

Rescue from page D9

"We do what we can no matter how much money we don't have," Tuttle said. "We've given free dog houses to lower income people whose animals live outdoors."

Money at MACS also goes to other rescued animals there: Alligators, snakes, squirrels, cougars, bears, pigs and chickens. Free cremation is provided to deceased animals whose owners have financial troubles.

**Animal Welfare Society of Southeastern Michigan**  
AWS is also funded through donations. Siska said 25 families fostered 500 animals last year including a few veterinarians' offices like the Cat Practice, Woodside Vet, Abbey East and Rake & Straw. He gave his wish to the public: "Go through a rescue group to adopt an animal. There are purebreds, mixed breeds and dogs and cats of all

ages that deserve a second chance." When people call Siska to give up their pet, he tries to convince them to keep it until AWS finds a good home. Many comply.

**The Michigan Humane Society**  
MHS is the largest of the three with the biggest budget and has three shelters. Like MACS, MHS conducts cruelty investigations and also works with local police departments to either confiscate neglected and abused animals or educate the owners on proper care. If the animal is confiscated, he or she is taken the shelter and either adopted or euthanized. Dissen said each new potential pet owner is questioned. Some are turned away, she said.  
"Sometimes the new home may not be ideal for the animal, but at least it won't be home-

less," Dissen said. "That's when we try to educate people about vaccinations, proper nutrition and health care."

It's a goal of MHS to find good homes for as many animals as possible. Adoptions there increased 10 percent last year.

MHS also provides veterinary services, like spaying and neutering, at low costs. Dissen said doing so helps curb the overpopulation problem. And, like MACS and AWS, it rescues more than dogs and cats.

"We found lions walking in Detroit, mostly from drug raids," Dissen said. "We've rescued tigers, deer, squirrels, peacocks, guinea pigs, rats."

MHS' political lobbyist helped convince Gov. John Engler to mandate spaying and neutering for all animals adopted from shelters.

RESCUE GROUPS

Here's a sampling of local shelters and animal rescue groups

**The Michigan Humane Society:**  
Annual budget: Almost \$9 million  
Number of shelters: 3  
Location: Rochester, Westland, Detroit  
Pick up strays in Detroit: No (unless injured)  
Euthanizes animals: Yes  
Off-site adoption events: Two annually, one at the Detroit Zoo.  
Shelter: The shelter houses rescued and homeless dogs, cats, farm animals, wildlife and occasionally exotic cats and bears. It also provides education on proper animal care and investigates animal cruelty and neglect.  
Does organization charge a fee to a pet owner whose lost animal is taken to shelter: Yes  
Web site: [www.mihumane.org](http://www.mihumane.org)  
Phone: In Westland, (734) 721-7300. In Rochester Hills, (248) 852-7420. In Detroit, (313) 872-3400.

**The Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society**  
Annual budget: \$2,930,020  
Number of shelters: 1  
Location: Detroit  
Pick up strays in Detroit: Yes  
Euthanizes animals: Yes  
Off-site adoption events: At least one a month  
often more, at stores such as Petsmart and Pet Co.  
Shelter: The shelter houses rescued and homeless dogs, cats, farm animals, wildlife and occa-

sionally exotic cats and bears. It also provides education on proper animal care and investigates animal cruelty and neglect. It provides, when needed, free dog houses and even food for animals living outdoors in low-income areas. Free cremation provided for low-income families whose animal dies.  
Does group charge a fee to a pet owner whose lost animal is taken to shelter: No  
Web site: <http://www.metrotimes.com/ad/anti-cruelty/html>  
Phone: (313) 891-1088

**The Animal Welfare Society of Southeastern Michigan**  
Annual budget: \$102,000  
Number of shelters: 0. The AWS rescues and finds homes for abandoned and homeless animals. It has a network of volunteers who foster the animals until they are adopted. It regularly rescues dogs and cats (will house other animals if there are foster families available) and brings the animals to pet stores for adoption.  
Location: Madison Heights  
Pick up strays in Detroit: When possible  
Euthanizes animals: No  
Host off site-adoption events: Two each month, including at Classic Pets Supply in Warren on the first Saturday of each month. The animals are also posted on its Website, [www.animalwelfare-society.net](http://www.animalwelfare-society.net).  
Does group charge a fee to pet owner whose lost animal is taken to group: No  
Web site: [www.animalwelfare-society.net](http://www.animalwelfare-society.net)  
Phone: (248) 648-1150

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Map showing locations in Canton, Novi, Southfield, and Utica.

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