

**WOOD COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
1999 ANNUAL REPORT**

NOVEMBER 7, 1999

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Introduction

This is a proposal by the Wood County Humane Society (WCHS) to request funds from the Wood County Commissioners. The WCHS has been delegated the responsibility and authority to ensure the health and well-being of all animals (with a few exceptions), both wild and domestic, human and non-human, by the Ohio Revised Code. As one can imagine, the costs to perform this task are significant, both in personnel and in equipment. During the past few years, the WCHS has expanded its services, working hard to improve the well being of Wood County. We would like to continue our growth and expand our services. With assistance from the county, the WCHS will be able to:

- provide prompt investigations of abuse cases
- implement a spay/neuter campaign
- increase services to victims of domestic violence
- connect with at-risk citizens through pet therapy
- assist other community organizations

Shelter Report

The WCHS shelter was more efficient in 1999 than in 1998, providing services for over 80 more animals. Additionally, almost 50 more animals found homes through the shelter in 1999 than in 1998. The following records indicate how the WCHS served area animals at the shelter in 1999.

Intake

cats	236
kittens	231
dogs.....	85
puppies.....	48
smaller domestic animals	10
horse	1
Total.....	611

Adoptions

cats.....	187
kittens.....	204
dogs	70
puppies.....	50
smaller domestic animals	5
horse	1
Total.....	517

Other Outcomes

Claimed by Owner.....	12
Transferred to Another Agency	2
Euthanized	23
Died	41

The Humane Agent

The current WCHS staff includes a full-time executive humane agent, a part-time assistant humane agent, several part-time shelter employees, and many, many volunteers. An eleven-person working board oversees all WCHS operations. Our humane agent services have expanded significantly. A part-time humane agent has been added to assist the executive humane agent and better serve the needs of Wood County. This staffing change increases educational and investigative services and consequently leads to fewer calls for the county.

More services were provided last year because increased funds were available, which enabled the humane agent to more hours per week. The increased funds have provided a higher salary for our executive humane agent, and this gesture has helped us retain her services. Employee retention is crucial to the health of our organization, because it provides continuity among cases. Without retention, providing quality services to the county is problematic. Additionally, the county's funding has helped us provide proper training. With proper education, our employees make better decisions for the citizens of the county.

Cruelty Report

The WCHS's primary responsibility to Wood County is to address the animal cruelty cases. Our humane agents respond to reports of animal and human cruelty. It is important to note that human and animal abuse are linked (Refer to "Domestic Violence Program" on page 4), and a county that addresses animal cruelty simultaneously addresses potential violence toward humans. The WCHS is dedicated to improving the lives of all residents of Wood County, animal and human. In some cases we provide simple education and follow-up visits. This may be as simple as explaining why an animal should be provided shade and how to accomplish this. It may also take the form of educating our citizens of the need to spay and neuter. However, many times it is not that simple. It may be an embedded collar in a dog's neck. If necessary, we remove the animal, and in some cases we press charges. During 1999, our humane agents responded to the following cases:

Case Type	No. of Cases (not animals)	Cruelty Animals Housed
Education.....	108	Dogs..... 69
Unfounded.....	35	Puppies..... 14
Abandonment.....	13	Cats..... 14
Seizures.....	4	Kittens..... 9
Transfers to other agencies.....	32	Total..... 106
Total.....	192	

The WCHS provided food, housing, and medical care for all of these animals, with minimal restitution from their original owners.

Cruelty Cases

The WCHS spent a lot of time educating the citizens of Wood County during 1999. Mother Nature was particularly harsh; She levied a biting wrath to start 1999 and followed with a dry, hot summer. This kept our staff busy. Extreme heat and cold create emergency situations for neglected animals. The bulk of our cruelty investigation deal with neglected animals, but many cases are directly related to the well being of the citizens in the county. The following cases are examples of behavior that we see each year in Wood County:

North Baltimore: The WCHS staff closed 1998 and entered 1999 finishing up one of our biggest cases in years. After nearly a decade, an elderly woman finally succumbed to the WCHS's wishes and agreed to surrender over 40 dogs. The woman tried to provide a life for the dogs, most of which were dropped off on her property, abandoned by their owners. Most of the dogs were tied to 4-foot ropes and housed in makeshift shacks. Many suffered from malnutrition and disease. The WCHS sponsored an adopt-a-thon. The dogs were provided medical attention (costing over \$500). Then, the dogs were groomed. The event was well publicized (costing \$100). And finally, the dogs found new homes. It was a tremendous event.

Rural BG: Over a 6-month period, the WCHS responded to 5 calls naming the same woman. Each visit, the WCHS found new animals, and animals were removed. Eventually, 8 animals were removed from her feces-covered, 1-room apartment.

Rising Sun: In early 1999, we received a frantic call from the dog warden to respond to a multiple dog-death scene. Two dead puppies were found, with 7 other dogs roaming the property. The owner requested that we euthanize them. Instead, after medical treatment, we adopted them all out to new homes.

Rising Sun: The WCHS is prosecuting a case that involves the abuse of 3 dogs. The dogs were suspiciously thin, but the man claimed two had cancer and would not eat. When examined, the dogs were found to be malnourished, but cancer-free. At the WCHS shelter, each gained approximately 20 pounds in three weeks. The suspect has been involved in an earlier case where a horse was nearly starved to death.

Our humane agents' longevity and ability to resolve these cases can be directly attributed to the county's supplemental funding, which allows the WCHS to pay them a fair wage. It is our hope that with additional funds from the county, our humane agents will stay and serve Wood County for a long time.

Spay/Neuter Program

The WCHS is working to provide a spay/neuter program for feral cats and low-income families. However, before the money, which has been set-aside for the program, can be invested several changes are needed in the WCHS by-laws. These changes will be voted on at the 1999 annual meeting.

The purpose of the changes is to allow the WCHS to invest in the future. The WCHS has established the Ethel Amy Wilson Fund, which was named after Ms. Wilson following her generous donation of over \$30,000 to establish a fund to spay and neuter cats. The Board desires to invest these funds and use the proceeds to carry out Ms. Wilson's wishes. By not touching the principle this program can continue long into the future.

The goal is to spay or neuter every cat and dog in the county. It sounds farfetched, but other cities and counties have come close to this goal. Working in conjunction with our veterinarians, we believe that it can be accomplished in Wood County.

Feral farm cats will be trapped, fixed, and released after their recovery period. Low-income families will be able to apply at the shelter for a grant to spay or neuter their cats from the Ethel Amy Wilson Fund or to have their dog spay/neutered with other available funds.

Only by reducing the animal population can we truly make sure that every animal has an appropriate and loving home.

Community Outreach

The volunteer committee is responsible for the recruitment and some training of volunteers and the bulk of the WCHS's community outreach. Volunteers are encouraged to help at the shelter cleaning cat cages or dog kennels, walking the dogs, grooming or socializing with the cats. We also use volunteers for office work, grounds keeping, foster care, fund-raising, pet visitation and education. Much of the WCHS's mission involves reaching out to the community to help the human and animal citizens of the county. Our programs are outlined in this section.

Domestic Violence Program

The WCHS is proud to introduce its Safe Pets program. Working in cooperation with First Step, an area domestic violence shelter, we help people fleeing abusive homes by housing their pets. Many people hesitate to leave a pet with an abuser or regret abandoning a four-legged family member. Through our Safe Pet program, the WCHS provides temporary foster care for the pet while the person seeks new housing. Once the person is settled, the family can be reunited. This program helps the humans and the animals seek a better life.

Pet Therapy

The WCHS expanded its Pet Therapy program significantly. Through the program, WCHS volunteers visit at-risk populations with animals. Specifically, volunteers visit senior citizens, at-risk children, and home/hospital bound people. Currently we are visiting many area nursing homes in the Bowling Green and Perrysburg areas including Bowling Green Manor, Wood County Nursing Home, Heritage, Woodlane Behavior Therapy, Perrysburg Commons and Heartland of Perrysburg. Volunteers take a dog and cat to the nursing homes and visit residents in their rooms or in a common area. Last year approximately 30 volunteers participated in this program.

Additionally, we visited some of the area's pre-school programs to teach animal care to young children, but we are hoping to expand our program next year.

Dogs wag their tails, cats purr, and people smile. It's a great stress relief and catalyst for communication.

Community Service

The WCHS works hard to be a good neighbor. We believe that we help our organization by helping other organizations. We gain positive publicity and help other worthy causes at the same time. Some of the events are small fund-raisers for the WCHS; others are simply contributions to another organization that make Wood County a better place to live. Some of our local community service projects include:

- Working the tie-dye booth at the Black Swamp Festival
- Decorating for the Ohio-Ontario Game Carnival with the BG Jaycees
- Spooked people at the BG's Jaycee's Halloween Haunted Trail
- Answering phones during WBGU's and WGTE's pledge drives
- Decorating a room for the Wood County Historical Museum's Old Home Christmas

University Relations

The biggest resource in Wood County is BGSU. We have diligently built a relationship with BGSU students through the establishment of the on-campus group for BGSU students, Friends of the Wood County Humane Society. This group is beginning its second year. The on-campus group provided many volunteers for the shelter and for our fund-raising events throughout the year. Students and their advisor made over 20 visits to area dorms with animals, so that students could learn more about our organization and animal care.

WCHS Financial Status

For a small nonprofit organization, the WCHS is financially healthy. Several years of hard work are finally starting to translate into stability. This financial security is a direct result of a stable board, a quality staff, dedicated volunteers, efficient fund-raisers, investments, and an improved image within the community.

The operating income of the WCHS is a blend of fund-raising, memberships, service income (animal adoptions, memorials, surrenders), donations (contributions, sponsors), contract services, and investment income. When services are rendered to individuals, they are charged a fee, occasionally dependent on their ability to pay for those services. However, when a service is rendered to the general population – surrendered cruelty case animals, spaying and neutering of strays – those services are borne by the WCHS, unless the responsible political subdivision is willing to shoulder the burden. This usually takes the form of a contract between the subdivision and the WCHS to handle those cases within that subdivision's jurisdiction. In the special case of Wood County, however, the county has been willing to contribute additional monies to the WCHS, either for its general fund or for specific expenses.

The WCHS has some major financial obligations to meet in 2000. Perhaps the biggest concern is our truck; the lease ends in March. We will need to purchase a new truck, costing approximately \$20,000. Additionally, our shelter requires some maintenance, including lighting, pavement, and appliances. We have taken great care to ensure the funds will be available at the end of the first quarter.

The next three pages provide a copy of our budget.

Account Income	Q1		Q2		WCHS 1999 Budget Sept.		YTD	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Shelter Activities	20,930	21,211	4,870	6,758	1,625	533	27,425	28,502
Adoptions	3,900	3,813	4,500	5,338	1,500	513	9,900	9,664
Surrenders	150	105	150	175	50	20	350	300
Fines/boarding fees			0				0	0
Shelter Donations	120	242	120	475	40		280	717
Contracts	16,760	17,051	100	770	35		16,895	17,821
Fund Raising Events	7,800	10,810	5,800	4,804	5,000	4,336	18,600	19,950
Casino Night	0		0				0	0
Garage Sale	5,000	4,758	0	0	5,000	4,336	10,000	9,094
Golf Outing	0	825	5,800	4,729			5,800	5,554
Cat show	0	667	0	0			0	667
Walk-A-Thon	2,800	2,701	0	75			2,800	2,776
Photos with Santa	0	1,760	0	0			0	1,760
Holliday Donations	0	100	0	0			0	100
Other	11,940	8,432	11,965	32,795	2,330	1,038	26,235	42,264
Memberships	3,900	3,055	3,900	3,515	1,400	650	9,200	7,220
Amerifund	0		0	14,670			0	14,670
Donation Boxes	200	266	225	206	100	40	525	512
Kroger	1,050	1,140	1,050	780			2,100	1,920
Dividends/Interest	4,900	203	4,900	5,162	200	103	10,000	5,468
Corporate Sponsors	0	182	0	0			0	182
Truck lease sponsor	150	100	150	0	50		350	100
Donations	1,740	2,853	1,740	8,223	580	245	4,060	11,321
Soup	0	292	0	0			0	292
Misc.	0	341	0	239			0	579
Special	0	0	0	599	0	0	0	599
Spay & Neuter Fund	0		0	0			0	0
Misc. Organizations	0		0	599			0	599
Total	40,670	40,453	22,635	44,956	8,955	5,907	72,260	91,315

Account	WCHS 1999 Budget							YTD
	Q1	Q2	Sept.	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	
Expense								
Personnel	11,124	9,570	11,447	11,997	3,689	4,017	26,260	25,584
Training	120		0	0			120	0
Sr. Humane Agent/ Manager	5,280	3,752	5,280	4,192	1,760	1,154	12,320	9,098
Asst. Humane Agent Staff	1,680	424	1,720	493	580		3,980	917
Taxes	3,300	2,437	3,300	4,526	1,100	2,089	7,700	9,052
Misc. Compensation	744	2,906	1,147	2,583	249	774	2,140	6,264
	0	50	0	203			0	253
Animal Care	4,470	1,959	4,470	7,264	1,490	15	10,430	9,238
Cat Food	450	264	450	251	150		1,050	514
Dog Food	150	0	150	230	50		350	230
Litter	270	192	270	414	90		630	606
Equipment	750	306	750	535	250		1,750	841
Vet Services	900	272	900	1,097	300	15	2,100	1,384
Medicine/Drugs	1,800	919	1,800	4,731	600		4,200	5,650
Misc. supplies	150	6	150	6	50		350	12
Shelter Expense	4,660	2,069	4,660	6,092	120	77	9,440	8,237
Cleaning Supplies	150	526	150	64	50		350	589
Insurance	0	968	0	1,670			0	2,638
Building Maintenance	0	530	0	0		77	0	607
Office Supplies	210	36	210	48	70		490	84
Computer	0	0	0	0			0	0
Capital Improvements	0	10	0	0			0	10
Mortgage	4,300	0	4,300	4,310			8,600	4,310
Fund Raising	3,875	1,236	1,650	14,737	800	522	6,325	16,495
Casino Night	0		0	0			0	0
Garage Sale	800	700	0	96	800	522	1,600	1,318
Golf Outing	2,575	7	0	1,701			2,575	1,708
Kroger certificates	0	0	1,650	0			1,650	0
Cat Show	0	0	0	0			0	0
Walk-a-Thon	500	516	0	0			500	516
Photos w/Santa	0	0	0	0			0	0
Amerifund	0	0	0	12,533			0	12,533
Donation boxes	0	0	0	0			0	0
Thank you gifts	0	0	0	407			0	407
Misc. fundraising	0	13	0	0			0	13
Vehicle Expense	600	356	650	534	200	99	1,450	989
Misc. vehicle expense			50	0			50	0
Truck Payment	300	218	300	337	100	99	700	653

Account	WCHS 1999 Budget							YTD
	01		02		Sept.			
Truck Maintenance/ Repair	300	138	300	197	100		700	336
Truck Insurance	0	0	0	0			0	0
Utilities	1,830	1,375	2,280	1,281	760	487	4,870	3,143
Misc. Utilities			0	879		374	0	1,253
Gas	450	322	450	69	150	103	1,050	494
Electricity	300	217	750	0	250		1,300	217
Telephone	375	250	375	167	125	10	875	427
Trash Removal	300	480	300	101	100		700	582
Water	300	81	300	0	100		700	81
Animal Removal	60	0	60	22	20		140	22
Cell-phone	45	25	45	42	15		105	67
Other	1,850	2,313	1,850	1,457	400	11	4,050	3,782
Advertising-Shelter	150		150	475	50		300	475
Advertising-Other	0	0	0	0			0	0
Postage-Newsletter	300	603	300	0	100		700	603
Postage-Other	150	66	150	0			300	66
Printing-Newsletter	500	430	500	0			1,000	430
Printing-Other	675	770	675	949	225		1,575	1,719
Developing & Film	75	0	75	0	25		175	0
Awards	0	112	0	0			0	112
Bank Charges	0	16	0	33		8	0	57
Late Charges						3		3
Misc.	0	316	0	0			0	316
Special	0		0		0		0	0
Humane Issues	0		0				0	0
Licenses	0		0				0	0
Total	28,409	18,878	27,007	43,361	7,459	5,228	62,825	67,467
Revenue-Expense	12,261	21,575	-4,372	1,594	1,496	679	9,435	23,848

Funding Request

The WCHS requests the following assistance from the county:

1. Funding to be provided for Humane Agent: \$20,834.
This figure represents a 4% cost of living increase from last year.
2. Spay/Neuter Funds:
These funds would be used to fund a spay/neuter program for dogs (the WCHS's Ethel Amy Wilson fund is dedicated to cats only as defined by her bequeath) in Wood County, which would be administered by the WCHS during the Spring of 2000.

Accountability

Accountability of funds provided to the WCHS will be obtained in two ways. First, the board president will hold an annual meeting with the commissioners. Second, an annual detailed report, such as this one, will be presented to the county each year