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# *Report to the Community*



## 2005



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Vanderburgh Humane Society, Inc. is committed to the elimination of pet overpopulation in our community, the prevention of animal cruelty and neglect, and the promotion of the animal - human bond.

*The greatness of a nation and its moral progress  
can be judged by the way it treats its animals.*

— Gandhi



The Vanderburgh Humane Society, Inc. (VHS) was founded in 1957 by a group of citizens concerned about the plight of animals in Vanderburgh County. The Society's original shelter opened in the early 70's and the present day shelter is a new facility opened in June of 2004 and is located at 400 Millner Industrial Drive.



The Vanderburgh Humane Society, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization whose funds are realized entirely from donations, fund-raising projects and fees. VHS receives no funding from any governmental division (city, county, state, or federal). The VHS is autonomous and is not a division of any national organization nor does it receive any funding from national organizations. The VHS is not a United Way agency and only receives funds if a donor has designated our organization. The VHS is a member of the American Humane Association and works closely with other humane organizations, the Evansville Animal Control Shelter, and area veterinarians.

The VHS has handled around 4,500 animals each year since moving into our new larger facility. The VHS handles all types of domestic pet animals including dogs, cats, hamsters, gerbils, rabbits, birds, etc.. On an average, day our facility houses between 200 and 250 animals. We are sometimes called upon to care for farm livestock such as horses, cows, goats, pigs, etc. which we handle through qualified foster homes. The Vanderburgh Humane Society is a full access shelter. While we do require a small surrender fee, no animal is ever turned away because we are full and we have no time limits on animals waiting for adoption.

The VHS has 17 full time and 1 part time employees. These positions handle everything from hands on animal care to our humane educator who puts on programs in area schools.

The VHS is a leader in animal sheltering in this community. But none of the programs and services that we offer would be possible without the support of this community.

We truly appreciate the volunteers, adopters and donors who support this agency each and every year.

## PROGRAMS

Care • Adoptions • Intakes • Euthanasia

### STANDARD OF CARE

The Vanderburgh Humane Society prides itself in the level of care that is provided to the animals in our custody. From the moment they arrive, they are treated with respect and love. Animals that pass our health and temperament screening are placed into holding or adoption kennels to wait for a new family. Our kennels and condos are kept clean. Our animals are given toys and beds. Cats are all provided with shoe boxes and our dogs are walked twice a day each day.



### ADOPTIONS

The Vanderburgh Humane Society was successful in placing 1951 animals with new homes in 2005.

The VHS adoption process is designed to match the right person or family with the right pet. Our Adoption Counselors talk with the potential families about training, veterinarian visits and transitioning the animal into its new home.

Adopters must fill out an application and all requirements must be met to be approved for a pet. Each dog or cat adopted goes home with an adoption kit and a bag of Science Diet pet food.



### INTAKES

The VHS took in 4,468 animals in 2005. The VHS accepts all owner surrendered animals, and strays from outside of Vanderburgh County. Prior to September of 2002, all strays found in the county had to be surrendered to The Evansville Animal Control Shelter for its required holding period. Currently, the VHS does accept strays when at all possible. Our ability to accept a stray is entirely dependant on how healthy the animal is at the time of surrender and the available space.

There is a small surrender fee that is required when dropping off an animal with the VHS. This fee allows the VHS to continue the level of care that is expected from this organization. Animals that pass our health and temperament screening are given initial vaccines, worming medication, flea and tick prevention and battery of tests to track the animals health.



### EUTHANASIA

When an animal does not pass screening or the shelter runs out of available space the VHS does perform euthanasia. Our shelter does not have a time limit on any animal. Euthanasia decisions are based on the adoptability of the pet and the space available. Euthanasia to relieve suffering is practiced in the most modern painless way available. The Vanderburgh Humane Society's staff are Certified Euthanasia Technologists and their methodology is approved by the American Humane Association, the Humane Society of the United States, and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

## Programs

### Cruelty • Rescue • Lost/Found • Resource Help

#### CRUELTY INVESTIGATIONS

The VHS takes calls and complaints from the public and determines whether or not the animal(s) in question are being neglected or mistreated in any way. The VHS Staff does not possess police powers but acts solely in a coordination and consulting capacity. The VHS works closely with local animal control officers and law enforcement to better the lives of the animals referred. We use education and persuasion when possible to do so, but do not hesitate to call in law enforcement when needed. The VHS averages hundreds of calls alleging neglect or cruelty every year.

#### ANIMAL RESCUES

The VHS is also there for animals in often their greatest time of need. It is not unusual for the staff to drop what they are doing to rush to an animal in danger. From rescuing horses in flooded pastures, rounding up strayed livestock, catching and transporting injured wildlife, and pulling puppies from drainage pipes, the VHS and all their resources are there to lend a hand.

In the case of the November '05 tornado, crews from the VHS spent hours at the site of the Eastbrook Mobile Home Park attempting to find or catch animals. Dozens of these animals were brought back to our shelter and cared for until they could be re-united with their families. In some of the cases, no one ever claimed some of the animals and these were placed into new adoptive homes. The VHS also worked with the Red Cross to provide temporary housing for animals who's family was displaced.



#### LOST AND FOUND

The VHS offers a lost & found service to the community for their pets. By giving the community a place to call when they have lost or found a pet, the VHS is often able to reunite lost animals with their owners. Through this contact, the shelter staff is able to stress the importance of always keeping identification on their pets. The shelter staff can also track any obvious patterns of missing animals which may help alert the community when theft rings are in the area.

#### RESOURCE AND ASSISTANCE

The VHS serves as an important resource and offers assistance to smaller shelters in the Tri-State area through training, resource tools and materials, and general information. In addition, the VHS staff acts as a resource by handling hundreds of phone calls from pet owners having problems with their animals. VHS understands that if problems can be solved or prevented, the animal in question has a better chance of remaining in its present home and out of the shelter.

Because the community is so generous with their food donations, the VHS is able to help out other organizations and individuals with food for their animals in time of temporary need or emergency situations. Our Pet Food Bank served hundreds of people and their pets in 2005.



## Programs

### Seniors • Safe Pets • Animal Assisted Therapy

#### PETS FOR SENIORS

The VHS understands the mental and physical benefits of owning animals and it offers adoptable animals free of charge to the community's senior citizens. The Pets For Seniors program waives the adoption fee for individuals over the age of 60 who meet all of the other qualifications.



#### SAFE PETS

The VHS began this program in the spring of 1999 after having learned of another group of animals in our community who need our help. In working with area domestic violence shelters, we have found that many individuals stay in abusive situations for fear of what will happen to their pet if they leave. The VHS understands the direct link between animal abuse and domestic violence. The shelter has expanded its foster care program to include those animals in need of a safe place to go. By providing temporary care for the animals, the owners can seek shelter and attempt to get their life on track for themselves and their pets. In 2000, the VHS expanded this program to include animals of individuals and families who sought help at an area homeless shelters.

#### ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

The VHS has been very active in helping nursing homes and extended care facilities implement part of the Eden Alternative which advocates the use of pets in these facilities. In addition to advocating the pets in nursing homes, the VHS, with the help of its many volunteers, offers pet assisted therapy to over 22 area nursing homes in the Tri-State. During 2005, VHS volunteers or staff accompanied by a wonderful pet made over 500 visits. The joy this program brings to animals and humans alike is amazing.



## Programs

### Humane Education • Volunteer Opportunities

#### HUMANE EDUCATION

The Vanderburgh Humane Society knows how important educating the public about animal issues is to its mission. The VHS has one full time Humane Educator who provides programs to numerous schools, civic organizations, and other groups throughout the year.

Children and adults alike are taught about being responsible pet owners, the importance of spaying or neutering, how to stay safe around animals, animal abuse, and many other topics.

Tours of the facility are also given to groups to showcase first hand how the VHS operates. The VHS partners with students for Senior Projects, Animal Badges for Scouts, Eagle Scout Projects and Volunteer Community Service hours.

In 2005, the Humane Educator reached more than 5000 people. It is with this ever expanding program that the VHS hopes to spread its message of responsible pet ownership and ensure the animals are treated with love and respect.



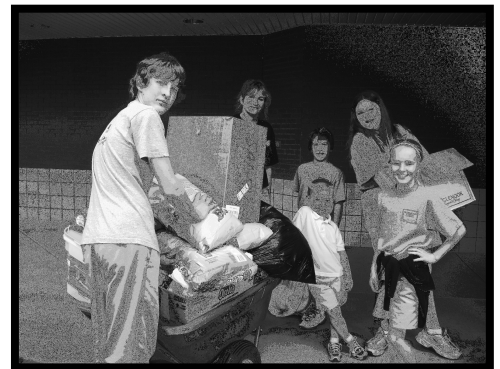
#### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The VHS is a great place to volunteer! All VHS volunteers go through a Volunteer Orientation session to better acquaint them with the needs of the shelter and how they can help.

Volunteers are encouraged to participate in training opportunities offered by the shelter such as obedience and behavior training for pets. Volunteers also play an important part in fund raisers and community events.

In addition to regular volunteer opportunities, the VHS also provides the mentally and physically challenged a way to be part of what the VHS does. Patients from area care facilities and from the Mental Health Association come to the shelter for weekly visits. They walk dogs, socialize the cats, and perform other helpful tasks that give them a real sense of accomplishment and make a difference in the lives of the animals.

During 2005, our regular volunteers put in over 2500 general volunteer hours and 1,300 hours at special events!



## Public Relations

Media • Kennel Chronicles • Web Site

### MEDIA

The VHS strives to keep people informed with pertinent information, seasonal pet tips, and animals available for adoption through a solid public relations program. Three weekly live television spots on the local network affiliates (ABC, NBC, and FOX) highlight these efforts. These spots allow the shelter to showcase animals who need homes, promote upcoming events and emphasize the shelter's role in the community.

In addition, the VHS regularly has recorded pet features on both Fox and CBS television stations. The VHS also provides photos of adoptable animals to local publications such as American Classified, Evansville Courier & Press and Evansville Parent Magazine. The VHS regularly sends out press releases to all the media in the area.



### KENNEL CHRONICLES

The VHS distributes a newsletter 4 times per year to all current members, donors, adopters, and volunteers. The newsletter provides the VHS the opportunity to offer helpful tips, showcase animals for adoption, and promote special events. The newsletter was mailed to approximately 12,000 households each quarter in 2005. "Kennel Chronicles" has even featured in the HSUS "Animal Sheltering" magazine.

### VHSLIFESAVER.ORG

As of April 1998, the VHS can be found on the Internet. The shelter's web page allows the VHS to reach an even greater audience. The shelter knows it is emotionally difficult or inconvenient for the public to come to the shelter, so we can bring the shelter to them. Our web page had thousands of hits in 2005. We also have added new features to the site. Supports can often register for events, download and adoption application or make a donation just with the click of a mouse!



# Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2005 and 2004

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Current assets:		
Cash	\$277,908	\$632,152
Promises to give, net	122,057	32,313
Prepaid expenses	<u>20,734</u>	<u>7,015</u>
Total current assets	<u>420,699</u>	<u>671,480</u>
Other assets:		
Promises to give, net	51,213	118,799
Capitalized bond costs, net	51,287	54,450
Interest rate swap agreement	13,793	-
Property and equipment, net	3,991,105	3,935,143
Cash surrender value of life insurance	34,465	30,113
Beneficial interest in assets held by others	<u>46,252</u>	<u>53,778</u>
Total other assets	<u>4,188,115</u>	<u>4,192,283</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u><b>4,608,814</b></u>	<u><b>4,863,763</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Current maturities of long-term debt	\$49,075	\$59,049
Accounts payable	10,399	10,209
Accrued expenses	<u>21,270</u>	<u>20,263</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>80,744</u>	<u>89,521</u>
Other liabilities:		
Long-term debt	1,683,080	1,731,399
Interest rate swap agreement	-	18,152
Other liabilities	<u>4,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
Total other liabilities	<u>1,687,580</u>	<u>1,757,051</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,768,324</u>	<u>1,846,572</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	2,693,236	2,897,136
Temporarily restricted	101,002	66,277
Permanently restricted	46,252	53,778
Total net assets	2,840,490	3,017,191
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<u><b>4,608,814</b></u>	<u><b>4,863,763</b></u>



## Statements of Financial Position

Audited Financial Statements are have been prepared by Riney, Hancock & Company., PSC and are available upon request.

<b>Unrestricted net assets:</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Revenues:		
Adoption and program fees	\$127,278	\$116,838
Contributions	621,519	537,746
Interest	4,364	10,310
Fundraising and special events	195,941	210,786
Gain on swap agreement	31,945	74,163
Miscellaneous fees and income	<u>13,015</u>	<u>6,792</u>
Total revenues	994,062	956,635
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>20,544</u>	<u>798,896</u>
Total revenues and support	<u>1,014,606</u>	<u>1,755,531</u>
Expenses:		
Program service	833,353	676,962
General and administrative	138,963	106,173
Fundraising	<u>196,014</u>	<u>176,854</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,168,330</u>	<u>959,989</u>
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	(153,724)	795,542
<b>Temporarily restricted net assets:</b>		
Contributions	5,093	71,232
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(20,544)</u>	<u>(798,896)</u>
Decrease in temporarily restricted net assets	(15,451)	(727,664)
<b>Permanently restricted net assets:</b>		
Change in value of beneficial interest in assets held by others	<u>(7,526)</u>	<u>123</u>
Increase (decrease) in permanently restricted net assets	<u>(7,526)</u>	<u>123</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(176,701)	68,001
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>3,017,191</u>	<u>2,949,190</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>2,840,490</u>	<u>3,017,191</u>

## What's Next?

The Vanderburgh Humane Society, Inc. continues to broaden our programs in order to better serve the people and animals of the Tri-State Area.

We are currently pursuing a long time goal of opening a low cost Spay/Neuter Clinic in the first quarter of 2007. This clinic will be the first of its kind in the immediate area and has a goal of altering 8,000 animals per year from the VHS, other community animal shelters and the general public.

Reducing the number of animals that come into area shelters is the only true way to reduce the senseless euthanasia that is currently necessary.

Using a model perfected by the Humane Alliance of Asheville North Carolina and partially funded by a grant from PetsMart Charities, this clinic will be just one more step in our goal to end euthanasia as a means of overpopulation control.



Also, the Vanderburgh Humane Society will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2007. To mark 50 years of service to this community, the VHS will hold our Anniversary Campaign. This campaign will assist the VHS open the spay and neuter clinic, finish the Charlotte Richardt building by completing the Center for Humane Education and so much more.

The 50th Anniversary will also feature a Coffee Table Book. Donors can have their portraits taken with their pets to be a part of this commemorative project.



The VHS thanks all of our donors and volunteers who make all of our work possible. We look forward to another 50 years of service to this community.



**Vanderburgh Humane Society**  
*50 Years of Lending a Helping Paw*

## 2005 Board of Directors / Admin. Staff

General Business Phone / Fax 812-426-2563

[www.vhslifesaver.org](http://www.vhslifesaver.org)

Maria Worthington, **President**

Kahn Dees Donovan & Kahn

Andrew Nestruck, **Vice President**

Bamberger Foreman Oswald & Hahn

Adele Bennett, **Secretary**

Registered Pharmacist (Deceased 2006)

Beth Florence, **Treasurer**

Vectren

Barbara Holmes

Community Volunteer

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