

Community Medicine at Seattle Humane Connects More Than Pets

Seattle Humane's Community Medicine program provides affordable and accessible wellness care to pets around the region. We believe all people and pets deserve access to care. Our state-of-the-art medical facility and veterinary team, supported by compassionate volunteers, serve thousands of pets annually here on campus, and at the same time our Community Medicine, Pet Resource Center and Behavior teams provide direct access to care and resources in underserved neighborhoods throughout the Pacific Northwest. This innovative and holistic approach to care is changing the landscape for pet owners seeking resources to help keep their pets happy and healthy at home. Along the way we are strengthening and building new partnerships in the community and laying the groundwork for our Vision 2026 strategic plan.

We are proud to report between
January and June 2023, our
veterinary services team performed:

3,300+

exams for shelter pets

2,000+

heartworm tests, feline leukemia
tests and microchipped pets

10

community vaccine and wellness
clinic events serving over 250 pets
and still growing!



This pup was one of 71 pets who received care at an event in July 2023 at Pet Place Market in North Bend, Washington. Many of the pets seen had yet to visit a veterinarian due to financial constraints.

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Kaitlyn O'Neel

Veterinary Social Worker



Thanks to support from PetSmart and their Incubator Grant program, Seattle Humane hired a veterinary social worker (VSW) in June 2023. Kaitlyn O'Neel has been busy getting to know the organization and building relationships in the community as a champion for pets and their people.

The VSW position is a leading-edge approach to help strengthen the human-animal bond in various medical settings, including clinics, hospitals, shelters and even in people's homes. A veterinary social worker also serves to support veterinary staff in emotionally demanding workplaces and support clients as they navigate the medical needs of their pets and access to veterinary care.

The primary goal of this new position is to build and create authentic and long-lasting partnerships within our community (housing facilities, community centers, etc.) and partner with local human and animal services groups to provide guidance on establishing pathways to access Seattle Humane's critical resources. Through this approach, we can better understand how to deliver services most efficiently by meeting communities where they are.

Welcoming a key connector like Kaitlyn is one part of the journey for Seattle Humane's Vision 2026: Supporting Pets for a Lifetime.

Learn more about our Vision Map action plans and strategic priorities online at vision2026.seattlehumane.org.

“With the trends we’re seeing—evictions on the rise, more pets being surrendered than adopted, increased length of stays at shelters—I’m excited to contribute a social work perspective to building relationships to work together to address these challenges and become the pet-centric community center we envision.”

Kaitlyn O'Neel
Seattle Humane Veterinary Social Worker

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

With shelters seeing an increase in animal surrenders, organizations across the country continue to evolve to provide complementary support services. Seattle Humane does this primarily through our Pet Resource Center, which serves the region by partnering with our Community Medicine and Behavior teams and helping pets and their people directly with programs like our Pet Food Bank, Pet Owner Assistance and Polly's Pocket Funds and SPOT temporary foster program.



Seattle Humane’s Pet Food Bank

Seattle Humane’s Pet Food Bank started in 1983 with 15 volunteers and a \$500 donation, and since then has provided vital pet food for the past forty years. Through growing and expanding community partnerships that include local food banks, churches and senior centers, the Pet Food Bank continues to be a crucial resource for our region. Joined by committed Pet Food Bank volunteer drivers, packers, partners and donors, we delivered more than **ONE MILLION meals**, serving more than **23,000 clients** over the past 12 months.

Did you know pet food bank service increases an average 25% in the winter months? Seattle Humane’s Pet Food Bank served more than 11,000 clients from December 2022 to February 2023.

How can we meet this increased food demand for pets and their people?

PET FOOD BANK HIGHLIGHTS

- Seattle Humane distributed nearly **200 GOOD packs**, received through Greater Good Charities and distributed through a new friend and community partner, Hopelink, in February 2023. These packs provide survival and comfort supplies in times of crisis, with modular subpacks to serve pets, children, disaster victims, military veterans and families with food insecurity.
- Last fall, the Pet Food Bank established walk-up hours to improve access to our community resources.
- Pet Food Bank staff partnered with the Community Medicine team for a free clinic hosted with new friends at Pet Place Market in North Bend, Washington. Over **70 pets** received vaccinations and free pet food and supplies.
- New partnerships with local food banks have been established over the past year, including Kent Food Bank, Noel House in Seattle, Federal Way Food Bank and Concern for Neighbors in Mountlake Terrace. Pet food continues to be in high demand at local food banks.
- With over **90 partners**, the Pet Food Bank is a key component of Seattle Humane’s position as the region’s pet resource center, a major theme of our Vision 2026 work.

Learn more about Seattle Humane’s Vision 2026 at www.vision2026.seattlehumane.org.

Adoptions

Seattle Humane's Adoptions team completed over **5,500 families** over the past year by connecting deserving pets with loving homes. At Seattle Humane, we believe every animal deserves a loving family and pets will stay with us until they are adopted—no matter how long it takes. While in our care, they receive TLC, medical care and behavioral support from our various teams and dedicated volunteers to set them up for success with their new families.



In the 1930s, Seattle Humane became responsible for animal control in King County and the City of Seattle. Today, we continue to provide adoption services for thousands of pets annually.



Cuddly Kiki the Cat

"We weren't expecting to adopt that day when we came, but after spending time with Kiki in her holding cage, we knew we couldn't go home without her. Kiki is the sweetest cat we've ever met. She loves to sit in our lap for cuddles and brushing and loves a good old chin scratch! We are so happy with our experience here. The staff and building are so nice! It was our first time adopting from Seattle Humane, and if we get more pets in the future, we will definitely come back here. Giving cat food, her cat blanket, and a coupon to the vet was such an awesome starter gift. Thank you!"

Did You Know?

Nearly 55% of our shelter animals are in foster care with our dedicated community of Seattle Humane foster families while waiting for new, loving homes.

Pet adoption studies show that dogs in foster care are rated more playful, happier, friendlier to people and more confident than dogs in the shelter. Dogs were less insecure and anxious and displayed less barking and repetitive behavior.

Seattle Humane's **LEGACY CHALLENGE** — For the Next 125 Years —

Join our Legacy Challenge by including Seattle Humane as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement or other financial account. Your planned gift helps ensure that Seattle Humane continues its mission of saving lives, completing families and keeping pets with the people who love them for generations to come.

