

CLAY HUMANE

# ANNUAL REPORT

2025



**THE PURPOSE OF THE CLAY COUNTY  
HUMANE SOCIETY IS:  
“THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO  
ANIMALS, THE RELIEF OF  
SUFFERING AMONG ANIMALS, AND THE  
EXTENSION OF HUMANE EDUCATION.**

The Clay County Humane Society is a private non-profit animal welfare organization which was established in 1978. Initially our service to the community was the operation of a small shelter for abandoned dogs and cats which provided veterinary care, sterilization, and adoption into suitable homes. During the time we operated the shelter, the proliferation of unwanted dogs and cats ultimately resulted in a euthanasia rate at the County’s Animal Control facility of approximately 10,000 animals per year. It became obvious that while our shelter work was worthwhile, a more aggressive approach to the pet overpopulation problem was needed.

The Humane Society responded by opening the area’s first non-profit animal clinic where spay/neuter surgery and other basic veterinary care was offered at substantially reduced rates



# CLINIC

A total of 1,374 dog spay and neuter surgeries PLUS 3,376 cat sterilizations and 1,277 other miscellaneous surgeries were performed in 2025. An additional 23,655 animals received wellness care and 2,239 patients received emergency or urgent veterinary care at significantly reduced rates. In 2025, we also welcomed 8,496 new patients, bringing our total patient count to 142,791 since the clinic's inception in 1991.

## Indigent Care Program/ Free Cat Sterilization Program

The Society has an indigent care program in place to assist citizens under financial strain. Over the year, we provided indigent care amounting to \$9,230! In 2013, we added a much anticipated FREE cat sterilization program in which ALL feral cats are sterilized absolutely free. The response has been tremendous! In 2025, we sterilized over 1,705 cats for free bringing the total to 40,686!! With the aid of local corporations and concerned citizens, the Society also maintained a pet food bank for those in need. CCHS was able to provide any families with pet food until they were able to get back on their feet.



## Follow US!



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# PROGRAMS

## **Humane Education**

Humane Education, the catalyst of our work, continues to be of utmost importance to us. Our school presentations, facility tours, publications, exhibit booths, and speaking engagements are just some of the ways we seek to educate the public.

Another effective method of educating the public on humane issues for the Society, is our annual poster contest, offered county-wide to 5th graders. The theme of the contest is the pet overpopulation problem. Students are asked to create a billboard demonstrating the importance of spaying and neutering. Ten schools participate each year, reaching approximately 1,500 students. The 1st place winner's poster is made into a billboard and displayed on Blanding Boulevard for an entire month. What a way to get a message across!

## **Pet-Assisted Therapy**

Seven area facilities are visited on a monthly basis by our pet therapy volunteers, known as the CARE team (Companion Animals Reaching Everyone). Dogs and handlers in our team are registered with Therapy Dogs Alliance. These animals have been through a battery of tests necessary for dogs in therapy situations. Word has spread, so whenever possible, we visit facilities not on our schedule that have requested a visit. Special visits are scheduled at Halloween and Christmas complete with costumes and holiday attire. The therapy program allows elderly to spend time with a loving animal while also providing more socialization for the pets. The residents anticipate these monthly visits and the smiling faces that welcome the volunteers make the trips worthwhile. We have cats, as well as dogs that visit, and we are always looking for more qualified, caring participants, both two and four-legged.

## **Wildlife Protection/ Rehabilitation**

Due to the increasing number of displaced, injured and orphaned wildlife, we established a wildlife rehabilitation program in 1996. We have provided emergency care and nurturing for more than one thousand different animals over the years and have maintained a greater than 80% successful release rate throughout! Although our program has shifted to triage and transport in 2024, we still actively assist in emergency care for several species of native wildlife including birds of prey, turtles, songbirds, and small mammals who find their way to our door. Thanks to dedicated volunteers and staff, we are always prepared for any species in need.

## **Disaster Response**

The Clay County Humane Society is part of the County's disaster preparation plan and has trained a Disaster Animal Response Team (DART). The team is not only ready to lend assistance in our own community, but is also prepared to travel as needed to other parts of the Southeastern United States. At the request of the Humane Society of the United States, CCHS was called into action during the Florida's firestorm of 1998 and in the wake of the devastating Hurricane Katrina. After experiencing the affects of disaster firsthand, the team understands the importance of this program and preparation more than ever. In recent years, with the help of Clay County Fire and Rescue, we've expanded our emergency training to include basic first aid for humans, as well.

Although our team was not deployed in the wake of Hurricane Irma, we were prepared and were able to offer temporary housing for our county shelter cats following catastrophic flooding and emergency care for community animals and orphaned wildlife. We plan to offer an additional training seminar and community disaster preparedness workshops. As evidenced in the past, our DART team will be an asset to any area in the event of disaster.

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# PROGRAMS

## **Animal Control**

We assist Clay County Animal Control with animal issues to help ensure that their care has been addressed in a humane manner. We, once again, provided veterinary care, medical direction, supplies, and additional training for Animal Control staff

## **Service Dogs**

Through programs established with Paws for a Cause and Patriot Service Dogs all dogs in training receive their initial care, vaccinations, and xrays at our veterinary clinic free of charge. Paws with a cause and Patriot Service Dogs are non-profit organizations that provides trained service dogs to the disabled.

## **Publications**

Our newsletter is emailed to our members and distributed through social media. It contains medical and behavioral information, Society events, legislative issues, and the popular "Ask Jake and Scout" advice column. I,

## **Media/ Public Outreach**

Clay Humane is always eager to help spread the word about compassionate care of animal and often reaches large audiences via local media outlets. Through a bi-weekly morning television segment, "Ask the Vet", our veterinarians share their expertise on a variety of animal related topics. As the "go to" animal welfare organization in our area, we are invited to speak in many forums and reach many different audiences



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# UNLEASHING A LEGACY

CLAY HUMANE HAS LONG BEEN THE CENTER OF PET CARE IN NORTHEAST FLORIDA AND WITH THE CONTINUOUS GROWTH IN OUR COMMUNITY, WE WILL CONTINUE TO RISE IN SUPPORT OF OUR ANIMAL COMMUNITY. AS COMPANION ANIMAL OWNERSHIP HAS INCREASED AND CLIENTS EXPECT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF CARE, THE NEED FOR A DEDICATED, CENTRALIZED TREATMENT FACILITY BECAME INCREASINGLY CLEAR. CCHS TREATS OVER 20,000 MEDICAL CASES ANNUALLY, WITH PATIENTS COMING FROM ACROSS THE FIRST COAST AREA. EVERY DAY WE ADAPT TO NEW CHALLENGES TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND STREAMLINE ACCESS TO CARE FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS MORE. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, CLAY HUMANE WILL BE ADDING A NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY THAT WOULD BRING TOGETHER THE BEST IN MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND DIAGNOSTIC CARE UNDER ONE ROOF AND WOULD ENHANCE TREATMENT, ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION FOR COMPANION ANIMALS ACROSS THE SOUTHEAST. THE PROJECT NOT ONLY INTENDS TO EXPAND CLAY HUMANE'S CAPACITY TO CARE FOR PETS, IT ALSO ALLOWS FOR THEM TO TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF VETERINARIANS THROUGH A TEACHING HOSPITAL PROGRAM TO BE REALIZED AS PART OF THIS ENDEAVOR. FOR BOTH STAFF AND COMMUNITY, CLAY HUMANE'S ABILITY TO ADAPT TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY IS MORE THAN AN EXPANSION OF FACILITIES; IT'S A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN VETERINARY MEDICINE AND THE UNFALTERING PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND.

***OUR FUTURE WILL BE BREAKING GROUND AND GROUND-BREAKING!***

FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

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