Over 300 party animals packed the house for the 21st Annual Tropical Paws at the Four Seasons Hualalai.

We are incredibly thankful for the generosity of our Tropical Paws sponsors, donors and attendees who raised $224,589 for the animals on Hawaii Island.

MAJOR SPONSORS

Huggo's

TROPICAL PAWS 2017
Aloha Friends,

Compassion. Commitment. Capacity. These are the values we employ to better the lives of animals on Hawaii Island.

Compassion — Our employees are the kindest, most considerate people who provide endless care every day. Our team continues to do the job of improving animal welfare, of advocating for those without a voice, on Hawaii Island.

Commitment — Dedication runs deep at Hawaii Island Humane Society. We could not accomplish what we do without volunteer support. Volunteers enhance animal care by spending quality, one-on-one time with our four-legged friends at our shelters. Foster families for litters of kittens or puppies are vitally important, particularly this time of year.

Capacity — We have experienced incredible growth — be it behind-the-scenes planning that readies us for expansion at our new Animal Community Center in Kona, or the addition of veterinary staffing to help service immediate animal needs. Reducing the number of animals that arrive at our shelters can only be sustained through spay/neuter initiatives. We also continue to innovate to increase our outreach in communities such as Ocean View and Puna.

Thank you for your continued support!

Donna Whitaker
Executive Director
Hawaii Island Humane Society

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FIRST QUARTER STATS

638 DOGS ADOPTED
281 CATS ADOPTED
26 CRITTERS ADOPTED
262 ANIMALS REUNITED WITH OWNERS
80 ANIMALS TRANSPORTED OFF ISLAND
1,389 HIHS SPAY NEUTER SURGERIES PERFORMED

Kona Shelter
74-6225 Queen Kapiolani Hwy, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
329-1875
Mon – Sat 9:00am – 5:30pm

Waimea Shelter
67-1611 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kamuela, HI 96743
885-4698
Mon – Sat 8:30am – 3:30pm

Keaau Shelter
16-873 Keemau Pukowei Hwy, Keaau, HI 96749
963-5038
Mon – Fri 9:00am – 5:30pm
Sat 7:30am – 4:30pm

We paws to give a heartfelt THANKS to our volunteers!

APRIL is Volunteer Appreciation Month

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Connect with us at hihs.org
Deborah Hillman, better known in the animal community as Lucky Deborah, merged her passion for animals with her love of photography. After retiring to Hawaii Island from a 20-year career as a social worker at the Seattle VA Medical Center, Lucky Deborah now uses those same skills to help homeless dogs. When she started volunteering at the HIHS Keau Kau Shelter a few years back, Lucky Deborah recognized the need to improve shelter dog photos to increase adoptions. Her appealing photos of HIHS Keau Kau Shelter dogs up for adoption are posted on our website (HIHS.org) and Facebook.

Her biggest joy? Watching the new owners pick up their furry family member, especially when a senior pet is adopted. Lucky Deborah adopted her first shelter animal 30 years ago in Seattle and most recently from the HIHS Keau Kau Shelter. “I strongly believe in the role of HIHS in helping the stray, abandoned and neglected animals on the island through fostering, adoption, Second Chance surgical operations, and spaying and neutering,” said Lucky Deborah.

In addition to photographing shelter dogs, Lucky Deborah helps lead new volunteer orientation, volunteers at HIHS Keau Kau adoption events and dog walks. She also volunteers for HIHS Rescue Partner, Aloha Ilo Rescue.

While Deborah may feel “Lucky,” HIHS thinks perhaps they are the lucky one.

Freddie is a sweet, old guy who arrived at one of our three Hawaii Island Humane Society shelters last September. Freddie was in pretty good shape for an older shelter dog. After two months of shelter care, Freddie was adopted out. We always hope for this outcome, but there is much more to this story.

Another two months pass and who shows up at the shelter? Freddie! He was returned by his new owner because he was chewing on things. So, now, Freddie is not only feeling old, but rejected. He’s been dropped off not once, but now twice at the shelter.

Our shelter staff and volunteers really believed in Freddie. They never gave up and knew he would find his forever home. They cared for Freddie and, when no one seemed interested in adopting this old guy, they determined that his best chance would be a mainland adoption.

Freddie stayed at our shelter until March when we arranged for a transport to our Rescue Partner — Kitsap Humane Society in Seattle. After a total of 123 days of care at the Hawaii Island Humane Society, Freddie was adopted within one hour at the Kitsap Humane Society.

Stories like Freddie’s would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our donors, staff and volunteers.
Humane Educator Corner

We love what we do! And much of what we do is with the help of a very large and dedicated team of volunteers and fosteres. Last year, 334 volunteers donated 6,750 hours of volunteer time to improve the lives of shelter animals. We saw 673 new volunteers join our team. Many of our volunteers assist by fostering animals that are sick or injured animals and would heal much quicker in a home environment. Pregnant or nursing mamas and babies are much happier away from the stress of the shelter or orphaned newborns that require round the clock care. Taking these special needs pets into their homes also frees up much needed shelter space.

Our fosters and volunteers participated in our new Field Trips for Shelter Dogs, taking a shelter dog out for a fun day, exposing them to different social environments and potential adopters. Our new Innovative Foster Ambassador Program, where the foster becomes the advocate for re-homing their adopted pet, is also proving to be successful as a result of our thoughtful volunteer teams.

Humane Education programming continues to grow each year, reaching more and more Island schools and organizations with the message of responsible pet care and ownership. Last year Dayzee and I visited 57 Island schools, taught 486 Humane education classes and exposed 8,673 Island keiki to human treatment of animals and all living things.

Dayzee and I are gearing up for summer and everyone knows that means Jr. Paws, our summer keiki program offered at all 3 Island shelters.

Children between the ages of 9-14 meet once a week at the shelter and learn the volunteer program, basic dog obedience training, animal behaviors, safety with dogs and proper socialization with cats and dogs. Participants graduate with access to the volunteer program based on their own skill level and the ability to volunteer without a chaperone. If you’re interested or would like more information, please contact me at volunteer@hhihs.org.

Aloha,
Bebe Ackerman and Dayzee
Certified Humane Education Specialist

Howl’ween Dog Walk
Hilo Kona

Another Adoption Success at our Kona Shelter

"My boyfriend and I looked at each other and knew, he went in to tell you guys she was the one! I couldn’t even fill out the paperwork because my eyes were full of tears, you guys had to give me a full box of tissues. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts." — Sarah and Wade
When I started at Hawaii Island Humane Society over 9 years ago, we only had the capacity to spay and neuter our adopted pets. Even then we knew that the only way to reduce our animal intake was to spay and neuter already owned pets. We gradually added programs to reach more and more people, offering free surgeries even before there was any money in our budget to accommodate that. We are proactive about spay/neuter. HIHS emphasizes a “no excuses” approach to the problem by removing all obstacles (no money, no transportation, no time) which prevent people from having their pets sterilized.

We are very grateful that the County of Hawaii has recognized the importance of spay/neuter and has not only provided more and more money for coupon surgeries each year, but also a bonus of $100,000 last year. Additionally, HIHS has supplemented the coupon program with the following significant strategies funded only by HIHS non-profit (not County) money which comes from donations and grant awards.

- Our first free program (2008) was our mama dog or cat program. If a person brings in a litter of puppies or kittens we spay the mom for free.
- As we slowly accumulated funds in the late 2000s, we began asking people bringing pets for coupon surgeries if they had any other pets in the household. We would spay/neuter whole households of 1 or more pets at a time.
- Within the last few years, we have been offering free surgeries to every person redeeming their dog/cat from the shelter. We politely, but firmly, explain all the benefits and strongly encourage them to take us up on our offer.
- We also transport pets from peoples’ residences if transportation is unavailable.
- This year, following the addition of another Veterinarian and receiving more grant money, we attempt to accommodate every person wanting a free surgery, even after the coupons have all been dispersed. You may not get a paper coupon, but you will get an appointment at HIHS for a free surgery.

Although Spay/Neuter is one of our highest priorities, we must balance our surgery program with providing preventative medicine and care for the pets at all 3 shelters and programs which increase adoption. All of our special programs are paid for only by HIHS non-profit money and include:

- The treatment of sick and injured pets funded by the Second Chance Fund
- Transfer to mainland rescue partners
- Our new trainer (Mercedes Campbell) who works to rehabilitate dogs with behavioral problems to make them adoptable

We are succeeding. This is a marathon, not a sprint. We have been doing surgery after surgery, day after day, year after year. We know we are making a difference and that is why we continue, passionately and steadily, never giving up no matter what.

Please help support our actions to reduce pet suffering and increase adoptions by donating to our Spay/Neuter Fund, Katie Fund, Second Chance Fund and Travel Fund.
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SUMMER IN THE KLONDIKE
VANCOUVER TO ANCHORAGE (SEWARD)
JULY 26, 2017 7 NIGHTS

DATE PORT
Jul 26 VANCOUVER
27 CRUISING INSIDE PASSAGE
28 KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 8am 4pm
29 CRUISE TRACY ARM
29 JUNEAU, ALASKA 1pm 11pm
30 SKAGWAY, ALASKA 7am 5pm
31 SITKA, ALASKA 8am 5pm
Aug 1 CRUISING HUBBARD GLACIER
2 ANCHORAGE (SEWARD) 8am 6pm

ARRIVE DEPART
6am 5pm

2-For-1 All-Inclusive Fares
Free Roundtrip Business Class Air* on Intercontinental Flights
Free Roundtrip Air* on Domestic Flights
Free Unlimited Shore Excursions
Free 1-Night Pre-Cruise Hotel Package*
Free Unlimited Beverages Including Fine Wines and Premium Spirits
Free Pre-Paid Gratuities
Free Specialty Restaurants
Free Transfers Between Airport and Ship*
Free 3-Night Land Program on Select Voyages
Free Unlimited WiFi

*See Terms & Conditions.

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13/01/16
In late March, we commemorated a huge milestone with the launch of the next phase of construction at our new Animal Community Center. Contracts for civil work and landscaping have been awarded and we anticipate that our dog parks will be open this fall.