



**Just like people, animals  
need your help!**

### **Did You Know?**

- An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of assault each year by someone who supposedly loved them.
- The cost of this violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, including \$4.1 billion for direct medical and mental health services.
- 6 million children are abused each year. Each day, four of them die as a result of their injuries.
- Men are victims of physical abuse, too, but are less likely to admit it and seek help.
- There are thousands of safe houses across the country where victims who are fleeing violent and abusive situations can seek shelter.



### **Why are we at Harbor Humane Society telling you this?**

Because several of our animals come from similar situations. Sometimes they suffered at the hands of the very people who supposedly loved them. Sometimes it was mental abuse. Many times it was physical abuse. Sometimes the scars were very visible. Sometimes they were not. There were those like:



**Shelby**

- The strong and intelligent Pitbull who we suspect was used for profit in a dog fighting ring, and is covered in permanent scars. Was he a winner or a loser?
- An adorable, young Lab mix who was probably their bait dog, used like a rag doll to make other dogs more and more aggressive and rescued before its injuries resulted in death.
- The litter after litter of kittens saved before they were inhumanely drowned or suffocated because there were just so many that the owners couldn't find homes for them. Really? Haven't they heard of low-cost spay and neuter?
- A beautiful Shepherd mix set on fire for reasons we will never know. That was also the fate of "Shelby", for whom our thrift store is named.

But just like the abused women who somehow find the strength to flee and get help at a shelter, somehow animals like these found Harbor Humane Society, and are getting the help they need. Whether it was a Good Samaritan, a humane animal agency or the very people inflict-

ing the pain on these poor, defenseless creatures who realized they could no longer control themselves and knew enough to surrender their pet here to us at Harbor Humane Society, these animals were lucky enough to get a second chance so we could ease their pain and show them the love that they deserve.

Domestic violence shelters provide immediate safety to battered men, women and children. At HHS, we do the same. Safe, emergency shelter is a necessary first step in helping gain control over the lives of all the little angels who enter our doors. We provide all the animals in our care with food, a warm bed, toys, walks and/or personal interaction with patient and caring staff and volunteers, mental stimulation, the medical care they need, and the time and resources to heal and adjust before they are ready for adoption into new and stable, loving homes. Animals are so resilient. If you've ever adopted a pet who came from a troubled past, chances are they were quickly able to trust and love again. They may never forget what happened to them, but animals seem to be so good at being able to forgive.

[This all costs money, and we need your help.](#) Maybe you or someone you know or love has experienced this kind of hurt first-hand. Sometimes it takes victims of abuse years to speak up or feel they can flee their situation to safety. [The victims of cruelty and neglect who we're helping can't speak for themselves.](#) They need you to be their voice. They need your love and support. Won't you give them your love in the form of a gift to Harbor Humane Society today? With your gift, we will always have a room available and ready in our shelter for those in need.

And today, [we're offering you a second opportunity to make an even bigger commitment.](#) Enclosed you will find information on sponsoring one of our kennels. This is an opportunity to sponsor one of the "rooms" in our shelter for an entire year. This means you will be helping many animals as they receive care and comfort during their stay with us, no matter how long it is.

[Sponsoring a kennel is one of the best ways to show your support](#) because every day someone is living in this room, knowing that you made it possible for them to stay until they found the right family and their new forever home. This will quite possibly be the home away from home for perhaps dozens of animals over the course of the year. Some may only stay a day because they will be adopted right away or because they got lost overnight and were quickly found. And others can stay with us a while longer if they need to. It's our plan to provide regular updates to sponsors on the dogs or cats who occupy their kennel to give you an idea of the variety of interesting animals and unique situations we encounter.

Please review the enclosed information and consider sponsoring a large dog kennel, small dog kennel or cat habitat for the coming 2015 year. You'll be going above and beyond to meet the basic needs of many animals in the place where they are well-fed, tucked in for a good night's sleep and always made to feel safe and happy and warm. [Don't you have "room" in your heart for a kennel sponsorship this year?](#)

You may send your regular donation and/or your special kennel sponsorship to Harbor Humane Society, 14345 Bagley, West Olive, MI 49460. All donations are tax-deductible. Payment plans are available for kennel sponsorships.

*Sources: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.*

