



# Celebrating a Century of Compassion:

## 100 Years of Animal Rescue





For 100 years, one name has been synonymous with animal rescues in this country and around the world: American Humane Association. Founded in 1877, the country's first national humane organization has led the Compassion Movement and has been at the forefront of virtually every major advance in safeguarding – and saving – the most vulnerable among us.

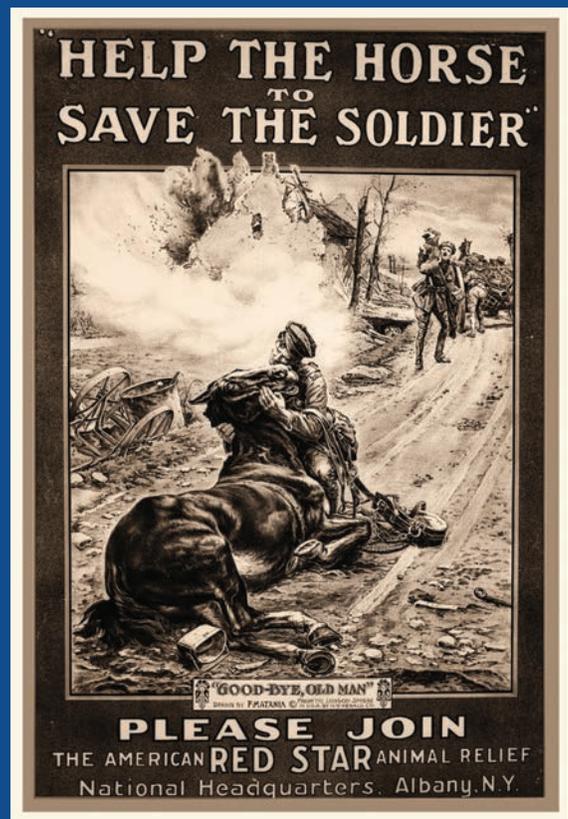
## Origin of American Humane Association's Animal Rescue Program

In 1914, Europe erupted into the then most destructive and deadliest war in history. Huge numbers of casualties mounted among both soldiers and military animals. More than 8 million war horses perished on the blood-soaked battlefields of Europe, as soldiers targeted the animals used for the vital transport of troops and supplies.

American Humane Association President Dr. William O. Stillman underscored the crisis at the organization's annual meeting in 1915, noting that, "The average duration of a horse's life on the battlefield is mostly only a matter of a few days."

In 1916, U.S. Secretary of War Newton Baker wrote an impassioned note to American Humane Association, the country's first national humane organization, imploring them to intervene to save and care for the millions of vitally important war horses and mules being wounded and killed. "Save the Horse to Save the Soldier!" is the rallying cry that goes up throughout the land.

To support the country and provide humanitarian aid for our four-footed warriors, American Humane Association sent medical supplies, ambulances and veterinarians to the front lines, caring for 68,000 injured horses each month.



Americans joined the call to provide these lifesaving services, and even silent movie star Mary Pickford got involved in the campaign to support for these important animals. One of the earliest pioneers of animal welfare, American Humane Association's American Red Star Animal Relief program was a huge success and showed the world that our animal friends deserve our care and respect.

Since the Great War, American Humane Association's animal rescue team has been part of virtually every major disaster relief effort from Pearl Harbor to the Mount St. Helens eruption, Hurricanes Andrew, Katrina and Sandy, the devastating earthquakes in Haiti and Japan, the terror attacks on 9/11, and the tornadoes that leveled Joplin, Missouri and Moore, Oklahoma.

Saving and sheltering more than 80,000 animals in the past 10 years alone, American Humane Association's rescue team works with a fleet of emergency response vehicles equipped with specialized rescue equipment specifically designed for animal search and rescue – as well as an army of more than 200 Emergency Services Volunteers all across America who are standing by for the call to help.

Today, American Humane Association is still at work, commemorating the 100th anniversary of their rescue efforts with a gift to – and investment in – America's animals, unveiling a giant, 50-foot rescue vehicle at the New York Stock Exchange. The vehicle, which carries lifesaving supplies and equipment to shelter 100 animals, will be stationed in Oklahoma's Tornado Alley on the anniversary of the terrible EF-5 tornado that devastated Moore.

For over a century American Humane Association and their animal rescue team have been there for our best friends. Take a look at just some of their achievements over the past 100 years.



American Humane Association  
Emergency Services

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## Highlights from 100 years of American Humane Association's legendary animal rescue program

Though the full list of accomplishments of American Humane Association's animal rescue teams could fill many volumes, here is a brief timeline of the major deployments in which they have participated over the past century:



### 1916

With millions of horses dying in World War I, U.S. Secretary of War Newton D. Baker invites American Humane Association "to undertake the work of doing for Army animals in World War I what the American Red Cross is doing for soldiers." American Humane Association creates American Red Star Animal Relief to rescue war horses on the battlefields of Europe. Soon they were caring for 68,000 wounded horses a month.

### 1920

After the war, American Humane Association turns its attention to rescuing animals caught in disaster areas, and provides money to purchase feed that saves thousands of elk in Yellowstone National Park from starving to death.

### 1937

The Mississippi River floods and American Humane Association helps rescue and feed stranded farm animals in Missouri.





## 1940

American Humane Association begins preparations for the United States' entry into World War II by working with communities across the country to establish evacuation points and air raid shelters for animals and finding volunteers to house potentially displaced animals. Thankfully these were never needed. The group makes a sizable grant to Britain's Royal Society for the Protection of Animals to provide food and shelter for pets and livestock whose homes were destroyed by German bombs.



## 1941

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor – “a day which will live in infamy” – American Humane Association deploys to Pearl Harbor to aid in the recovery efforts.

## 1946

American Humane Association responds when a strike by railroad workers leaves animals across the country stranded on trains with no one to move them or unload them. Our team provides water and food and save many cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry from starving to death.

## 1949

A blizzard cripples the Western United States and American Humane Association uses an airplane to drop feed to livestock unable to find food in the white-out conditions.



## 1951

American Humane Association begins training a “civil defense corps” to care for animals in disasters. Our national corps of hundreds of volunteers is made up of people from all walks of life – from firefighters to veterinarians to teachers – who all share one common goal: rescuing animals in need. These dedicated volunteers drop everything at a moment's notice to help deploy with American Humane Association.

## 1967

American Humane Association sends aid to help animals abandoned or left homeless after the Detroit riots.

## 1969

One of the most powerful hurricanes of all time – Hurricane Camille – strikes the Gulf Coast, and American Humane Association races to help rescue animals caught in the storm.

## 1971

American Humane Association workers aid shore birds following a tanker spill off San Francisco.



## 1980

Mount St. Helens erupts in Washington State, instantly destroying 210 square miles of forest and killing millions of wild animals. Thousands of homeowners are forced to evacuate, leaving them with difficulty feeding and providing shelter for their pets. American Humane Association joins in the massive relief effort on behalf of these animals.

## 1984

American Humane Association evacuates animals caught by flooding in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

## 1985

After a blizzard strikes Arizona, livestock are left stranded on farms and ranches with no food, so American Humane Association hires a helicopter to airdrop hay and other feed for the animals.

## 1992

One of the worst disasters in American history strikes the Southeast, with the powerful Hurricane Andrew making landfall in Homestead, Florida, displacing more than 2 million people. American Humane Association deploys for six weeks to help care for the thousands of dogs and cats housed in makeshift shelters while their homeowners wait to return to their homes, or have their homes rebuilt. Many of these animals are eventually transported to shelters in the Northeast to find new homes and avoid being euthanized.

## 1994

After a winter of heavy snowfall in the Midwest, warm weather in early spring causes a massive melting event and historic flooding of the Mississippi River. The flooding begins in Minneapolis with a swell of water moving downstream, affecting towns in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. American Humane Association faces an unprecedented rescue situation: Once flood waters have receded in one town, it means that the organization will need to rescue animals in trees in the next town downstream where the floodwaters are cresting and simultaneously help to evacuate the next town downriver before the floodwaters get there.





## 1995

American Humane Association helps pioneer the use of co-location shelters, that is, relief shelters that house both people and animals. Before this, families forced to evacuate their homes often left their pets behind because human shelters did not permit them out of fear of disease transmission or bites.

American Humane Association devises a new type of shelter that houses animals in crates in a separate area where their owners can visit them. To test this new model, the organization works with local animal care and disaster relief agencies in Orlando, Florida to stage "Hurricane Woof": a mock disaster situation where 100 people and their pets live for 24 hours in this new type of shelter. The operation is a complete success and more human rescue agencies begin to accept this new type of co-location shelter in future disaster relief efforts.

## 1996

One of American Humane Association's more unusual animal rescue missions begins after a train with propane tanker cars derails near the small town of Weyauwega, Wisconsin. As a precaution, the entire town is evacuated and the townspeople are told to bring nothing with them – even their pets. Citizens begin to panic at the thought of their pets left behind with limited food and water. With a list of addresses and the keys to the homes with pets, American Humane Association rides through the streets in an army tank to retrieve the animals. Making trip after



trip, all are eventually reunited with their happy owners.

## 1999

American Humane Association deploys to Oklahoma and Kansas in July after a violent tornado outbreak leaves widespread destruction and displaces thousands of pets.

Just a week later, Hurricane Floyd comes ashore in North Carolina after moving up the Florida coast. While one team finishes up tornado operations in the Midwest, a second team is deployed to aid in the hurricane relief effort.



## 2001

America attacked! After terrorists strike the Pentagon and the World Trade Center on September 11th, American Humane Association delivers supplies and equipment to New York City and helps care for the 300 search-and-rescue dogs searching for survivors in the rubble.



## 2005

American Humane Association deploys to Louisiana to help animal victims of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. With 18,000 man-hours logged by volunteers and staff over more than six weeks, it is the longest and most extensive disaster response in American Humane Association's history.

## 2010

American Humane Association deploys a team to help thousands of animals affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

## 2011

As the world watched in horror during the combined earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear incident in Fukushima, Japan, American Humane Association mobilizes resources and financial aid for animal rescue organizations in Japan.

In response to a catastrophic tornado afflicting Joplin, Missouri, American Humane Association deploys amid the destruction.

## 2012

After Superstorm Sandy devastates the Eastern Seaboard, American Humane Association rushes to help the animals of New York and New Jersey, delivering hundreds of thousands of pounds of lifesaving food, supplies, and medicines.





## 2013

Philanthropist Lois Pope underwrites two brand new 50-foot rescue vehicles, one based in the Southeast and one based, with the help of Zoetis and Banfield Pet Hospital, in the Northeast.

When a deadly EF-5 tornado levels the city of Moore, Oklahoma and American Humane Association deploys its Southeast vehicle and its 82-foot Rescue Rig to the scene of the disaster. The team spends more than a month rescuing, sheltering, and reuniting hundreds of animals caught in the devastation.

## 2014

American Humane Association spends months caring for more than 100 filthy, starving and frightened animals discovered at a dysfunctional animal shelter in New Jersey.



## 2015

Two American Humane Association animal rescue trucks join a dozen airplanes and volunteers nationwide for a lifesaving cross-country transport of hundreds of animals from overcrowded rural shelters to other shelters and foster groups where they get a second chance at life.

South Carolina's "Thousand-year flood" prompts not one, but two, American Humane Association deployments to rescue, shelter, and care for animals stranded by the floodwaters.



## 2016

American Humane Association begins its 100th year of rescuing animals by deploying to the Memphis area to save 46 cats from a cruelty situation, and traveling to Buffalo, NY to help in a cruelty case involving more than 500 neglected farm animals.



The organization celebrates its Centennial of animal rescue by giving a giant gift to America's animals: a new 50-foot animal rescue truck, funded by the William H. Donner Foundation, the Kirkpatrick Foundation, and others, to be stationed in Oklahoma's Tornado Alley on the anniversary of the deadly Moore disaster. The truck makes its national debut outside the New York Stock Exchange on May 9, where American Humane Association officials and other VIPs ring the opening bell.





## Always prepared, whenever and wherever animals are in need

Now entering its second century of rescuing animals in crisis, American Humane Association is preparing to meet new and growing challenges. While the organization has giant rescue trucks stationed in the Northeast, the Southeast, the Rocky Mountain area, and the Plains States, more of these trucks are needed for other disaster-prone regions of the country so that we may respond quickly when time is critical. Our hope is eventually to have one rescue vehicle in each of the 10 FEMA regions across the country. Then we can be there whenever, wherever animals are in need.

And even when the skies are calm, American Humane Association intervenes in cruelty cases, helps prepare communities for the worst, educates schoolchildren on the vital role that animals play in our lives, and provides second chances to animal victims of abuse and neglect.

## Join us for the next century of animal rescue

To ensure we are always there, everywhere, for America's animals, join the country's first national humane organization in expanding our national fleet of rescue vehicles and providing hope, help and healing for a new century.

To learn more or to support American Humane Association's animal rescue program, please call 1-800-227-4645 or visit [www.AmericanHumane.org](http://www.AmericanHumane.org).