

PALO ALTO HUMANE SOCIETY

THEN SINCE 1908 & NOW

Before

A Century of Compassion

1900s-1920s

The Palo Alto Humane Society was founded in 1908 by a group of citizens concerned about the abuse of working animals and public policies such as the shooting of stray animals. The group had been active in humane issues for several years, and it originally included such local luminaries as Jane L. Stanford and David Starr Jordan, Stanford University's first president.

Among the Palo Alto Humane Society's first acts were installing a public watering trough for horses and mules and setting up a makeshift shelter to house stray animals. In 1924 PAHS incorporated officially as a not-for-profit organization. The next year, it started local humane education and created children's Bands of Mercy to promote learning about humane issues. PAHS established Palo Alto's first permanent animal shelter in 1926.

First Shelter 1926

1930s-1970s

PAHS built and operated a more modern animal shelter in 1937, adding an animal ambulance service in the 1930s and 40s that rescued animals from San Mateo to San Jose. In the 1940s it retired abused horses at Woodside's Hawthorne Happy Home for Horses. During Japanese internment in 1942, PAHS rescued pets that families were forced to leave behind.

PAHS operated the city shelter, investigated cruelty cases, and rescued animals until 1972, when the City of Palo Alto took responsibility for animal control and shelter management with public funding. Turning its attention to non-publicly funded demands, PAHS began offering free and subsidized spaying and neutering for pets of senior citizens and other animals in need.

1980s-2000s

PAHS significantly raised public sensitivity to animals by establishing humane issues as part of the school curriculum in the 1980s, and in 1990 it developed "Animals Everywhere," a set of materials for classroom use. In 1983 PAHS assisted the Palo Alto Red Cross in formulating disaster plans for animals. It produced *Animal Companions*, a weekly cable television show that aired from 1989 through the 1990s. Later it created public literature entitled "Are Your Animals Ready for an Emergency?" for northern California communities. In 2012 PAHS released *Mow Wow Animals*, its humane education Web-based teacher tool.

In the 1990s PAHS developed CatWorks, its major program for spaying homeless cats, and advocated for humane policies and practices. PAHS' advocacy work includes a successful campaign in 1986 to ban the use of the steel-jaw leghold trap, 1990s campaigns for the protection of homeless cats, humane treatment of captive elephants in entertainment, and the founding in 1995 of the National Greyhound Protection League, and in the 2000s PAHS' campaigns have included promoting the humane treatment of farm animals.

The Years Ahead

These are just a few examples of PAHS' work. From early establishment of humane public services to recent advocacy on humane issues, PAHS fulfills community needs.



Giving a Voice to Animals

Since 1908 the Palo Alto Humane Society has given a voice to animals in the mid-Peninsula community.

PAHS' mission is to alleviate the suffering of animals, increase public sensitivity to animal issues, and elevate the status of animals in our society, through innovative programs in intervention, education, and advocacy. PAHS has evolved over the years in response to changing needs. It is one of the few humane societies nationwide with no animal shelter. Instead of managing animals inside a shelter, we work to keep animals out of the shelter.

Intervention

From its founding in response to common abuses of work animals and strays, PAHS has intervened to alleviate animal suffering. Now that humane animal control and shelter management have become public services, PAHS focuses on supporting intervention programs to fill needs not addressed by public programs. PAHS underwrites the spaying and neutering as many as 2,000 animals annually, to ensure that every domestic animal born will find a loving home. PAHS funds emergency care for rescued animals and maintains a hotline to answer pressing concerns.

Education

PAHS introduced humane education to Palo Alto youth and adults in the early 1900s, and it continues to educate community members today, to increase public sensitivity to animals. PAHS has developed an exciting new Web-based curriculum, *Mow Wow Animals*, for California schools that represents a whole new animal in humane education. PAHS organizes school and community events that offer humane teaching and raise awareness of animal issues.

Advocacy

Early PAHS leaders prevented the use of shelter animals for medical research and stopped the shooting of stray animals by police. Animal advocacy remains a core part of PAHS' mission, as the organization campaigns for humane policies at local, state, and national levels. PAHS provides advice to the public on humane choices in local commerce and dining. It has long been active in organizing grassroots efforts for humane control of homeless cats and serves as a resource for elected officials on humane issues.

Help Give a Voice to Animals

Will you join PAHS in its second century of compassion? Contribute or volunteer, and give a voice to animals in the mid-Peninsula community.



Visit www.paloaltohumane.org or call 650.424.1901.

Tax-deductible contributions are needed and welcome and may be mailed to PAHS, P.O. Box 60715, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Year	Timeline
1908	Palo Alto Humane Society is founded, in response to mistreatment of work animals and strays.
1924	PAHS incorporates as a not-for-profit organization.
1925	PAHS introduces humane education to local youth and adults.
1926	PAHS establishes Palo Alto's first animal shelter.
1937	PAHS builds modern shelter and operates it for 35 years.
1972	Palo Alto takes on animal control and shelter management as public services; PAHS turns its attention to non-publicly funded humane needs with innovative intervention, education, and advocacy programs.
1979	PAHS begins free and subsidized spaying and neutering for pets of senior citizens and people in financial need.
2000	PAHS subsidizes spaying and neutering of as many as 2,000 homeless animals each year.