



PAWS 2009 Report to the Community



*Trisha visits
with John and
Annette.*

A Message from John Rubino and Annette Laico

We are pleased to present *PAWS Report to the Community* for 2009. In the following pages you will find a summary of the work we were honored to perform last year on behalf of the animals and the people of our community. You'll see that the lives touched by PAWS number in the thousands, yet so often the stories of individual animals are what move us the most and bring PAWS' work to life.

Such is the case with Oliver and the other dogs and puppies rescued from a puppy mill last spring. As you likely recall from the news, the cruelty they endured was horrible, but with the new lives they found through PAWS, many are thriving in loving homes. Also consider the story of the poisoned Bald Eagles too weak to lift their heads when they were brought to PAWS Wildlife Center. Because our wildlife veterinarians were there to provide expert medical care, these majestic birds are flying free again.

Annette and John spend some time with Trisha, a spirited, six-year-old Pointer mix. Full of life, love and joy, Trisha, like the many other dogs who come to PAWS, receives excellent care and attention while waiting for the perfect, loving family to call her own.

These stories of triumph over adversity have happy endings only because of your steadfast support. Your generous donations mean a second chance for animals today, as well as hope for a better tomorrow through PAWS' humane education and outreach work.

You will also see how we value and respect your financial support by wisely using your investment. While the economy has witnessed dramatic ups and downs these past few years, PAWS remains financially stable due to our conservative fiscal policies and careful stewardship. Together we ensure that the animals and people hit hardest by tough times will always have a place to turn.

Thank you for helping us help animals and for your compassion and support in this life-saving work.

With heartfelt thanks,



John Rubino
President, PAWS Board of Directors



Annette Laico
Executive Director

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With special attention at PAWS Cat City, Hannah came out of her shell.

42 Years of People Helping Animals

For more than four decades, PAWS has led the way in providing expert, compassionate care for animals in need. We build community partnerships that are vital to making a kinder, safer world for animals and people. Day in, day out, we work with fellow animal organizations, dedicated volunteers, community leaders, compassionate citizens and generous donors. In 2009 we improved the lives of thousands of animals in our care, and of countless others in our community.

Here are a few highlights that you helped make possible in 2009:

- PAWS found new loving homes for 2,284 companion animals, and reunited another 368 lost cats and dogs with their joyful guardians.

When Hannah first came to PAWS Cat City, our satellite adoption center in Seattle's Greenwood neighborhood, she was shy and intimidated by the older cats in the colony rooms. To help her feel more at ease, and to burn off some of her youthful energy, staff and volunteers put her with the younger kittens. In her element, Hannah's personality blossomed and quickly landed her a home to call her own.

- We took in 2,536 sick, injured and orphaned wild animals. Of the animals in treatment, 43 percent were successfully returned to the wild by year's end.
- PAWS volunteers gave more than 50,000 hours to the animals. This generous gift of time and energy equates to approximately 24 full-time employees.
- To provide volunteer opportunities for the numerous requests we get from youth, we started the Youth Work Party program. Throughout the year, young animal lovers and their parents worked together to maintain the dog walking trail on the PAWS' campus, helped with projects to provide enrichment for the wild patients at PAWS Wildlife Center, and participated in a variety of other activities.
- In May, we adopted the 10,000th cat from PAWS Cat City, our satellite adoption center in Seattle's Greenwood neighborhood. Amanda, a 10-week-old kitten went home with her new family. More than 57 percent of all cats at PAWS were adopted through Cat City in 2009.
- The City of Mill Creek became the fifth community to contract with PAWS for sheltering stray and abandoned cats and dogs from the city, joining Brier, Lynnwood, Mukilteo and unincorporated Snohomish County.

Our Mission

PAWS advocates for animals through education, legislation and direct care.

Our Vision

PAWS is the leading voice for animals in Washington State and a recognized leader in the nation for its progressive outreach and education programs, legislative work, and premier wildlife rehabilitation and companion animal services. Through many collaborative relationships with organizations and individuals, PAWS is making a better world for animals. PAWS envisions this world to be a place where all people recognize the intrinsic value of animal life, are mindful of the impact of their daily behaviors and choices on animals, and consistently demonstrate compassion and respect.



Oliver, who was rescued from a puppy mill, now enjoys his life as a well-loved companion.

Caring for Animal Companions

Making that perfect match between a pet who needs a home and someone seeking companionship is one of the most rewarding things we do at PAWS. We provide refuge for thousands of homeless, lost and orphaned cats and dogs, placing them in good homes or reuniting them with their families. Because of the generosity of our supporters, we are able to ensure the highest level of care, including nourishing meals, playtime, medical treatment and basic training. In 2009:

- PAWS surpassed our goal for providing low-cost spay and neuter surgeries to pets of qualifying low-income households, spaying and neutering 361 animals. This crucial service prevents hundreds of unplanned and unwanted litters.

Oliver spent his first day in foster care trying to be invisible—hiding in plain sight in a corner, wide eyes full of fear. Oliver is one of the American Eskimo Dogs PAWS took in from a cruel puppy mill. After two years in a cage without a kind word or a chance to have his paws touch real grass, he wasn't sure what to do. But within weeks of arriving at PAWS, Oliver showed how resilient the spirit can be. That's when Sandy and Marc adopted him. Oliver now is full of boisterous tail wags and kisses, and is living the life he deserves full of toys, playtime and lots of love.

- Through our Placement Partner Program we transferred in 506 cats and dogs from other facilities—145 more than in 2008—to relieve crowding and give the animals a fresh chance at finding homes.

- In addition to more than 1,800 spay and neuter surgeries, our medical team performed 146 specialty surgeries and procedures, helping to heal and improve the adoptability of the animals in our care who have special medical needs.

- In late spring, PAWS took in 34 American Eskimo Dogs who were confiscated from a horrendous puppy mill operation near Kennewick, Washington. The dogs had spent their entire lives in filth, deprived of basic needs. After receiving essential medical care, grooming and much-needed socialization in loving foster homes, our expert matchmakers found gentle, understanding homes for every dog.

- In response to King County's announcement that it planned to close its animal shelter, PAWS reached out to five northern King County cities to provide sheltering services for cats and dogs from these communities. Throughout the year, the County and other cities also looked to us for our expertise and advice on creating successful public/private partnerships.

Our Year in Review

- 3,144 companion animals cared for
- 1,862 spay/neuter surgeries performed
- 1,217 animals placed in foster homes
- 87 percent of companion animals saved

Cats Served

Received stray	1,111
Guardian surrendered/transferred in	761
Adopted/rescued	1,533
Lost cats returned to guardian	50

Dogs Served

Received stray	625
Guardian surrendered/transferred in	647
Adopted/rescued	891
Lost dogs returned to guardian	318

PAWS does not euthanize healthy, adoptable cats and dogs. In 2009, 393 cats and dogs—whose acute injury, illness or behavior rendered them unadoptable—were humanely euthanized.



PAWS returned this orphaned beaver to the wild after taking care of her for more than a year.

Healing Our Wild Neighbors

PAWS' wildlife rehabilitation and veterinary team continued to rise to the challenge of providing specialized and superior care for an extraordinary variety of wildlife. From owls and deer fawns, to bear cubs and herons, each species has its own unique needs. The goal for our wild patients is to help them become healthy and strong enough to survive on their own, so we can return them to the wild where they belong.

- In February, six Bald Eagles had been found nearly lifeless on the ground in Enumclaw, apparently suffering secondary poisoning from scavenging a horse who had been euthanized and improperly buried. As the only

In the spring, PAWS took in two unrelated baby beavers who lost their mothers. While it was tragic the kits were orphaned, we were relieved that we had two to raise together. Beavers are sensitive creatures who rely on a solid family unit. With each beaver weighing only a pound, wildlife rehabilitators gave them a toy beaver to cling to during supervised swims, and bottle-fed the tiny creatures until they were weaned onto solid food. As the beavers grew, staff built them an artificial lodge, and using mud, sticks and branches provided in their enclosure, the beavers fortified and remodeled the lodge to their liking. Over the course of 13 months, the kits thrived and gained close to 30 pounds each. With joy, we released them on an 800-acre preserve in Tenino.

wildlife rehabilitation center in Washington State equipped with in-house, immediate and continual veterinary expertise and services, PAWS was able to provide the critical care these birds needed.

- In the fall, PAWS took in more than 100 seabirds who were stranded and starving on the Washington and Oregon coast. They had been affected by a toxic algae bloom that left them unable to float, forage for food, or stay warm. For more than two weeks, staff and volunteers worked 15-hour days in a race against time to rehabilitate these fragile birds. Thanks to the generous support of the community and partnering agencies, we sent many healthy birds back out to sea.

- PAWS is one of two wildlife rehabilitation centers in Washington State legally allowed to rehabilitate Harbor Seals. In 2009, we took in 10 of these federally protected marine mammals, giving each expert, specialized care.

- We provided intensive hands-on training and mentoring to 16 veterinary and rehabilitation students who worked side-by-side with PAWS staff during the busy spring and summer seasons. PAWS has been the only wildlife rehabilitation center in Washington State to offer this level of opportunity to future professionals in wildlife medicine and rehabilitation.

Our Year in Review

- 2,536 animals of 146 species cared for
- 43 percent of animals treated and rehabilitated were released
- 16 veterinary and rehabilitation students trained
- More than 1,100 surgical procedures performed

Wild Animals Served

1,600 birds, 933 mammals 1 reptile and 2 amphibians	2,536
Animals rehabilitated and released	731
Deceased on arrival	85
Died despite care	541

In 2009, PAWS provided release from suffering through humane euthanasia for 1,110 wild animals whose injuries, illnesses or circumstances precluded treatment and release to their native habitat.

PAWS at Work

(Below) After receiving care for a broken leg at PAWS, this young coyote now runs freely in the wild.



(Right) During the busy summer months, orphaned wild animals, such as these Mallard ducklings, fill PAWS Wildlife Center.



(Far right) A group of Boy Scouts play the "Shrinking Habitat" game at a new PAWS Kids Workshop, to learn about the challenges animals face for survival.



(Left) Before they are ready for adoption, more than a thousand sick and under age kittens and puppies receive tender loving care from PAWS' foster care volunteers.

(Below) PAWS' veterinarian Dr. Darlene DeGhetto checks the health of a newly admitted orphaned Black Bear cub.



(Left) Special netting helps protect the delicate feet and chest of seabird patients, like this Western Grebe, while resting out of the water.



(Above) This young Bobcat peeks cautiously from behind a log in his enclosure. To ensure the wild animals in our care remain wild, PAWS' wildlife team practices a hands-off approach.



(Above) In order to make their stay more comfortable at PAWS, staff and volunteers provide the dogs and cats a warm place to rest, toys and treats.



PAWS teaches kids about the wonders of wildlife through hands-on workshops.

Empowering Our Community through Education and Advocacy

PAWS strives for a world where individuals make daily choices that show compassion and respect for the animals around them. Through our interactive classroom and workshop experiences, we nurture children's natural empathy for animals. We teach people how to co-exist peacefully with the wildlife that abounds in the Northwest through practical, humane tips for preventing conflicts. We build a network of animal advocates and use our combined voices to speak up for animals who cannot speak up for themselves.

- Through our *Actionline* e-newsletter, testimony at hearings and partnerships with fellow animal organizations, PAWS garnered support for an important Washington State bill to help protect dogs from unscrupulous breeders and mass breeding facilities. Thanks to compassionate citizens, the bill passed, now

At one of the new Wild Wonders workshops, young, inquisitive attendees gathered around PAWS' humane educator to get a closer look at the owl wings, hawk talons and other wildlife artifacts. Combining these artifacts with the animals' stories engages the kids' senses and sparks their curiosity. This enables them to hear, connect with and remember the messages of respecting wild animals and keeping them wild.

limiting the number of breeding dogs a person can have, and requiring minimum standards of care including access to clean food and water, exercise, proper housing, veterinary care, and protection from extreme weather conditions.

- We developed two unique kids workshops to add to our humane education suite of programs. Crazy About Cats and Canines and Wild Wonders are filled with hands-on activities and games to teach children responsible pet care, respect for wildlife and the environment, and compassion for all animals.

- PAWS' Kids Who Care program, which started in 2000, continued to grow, adding new schools and a special education class. This six-week, in-depth course taught in elementary schools covers a range of topics to inspire youth to live more humanely and share what they've learned with their own families and communities—expanding the reach of our educational messages even further.

- Throughout the year, PAWS' knowledgeable staff and volunteers connected with thousands of people at 37 community events, a 37 percent increase from 2008. We promoted spaying and neutering, encouraged adoption from shelters and rescue groups, and offered tips on peacefully co-existing with wildlife.

Our Year in Review

- 3,431 kids and teens empowered by messages of compassion for animals through our youth education programs
- 7,500 callers helped with concerns about injured and orphaned wild animals, and humane solutions for wildlife conflicts
- 7,636 callers assisted with helping stray and abandoned companion animals, reporting animal cruelty, and adopting a new pet

2009 Financials

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,348,610
Receivables	115,211
Other current assets	77,384
Total current assets	1,541,205

Property and equipment, net **610,568**

Other assets

Investments	3,455,754
Real property held for investment	9,880
Remainder interests in trusts	1,493,952
Restricted investment	100,000
Total other assets	5,059,586

TOTAL ASSETS **\$7,211,359**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities

Accrued expenses	\$190,382
Deferred revenue	6,650
Current portion of mortgage payable	14,319
Total current liabilities	211,351

Long-term liabilities

Mortgage payable	106,755
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TOTAL LIABILITIES **318,106**

Net assets

Unrestricted	1,508,166
Board designated funds	2,814,030
Board designated endowment	977,105
Temporarily restricted	395,000
Permanently restricted	1,198,952
Total net assets	6,893,253

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **\$7,211,359**

Statement of Activities

REVENUE

Public support

Donations	\$1,271,350
Bequests	1,853,632
Special events revenue, net	486,109
Grants	33,208

3,644,299

Revenue

Adoption fees	206,238
Animal receiving	57,079
Animal related services	52,961
Municipal contracts/pet license fees	197,313
Retail sales	21,305
Miscellaneous revenue	1,428
Investment income	256,424
Change in value of perpetual trust	52,298

845,046

TOTAL UNRESTRICTED PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES **\$4,489,345**

EXPENSES

Program services

Companion Animal Services	\$1,179,225
Wildlife Center	815,454
Education and Advocacy	385,288

Total program services **2,379,967**

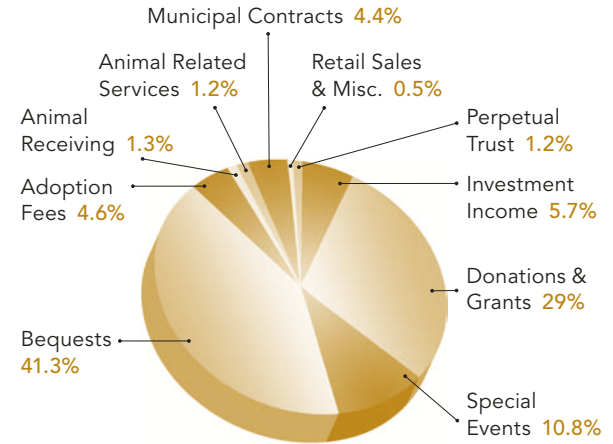
Supporting services

Fundraising and Events*	586,742
General and Administrative	120,593

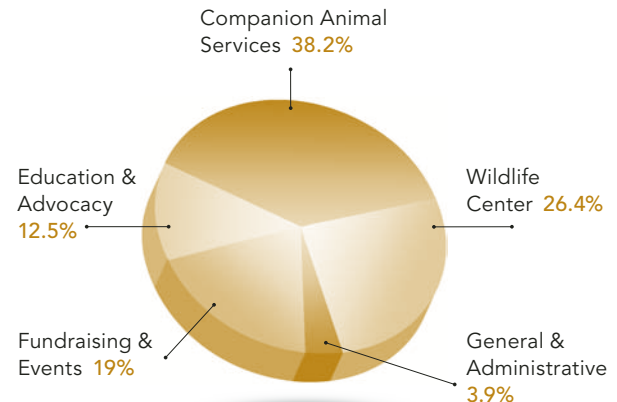
TOTAL EXPENSES **\$3,087,302**

*Includes capital campaign feasibility study.

REVENUE



EXPENSES





Compassion in Action

These success stories from 2009 would not be possible without the support of our generous donors. Every gift is appreciated and put to work immediately to impact the animals entrusted to PAWS. In this Report to the Community we list donors whose gifts totaled \$500 or more. To our growing family of supporters, thank you for sharing your compassion and for investing in PAWS' life-saving mission.

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A Legacy of Kindness

PAWS is honored by every individual who joins our Visionary League by making provisions in their estate plans to help animals. In 2009, gifts from the following visionaries were realized. The kindness of their thoughtful legacy lives on through our daily work.

Katherine Alonso
 John and Dorothy Brown
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