



ANNUAL *Report*

Building on a year of growth, innovation and resilience while planning ahead to making an even greater impact.



2025

A NOTE FROM OUR *board chair*

Meaningful change for animals is never accidental—and it's never accomplished alone. It happens when a field chooses unity, shares knowledge and speaks with one clear, informed voice. That is the role of Michigan Pet Alliance.

Over the past year, MPA successfully brought together shelters, rescues, animal control agencies, spay/neuter clinics, outreach programs and advocates from across Michigan to strengthen animal welfare through education, collaboration and advocacy.

While legislative progress can be painfully slow, collective action matters. With one voice, we ensure that the needs of animals are not ignored.

MPA is also where our profession grows stronger. Through conferences, workshops, trainings and peer connection, we elevate standards, share solutions and support one another in this difficult and demanding work.

MPA exists because no single organization can carry this responsibility alone. United, our voice is strongest and our impact is greater.

Together, we are building a more humane future for Michigan's companion animals.

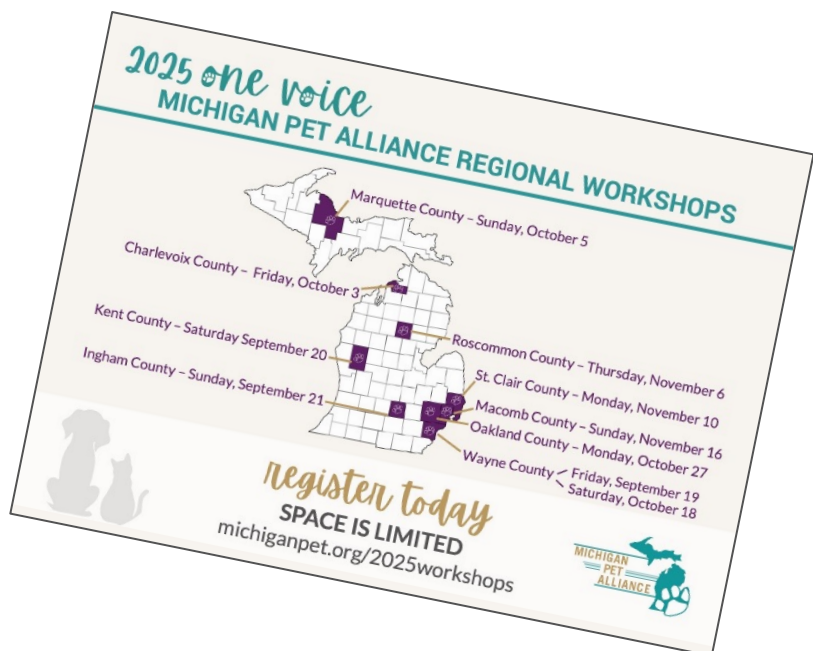
Sincerely,

Tanya Hilgendorf
Chair of the Board



Our Mission

To work in collaboration and speak with one voice to eliminate abuse and neglect of Michigan's companion animals and to save all healthy and treatable homeless companion animals through training, technical assistance, education and advocacy.



EDUCATION & TRAINING EFFORTS WERE *regional-focused*

Recognizing that not everyone can attend our biennial conference, the Education and Training Committee set a goal for 2025 to reach as many animal welfare professionals across Michigan as possible.

To accomplish this, the committee produced three Lunch & Learn webinars:

- When Their Personality Shines! Increasing Adoptions and Reducing Returns
- Great Customer Service for Great Animal Outcomes
- Planning for Pets During an Emergency Evacuation



The committee also partnered with animal shelters and animal welfare organizations to host the **One Voice: Michigan Pet Alliance Regional Workshops** in seven cities:

- Livonia
- Grand Rapids
- Detroit
- Pontiac
- Roscommon
- Port Huron
- Utica

Each local host selected topics most relevant to their community's needs, including:

- Animal Handling & Capture for Professionals
- Cat Body Language & Behavior
- Creating a Successful Barn Cat Program
- Dog Behavior & Body Language With Fear Free Shelter Tips
- Basic Procedures on How to Report & Document Animal Cruelty & Neglect
- Advanced Comprehensive Procedures in Investigating Cruelty, Abuse, Neglect & Dogfighting Operations

Participant feedback:

“Great workshop! Our presenter was very good.”

“I can help my coworkers better understand and respond to unexpected situations.”

“I learned that some of the different behavior techniques used for assessments may not be the best methods.”

“This was a great compliment to the Fear Free training.”

“Speakers were very knowledgeable.”

“Love the shelter tour.”



2025 ONE VOICE: MICHIGAN PET ALLIANCE REGIONAL WORKSHOPS



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!









ANGEL SPONSOR
To celebrate the mission of LTbHS
LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY HUMANE SOCIETY
SERVING PETS AND THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEM SINCE 1951



POLICY & ADVOCACY

progress

During the 2025–2026 Michigan legislative session, MPA continued to serve as a strong, informed voice for animals by advocating for humane policy solutions that protect pets and support the professionals who care for them.

A major highlight of the session to date is the MPA specialty license plate legislation (**SB 106 / HB 4792**). Drafted and championed by MPA, this bill creates Michigan’s first fundraising license plate dedicated to supporting spay/neuter programs and training initiatives for animal shelters. SB 106 passed the Michigan Senate with strong bipartisan support and is now pending in the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. MPA is hopeful the bill will be taken up in early 2026 as it remains a top priority.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

- Pet license plate to fund spay/neuter and to support animal shelters
- Veterinary telehealth expansion to better help people and pets
- Queenie’s Law to end painful experiments on dogs
- Animal bond and forfeiture to allow a better process to get cruelty case animals out of shelters and into loving homes
- Buddy’s Law to clarify standards for adequate shelter and to allow quicker intervention during extreme weather
- Cat declaw ban

Throughout 2025, MPA supported legislation addressing veterinary telehealth (**SB 193, SB 194, HB 4220, HB 4221**); Queenie’s Law, which prohibits painful research practices involving dogs (**SB 127, HB 4254**); strengthening bond or forfeiture protections (**SB 293, SB 294, HB 5360, HB 5361**); Buddy’s Law, allowing for faster intervention in extreme weather; and prohibiting cat declawing (**HB 5208, HB 5209**). While several bills advanced through committee or passed at least one chamber, none have yet completed the full legislative process.

In addition to speaking at state hearings, MPA met one-on-one with legislators, submitted letters and written comments, collaborated with animal advocates at the local level to better protect shelter animals and mobilized members to take action in support of critical animal welfare legislation. Member engagement remains essential, as lawmakers rely on hearing directly from their constituents. MPA encourages supporters to contact their legislators and is available to provide guidance, talking points and assistance to our members.

While challenges remain, the 2025–2026 legislative session is ongoing, and there is still time to achieve meaningful progress. With continued member engagement and support, MPA will remain a strong voice for Michigan’s animals and the people who care about them.



MEMBERSHIP IS *growth*

Michigan Pet Alliance's membership support is our foundation.

We are excited and grateful to welcome 119 new members in 2025, bringing our total membership to 319.

welcome
new members

SHELTERS

Al-Van Humane Society Inc.
Charlevoix Area Humane Society
I Heart Dogs Rescue and Animal Haven
Lenawee Humane Society
Northwoods Animals Shelter Inc
Paradise Animal Rescue
Romulus Animal Shelter

RESCUES

Great Lakes Boxer Rescue
Just Cats

OTHER NON-PROFITS

Tail Waggers 1990

CORPORATIONS

AKC Reunite
Animal Farm Foundation
Best Friends Animal Society
Firefly Pet Photography

96 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS



THANK YOU TO OUR *members*

Our work is strengthened by our members' dedication to improving the lives of animals. We are grateful to our members — shelters, organizations, individuals and businesses whose support and service make meaningful progress possible — and to the animal welfare organizations that our members generously give their time to throughout the year.

- A Rejoyceful Animal Rescue
- AKC Reunite
- All About Animals Rescue
- Al-Van Humane Society
- Animal Arts Design Studio, Inc.
- Animal Behavior Solutions
- Animal Farm Foundation
- AnimalKeepers by McNeil & Co.
- Attorneys for Animals, Inc.
- Best Friends Animal Society
- Bloomfield Township Animal Welfare
- Blue Water Area Humane Society
- Capital Area Humane Society
- CHAINED Inc
- Charlevoix Area Humane Society
- City of Inkster
- Clinton County Animal Control
- CSNIP
- Doobert
- Eastpointe Police Department
- Eaton County Humane Society
- Eva Burrell Animal Shelter
- Feline Fund
- Fig and Friends Pet Rescue
- Firefly Pet Photography
- Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit
- Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue
- Garden City Police Department
- Grand Rapids Pit Bull Alliance
- Gratiot Animals In Need
- Great Lakes Boxer Rescue
- Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society
- Happy Feet Pet Rescue
- Harbor Humane Society
- Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office
- Humane Society of Bay County
- Humane Society of Genesee County
- Humane Society of Huron Valley
- Humane Society of Macomb
- Hummingbird Equestrian
- I Heart Dogs Rescue & Animal Haven
- Ingham County Animal Control
- Iosco County Sheriff's Office
- Just Cats
- Karma Kat Cafe & Rescue
- Kent County Animal Shelter
- Lapeer County Animal Control
- Lenawee Humane Society
- Leuk's Landing, Inc.
- Little Traverse Bay Humane Society
- Luce County Animal Shelter
- Macomb County Animal Control
- Michigan Anti Cruelty Society
- Midwest Boston Terrier Rescue
- Monroe County Sheriff's Office
- NBS Animal Rescue
- Newaygo County Animal Shelter
- Noah Project
- Northwoods Animal Shelter
- Oakland County Animal Shelter & Pet Adoption Center
- Otsego County Animal Control & Shelter
- Paradise Animal Rescue
- PASPort Home
- Paws for Life Rescue
- Pet Angel Adoption & Rescue Inc
- Pleasant Hearts Pet Food Pantry
- Reflections Outcast Animal Rescue
- Romulus Animal Shelter
- Roscoe Rescue
- Roscommon County Animal Shelter & Control
- Saginaw County Animal Care & Control
- SCC LEAP
- Shelter to Home
- Southfield Police Department
- Sterling Heights Police Department
- Sygnifi Networks LLC.
- Tail Waggers 1990
- The Cat Ambassador
- The Karen's
- Tyson's Place Animal Rescue
- Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter
- West Michigan Ferret Connection

AWARDING & RECOGNIZING *others*



2025 Better Together Awards and Grants

Every year, Michigan Pet Alliance awards and rewards organizations and individuals that partner and collaborate to save lives and to improve their quality of care.

In 2025, financial grants were awarded to the following animal welfare organizations:

- **Little Traverse Bay Humane Society**
 - Saving and Raising Funds Award
- **Capital Area Humane Society**
 - Removing Barriers Award
- **Tyson's Place Animal Rescue**
 - Creative Programs Award
- **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue**
 - Scentwork Training Grant
- **Berrien County Animal Services**
 - On-site Dog Training Grant
- **Alpena County Animal Control**
 - On-site Cat Training Grant

Two animal advocates were recognized for their contributions toward advancing animal welfare in Michigan:

- **Ashley Sanchez**
 - Animal Control Officer of the Year Award
- **Thais Teixeira**
 - Joel Penny Volunteer of the Year Award

Our annual competitive awards program distributed \$10,000 in cash and grants funded with support from Humane Society of Macomb Foundation.

2025 BETTER TOGETHER AWARDS & GRANTS



Thais Teixeira

Volunteer of the Year

(presented by Holly Guild, MPA Board Member)



Tyson's Place Rescue

Creative Programs Award

(presented by Namiko Ota-Noveskey, MPA Board Member)



Ashley Sanchez

**Animal Control Officer
of the Year Award**

(presented by Amber Sitko, MPA Treasurer)



Capital Area Humane Society

Removing Barriers Award

(presented by Holly Guild, MPA Board Member)

GETTING THE WORD OUT AND INCREASING *visibility*



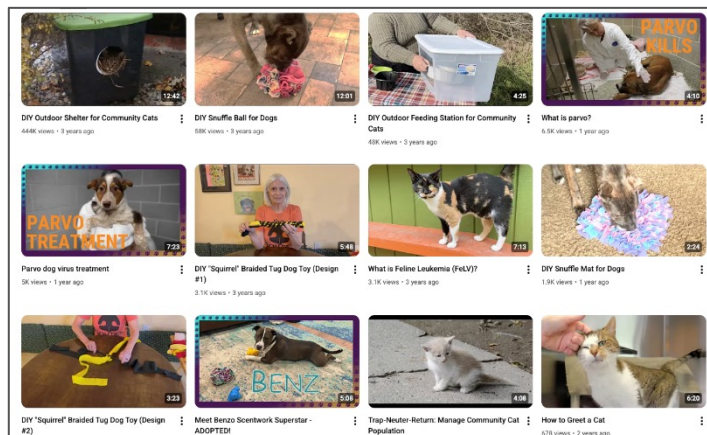
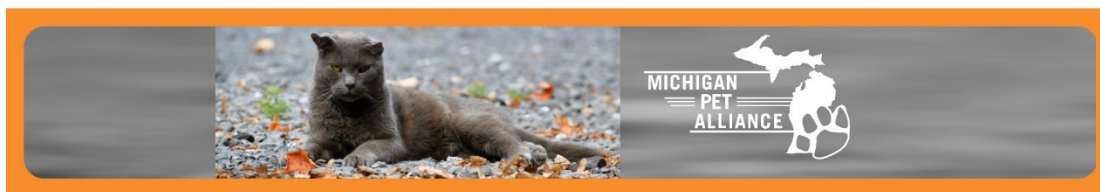
2025 Outreach and Engagement

Our Listserv is a two-way email communication tool that enables discussion and collaboration by connecting more than 300 animal shelter directors and leaders throughout Michigan.

Our monthly One Voice newsletter is delivered to 10,969 subscribers.

Our Facebook page has grown to 8,100 followers.

Our YouTube channel continues to grow, reaching 4,100 subscribers. In 2025, we published 21 videos and four shorts, adding 610 new subscribers with 117,183 total views across the entire channel. By monetizing our videos, we received \$1,786 in revenue in 2025.



LEADERSHIP & *financials*

SARAH
SCHERTEL



In March, the board of directors welcomed new member, **Sarah Schertel**, senior director of operations at Little Traverse Bay Humane Society.

In June, the board welcomed **Christine Divito** as administrative assistant to provide essential support and help keep our organization running smoothly.

In September, **Sarah Devaney** stepped down as CEO. We are thankful for her contribution to advancing our mission and wish her all the best.

To support the Better Together Awards and Grants program, MPA secured a key grant for \$12,000 from the Humane Society of Macomb Foundation.

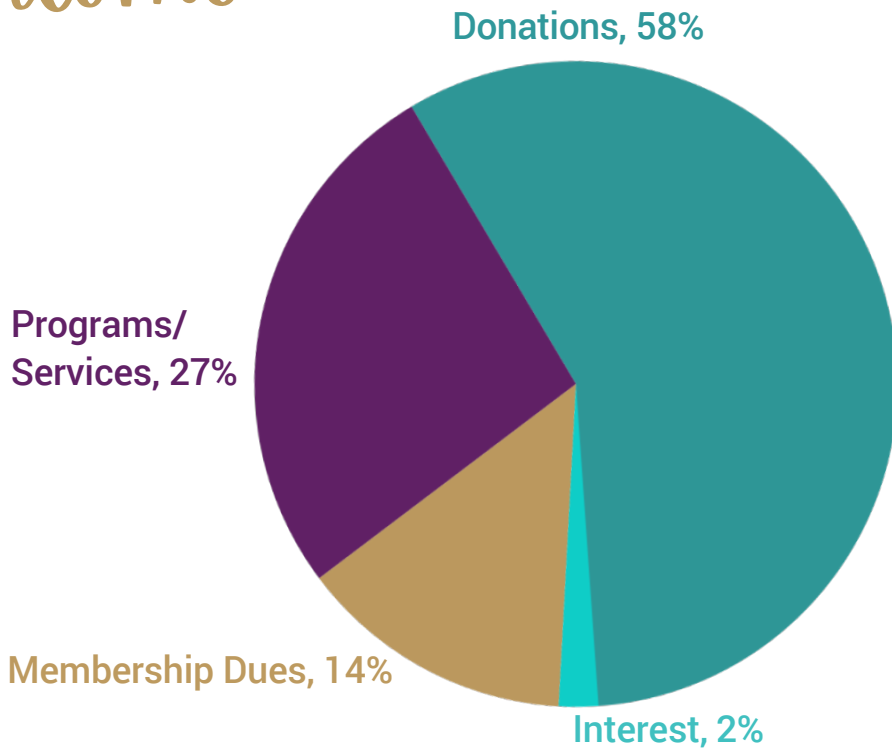
MPA leadership actively engaged with corporate and nonprofit partners to secure \$13,000 in sponsorships to support our regional workshops.

For the year, **total income was \$99,129.33**, while **expenditures reached \$86,977.55**.

one voice

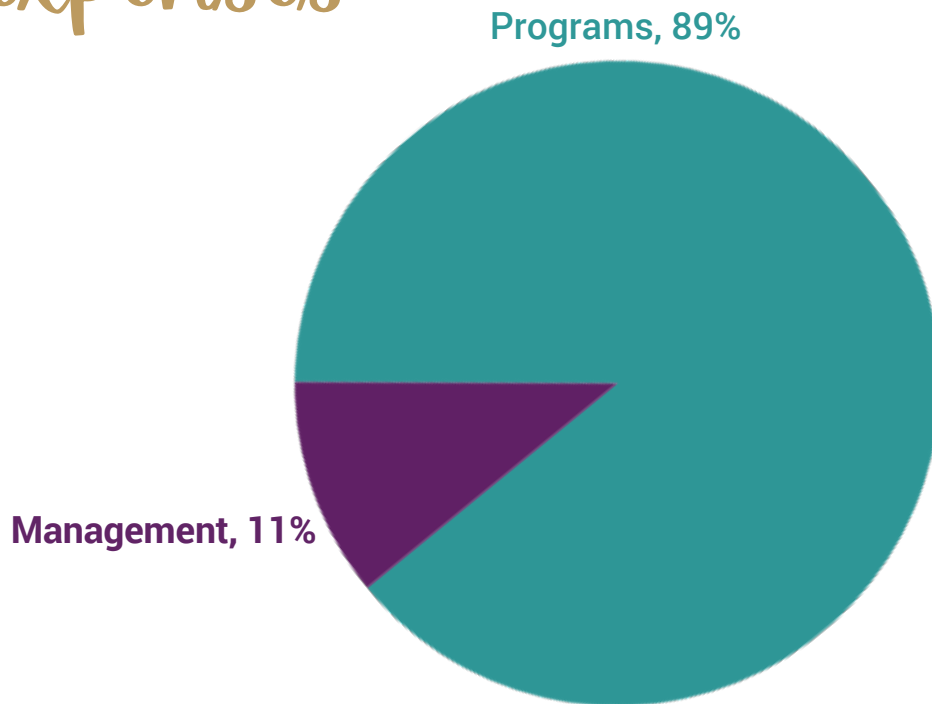
*We invite you to join us in improving the lives of Michigan's pets—
become a member today and help us speak with one voice.*

income



2025

expenses





Michigan Pet Alliance
a 501(c)3 organization
EIN: 20-0399162

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2025