



2017

# NOT YOUR LOCAL HUMANE SOCIETY

A 50-State Report on the Humane Society of the United States  
and its Lack of Support for America's Dog and Cat Shelters



**HUMANEWATCH.ORG**<sup>™</sup>

Keeping a watchful eye on the Humane Society of the United States

A PROJECT OF THE NONPROFIT CENTER FOR CONSUMER FREEDOM

## INTRODUCTION

Polling conducted by Opinion Research Corporation has found that 71 percent of Americans believed that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) “is an umbrella group that represents thousands of local humane societies all across America.” And 68 percent believed that HSUS “contributes most of its money to local organizations that care for dogs and cats.” Both of these statements are false.

Why do so many people have a false impression of the Humane Society of the United States?

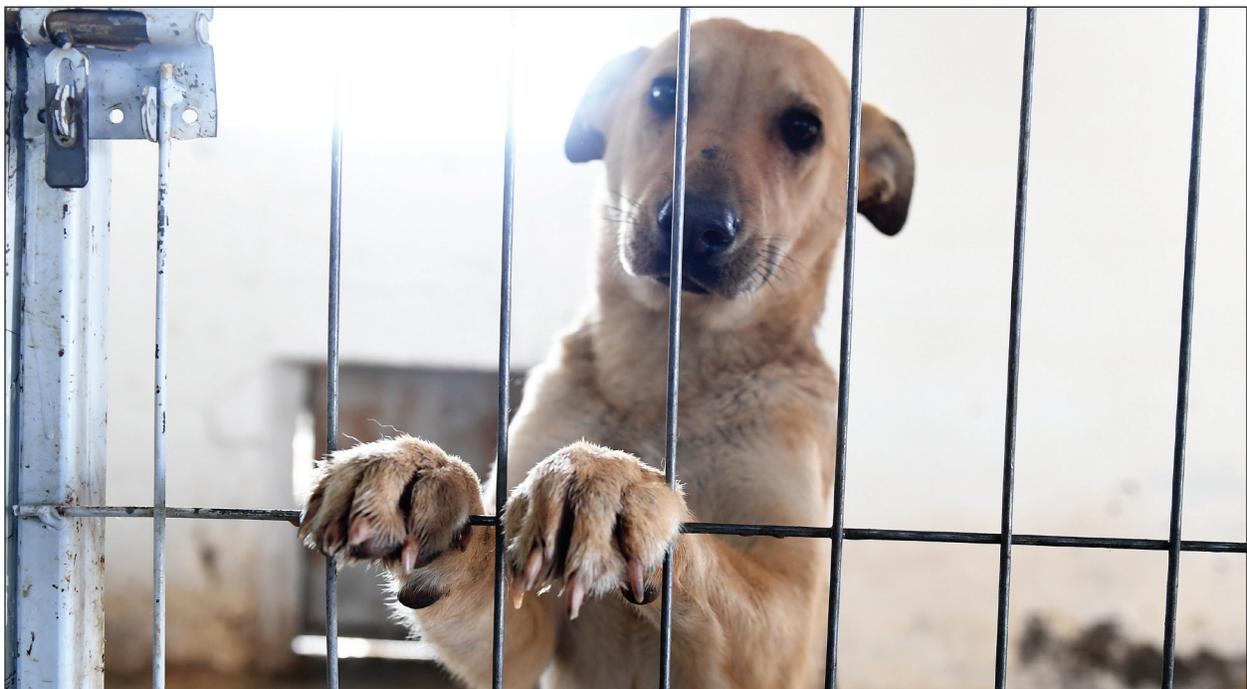
It’s simple. HSUS’s TV ads have featured sad music and sadder dogs and cats. And HSUS has “humane society” in its name. HSUS took advantage of this confusion by raising over \$100 million from the public in 2016. However, according to HSUS’s newly released tax return, **only 1 percent** of HSUS’s budget was spent on grants to support pet sheltering.

Research indicates that **HSUS’s own donors are confused about where their money is going**. A recent poll of 1,051 self-identified HSUS supporters found 87 percent of HSUS’s donors are unaware that HSUS gives just 1 percent of its budget to local pet shelters. When informed of this fact, **92 percent** of HSUS’s own donors agreed the group “**misleads people into thinking that it supports local humane societies and pet shelters,**” and 55 percent were less likely to support HSUS.

This report documents the Humane Society of the United States’ grants to pet shelters in the 50 states and D.C. for 2016. The data is drawn from HSUS’s public tax filing with the IRS.

The gap between public and donor perception and reality is well documented. And official scrutiny of HSUS is increasing. In March 2014, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt issued a “consumer alert” about the fundraising of national animal charities like HSUS.

HSUS itself acknowledges that between 3 and 4 million dogs and cats are euthanized in American shelters every year—about half of all pets that enter their doors. But while HSUS can clearly afford to tackle the problem head-on, it appears to have other priorities.



## CHARITABLE LOWLIGHTS

In 2016, HSUS didn't make a single shelter-aid grant in 6 states: **Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, and South Dakota.**

HSUS spending priorities are shameful. Consider that in 2016 the organization:

- Had \$51.5 million in Caribbean funds.
- Put nearly 5 times more into lobbying (\$4.25 million) than it spent on grants to pet shelters (\$808,953).
- Nearly \$3 million went to 13 HSUS executives – almost 4 times as much as was spent on shelters.
- Spent \$69 million on fundraising-related expenses—52 cents out of every dollar spent. These ads reinforce the false public perception that HSUS is all about finding homes for needy pets.

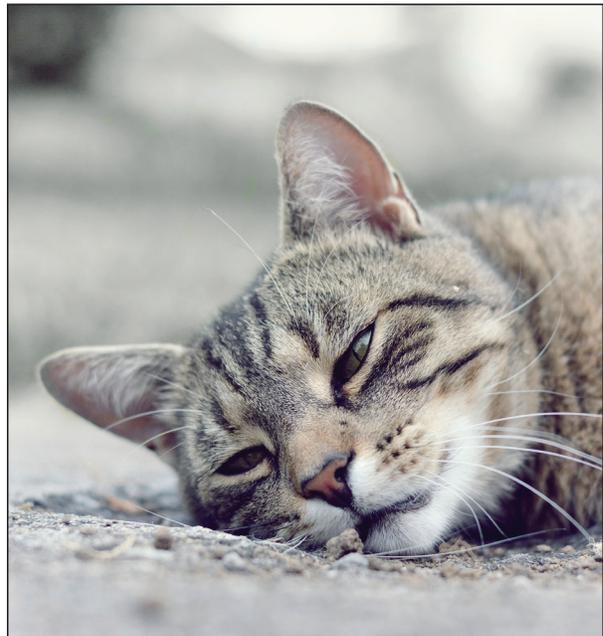
## LOBBYING

In Massachusetts and Oklahoma, HSUS put more into its lobbying front groups pushing ballot initiatives than it gave in grants to support pet sheltering. In Massachusetts, “Citizens for Farm Animals” received \$800,000 from HSUS. In Oklahoma, “Oklahoma Stewardship Council” received \$604,000. That’s 1,600 and 31 times more spent lobbying than animal shelters in those states, respectively.

HSUS routinely spends far more on state-level political fights than on pet shelters in those same states.

- HSUS spent 86 times more on its **Ohio** political front group in 2009 than it did on Ohio pet shelters.
- HSUS spent 32 times more on a political front group in **Missouri** in 2010 than it did on sheltering-support grants in the Show Me State that year.
- In 2011, that HSUS spent 90 times more on ballot initiative groups in **Missouri** than it spent on sheltering grants.

Wouldn't pets like those in HSUS's ads have liked to see that money?



# HSUS SHELTER GIVING, STATE BY STATE

## METHODOLOGY

To compile this list, we examined the Schedule I of outgoing grants provided by the Humane Society of the United States as part of its “IRS Form 990” nonprofit federal tax returns.

Each grantee was examined to find out if it met the basic qualifications of:

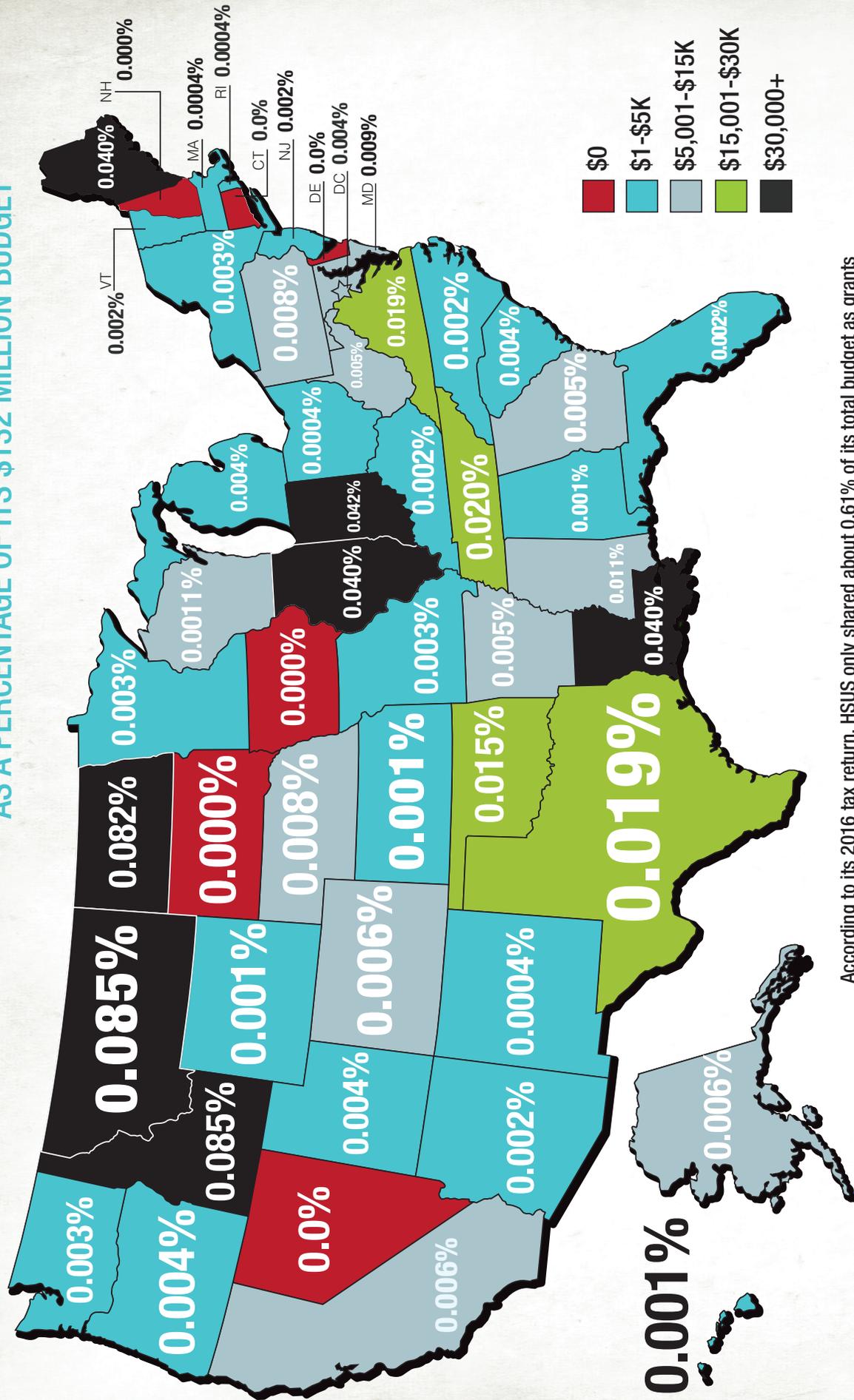
- being a hands-on animal care center;
- being concerned with the daily care, adoption, and/or rehabilitation of dogs, cats, rabbits, and horses; and
- operating in the United States of America.

HSUS grantees meeting these qualifications were deemed to be “hands-on pet shelters” for the purpose of this report, and are listed below. In every case where we could not make a clear determination, we gave HSUS the benefit of the doubt and counted the grantee as a pet shelter.

For 2016, HSUS’s tax return was explicit about the purpose of the grant. Grants for “shelter aid to reduce pet homelessness and save lives,” supply assistance, veterinary care, or similar purposes were counted, but spay/neuter-only grants were not included. Grants that were a mix of spay-neuter and shelter aid were counted in full.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES'  
**SHELTER SPENDING BY STATE**  
 AS A PERCENTAGE OF ITS \$132 MILLION BUDGET



According to its 2016 tax return, HSUS only shared about 0.61% of its total budget as grants to support local pet shelters. The map above shows the percentage for each state.

Data compiled from 2016 IRS 990 filing.

## QUICK LOOK: GRANT FIGURES BY STATE

State	# of Grants	Grants	State	# of Grants	Grants
Alabama	1	\$1,100	Montana	6	\$111,700
Alaska	4	\$7,770	Nebraska	1	\$10,000
Arizona	2	\$2,000	Nevada	0	\$0
Arkansas	3	\$6,201	New Hampshire	0	\$0
California	4	\$8,500	New Jersey	2	\$3,000
Colorado	5	\$8,000	New Mexico	1	\$500
Connecticut	0	\$0	New York	2	\$4,317
Delaware	0	\$0	North Carolina	1	\$2,000
Florida	1	\$2,000	North Dakota	6	\$108,184
Georgia	2	\$6,250	Ohio	1	\$500
Hawaii	2	\$1,000	Oklahoma	3	\$19,406
Idaho	5	\$112,296	Oregon	1	\$5,500
Illinois	4	\$52,650	Pennsylvania	2	\$9,941
Indiana	4	\$56,000	Rhode Island	1	\$500
Iowa	0	\$0	South Carolina	3	\$4,750
Kansas	2	\$1,000	South Dakota	0	\$0
Kentucky	1	\$2,500	Tennessee	3	\$26,775
Louisiana	2	\$52,500	Texas	6	\$24,458
Maine	6	\$52,800	Utah	4	\$5,000
Maryland	9	\$11,975	Vermont	1	\$2,500
Massachusetts	1	\$500	Virginia	6	\$25,009
Michigan	3	\$4,625	Washington	3	\$4,500
Minnesota	2	\$4,500	West Virginia	6	\$6,250
Mississippi	3	\$14,100	Wisconsin	9	\$14,996
Missouri	3	\$4,000	Wyoming	1	\$1,000



<b>ALABAMA</b>	<b>\$1,100</b>
Cherokee Humane Society	\$1,100
<b>ALASKA</b>	<b>\$7,770</b>
Alaska Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals	\$3,550
Alaskan Animal Rescue Friends	\$1,320
Canine Comfort	\$1,500
Humane Society Of Kodiak	\$1,400
<b>ARIZONA</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
Coconino County Humane	\$1,500
Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary	\$500
<b>ARKANSAS</b>	<b>\$6,201</b>
City Of Mayflower	\$1,000
Saline County Humane Society	\$1,701
Whisper's Sanctuary	\$3,500
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	<b>\$8,500</b>
California Husky Rescue	\$1,000
City Of Coalinga	\$5,000
Red Bucket Equine Rescue	\$500
Romania Animal Rescue	\$2,000
<b>COLORADO</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
Amici Cannis Usa	\$2,000
Ark Valley Humane Society	\$2,500
Colorado Assoc Of Animal	\$500
Equine 808 Horse Rescue	\$2,500
Zumas Rescue Ranch	\$500
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>DELAWARE</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>	<b>\$5,900</b>
Washington Humane Society	\$5,900
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
Humane Society Of Tampa Bay	\$2,000

<b>GEORGIA</b>	<b>\$6,250</b>
Atlanta Humane Society And SPCA	\$3,250
Lifeline Animal Project	\$3,000
<b>HAWAII</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
Fur-Angel Foundation	\$500
Oahu Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals	\$500
<b>IDAHO</b>	<b>\$112,296</b>
Animal Shelter Of Wood River Valley	\$106,796
City Of Rupert	\$1,250
Meridian Valley Humane Society	\$1,500
Snake River Animal Shelter	\$1,500
Waggin Tails Rescue	\$1,250
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	<b>\$52,650</b>
Alsip To The Rescue	\$650
Anderson Animal Shelter	\$1,000
Forever Huskey	\$1,000
Friends Of Chicago Animal Care	\$50,000
<b>INDIANA</b>	<b>\$56,000</b>
City Of Muncie	\$2,000
Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control	\$2,000
Humane Society Calumet Area	\$50,000
Treasurer Of Columbus DbA/Columbus Animal Care Services	\$2,000
<b>IOWA</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>KANSAS</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
Friends Of Felines	\$500
Prairie Paws Animal Shelter	\$500
<b>KENTUCKY</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
Logan County Humane Society	\$2,500
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	<b>\$52,500</b>
Cenla Alliance For Animals	\$2,500
Pen Pals Dog And Cat Shelter And Adoption Center	\$50,000

<b>MAINE</b>	<b>\$52,800</b>
Cat Coalition Of Western Maine	\$4,200
Coastal Humane Society	\$11,200
Franklin County Animal Shelter	\$11,200
Halfway Home Pet Rescue	\$5,000
Humane Society Waterville Area	\$11,200
The Cleo Fund	\$10,000
<b>MARYLAND</b>	<b>\$11,975</b>
Animal Allies Rescue Foundation	\$500
Baltimore Animal Rescue & Care	\$1,000
Caroline County Humane Society	\$500
Days End Farm Horse Rescue	\$500
Garrett County Humane Society	\$2,000
Kitty Angels	\$1,000
The Baltimore Animal Rescue & Care Shelter	\$500
The Humane Society Of Washington County	\$975
Wicomico County Of Humane Society	\$5,000
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>	<b>\$500</b>
Second Chance Animal Shelter	\$500
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	<b>\$4,625</b>
Mccloud's Lake Haven	\$500
Missaukee Humane Society	\$2,825
Shelly Olree's Shelter	\$1,300
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>
Animal Allies Humane Society	\$1,500
Humane Society Of Goodhue County	\$3,000
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>	<b>\$14,100</b>
Shaw Pit Bull Rescue	\$1,000
Southern Cross Animal Rescue	\$3,600
Southern Pines Animal Shelter	\$9,500
<b>MISSOURI</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
Humane Society Of Missouri	\$2,000
Midwest Animal Rescue	\$1,000
Unchained Melodies	\$1,000

<b>MONTANA</b>	<b>\$111,700</b>
City Of Billings	\$1,200
Friends Of The Shelter Tobacco Valley Animal Shelter	\$1,500
Humane Society Of Western Montana	\$1,000
Lewis & Clark Humane Society	\$96,000
Loln County Courthouse	\$10,000
Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter	\$2,000
<b>NEBRASKA</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
Central Nebraska Humane Society	\$10,000
<b>NEVADA</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
Liberty Humane Society	\$500
Township Of Montclair	\$2,500
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	<b>\$500</b>
The Horse Shelter	\$500
<b>NEW YORK</b>	<b>\$4,317</b>
Dutchess County SPCA	\$3,717
Mohawk And Hudson River Humane Society	\$600
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
United States Equine Rescue League	\$2,000
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>	<b>\$108,184</b>
4 Luv Of Dog Rescue	\$97,714
County Of Barnes	\$5,000
Diamond In The Ruff Pet Rescue	\$1,200
James River Humane Society	\$1,500
Oreo's Animal Rescue	\$770
Souris Valley Animal Shelter	\$2,000
<b>OHIO</b>	<b>\$500</b>
Darke County Humane Society	\$500

<b>OKLAHOMA</b>	<b>\$19,406</b>
Blaze's Tribute Equine Rescue	\$11,808
Humane Society Of Tulsa	\$4,800
Tulsa Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals	\$2,798
<b>OREGON</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>
Oregon Humane Society	\$5,500
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	<b>\$9,941</b>
Lancaster County SPCA	\$9,041
Precious Paws Animal Rescue	\$900
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>	<b>\$500</b>
Providence Animal Rescue League	\$500
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>	<b>\$4,750</b>
Florence Area Humane Society	\$1,000
Union County Nonprofit Alliance DbA/Every Cat Counts	
Trap/Neuter/Release & Rescue	\$1,250
Wescott Acres Pet Rescue	\$2,500
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TENNESSEE</b>	<b>\$26,775</b>
Blount County SPCA	\$25,000
Humane Society Of Memphis & Shelby County	\$1,200
Mckamey Animal Care & Adoption	\$575
<b>TEXAS</b>	<b>\$24,458</b>
City Of Taylor	\$5,000
Humane Society Of Southeast Texas	\$3,500
Rowdy Girl Sanctuary	\$3,500
SPCA Of Texas	\$6,958
Stray Acres Sanctuary & Animal Rescue	\$500
The Pegasus Project	\$5,000
<b>UTAH</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
Arctic Breeds Rescue	\$1,000
Best Friends Animal Society	\$500

Ogden City Corporation	\$500
Sandy City Corporation	\$3,000

**VERMONT** **\$2,500**

Vermont Humane Federation	\$2,500
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**VIRGINIA** **\$25,009**

Assisi Animal Clinics Of Virginia	\$6,694
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County Of Nottoway	\$2,000
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Danville Area Humane Society	\$500
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Green Dogs Unleashed	\$1,000
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Martinsville-Henry County SPCA	\$500
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Richmond Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals	\$14,315
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**WASHINGTON** **\$4,500**

Northwest Equine Stewardship Center	\$500
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Wild Love Preserve	\$2,500
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Yakima Humane Society	\$1,500
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**WEST VIRGINIA** **\$6,250**

Boone Animal Rescue Coalition	\$500
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Heart Of Phoenix Equine Rescue	\$1,500
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Mercer County Commission	\$500
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Preston County Commission	\$1,250
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Second Chance For Cats	\$1,000
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Wetzel County Animal Shelter Supporters	\$1,500
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**WISCONSIN** **\$14,996**

Adams County Humane Society	\$1,216
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Coulee Region Humane Society	\$4,172
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Dane County Humane Society	\$1,108
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Door County Humane Society	\$1,500
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Free Spirit Riders	\$2,500
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Langlade County Humane Society	\$1,500
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Northwoods Humane Society	\$1,500
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Oconto Area Humane Society & Animal Shelter	\$1,500
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**WYOMING** **\$1,000**

Second Chance Sheridan Cat Rescue	\$1,000
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<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$808,953</b>
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