



## Maui Humane Society Impact Report

March 2024

### Sheltering Statistics:

| Totals for March                  | 2024 | 2023 | Difference     |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|----------------|
| Total Intake                      | 258  | 312  | 54 fewer       |
| Adoptions                         | 147  | 121  | 26 more        |
| Returned to Owners                | 57   | 75   | 18 fewer       |
| Owner Surrendered Pets            | 23   | 55   | 32 fewer       |
| Strays Brought In                 | 217  | 248  | 31 fewer       |
| Returned to Field                 | 24   | 27   | 3 fewer        |
| Died in Care                      | 7    | 5    | 2 more         |
| Euthanized                        | 44   | 52   | 8 fewer        |
| Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed   | 461  | 617  | 156 fewer      |
| Live Release Rate - Dogs          | 94%  | 94%  | same           |
| Live Release Rate - Cats          | 73%  | 76%  | 3% lower       |
| Live Release Rate - Other Species | 60%  | 80%  | 20% lower      |
| Average Length of Stay - Dogs     | 36   | 25   | 11 days longer |
| Average Length of Stay - Cats     | 60   | 18   | 42 days longer |

### March 2024 Overview:

- **Intake** - MHS took in 86 dogs, 152 cats, and 20 other animals in March and achieved a live release rate of 73% for cats, 94% for dogs, and 60% for other species.
- **Animals in custody** - At the end of March, there were 114 dogs, 179 cats, and 28 other animals in MHS custody, for a total of 321 animals. This is 194 animals fewer than at the end of February.
- **Length of stay** - The average length of stay in custody was 36 days for dogs and 60 days for cats. For dogs, the LOS has decreased by 17% over last month. LOS for cats has



increased by 30% due to the last of the Lahaina fire cats waiting for catio placement or transfer to Lanai Cat Sanctuary.

- **Foster care** - MHS sent 147 pets to foster homes in March and has a total of 194 active foster caregivers. 24 animals were adopted directly from foster homes. At month end, there were a total of 157 MHS animals in foster homes.
- **Volunteer program** - MHS had a total of 90 regular volunteers in March and welcomed 65 people to drop-in volunteer shifts, for a total of 2,285 volunteer hours.
- **Veterinary services** - Veterinarians performed 62 spay/neuter surgeries on shelter pets, 272 spay/neuter surgeries for community cats, and 127 spay/neuter surgeries for owned pets. They performed 64 additional surgeries for shelter and owned pets.
- **Humane Enforcement** - Humane Enforcement Officers received 304 calls for service and investigated 29 cruelty and neglect complaints. They also responded to 21 calls related to public safety and dangerous dogs.
- **Donations** - MHS received \$288,228 in donations in March.
- **Marketing** - Social media (FB and IG) reached 162,634 users; traditional media - 8,803,054; e-newsletter subscribers - 18,568 with an open rate of 42%.

### Animals In and Out:

| Intakes and Outcomes March 2024 |                   |           |            |           |            |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
|                                 | Type              | Dogs      | Cats       | Other     | Total      |
| <b>Intakes</b>                  | Owner Surrender   | 9         | 9          | 5         | 23         |
|                                 | Stray             | 69        | 133        | 15        | 217        |
|                                 | Transfer In       | 0         | 10         | 0         | 10         |
|                                 | Born in Care      | 8         | 0          | 0         | 8          |
|                                 | <b>Total</b>      | <b>86</b> | <b>152</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>258</b> |
| <b>Outcomes</b>                 | Adopted           | 30        | 103        | 14        | 147        |
|                                 | Returned to Owner | 33        | 23         | 1         | 57         |
|                                 | Return to Field   | 0         | 24         | 0         | 24         |
|                                 | Transfer Out      | 18        | 24         | 0         | 42         |
|                                 | Died in Care      | 1         | 6          | 0         | 7          |
|                                 | Euthanized        | 4         | 32         | 8         | 44         |
|                                 | <b>Total</b>      | <b>86</b> | <b>212</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>321</b> |



### Fire Task Force March Updates:

On March 18, Neighborhood Cats reported having trapped the last known Lahaina fire cat, which is defined as a cat at risk in the burn zone. Over the course of seven months, the feeding/trapping teams working under the guidance of Neighborhood Cats successfully captured 617 fire cats and brought them to MHS care. An additional 68 cats were trapped, neutered/spayed, vaccinated and returned along the perimeter of the burn zone. We are incredibly thankful for the diligent efforts of Bryan Kortis and Susan Richmond, who led a dedicated team of feeders and trappers through this long endeavor.



*Last trapped firecat from the burn zone*

The Wailuku Annex, which has been housing Lahaina fire cats since last September, was officially closed on March 15 and the remaining cats were moved to MHS' shelter. Plans to find placement options for the remaining fire cats are in progress.

### Cumulative Fire Data (through end of March)

| Intake             |            |           |           |  |            |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--|------------|
| Intake Type (Cus.. | Cat        | Dog       | Other     |  | Total      |
| Surrender          | 15         | 5         | 4         |  | 24         |
| Stray              | 776        | 31        | 24        |  | 831        |
| Seized / Custody   |            | 16        | 16        |  | 32         |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>791</b> | <b>52</b> | <b>44</b> |  | <b>887</b> |

  

| Outcome           |            |           |           |  |            |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--|------------|
| Outcome Type (c.. | Cat        | Dog       | Other     |  | Total      |
| In Care           | 44         | 1         |           |  | 45         |
| Adoption          | 224        | 9         | 11        |  | 244        |
| Return to Owner   | 185        | 24        | 28        |  | 237        |
| Return to Field   | 36         |           |           |  | 36         |
| Transfer Out      | 243        | 15        |           |  | 258        |
| Died              | 5          |           |           |  | 5          |
| Euthanasia        | 23         | 3         | 5         |  | 31         |
| Admin Missing     | 31         |           |           |  | 31         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>791</b> | <b>52</b> | <b>44</b> |  | <b>887</b> |

  

| In Care           |     |     |   |  |       |
|-------------------|-----|-----|---|--|-------|
| Outcome Type (c.. | Cat | Dog |   |  | Total |
| In Care           | 44  |     | 1 |  | 45    |

  

| DOA                |     |     |       |  |       |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-------|--|-------|
| Intake Type (Cus.. | Cat | Dog | Other |  | Total |
| DOA                | 283 | 50  | 38    |  | 371   |



| Wildfire Statistics - March 2024 |                   |          |           |          |           |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|                                  | Type              | Dogs     | Cats      | Other    | Total     |
| Intakes                          | Owner Surrender   | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0         |
|                                  | Stray             | 0        | 4         | 0        | 4         |
|                                  | <b>Total</b>      | <b>0</b> | <b>4</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>4</b>  |
| Outcomes                         | Adopted           | 0        | 53        | 0        | 53        |
|                                  | Returned to Owner | 0        | 9         | 0        | 9         |
|                                  | Transfer Out      | 0        | 20        | 0        | 20        |
|                                  | Return to Field   | 0        | 4         | 0        | 4         |
|                                  | Died in Care      | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0         |
|                                  | Euthanized        | 1        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
|                                  | <b>Total</b>      | <b>1</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>87</b> |
| In Care                          | In Care           | 1        | 68        | 0        | 69        |

### March Wildfire Highlights

- Four cats were rescued from the Lahaina burn zone in March, believed to be the last four “at risk” cats remaining. 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.
- Nine fire cats were reunited with their owners in March.
- 53 fire cats were adopted into new homes and 20 were transferred to partner organizations or rescue groups in March.
- A total of 84 cats have been placed into the community with outdoor-adaptive housing through the Operation Fire Cat Placement Program since the program was launched.
- At the end of March, there were 35 cats from the Lahaina burn zone remaining in MHS care.
- Phase II of our Fire Response plan will commence in April, focusing on door-to-door outreach to families within the burn zone and along the perimeter who are caring for pets and cat colonies. This effort will allow our team to identify pockets of intact cats for TNVR services and offer food, supplies, and other support. This milestone was celebrated on social media with a [video recap](#) of the incredible work of MHS’ teams and the Fire Task Force.

**Veterinary Services:**

| Surgeries & Medical Procedures Performed in March 2024 |                                   |            |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------|
|  | Type                              | Total      |
| <b>Spay/Neuter</b>                                     | Public Animals                    | 127        |
|  | Shelter Animals                   | 62         |
|  | Community Cats                    | 272        |
|  | <b>Total Spay/Neuter</b>          | <b>461</b> |
| <b>Other Surgeries &amp; Procedures</b>                | Hope Fund                         | 102        |
|  | <b>Total Surgeries/Procedures</b> | <b>563</b> |
| <b>Medicine</b>  | Intake Exams                      | 146        |
|  | DVM Exams                         | 127        |
|  | Lahaina Clinic Patients Seen      | 49         |
|  | Public Animals Treated at MHS     | 5          |
|  | <b>Total Cases</b>                | <b>327</b> |

**Community Medicine Program**

- The Lahaina Pet Resource Center continues to serve community members on the Westside of Maui. MHS staff and volunteers are onsite five days a week to distribute pet food, supplies, and provide other assistance to those impacted by the fires as well as general residents. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Weekly free and low-cost veterinary clinics are held on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, depending on the week and current staff availability. The schedule is updated regularly on our [website](#).
- In March, mobile veterinary clinics were held in three new locations – two in Central Maui at the Hawaiian Canoe Club and Tent City, and one in South Maui at Kalama Park.
- During the month, a total of 228 patients received care through these clinics.





| Community Medicine Assistance  |            |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
|                                | February   | March      |
| Animals seen at mobile clinics | 133        | 228        |
| Animals seen at MHS            | 12         | 5          |
| Access to care procedures      | 39         | 5          |
| <b>Totals</b>                  | <b>184</b> | <b>238</b> |



### Samson

Samson, a 4-month-old puppy, came to our mobile veterinary clinic on March 20. He had sustained an injury one week prior and had not been to a vet. Samson was in a lot of pain and was unable to bear weight on his right rear leg. He was immediately prescribed pain medications and sent to our on-site clinic at MHS for x-rays.

Once at MHS, Samson was sedated for x-rays, which showed a severe fracture to his right femur, requiring amputation of the leg at the hip joint.



Surgery went well and he was neutered at the same time. Sadly, his owners decided to surrender him due to their uncertain living circumstances. Within a day of being made available for adoption, he went home with his new family!



### Update on Burn Kitty “CC”

CC came to MHS last August with severe burns to her paws and body from the Lahaina fire. She spent two months under the care of our veterinary team to treat her burns, before being reunited with her dad in October.

CC was readmitted to the hospital at the end of February for inappetence and a fever. She was placed on IV fluids and started on an appetite stimulant, antibiotics, and medication for pain and fever control. Diagnostic testing was performed, including x-rays, ultrasound, blood work, and a urinalysis. She was diagnosed with an infection called *Mycoplasma haemofelis*, which is carried by fleas. After successful treatment, CC was reunited with her owner and sent home with follow-up medications.



### Cirilla

This sweet 8-month-old kitten was found as a stray in early March up in Kula. Upon initial examination by our veterinary team, it was noted that she had a corneal ulcer and signs of an upper respiratory tract infection. When investigation for a possible polyp failed to reveal one, x-rays were taken and revealed a foreign object in her stomach. This came as a surprise as she was eating and drinking well despite being congested from the URI.



Cirilla had exploratory surgery on March 21. An incision was made in her stomach wall to remove the foreign object, which turned out to be a rubber bumper from the insert of an airfryer!

After a few days of recovery, here she is (at right) making (air fryer) biscuits!





**Mepala**

Mepala was found in a box at a park in Lahaina by an MHS Humane Enforcement Officer who brought her to the shelter for treatment. Upon arrival, Mepala was lying down and lethargic with a sweater on.



The sweater was removed to reveal deep lacerations under both of her arms and across her chest. She was also found to be severely emaciated and dehydrated. A fecal test was done and revealed both coccidia and roundworms. After just 24 hours of treatment, Mepala perked up and started to act like a puppy. She spent the next 11 days under the care of our veterinary staff and now resides



in a foster home until her wounds fully heal and she gains some weight. We hope she will be ready to go up for adoption soon.

**Humane Enforcement and Community Outreach:**

- Officers responded to 95 fewer calls for service (a 31% decrease) in March 2024 compared to March 2023.
- Overall miles traveled by officers in March were lower by nearly 20% compared to last year, but the number of preventive patrols increased by almost 10%.
- There were 55% fewer cruelty investigations in March compared to a year ago while bite investigations were up more than double.

| Humane Enforcement Stats           | March 2024 | March 2023 |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Calls for Service                  | 304        | 399        |
| Miles Traveled                     | 7,276      | 8,707      |
| Preventive Patrols                 | 1,054      | 961        |
| Stray Animals Taken in by Officers | 98         | 63         |
| Cruelty Investigations             | 29         | 53         |
| Bite Investigations                | 16         | 6          |
| Intakes - Cats                     | 36         | 36         |
| Intakes - Dogs                     | 48         | 54         |





## March Outreach Events:

### Furry Fridays Hawaii Technology Academy Kihei

The Hawaii Technology Academy invited MHS dogs to visit their students during lunch hour on Fridays. MHS staff teach the children how to safely approach the dog, pet and give treats, as well as beginning commands such as sit and lie down. Keiki ranging from K-6 grade come out in groups of 6-8 at a time, in classroom groups ranging from K-6. Each visit lasts about 15 minutes.



### Temporary Housing Resources Fairs

Wildfire Community Liaison Johnny represented MHS at four housing fairs in March, providing information and support for displaced Lahaina residents. These fairs were hosted by Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) and held at the Royal Lahaina resort, Westin Kaanapali, and Hyatt Kaanapali. Both FEMA-eligible and ineligible members of the community were invited to attend. MHS' goal was to understand how to fill the gaps within the current housing situation and share our programs with the community. The Hyatt event was especially well attended by families with pets. All total, MHS interacted with about 75 community members between the four fairs.



### Petco Mobile Adoption Event

A mobile adoption event was held at Petco on March 16. It was the first day of Spring Break and despite the very windy weather, many families stopped by to visit with the dogs.



During the two-hour event, MHS staff and volunteers visited with about 65 customers, answered questions about adoptable dogs, and MHS programs and services. Several people asked about spay/neuter, health certificates for moving with animals off island, volunteering at MHS, and fostering. Staff also shared information about the upcoming kitten season and opportunities for fostering.



## Volunteers:

### Marine Ocean Center Beach Clean Up with Dogs

On March 9, MHS staff and volunteers took three shelter dogs to Kealia Pond Boardwalk and Sugar Beach to join the Marine Ocean Center Beach Clean Up event. The intention was to provide the dogs with an opportunity to meet potential adopters among the event attendees, as well as to enjoy enrichment time on the beach. Each dog visited with approximately 20-25 people.





- A total of 2,285 volunteer hours were accrued in March, for a value of \$79,975 in services.
- 32 new volunteers were onboarded in February and an additional 77 volunteers assisted with shelter needs through our “drop-in” volunteer program.

| Volunteer Statistics March 2024 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Total volunteer hours served    | 2,285    |
| Total value of service          | \$79,975 |
| Active volunteers               | 90       |
| New volunteers onboarded        | 32       |
| Drop-in volunteers              | 65       |
| Drop-in volunteer hours         | 179      |
| Active volunteer hours          | 2,106    |

#### 4EverPets and Pet Retention:

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

| 4EverPets Statistics - March 2024                          |        |
|--|--------|
| Number of families served                                  | 162    |
| Number of animals served                                   | 955    |
| Pounds of pet food provided at MHS                         | 11,156 |
| Pounds of pet food provided at Lahaina Pet Resource Center | 634    |
| Pounds of pet food distributed in the community            | 4,981  |
| Pounds of cat litter provided                              | 1,004  |
| Number of other supplies provided                          | 494    |
| Number of animals deferred from surrender                  | 34     |



- 162 families and 955 pets received support from 4EverPets in March.
- Surrender for 34 pets was prevented, thanks to support provided by the 4EverPets Program.
- 11,156 lbs of pet food were distributed at the shelter, 634 lbs at the Lahaina Pet Resource Center, and an additional 4,981 lbs in the community, for a total of 16,802 lbs of food distributed to the community, at no cost, through our 4EverPets program.
- 527 supplies were provided to the community including 36 collars, 6 crates/carriers, 17 harnesses, 31 leashes, 32 beds, 19 blankets, 59 toys, 154 flea meds, and more.

### Enrichment Activities and Outings:

Enrichment activities and outings play a vital role in enhancing the well-being and quality of life for our shelter animals. These activities are used in many trending shelters, providing mental stimulation, physical exercise and social interaction which are essential for their overall health and happiness. As we strive to alleviate boredom, reduce stress, and allow animals to experience behaviors natural to them, our team stays very busy.



| Enrichment Activities March 2024   |            | Dog Outings March 2024         |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Dog activities                     | 17         | Dog on Demand Pre-Registered   | 104        |
| Dog playgroup sessions             | 25         | Dog on Demand Walk-Ins         | 40         |
| Cat activities                     | 8          | Kama’aina Beach Buddies        | 33         |
| Office Time (includes dogs & cats) | 116        | Outreach Events                | 4          |
| Guinea Pigs & Rabbits              | 19         | Maui County Office Dog Program | 0          |
| <b>Total enrichment activities</b> | <b>185</b> | <b>Total Dog Outings</b>       | <b>181</b> |

### Foster Updates:

- MHS placed 189 pets in foster homes in the month of March, and at the end of the month, 157 animals were housed in foster homes (79 cats, 60 dogs, and 18 other animals).
- At the end of March, there were 195 active foster caregivers.
- In March, 24 animals were adopted directly from foster homes into new homes.

### Transfer Updates:

- A total of 42 animals were transferred to partner shelters, rescue groups, and sanctuaries in March.
- 24 cats were transferred to Lanai Cat Sanctuary in March and 18 dogs were transferred to partners on the continent.

| Transfer Statistics for March |           |           |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Location                      | Cat       | Dog       | Total     |
| Maui County                   | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Lanai Cat Sanctuary           | 24        | 0         | 24        |
| The Continent                 | 0         | 18        | 18        |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>24</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>42</b> |

### Final Feel Good Story

Cookie arrived at MHS as a 4-month-old kitten with an upper respiratory infection. She was placed in a foster home to recover and despite undergoing multiple rounds of antibiotics, there was little to no improvement. She was checked for a suspected throat polyp at time of surgery but instead of a polyp, she was found to have a deformation of her upper palate (roof of mouth), causing ongoing/chronic infection and congestion. Cookie will suffer from lifelong nasal congestion. Thankfully, her foster caretaker chose to adopt Cookie as an emotional support animal, as she has developed major anxiety after the fires and caring for Cookie had improved her anxiety dramatically. Adoption was finalized the following day after her Cookie was spayed!



Submitted by,

*Lisa Labrecque*

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