years being with us, he finally found his forever home with Jen and Janis.



“The pathway to the successful adoption and integration of a special needs pet into one’s home is not always one that is easily navigated. Special needs pets often require specialized or long-term veterinary care, a special diet or feeding method, and remedial behavioral training. They also need lots of patience, understanding, tolerance, and love. The adoptive pet parent who does not fully understand all the pet’s needs and who is not prepared to provide for these will find him/herself frustrated and possibly in the heartbreaking situation of returning the pet to the shelter. This is devastating for both the adoptive parent and the pet. Briggs Animal Adoption Center understands the unique needs of animals that are challenged by special or unique needs, and who may even have undergone the heartbreak of one or more unsuccessful adoptions. Briggs utilizes a screening process designed to help the potential adoptive parent fully understand the pet’s unique needs. The process also assists the potential adoptive parent to examine his/her ability to provide for the pet’s needs. This process includes a visit to the potential adoptive home by Briggs staff to ensure that the home can provide a safe and secure environment for the pet. At the end of this process is the very special reward of being able to fill the heart of a needy pet with warmth and love, which is returned a thousandfold. If the process is not successful, one can know that the decision was in the best interest of the pet, which should always be the first consideration of the potential adoptive parent. We adopted a dog from Briggs whose behavioral challenges resulted in his adoption and return to shelters on more than one occasion. He has overcome some, but not all, of his challenging behaviors. Some he likely will not overcome. We understand and accept this and make changes to our lives to accommodate him. Seeing the love in his eyes is the reward.”

In addition to Kojo, another of the 15 hard-to-place animals that we adopted out in fiscal year 2023, was Coby. In the fall of 2013, we received Coby when he was abandoned by the front door of our facility in a box. He was later diagnosed with Pemphigus Foliaceus, which is an autoimmune skin disorder. He stayed with us for 10 years until his forever family finally came.



"After losing our senior cat Orson to cancer last year, we decided we were ready to find another cat in need of a loving home who would also hopefully be a buddy to our cat Wally. It was an easy choice to go with Briggs. We had a little experience with their adoption process in the past and knew they were dedicated to making sure their animals are going to safe, loving forever homes. The online adoption application was thorough but easy to fill out, and we got a response from Briggs right away. We were interested in Coby from the start, and our adoption counselor Sam made sure we were fully aware of his background, medical history, and possible litterbox issues so we knew what to expect. Coby was a senior kitty who had spent most of his life at the shelter, and we fell in love with how sweet and laid-back he was. Sam, Dr. K, and everyone else at Briggs answered all our questions so we could be sure we were making the right decision and could make Coby's transition to our home as stress-free as possible. We fostered Coby for a few months before finalizing his adoption so that he could remain under Dr. K's care for a couple medical issues, and Sam made both the fostering and adoption processes as smooth as possible. She talked us through each step to make sure we fully understood everything. From start to finish, we appreciated the honesty and care of Sam and the rest of the staff; we knew they truly cared about finding the right fit for Coby. Coby is a sweet, loving, and fantastic cat who moved into our home and our hearts like he's been here his whole life. We're so thankful to everyone at Briggs for loving and caring for Coby for so many years and for helping us bring him home."

BAAC's Volunteers Provide Valuable Socialization and Love



"I volunteer with the Briggs Animal Adoption Center by walking and just spending time with some of the dogs. The BAAC is a wonderful facility that provides a safe and loving environment for dogs and cats. Every single staff member that I've had the pleasure of observing is so kind and gentle with the dogs and it is clear the dogs trust them. Many of these dogs come from situations of neglect or abuse, or even litters of unwanted or stray puppies. The goal is to get all of these precious dogs into suitable permanent homes because that is where every dog deserves to be, but also to open up space for new arrivals (BAAC is a no-kill shelter). I highly recommend adopting from this great facility. Or, volunteer - it is very rewarding to feel that I've made a dog's day just a little bit more fun, or have helped socialize a dog to show better for people looking to adopt."

Since 1994, Spay Today has provided reduced-cost spay and neuter assistance to individuals in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. This is accomplished through partnerships with local veterinarians. There is a dire need for assistance with Spay Today receiving 400 phone messages and 100 emails monthly. Currently, 8 veterinary clinics are part of the program, and Spay Today helped reduce animal homelessness by spaying or neutering 3,019 cats, dogs, and rabbits. Since its inception, Spay Today has helped spay and neuter over 80,000 animals.



Spay Today Participant's Testimonial:

"I found Spay Today after desperate attempts to locate a cheaper option for spaying our bunny girls. I'm new to having bunnies and prior to getting them I didn't understand the cancer risk for female rabbits nor did I understand all the hormone things and that sisters aren't true bonds and they would fight. So when getting one (which became two when the lady offered sisters), I admittedly hadn't known enough.

As a male dog owner my whole life we have always neutered via our vet and it was always known in advance. So when I found out that I had a spay expense ranging from \$800-\$1000+ I really wasn't sure what to do. I knew it was best for them because they may fight and would need to be separated so I called local vets. They wanted pre-visits, surgeries of over \$400+, and I wasn't sure when I would be able to do it.

When I called Spay Today, I got quoted \$230+\$5 fee and the vet was an hour away. I was ecstatic. This made it doable. I said I would call back to schedule and within 2 days Daisy started attacking Jilly. I separated them immediately and called to get on the schedule (thankfully during the first call, I was informed the wait time was within 2 weeks or so). We got scheduled quickly, the kind lady worked around my schedule - using the dates most convenient for me to drive as it was a 2 hour round trip made twice that same day. The whole process was simple but most importantly, it was a major help and very much appreciated. Thanks for offering this service and all you do. Everyone I spoke to was so kind and nice."

Alliance Partnerships



Soul Dog Rescue is a "small but mighty crew" who helped spay 380 dogs for people on the Navajo lands. They work with both a volunteer and paid staff at their clinics. The locations they work in are based on areas where veterinary services are scarce and the number of unwanted animals are high.

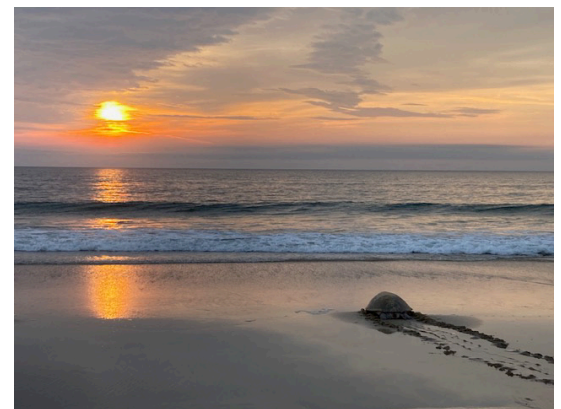
Friends of Feline-Cape Hatteras Island (FOFHI)

remains strong with its TNR program. They provide two TNR clinics a year - one in the early summer and one mid fall with Dr. Marty Edwards from Raleigh, North Carolina and her awesome staff. A total of 226 cats were spayed or neutered, and they also provided financial assistance for seven island residents to medically treat their cats and provided food on a monthly basis to six island residents who care for cat colonies.



The Network for Endangered Sea Turtles (NEST)

helps rescue and reahbilitate sea turtles in North Carolina. During FY 2023, 34 sea turtle nests were found by volunteers and 157 sea turtles were rescued and transported to the Sea Turtle Assistance and Rehabilitation (STAR) Center at the N.C Aquarium in Manteo. They also had 433 volunteers take various training sessions required to properly conduct their turtle management efforts.



"Thanks to you and NHES for your continuing support. It allows us to equip our volunteers with the tools they need to manage our sea turtle activities."

Operation Catnip performed a total of 8,033 spay or neuter surgeries (9 of those surgeries were on dogs or rabbits). Of the 8,033 surgeries 6,234 of them were performed by 112 unique vet students. Although the vast majority of vet students and vet student surgeries are students at the University of Florida, they have provided externships to vet students from 3 other veterinary colleges. In addition, of the 1,799 surgeries performed by DVMs, 242 were by Maddie's Shelter Medicine Residents at the University of Florida, providing them with additional experience in community cat management. They also provided additional services to community cats that include amputations, enucleations, wound treatment, and others, all of which are either lifesaving or mitigate suffering. During your fiscal year veterinary students performed or scrubbed in on 65 of these procedures.



Some of Suwannee Paws staff with Deuce—a neuter beneficiary!

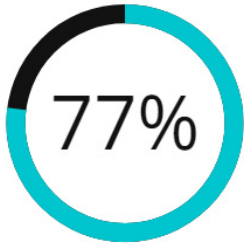
Suwannee PAWS, Inc. spayed and neutered 113 animals (81 cats and 2 dogs). Most of the animals they spay and neuter are felines.



Financial Overview

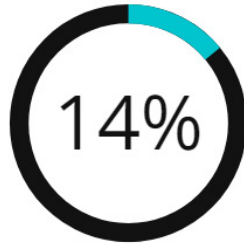
We are so grateful to our donors who help make creating a more humane world for animals possible.

FY 2023 REVENUE



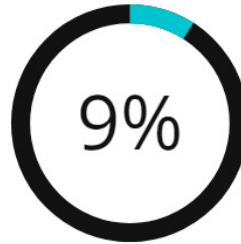
Contributions
and
Bequests

\$2,231,875.00



Pass-through
Contracted Vet
Services

\$405,770.00



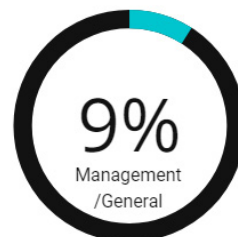
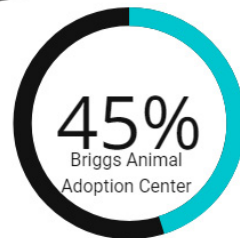
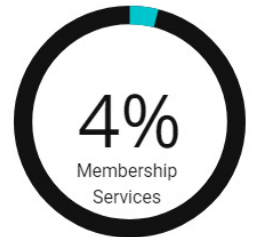
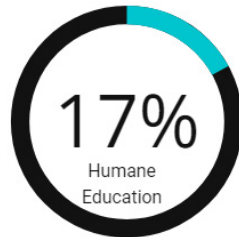
Other

\$242,775.00



Total = \$2,910,420.00

FY 2023 Expenses



Total = \$3,038,454.00