

Humane society eyes new ambulance

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Michigan Humane Society volunteers sought donations in downtown Farmington last week to help raise money for a new animal ambulance.

Last year, MHS ambulances rescued 5,000 injured or sick animals. Rescue service is available 365 days a year, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. "Our dream is to have a 24-hour rescue service," says one society poster.

Sweatshirts, posters and brochures marked the "Have a Heart" display in the lobby of the Village Mall, at Grand River and Farmington Road, Friday and Saturday.

Michigan Humane Society is a private, non-profit group dedicated to protecting and fighting for animal rights. It extends a helping hand to homeless, injured or abused animals.

Society workers offer several services beyond injured animal care —

pet adoption, pet therapy, community education, cruelty investigation, wildlife rehabilitation.

"More than 6,000 unwanted and homeless animals were placed in permanent, loving homes at our three shelters," says another society poster. "Many more received needed medical care at our veterinary clinics."

A THIRD poster vividly explains why pets should be spayed or neutered. It says: "Every year, millions of cats and kittens end up in animal shelters, are sold for experimentation, abandoned, die of exposure and starvation, and worse. Their crime for these punishments was being born into a world that has no room for them. The good homes that we find for all of our kittens are not always so good and, in many cases, don't last long. Please be responsible. Spay or neuter your pet."

Among the volunteers who greeted visitors to the Michigan Humane Society display in the Village Mall Saturday was Trudy Sabourvin.

"I love animals. I think this is a great cause. And I enjoy helping out," the Farmington Hills resident said.

Sabourvin has two cats — Tiger, a 4-year-old adopted from the Michigan Humane Society, and Trizie, a 15-month-old who a friend found on the median of the Ford Freeway in January 1986. Trizie was about 2 months old when found.

"She had salt in her fur and she smelled like diesel fuel. But she's happy now," Sabourvin said.

A volunteer for 10 years, Sabourvin sees her efforts helping spread the Michigan Humane Society message.

"Hopefully, people not only will make donations, but also visit our

shelters and take an animal home."

Stopping cruelty to animals is another motivating force.

"Make laws stiffer for people who abuse animals," Sabourvin said. "That's one of the things the humane society is working on that I really believe in."

Tax-deductible contributions to the Michigan Humane Society come in all amounts, from \$10 to \$500.

A \$10 donation will vaccinate 10 puppies against distemper and parvo. A \$25 donation will provide med-

ical treatment and food for one injured animal for one week.

A \$100 donation will operate the evening rescue program for one night. A \$500 donation will cover the cost of one prosecution of cruelty to an animal, including long-term care for the abused animal.

Animals the Michigan Humane Society can't find a home for — the very sick, the old, the injured — receive an intravenous injection of sodium pentobarbital.

"Because our primary concern is the welfare of the animals, we

fought hard and achieved success in helping outlaw the use of the decomposition chamber and electrocution in the state," says a MHS brochure.

The society's hard-line policies favoring sterilization and more responsible pet ownership stems from the fact that euthanasia is necessary.

The brochure, "Animals Have Feelings Too", underscores that the Michigan Humane Society "wants to make society realize that animals are valuable beings in our world and should be treasured and protected, not wasted carelessly."



Michigan Humane Society volunteers Trudy Sabourvin (left) and Jan Potzold of Novi — at the Village Mall in Farmington.

Petzold of Novi — at the Village Mall in Farmington.

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