



Maui Humane Society Impact Report

February 2024

Sheltering Statistics:

Totals for February	2024	2023	Difference
Total Intake	292	328	36 fewer
Adoptions	179	112	67 more
Returned to Owners	73	65	8 more
Owner Surrendered Pets	38	74	36 fewer
Strays Brought In	248	254	6 fewer
Returned to Field	59	32	27 more
Died in Care	5	4	1 more
Euthanized	34	33	1 more
Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed	815	636	179 more
Live Release Rate - Dogs	93%	94%	1% lower
Live Release Rate - Cats	91%	81%	10% higher
Live Release Rate - Other Species	89%	78%	11% higher
Average Length of Stay - Dogs	34	25	9 days longer
Average Length of Stay - Cats	46	20	26 days longer

February 2024 Overview:

- **Intake** - MHS took in 84 dogs, 180 cats, and 28 other animals in February and achieved a live release rate of 93% for dogs, 91% for cats, and 89% for other species.
- **Animals in custody** - At the end of February, there were 355 cats, 126 dogs, and 34 other animals in MHS custody, for a total of 515 animals, 72 fewer than the end of January.
- **February length of stay** - The average length of stay at the shelter was 34 days for dogs and 46 days for cats.
- **Foster care** - MHS sent 159 pets to foster homes in February, for a total of 336 animals and 205 active foster homes at the end of the month. During the month 29 animals were adopted directly from foster homes.
- **Volunteer program** - MHS had a total of 108 regular volunteers in February and welcomed 77 people for drop-in volunteer shifts, for a total of 3,165 volunteer hours.



- **Veterinary services** - Veterinarians performed 114 spay and neuter surgeries on shelter pets, 560 community cat spay and neuter surgeries, and 141 spay and neuter surgeries for publicly-owned pets. They performed an additional 90 non-spay/neuter surgeries.
- **Humane Enforcement** - Human Enforcement Officers received 282 calls for service and investigated 35 cruelty and neglect complaints. They also responded to 26 calls related to public safety and dangerous dogs.
- **Donations** - MHS received \$711,924 in donations in February.
- **Marketing** - Social media (FB and IG) reached 211,183 users; traditional media - 4,256,503; e-newsletter subscribers - 18,596 with an open rate of 45%.

Animals In and Out:

Intakes and Outcomes February 2024					
	Type	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
Intakes	Owner Surrender	13	23	2	38
	Stray	71	151	26	248
	Transfer In	0	6	0	6
	Total	84	180	28	292
Outcomes	Adopted	59	81	39	179
	Returned to Owner	27	45	1	73
	Return to Field	0	59	0	59
	Transfer Out	10	96	0	106
	Died in Care	1	3	1	5
	Euthanized	6	24	4	34
	Total	103	309	45	457



Fire Task Force February Updates:

- A total of 55 cats were rescued from the Lahaina burn zone in February, for a total of 771 cats since the August wildfires.
- 26 fire cats were reunited with their owners in February.
- 29 fire cats were adopted into new homes and 78 were transferred to partner organizations or rescue groups.
- A total of 60 cats were placed into the community through Operation Fire Cat Placement Program since this program was launched.
- At the end of February, 181 cats and 2 dogs from the Lahaina burn zone remained in MHS care.
- After many months of camera surveillance and tracking of individual cats, only two cats considered to be “at risk” remained in the Lahaina burn zone at the end of February. Other cats reported seen in the burn zone are being fed and cared for by residents and caretakers, or are entering and exiting from the perimeter where they are being fed and cared for.

Wildfire Statistics - February 2024					
	Type	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
Intakes	Owner Surrender	0	0	0	0
	Stray	0	55	0	55
	Total	0	55	0	55
Outcomes	Adopted	0	29	1	30
	Returned to Owner	0	26	0	26
	Transfer Out	0	78	0	78
	Return to Field	0	22	0	22
	Died in Care	0	0	0	0
	Euthanized	0	3	0	3
	Total	0	37	0	37
In Care	In Care	2	181	0	183

Veterinary Services:

Surgeries & Medical Procedures Performed in February 2024		
	Type	Total
Spay/Neuter	Public Animals	141
	Shelter Animals	114
	Community Cats	560
	Total Spay/Neuter	815
Other Surgeries & Procedures	Hope Fund	130
	Total Surgeries/Procedures	945
Medicine	Intake Exams	126
	DVM Exams	150
	Lahaina Clinic Patients Seen	133
	Public Animals Treated at MHS	51
	Total Cases	460

Fire Cat Sasquatch

Sasquatch was trapped on the perimeter of the Lahaina burn zone. Once he was sedated and examined, it was discovered that he had a fishing line encircling his right hind foot, causing his foot to be extremely painful & swollen. The foot was shaved and assessed, and although the tissue was swollen, it was warm and the blood supply was intact. Once shaved and the wound was explored, a sharp piece of bone was felt so x-rays were taken to check for fractures. The metatarsal bones were healthy but the bone had started to grow around the fishing line.



The line was cut and removed from the soft tissue and bone and the wound was cleaned well. A course of antibiotics and pain medication was started and he was housed in our TNVR villa for a week while vet staff and others monitored his recovery. Sasquatch was not comfortable with people so once he was fully healed, he was transferred to the Lanai Cat Sanctuary.





TNVR Spay/Neuter-a-thon

A mini MASH clinic was held February 19-20 with MHS staff, volunteers, and a visiting veterinarian and technician from Oahu. The goal for this clinic was to perform TNVR on cats from the perimeter of the Lahaina burn zone in an attempt to get ahead of kitten season, which is right around the corner. It was a great success with a total of 225 cats spayed and neutered.



Lahaina Pet Resource Center

The new Lahaina Pet Resource Center held its grand opening on February 7 with a traditional Hawaiian blessing ceremony. Located at 48 Ulupono St. in Lahaina, the Lahaina Pet Resource Center is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a free veterinary wellness clinic every Wednesday to serve West Side residents' pets. Both private veterinary clinics in Lahaina were lost in the August wildfires, and Maui Humane Society veterinarians and technicians will be onsite every Wednesday to provide much needed medical services to the animals of the West Side of Maui.



Hana Community Medicine Clinic

On February 2 our team headed to Hana for a mobile clinic at Hana Health. In addition to providing wellness care, vaccinations, and microchips, our 4EverPets team distributed food and supplies, and Humane Enforcement Officers provided licenses and support for animals needing special handling. Despite a heavy rainstorm, the team remained cheerful and were able to help 20 animals, including a kitten with a broken leg and a puppy who was found on the side of the road by a family that was attending the clinic with their own pets. Cold from being in the rain and very hungry, he was brought back to MHS and went straight to the veterinary department, where he was appropriately named "Rain."





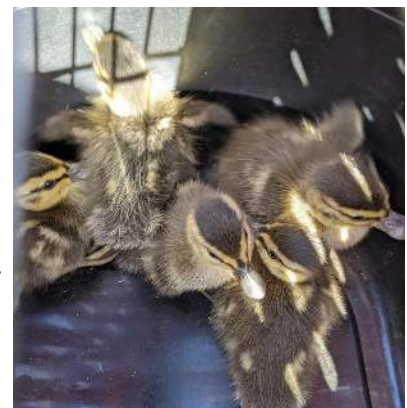
Humane Enforcement and Community Outreach:

- Officers responded to 55 fewer calls for service (a 19.5% decrease) in February 2024 compared to February 2023.
- There were 20% fewer cruelty investigations in February compared to a year ago while bite investigations were up 54%.
- Cat intakes by Humane Enforcement Officers were down by 72% while dog intakes were down by nearly 74%.

Humane Enforcement Stats	February 2024	February 2023
Calls for Service	282	337
Miles Traveled	7372	8927
Preventative Patrols	1039	923
Stray Animals Taken in by Officers	156	66
Cruelty Investigations	35	42
Bite Investigations	20	13
Intakes - Cats	18	31
Intakes - Dogs	38	66

Ducklings Rescued and Reunited!

Humane Enforcement Officers responded to a call of ducklings trapped inside a storm drain. When they arrived on the scene, they found a very distraught mother duck pacing back and forth around the drain. They were able to get the cover off and one officer went down into the drain with a net and caught the first three ducklings. Then the second officer went down to get the last two. All ducklings were placed in a carrier and the officers went in search of mother duck. They decided to sit quietly for a bit and mom finally made an appearance. They opened the carrier and let the ducklings out and they all started running in different directions. Once they saw mom, they all headed towards her, and the officers celebrated a great rescue success!



Dogs on the Mayor's Lawn

Humane Enforcement Officers participated in an event to support the Mayor's Office employee wellness program on February 7, by bringing adoptable dogs to the Lawn of the Kalana O Maui building at 200



S. High Street in Wailuku. The event was designed to provide support to staff who have been under stress by the additional workload from the recovery planning for the Lahaina Fires. This was the second



of three planned events, and over time we have learned that many County employees are animal lovers! The first event drew over 200 attendees including the Mayor and County Council members, and about 70 employees attended the second event. We are looking forward to the next event on March 20.



Volunteers:

- A total of 3,165 volunteer hours were accrued in February, for a value of \$110,775 in services.
- 42 new volunteers were onboarded in February and an additional 77 volunteers assisted with shelter needs through our “drop-in” volunteer program.

Volunteer Statistics February 2024	
Total volunteer hours served	3,165
Total value of service	\$110,775
Active volunteers	108
New volunteers onboarded	42
Drop-in volunteers	77
Drop-in volunteer hours	279
Active volunteer hours	2,887

Petco Mobile Adoption Event

On February 17, our Outreach Team along with a group of volunteers, hosted a Mobile Adoption Event at Petco in Kahului. During the two hour event about



50 customers stopped by to learn about our adoptable dogs and MHS programs and services. In addition to cats and kittens, we now have Guinea Pigs available for adoption at Petco.

A new information kiosk was set up this month inside the store with news about volunteering, fostering, spay/neuter, and our 4EverPets program.





Pet Wash at Maui Seaside Hotel

To help support fire survivors and their pets staying at the Maui Seaside Hotel, MHS volunteers coordinate a Pet Wash every three



weeks. Hotel management has been very supportive and they even make their own fliers to advertise the event to the hotel guests. Two of the residents, who are also MHS volunteers, assisted with the Pet Wash and the Donation Distribution Table at the event. A huge Mahalo to our dedicated volunteers who show up to help at these Pet Wash events!



4EverPets and Pet Retention:

MHS' 4EverPets Program stayed busy in February providing support and resources to low-income community members and others experiencing financial hardship.

- 202 families and 1,303 pets received support from 4EverPets in February.
- Surrender for 49 pets was prevented, thanks to support provided by the 4EverPets Program.
- 12,592 lbs of pet food were distributed at the shelter, 634 lbs at the Lahaina Pet Resource Center, and an additional 8,176 lbs in the community, for a total of 21,401 lbs of food distributed to the community, at no cost, through our 4EverPets program.
- 527 supplies were provided to the community including 73 collars, 7 crates/carriers, 19 harnesses, 44 leashes, 22 beds, 37 blankets, 110 toys, 127 flea meds, and more.

4EverPets Statistics - February 2024	
Number of families served	202
Number of animals served	1,030
Pounds of pet food provided at MHS	12,592
Pounds of pet food provided at Lahaina Pet Resource Center	634
Pounds of pet food distributed in the community	8,176
Pounds of cat litter provided	732
Number of other supplies provided	527
Number of animals deferred from surrender	49



Enrichment Activities and Outings:

Our Enrichment team stayed busy in February with Dog on Demand, Beach Buddies, Dog Playgroups, and individualized enrichment projects for every animal in the shelter, regardless of species. It takes a lot of work to provide dog outing programs to the community and visitors, and the in-shelter enrichment activities are especially important right now as our dogs are experiencing longer lengths of stay since the fires.

Enrichment Activities February 2024	
Dog activities	21
Dog playgroup sessions	20
Cat activities	11
Guinea Pigs & Rabbits	17
Total enrichment activities	69
Dog Outings February 2024	
Dog on Demand Pre-Registered	98
Dog on Demand Walk-Ins	44
Kama'aina Beach Buddies	38
Outreach Events	4
Maui County Office Dog Program	2
Total Outings	186

Foster Updates

- MHS placed 159 pets in foster homes in the month of February, and at the end of the month, 336 animals were housed in foster homes (113 cats, 182 dogs, and 41 other animals).
- At the end of February, there were 205 active foster caregivers.
- In February, 29 animals were adopted directly from foster homes into new homes.

Fostering Saves Lives

There is limited housing capacity for dogs at the shelter based on the number of kennels. Foster homes allow us to expand our capacity by placing animals in homes with community members. For some animals who do not do well in the shelter environment, foster homes are a lifesaving alternative. Bruiser is one such dog. He was brought to MHS back in November by a good Samaritan who found him running in Paia with a collar on but no other signs of ownership.



Although Bruiser received a lot of love and attention from MHS staff and volunteers, his mental health quickly deteriorated at the shelter. He refused medication and injured himself jumping and spinning in his kennel, trying to get out.

Our Paws To Adopt (PTA) program saved him, literally. Through PTA, a potential adopter can foster a dog to see if they are a good fit for each other. Bruiser went to two different PTA homes, neither of which turned out to be the right fit, but the second one decided to continue to foster him and promoted him through social media, where he found his next PTA home.

Within three days, they knew he was meant to join their ohana and Bruiser finally found his forever home!



Transfer Updates

- A total of 106 animals were transferred to partner shelters, rescue groups, and sanctuaries in February.
- 70 cats were transferred to Lanai Cat Sanctuary in February, 2 cats were transferred to a rescue group on island, and an additional 34 animals were transferred to partners on the continent.

Transfer Statistics for February			
Location	Cat	Dog	Total
Maui County	2	0	2
Lanai Cat Sanctuary	70	0	70
The Continent	24	10	34
Total	96	10	106

Maui Rescue Collaboration

MHS' Transfer team worked with the Good Cat Network, Honi Honi Cats, and Aloha Air Cargo to send 14 cats to Seattle Area Feline Rescue in February. This transfer included 10 adult fire cats and four kittens who were fostered for MHS by Honi Honi Cats. This was a successful cross departmental and cross island rescue collaboration to help 14 cats find their forever homes.

Lanai Cat Sanctuary Partnership

Following the August 2023 wildfires and subsequent rescue of more than 700 cats from the Lahaina burn zone, MHS signed an MOU with Lanai Cat Sanctuary to transfer 200 "outdoor-socialized" Lahaina community cats to LCS in exchange for 200 friendly Lanai cats to be adopted out through MHS' adoption and transfer programs over the next two years. This new partnership is providing





an alternative place for the Lahaina cats to go because they cannot be returned to the only home they have ever known - the streets and neighborhoods of Lahaina. Thanks to this partnership, these fire survivors have a place to spend the rest of their lives in a safe environment with food, medical care, and love.

On a personal note, I had the honor of serving as Lanai Cat Sanctuary's first veterinarian 12 years ago, back when there were just 375 cats living there (there are now close to 900). It's an incredibly special place, not only in my heart, but as a model sanctuary across the islands, the nation, and the world. If you haven't been there for a visit, you must. There is no place like it. Working there changed my life. It's where I discovered that my passion is to serve the animals who don't have a home, a voice, or an advocate. That's when I began the journey that has led me here today. To work with LCS again after all these years, and to be able to save hundreds of innocent lives, is what I wake up for every day. We are so very fortunate to have Lanai Cat Sanctuary nearby, as a safe haven for the Lahaina fire cats, and as a model for the rest of the world.



Lahaina Fire Cat "Launiupoko" settling in at the Lanai Cat Sanctuary

Submitted by,

Lisa Labrecque

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