

The HSUS Shelter and Rescue Partner Program

Helping pets and people through training, mentorship, and animal placement



PHOTO BY KEVIN WOLF/AP IMAGES FOR THE HSUS

The HSUS Shelter and Rescue Partner program is a network of organizations committed to serving as a safety net for pets and as mentors for overwhelmed shelters. In collaboration with the Humane Society of the United States, program partners drive advancements in the animal welfare field. Our partners include animal shelters, rescue groups and other humane organizations that choose to join and contribute to building a more humane society for pets and their families.

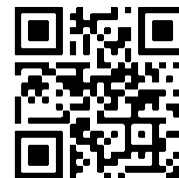
What do Shelter and Rescue Partners do?

Shelter and Rescue Partners are perhaps the most crucial element in our mission to help animals in crisis. Upon request from a state agency or law enforcement entity, the Humane Society of the United States assists with moving animals out of the path of natural disasters and rescuing animals from cruelty. Whenever possible, prior to a natural disaster, our partners step up to move already homeless pets out of shelters in the path of a hurricane or storm to make space for potentially displaced local pets, with a goal of reunifying the pets with their families after the disaster has passed.

When law enforcement requests the assistance of the HSUS in addressing an alleged animal cruelty situation, we work with our partners to care for and place the animals. As local groups with access to local resources, partners provide the animals with veterinary care, behavioral rehabilitation, and placement in loving homes.

While animal placement is an important component of the Shelter and Rescue Partner program, it isn't the only way for organizations to participate. We strongly believe in building sustainable programs and policies that decrease human and animal suffering over time by keeping families together

APPLY TO
JOIN THE
PARTNER
NETWORK!

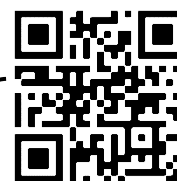


We invite all eligible organizations to apply to join the network. After we review your application, a member of our Shelter Outreach and Engagement team will contact you to learn more about your organization's work and how we can best partner together. Once you're accepted as a Shelter and Rescue Partner, you're entered into our national database, and we may call on you for help as the need arises.

SHELTER AND RESCUE RESOURCES

Adopters Welcome

Adopters Welcome highlights an approach to adoptions that embraces community members, encourages them to adopt, and helps them and their pets succeed. The approach also acknowledges the connection among all local adoption agencies and the impact adoptions, or lack of adoptions, can have on all of the animals in a community.



Rescue Group Best Practices

Designed for groups just starting out as well as those that have been in operation for years, this manual is the one reference tool you need to make certain your rescue is operating at peak efficiency. While there is no one-size-fits-all way to run any rescue group, there are standards – both from an organizational and animal care standpoint – that all organizations should follow.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

whenever possible and providing a safety net for those who are separated. Partners may collaborate with HSUS state directors and campaigns to advance local, state and federal policies, and may assist other organizations that require additional support. While pet transport can save the lives of adoptable animals, it is only a short-term solution. Our long-term approach seeks to build local capacity through effective policies and programs that will, over time, reduce the number of animals flowing into shelters and rescues and keep more pets in their homes.

Mentorship: Shelter Ally Project

This is a remarkable time for our field—euthanasia of adoptable pets is down to its lowest point in history and continues to drop each year; there are thousands of animal welfare organizations working together to help animals and keep families together; adoption by the public is at an all-time high and proven programs to humanely manage community cats are on the rise. However, even as we celebrate this success, there are communities that have struggled to reach these milestones due to a lack of funding, availability of affordable veterinary medicine and systemic poverty in underserved communities.

The goal of the Shelter Ally Project is to provide grant funding and mentorship to animal shelters who are committed to addressing three of the most common challenges in animal welfare: community cats, pet inclusive housing and regional capacity building, where relationships are forged with local under resourced shelters to expand capacity to address animal cruelty and respond to disasters. Mentorships run an average of six months but vary based on organizational goals and capacity. Grant funds range from \$10,000 to \$25,000. 2023 application process will be announced in fall of 2022!



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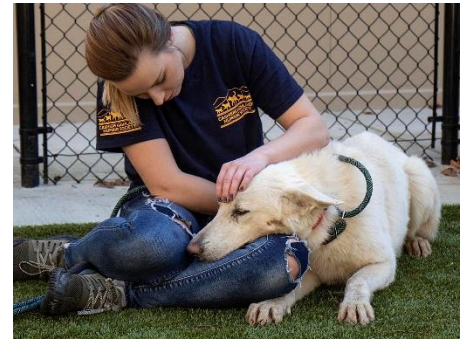


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MENTORSHIP TOPICS

Community cats

Take cat management up a notch by developing comprehensive programming for community cats both in and out of the shelter. A focus on humane policies, tactical trap-neuter-release, practical pathway planning for cats entering the shelter and coordination of programs across your organization provides a holistic approach to managing dynamic populations of cats in your community.

Pet inclusive housing

Safe, stable and secure housing is a foundational building block in creating equity for pet ownership and keeping families together. Shelters participating in the mentorship will begin by collecting data on the current landscape of affordable housing in the communities they serve to identify the challenges families face. Training will include ways to advocate for pet-inclusive housing and how to respond to the eviction crisis in your community.

Capacity building

Creating relationships with organizations struggling to provide care for sheltered and owned animals is one of the best ways to increase lifesaving beyond your own facility. This mentorship is a hands-on, cooperative venture between animal welfare organizations designed not only to help individual animals, but also to weave a stronger safety net for the community at large.

APPLY FOR
MENTORSHIP



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