



PRESS RELEASE

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We are aware of the concerns that have been raised. Central Nebraska Humane Society greatly values the longstanding support of the community and are conscious of the need for greater transparency to ensure the trust and support of our donors and the public. In an effort to provide accurate information about the situation of CNHS, we offer the following:

Financial Condition of CNHS

To understand the current financial situation of CNHS, we believe it is important for greater transparency of our historical financials.

	Jan-Dec 2017	Jan-Dec 2016	Jan-Dec 2015	Jan-Dec 2014	Jan-Dec 2013
Gross Profit	\$779,527.06	\$996,382.38	\$1,069,805.52	\$901,717.26	\$819,668.50
Total Expenses	\$860,893.76	\$897,910.86	\$946,162.05	\$961,241.05	\$771,413.57
Net Ordinary Income	(\$81,366.70)	\$98,471.52	\$123,643.47	(\$59,523.79)	\$48,254.93

Jill Hornady, former board president, and Pam Lancaster, Hall County board member, have expressed concern about the current financial condition of CNHS. CNHS is in no different position now than it has been for much of its history. According to Ms. Hornady "a well-run organization should not have to borrow money to pay its employees. That never happened during the six years she headed the board, she said." In reviewing the history of CNHS, according to the minutes from the February 16, 2009 board meeting, "[board member] shared that we were in the black last year for the first time." In 2015, CNHS had net operating losses in 5 out of 12 months with the average loss being over \$27,000. In 2016 and 2017, CNHS had 8 months of operating losses with the average loss being in excess of

\$16,000 and \$25,000 respectively. It should further be noted that in 2015 and 2016 large donations from estates in the amounts of \$93,000 in 2015 and \$84,000 in 2016 were received which impacted CNHS's end of year results.

To imply that CNHS suddenly (since May 2017) has a cash flow problem, is not accurate.

In the past two years, the following changes have been made to address the financial condition of CNHS:

- 1) A budget process was created that took into account the actual and projected expenses and income for CNHS. We continue to improve on this process.
- 2) Fundraisers were restructured so that CNHS has one major fundraiser in each quarter of the year (1st Quarter – Fur Ball; 2nd Quarter – Go Big Give; 3rd Quarter – The Walk for Animals; and 4th Quarter – Angus T. Loner Annual Giving Campaign).
- 3) Expenses have been examined and reduced where necessary. For example, CNHS would vaccinate every animal that came into CNHS. In some situations, where the dog was a known runner, we were vaccinating the same dog even if it had come in the prior week or month and we were just waiting for the owner to come pick up the dog. This practice of repeated vaccination of the same dog in a short period of time has been stopped. Furthermore, the vaccinations don't take effect for seven days.
- 4) Created a formal grant writing program to access the untapped opportunities for additional funding sources that have not been utilized in the past.

As for fundraising efforts, year to date in 2018, CNHS is up 3% in fundraising compared to the same time last year. Our most recent annual letter, sent at the end of November 2017 was a success.

2017	\$48,855.00
2016	\$33,042.00
2015	\$56,981.00
2014	\$18,623.00
2013	\$47,282.00

While our Fur Ball did not reach the goal we set, we are unable to provide an exact comparison with other years. When we attempted to do an audit of the years prior to 2017, we discovered that money donated during the annual campaign was also counted toward Fur Ball totals. Given that we now use Qtego we can provide the following comparisons:

Attendance

2018	310
2017	351
2016	359
2015	324

	Silent Auction	Live Auction	Instant Buys	Fill the Heart
2018	\$22,185.00	\$13,960.00	\$1,580.00	\$12,839.00
2017	\$18,497.00	\$19,760.00	\$1,250.00	\$15,220.00
2016	\$16,235.00	\$28,810.00	\$2,960.00	\$21,135.00
2015	Not available	\$42,073.00	\$4,350.00	\$21,816.00

While we are up in fundraising, so are expenses. As of May, vet expenses for 2018 were 38% over budget. Increases in vet expenses, coupled with the fact that the shelter almost always runs at capacity, led the board to make some short term austere cost cutting decisions, such as limiting the use of flea and tick medicine, and enforcing a long standing policy of not providing free and reduced vet care to staff and volunteers. We are conscious of our obligations to wisely spend donor money in the most fiscally sound manner possible.

Euthanasia Policy

For any animal lover, no decision is more difficult to make than the euthanasia of a beloved animal in your care. Yet sometimes, this is the right choice.

As an open admission shelter, we take in every animal that comes to us, regardless of health or temperament. We also take in every stray animal in Grand Island or Hall County. This means that nearly every homeless animal in the Grand Island or Hall County hit by a car, found starving and abused on the side of the road, or suffering from illness or injury makes its way to us.

Our staff and volunteers love these animals as if they were our own. In nearly every case, we are desperate to save them. We face the same kinds of questions that families do when they have a sick or dying pet. Can we save her? What will his quality of life be like? Is she suffering needlessly? Are my other pets at risk? How much will it cost? What are our options if we can't afford it?

Some days, we are able to pull off a miracle... a kind donor gives us money to pay for a life-saving surgery or a veterinarian offers to reduce their fee so that we can squeeze in just one more heartworm treatment. Other days, the cost to treat one precious animal for a life-threatening illness is out of reach or there is nowhere to safely place a highly contagious animal without putting all of our other animals at risk. Those are the hard days. The decision to euthanize is never easy and those are the days we all go home in tears.

Much has been stated about CNHS's current euthanasia practices. For both year to date and the month of May, CNHS's euthanasia rates are the lowest they have been:

Month of May

2015	19
2016	16
2017	14
2018	12

Year to Date, as of May 31

2015	94
2016	63
2017	63
2018	32

Even with limited resources, we are able find homes for more than 1,000 animals each year. We are actively working towards the day when we can save them all, but we cannot do it alone. You, the members of our community, make this work possible through your donations, volunteer support, and especially your kindness and understanding on the hard days.

Improvements to CNHS

The board and staff have been focused on programs and policies changes since November 2017:

- 1) We have revamped the adoption process. Staff had concerns that there was no formalized criteria for adoptions. Under the current staff and board, a new adoption application was developed, but more importantly, we have developed a questionnaire for adoption staff to use to help evaluate potential adopters to determine if the animal is the right fit. This change was made to reduce our return rate. Our goal is to adopt out an animal one time. While we know we will not be 100% successful, we want to make sure best practices are in place to be as successful as possible for the animal
- 2) We have created a formal volunteer program. Volunteers now include Dog and Cat PALS (petting, attention, and love), Adoption Preparation, Community Outreach, and Building & Landscaping. Adoption preparation volunteers will be trained to use specific behavior modification protocols to help prepare shy and fearful animals for the adoption floor and help them ultimately find a new home.
- 3) As part of creating the volunteer programs, we have overhauled the foster program. All fosters now have to fill out a foster application and be approved. We have created protocols to track what animals are in foster care so that we never again have a situation where an animal goes into foster and we lose track of it. The foster program will include kitten fosters to ease the strain on staff, and will include day fosters. Day fosters are people who take shelter animals out of the shelter during the day and expose them to real life situations like playing at the park, running errands, and interaction with other people and animals.
- 4) We have overhauled the behavioral and medical assessment process for dogs and cats. It is the current board's and staff's belief that an animal needs to be assessed more than one time and for more than fifteen minutes. Therefore, the assessment process has been completely changed to try to give each animal the best opportunity to be adopted into the appropriate home.

Just as important, we have been focusing on long needed repairs to the building:

- 1) In the puppy room we added sound panels to decrease the echo. Sound panels have been donated for the main adoption floor also, and we will be installing those. The decrease sound will only improve the quality of life for the animals.
- 2) Repairing walls in the main adoption area and ACO hold room.
- 3) Painting cat world, parts of the main kennel, and most offices.
- 4) Replacing the dishwasher that had been failing for years.
- 5) Repairing the doors on the get acquainted rooms.
- 6) Repairing the walls in the get acquainted rooms where the drywall had disintegrated and the metal studs had rusted.
- 7) Repairing the air conditioner.
- 8) Determining the cause of the improper functioning of the laundry facilities and as a result, discovered and remedied the vent blockage which if continued to go unchecked could have resulted in a facility fire. According to the contractor brought in to help, this was not something that developed during 2017.
- 9) In December 2017, it was discovered that the emergency services alarm system had been disconnected from the 911 center for approximately two years. The necessary repairs to be made so that the alarm system could be reconnected, thus ensuring the safety of our staff and animals.

We are also currently in the process of repairing several other structural issues with the building that the Board has been aware of for many years.

How You Can Help

If you have a sincere desire to help, we want to work with you!

Make an incredible difference in the lives of homeless animals by donating today, or by becoming a kennel sponsor. For more information on donating or being a kennel sponsor, contact Kendrick at (308) 385-5303.

Please sign up to foster or volunteer now. Your hands-on efforts will truly make a difference in the lives of the more than 200 pets who are our care every day. If you are interested in fostering or volunteering, contact Maggie at (308) 385-5303.

2018 promises to be an exciting year and we looking forward to working with you to continue our life-saving and life-changing work. Thank you to the thousands of supporters, small and large, and to our incredible partners who help us achieve our mission every day. It is our sincere hope that our critics will join us, instead of attack us, as we work day after day to save more lives. We do believe we share a common goal, and we hope we can work together, and not at odds, to save more lives in 2018 and beyond.

Sincerely, Chasity Cross and Penny Muirhead

Central Nebraska Humane Society is a private, not-for-profit organization founded in 1966 to develop and implement animal welfare programs and services within Grand Island and the surrounding area. CNHS's mission is to promote the adoption of rescued, abandoned, abused, or neglected animals into safe, lifelong homes. While providing shelter and adoption programs for homeless animals, CNHS also strives to educate the community on responsible animal ownership. For more information about CNHS please visit our website www.centralnebraskahumanesociety.com or call (308) 385-5305.