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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
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](http://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.