



Missaukee

HUMANE SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2019

5310 W. Houghton Lake Road • Box D • Lake City, MI 49651 • (231) 839-3800
info@mhs pets.org • www.mhs pets.org • A NO-KILL Shelter • Open 6 days a week

Dear Friends of Animals,

What a roller coaster 2019 has been. Your donations and caring are what keeps MHS going for the many homeless animals that rely on us for their voice.

You've read the stories and seen the photos of "Sammy," the stray dog that was hit by a car and needed his leg amputated. He now lives in southern California goes to the ocean daily. What a life!

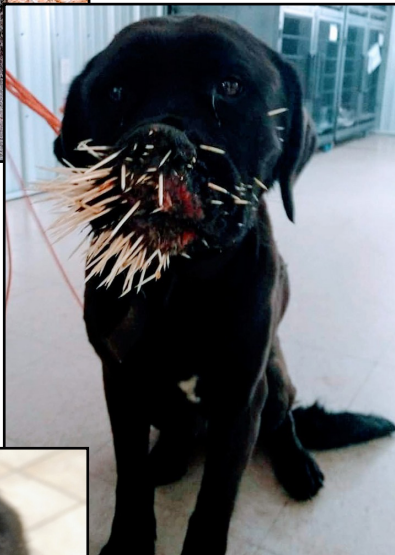


"Sammy" got a second chance because of your help and caring.

Each year we strive to help as many animals as possible to find their new lives. We give them the medical care and nutrition they need to become their best selves. We can do this because of you.

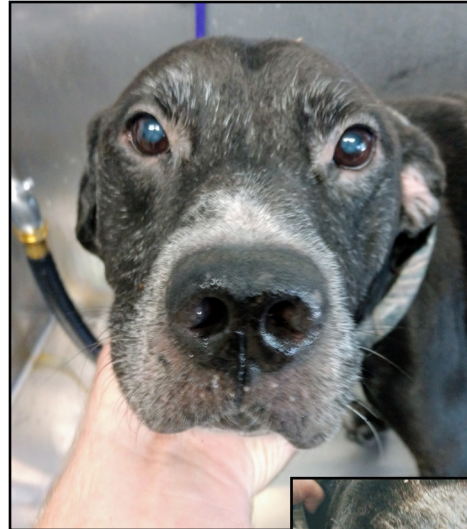


"Cuddles" repeatedly came to the shelter as a stray. Each time, she was covered in porcupine quills. This last visit to MHS required an urgent trip to Meyer Veterinary Clinic.



Blood-work showed she was battling a severe infection. Hundreds of quills were painstakingly removed by hand. Our staff keep finding more and more under

her skin. She has had many follow up procedures and medication to battle infection and pain. We discussed her situation with her former owners who decided it was in her best interest to find her a new home with a fenced yard. She is several weeks out and she's still on medication. We found MORE quills and removed them. She is so sweet, affectionate and trusting. She's such a good sport about all the procedures to remove her quills. She knows we are trying to help her. She deserves a loving home. Nellie and Jessi believe they have found one for her. As soon as she is medically cleared, she will go to her forever home. We will have photos in the next newsletter.



Age Is Just A Number: "Bubba's" Story

After watching his owner leave his home one morning, "Bubba" didn't know that his owner would never return

home. His beloved owner fed Bubba one last time in the home he's known since he was young pup. Surrounded by darkness and silence, Bubba slept on his lumpy bed



for one last night. Sadly, Bubba would never feel the softness of his owner's hand on his head, show his owner excitement by wagging his tail – waiting for his favorite toy to be tossed, or receive a treat from his master after accomplishing a trick he learned as a youngster. Bubba was a senior in his

senior years.

The next morning, that familiar, loving face transported Bubba to the shelter. There, he was greeted by friendly MHS staff. Strangers to him. Bubba seemed soak up the extra attention and wagged his tail, but he was hurting. His beloved owner kissed him goodbye. He was going to a nursing home and hospice.

All our new residents get checked over by our veterinary staff. Bubba had a severe flea allergy. I volunteered to give him a bath his first day at MHS. He loved it! Our wonderful medicated shampoo soothed his horrible itching. We gave him additional medication to prevent a secondary skin infection. All things considered he has adjusted life at the shelter pretty well. He made new friends with the shelter staff and volunteers along with the other four-legged residents. Our animals all go through a tough time. They were somewhere else and now they are here. Their world is topsy turvy. We do everything we can to assure them it will be ok.

Bubba is medically cleared and will get neutered and have his teeth cleaned. Time for Bubba's new forever family to find him. He won't be an orphan much longer. This is what we do.



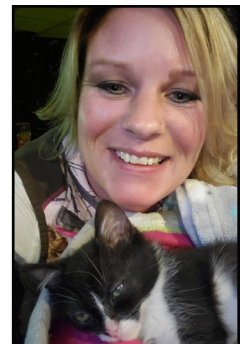
Missaukee Humane Society's
Community Pet Food Pantry



Please call 231-839-3800

An Emergency Case: "Thom" The Kitten

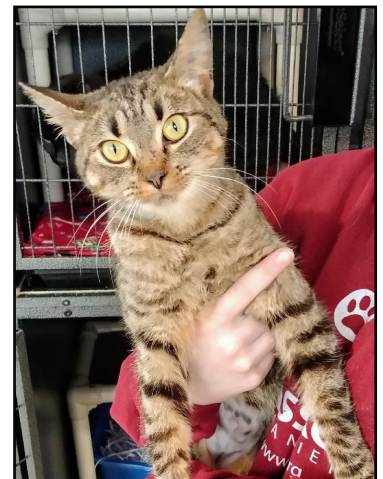
One of our most severe medical cases is the story of "Thom." This wee kitten was found alongside the road and had a severe foot injury. X-rays did not show any broken bones. A little sigh of relief. However, we were dealing with a severe injury. Luckily, this sweet kitten has had one of the finest foster homes available – our new veterinary technician! Christina has done an amazing job fostering him. His leg continues to heal and by the next newsletter he should be officially adopted. Yep, you guessed it. Our wonderful veterinary technician joins the club of Foster Failures – who end up adopting their foster pets!



Tansy The Tabby: Homeless and Injured

The majority of the cat and kitten intakes are strays. "Tansy" arrived at MHS as a stray. She needed medical care because of a deep puncture near her chest cavity. Initial exam showed wound granulation tissue, which meant the body was healing itself. Antibiotics were prescribed to fight any infection brewing and pain medication to help ease the discomfort.

It's been several weeks and our staff has done an amazing job caring for Tansy. Shredded paper for litter, antibiotics every 12 hours, and check-ups every several days. Tansy's wound did eventually needed suturing to speed the body's healing process. She enjoys her soft canned food, daily petting, and soft blankets on her Kuranda cat bed while she is recovering. Once she has been cleared by veterinary staff, she will be spayed and available for adoption!





From The President:

It has been quite a year for Missaukee Humane Society. We lost our Founder/President last November. Ernie gave us all a wonderful opportunity and we hope to keep growing and improving.

Never in my wildest dreams did I figure I'd end up President of this fine organization. We adopted our Emma there in 2000 and, other than donating, that was pretty much it. We liked to stop by to see the place. It was and is special. One visit about 15 years ago, I met a young man with whom I struck up a conversation. Kyle just worked there at that time, but had a vision of what the place could be. He asked me to take over the email list and online "thank you notes." It was a task I enjoyed. When he became Manager, he would call in the evening to chat about his ideas. We always talked about the business of running a shelter. Our conversations often ran late into the evening. He does not punch a time clock! Sometimes he is at the shelter well past midnight waiting for dogs from another shelter... if there is a problem he is there. He gets called out at night by the Sheriff's department for animals in distress.

He is now the Director of the Shelter. Well deserved!

Eventually, I was asked to join the Board of Directors. It has been a wonderful time working with Kyle and assisting anywhere I can to make the Shelter thrive.

Shortly after Ernie passed, we realized we needed to fill the President's position. When I was asked, I didn't hesitate at all. I have a background in finance and law enforcement.

This past year we completed the enlargement of the Vet Clinic. With the addition of Christina Suchecki, our licensed Veterinary Technician, we are now able to provide enhanced vet services 5 days a week to people who would not otherwise be able to afford care for their pets.

The spay/neuter Clinics have meant a greatly reduced stray pet population and better health for all our animals.

We have plans for some really innovative and exciting projects and programs. It is an honor to be a part of it all.

Carolyn Wilson

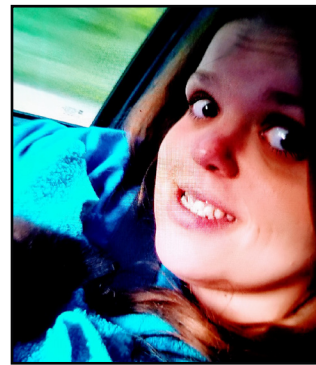
admin@mhs pets.org

Shelter Happenings:

Christina Suchecki, licensed Veterinary Technician, came on board the MHS team in October. Christina is responsible for population health within the shelter. She manages medical, surgical, and treatment schedules for our shelter pets. She assists our veterinarians with spay and neuter surgeries. She comes to MHS after working as a technician in Traverse City. Before that, she worked for longtime MHS supporter Dr. Julie Kellison. She gives our animals such great care. Welcome Christina!



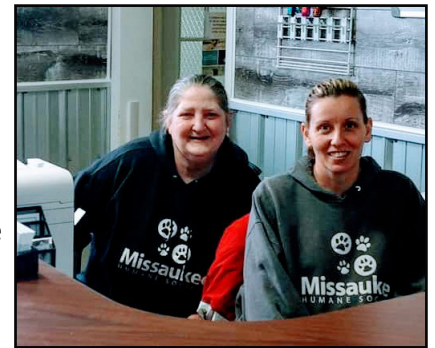
Our Veterinary Clinic is now open 5 days a week. Call to make an appointment. Not limited to Missaukee County Residents.



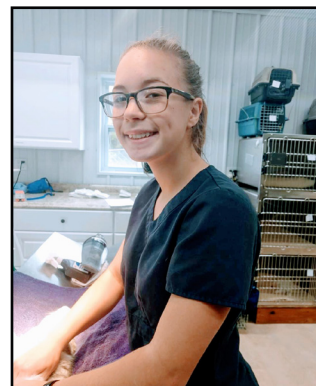
Jessi, has been with us since April 2018. She works in the front office and clinic as needed. She manages all our online pet profiles, fielding calls and inquiries on adoptable pets. She assists with surgeries as needed and has been a huge asset for MHS and the animals in our care. Since Summer 2019, Jessi has been responsible for coordinating all intake transfers from other

shelters.

Nellie has been with MHS for over 6 years. She is usually the first person you see when you enter the shelter. She handles hundreds of emails, phone calls, and visitors who come to the shelter – She also processes adoptions, checks vet references on applications, and helps with donation receipts. Nellie is dedicated and she, too, is a great asset.



Alex is responsible for cleaning all our dog kennels. He is here 7 days a week and we can count on him! All the animals love Alex! He enjoys coming in every morning and being greeted by the many faces he cares for each day. It is an



added bonus for him when the animals get adopted. A little sadness to see them go even though they are now in a loving home. We network with other shelters that cannot adopt out all their animals. This helps to fill our kennels and means we can help even more animals. Thank you Alex for all your hard work and dedication.

Marissa, works as a veterinary assistant in the clinic during



Shelter, continued....

surgeries. On non-clinic days, she is responsible for helping clean cat kennels. She is a determined young lady whose intelligence and willingness to learn more about veterinary medicine will go a long way. She plans to enroll in the Veterinary Technology program at Baker College of Cadillac in the fall of 2020. After she graduates she would like to continue to work at MHS as a veterinary technician.

Jessica, our amazing volunteer outreach coordinator and social media manager, is great at networking. Whether she is promoting the vet clinic and the services provided, the pet food pantry or connecting us with other shelter – she is determined and a proven fighter for animals in need. Thank you Jessica for all your help!

I would also like to thank all those who attended the Annual Spayghetti & No Balls Dinner and Auction. Every year this fundraiser allows us to save more animals, but we desperately need your help, too. Our need is constant and year round.

Huge thanks to: Tracy Anderson, Ray & Sherry Holliday, Mary Jo Binkley, Kaitlyn DeBoer, Todd & Jane Urbanski, Teresa Loving, Steve & Lori Novak, Margo Jacobs, and Wendy Musselman-Prehn for all their help with this year's event. Lori McDonald and all the kitchen staff did a beautiful job and I cannot thank them enough. All the volunteers: T-mobile employees, National Honor Society students from Manton High School, Emily, Autumn, and huge thanks to all our staff for a wonderful night.

Sincerely,
Kyle Musselman
Director
kyle@mhspets.org

SUPPLY WISH LIST

Drop off items or order through
[SmileAmazon.com](https://www.smileamazon.com).

Canned Dog Food
Original Pine Sol
Bleach
Laundry Soap
Dawn Dish Soap
Paper Towels & Toiletries
Printer Paper



HAPPY TAILS





KEEP YOUR PETS HEALTHY!



Missaukee Humane Society Vet Clinic

- Spay/Neuter Surgeries
- Vaccines
- Preventative Care
- Heartworm Tests, FIV/Feline Leukemia Tests, Intestinal Parasite Screenings
- Microchipping (including registration)

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Call 231-839-3800