



**TORONTO
HUMANE
SOCIETY**

like no
other.

ANIMAL TRANSPORT

Program Summary

Executive Summary

At times the Toronto Humane Society has the capacity to adopt more animals than are surrendered to our shelter. Many other shelters and rescues have a population in excess of their adoptive capacity and/or do not have the medical resources to provide appropriate care. By partnering with other shelters and rescues, we create a means to address animal population imbalances between communities. It supports the “movement of animals from organizations overburdened with more animals than they have the capacity to care for and a limited market demand, to organizations with fewer animals and higher market demand, thus reducing euthanasia and saving animal lives” ([AAWA](#)).

In the world of animal transport, our goal is to put ourselves out of business. We want to support solutions that lead to self-sustaining communities who are able to manage their pet populations without the need for transport. We want to mitigate unnecessary euthanasia, pain or suffering for pets and will work on addressing the root causes of these issues. We will do this through adapting to the changing landscape of pet transport, and seek areas where we can build impact.

The Animal Transport program acts as a capacity provider to agencies and communities who are overburdened with their pet population. We go beyond the basic model of supply and demand and seek to create meaningful, collaborative partnerships. No community, rescue or animal shelter is facing the same set of challenges. We can leverage our expertise in animal care and resources to create personalized/individually tailored solutions for our valued partners. Our transport program works by adapting to the varied landscape of pet transport, seeking areas to build impact and create multi-pronged solutions.

In line with our strategic plan, our Transport Program wants to build trusted relationships. We believe this can be done by [supporting the source agencies beyond taking their dogs or cats](#). We offer a good-faith, supportive relationship which is mutually beneficial to all parties involved. When transport partners engage with us, they can expect an affordable option which ensures their animals receive the expertise and quality of care that is known of the Toronto Humane Society. We also ensure that we are mitigating the risk of infectious diseases to our local pet population, by utilizing and referring to best practices of transport and shelter medicine.

The vision of the Toronto Humane Society is “to be a leader in animal welfare, working for a compassionate society where all animals are respected and valued.”. Transport enables the Toronto Humane Society to reach beyond the doors of our facility and find ways to save lives and promote humane care of animals across the map.

Program Objectives

Objective One: To Facilitate the Transport and Rehoming of As Many Animals of Possible

We will aim to transport as many animals as possible, with a focus on mitigating infectious disease risk and optimizing outcomes for animals. We will strive to achieve this through utilizing best practices for animal transport and ensuring animals are selected based on our Transfer Strategy.

Objective Two: To Support Solutions that Lead to Self-Sustaining Communities

We want to continue to work with communities and support those that are addressing the root problems of over- population; a challenge within communities that causes perpetual states of



suffering. Our goal is that our partners, ultimately, will be able to manage their pet populations without the ongoing need for transport and re-location. One by one we will work with communities and agencies aiming to assist them on their way to a place where we, and others, are no longer needed for support.

Objective Three: To Deepen Organizational Capacity for Life-Saving

The Community Sheltering program offers an outlet from the shelter, wherein our organization can care for more animals at any given time. We recognize that key indicators such as length of stay can affect our capacity, which is why our program regularly considers how we can best manage the flow of animals into and out of our care. We strive to be consistently readily able to place animals into foster care and have space for those who need it most. Our community-based services allow us to deliver our high-levels of care at a lower cost per animal enabling Toronto Humane Society to impact a greater number of lives than would be possible through the facility alone.

Program Leadership

Division Manager, Community-Based Sheltering and Animal Transport – Larisa Nagelberg

Larisa has worked at Toronto Humane Society for the past 7 years in a number of different capacities. She started in Animal Care, and since has worked in Adoptions, Foster, and Transport. She has a Project Management certificate from the University of Toronto and is a certified Project Management Professional. She also holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts (Hon. BA) degree focused on Major in Environmental Geography & Human Geography from University of Toronto. In her current role, Larisa oversees the operations and care of over 1000 animals each year.

Larisa's key strengths are within the areas of program development, partnership-building, and volunteer coordination. She has scaled several different aspects of the shelter's operations, including the growth of the foster department from 2-12 people since 2020. In her role as a Rescue Transport Coordinator, Larisa managed relationships with 50+ partner organizations such as shelters and rescue groups, successfully creating 21 new partnerships in one year.

With a passion for the Human-Animal Bond, Larisa began developing the Urgent Care program in 2019 offering temporary animal housing to individuals experiencing crisis and was honored with the 'Outstanding Community Support' award from one of our cherished Urgent Care partner agencies.

Chief Veterinary Office – Dr. Karen Ward, DVM

Dr. Ward received her DVM from the Ontario Veterinary College. She was an ASPCA UC Davis Shelter Medicine fellow in 2012- 2013, and continues to act as a mentor in the Maddie's Fund University of Wisconsin/University of California Davis Shelter Medicine Fellowship. She volunteers as a peer advisor with the College of Veterinarians of Ontario, where she has also acted as an expert witness and a mentor.

Dr. Ward is passionate about improving the lives of animals and is proud to be an Elite Fear Free Certified Professional, a Fear Free Shelter Graduate and Low Stress Handling Certified – Silver.

Dr. Ward believes that shelter and community medicine is the world's best job, and she is privileged to work at the Toronto Humane Society.

