A YEAR OF CHALLENGE AND GREAT OPPORTUNITY

We meet at the same table, where our best ideas come together in community. That’s our secret sauce. As an organization that values trusted relationships, we rely on in-person meetings to deliver the message from animals that humans need to hear. Like you, we’ve had to adjust to a new way of doing business in the midst of a pandemic. In doing so, we found the silver lining in a cloud covered year.

Now at home with time on our hands, we found that stakeholders in animal protection were widely available and ready to ‘meet’ over zoom video conferencing. The HUMANE ACTION Pittsburgh team reached out to more educators, law enforcement officials, legislators, and non-traditional advocates than ever before. Wearing casual clothes and with coffee in hand, we had meaningful virtual conversations at kitchen tables all over the country. This led to the preparation of a dozen proposed new laws and policies ready for introduction in the new year.
To our surprise, many answered our calls to action for positions with HAP from outside the state — and from far outside the country! For example, our wonderful administrative and research assistant Emma Powis does great online work for Pittsburgh’s animals from her home in Australia. During this time, our highly-skilled staff positions expanded to 17 people and our community meetings continued albeit via internet.

HAP became an official 501(c)(3) non-profit organization on May 22, with an effective date of exemption of May 21, 2019. This is welcome news as our mission, along with our expenses, have grown. HAP directors and officers participated in leadership and development trainings and most of our leadership team members have taken on increased responsibilities as our mission continues to grow.

We acknowledge that this year has been challenging to everyone and downright devastating to many. At this point, all of us know someone who suffered from the coronavirus or had it themselves. To those who lost a loved one, we extend our heart-felt condolences. It’s at times such as this that we recognize what matters most — kindness, lending a helping hand, and most of all love.

HUMANE ACTION Pittsburgh is extremely grateful for the contributions from so many that make our mission possible. Your support in all forms gives us every reason to expect that we will set new animal protection milestones in the year ahead. We look forward to celebrating with you at the Heroes Award Gala, hopefully in September 2021, where we’ll meet at the same table again.

**Brian Bonsteel**  
Founder and President, Dr. Brian Bonsteel

**Natalie Ahwesh**  
Executive Director, Natalie Ahwesh
Thanks to the generosity of Spring Point Partners, HAP was able to hire Adisa, who have been coaching us on strategic planning, leadership development, executive coaching, volunteer engagement, and fundraising. This assistance helped attract highly skilled volunteers and increased fundraising efforts. The experience built a motivated and cohesive leadership team.

Organizational Coach **Betsy McFarland** works with HAP leadership on strategic planning, January 2020.
MEDIA TRAINING
HAP received training by journalist and investigative reporter Lisa Fletcher, formerly with Al Jazeera America and currently with WJLA-TV in Washington, D.C., on effective media engagement.

PROMOTIONS

Vice President Natalie Ahwesh was promoted to Executive Director.

Former Director of Compassionate Living Kayla Seifert was promoted to Director of Fundraising after completing a two month fundraising training course through Bloomerang.

NEW ADDITIONS TO HAP LEADERSHIP

Janice Bahary, Director of Grant Writing
Jason Hinkledire, HAP Podcast Host
Gwendalyn Huffman, Co-Chair of the Western PA Ethical Eating Collective
Hannah Lewis, Assistant Grant Writer and Assistant Blogger
Bob McGrogan, “No Plastic Please” Strategic Analyst
Brittany Menhart, Fish and Wildlife Strategic Analyst
Emma Powis, Administrative Assistant
Taylor Wainwright, Co-Chair of the Western PA Ethical Eating Collective
PARTNERS IN ANIMAL PROTECTION

ANIMAL ADVOCATES OF SOUTH CENTRAL PA
HAP values working with community partners. While we worked with many like-minded organizations across the region, we would like to highlight our collaboration with Animal Advocates of South Central PA, with whom we met several legislators from the middle of the state, and Animal Wellness Action, of which HAP ED Natalie Ahwesh became Grassroots Communications Coordinator.

Photo: HAP leadership meets with Animal Advocates of South Central PA President Adrienne Williams to discuss legislative priorities.

ANIMAL WELLNESS ACTION
HAP partnered with Animal Wellness Action (AWA) and Project Coyote to combat the brutal practice of Wildlife Killing Contests, where coyotes and foxes are killed en masse without regard to ethical hunting procedures. The bodies are typically dumped like
garbage. It has been reported that Pennsylvania holds more of these contests than any other state in the country.

**WRITS OF COUNCIL & PROCLAMATIONS**

HAP procured Writs of Council and Proclamations condemning wildlife killing contests from the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County Council, Bellevue, Sharpsburg, and Monessen. We met with dozens of legislators and the Pennsylvania Game Commission to discuss the issue.

**HAP AT THE MOVIES**

- Project Coyote, HAP, and AWA hosted “The Killing Games” to educate the general public about how this wanton waste of wildlife solely for the pleasure of killing.

- HAP and AWA cohosted a discussion on the documentary film “Endgame 2050”, moderated by Natalie Ahwesh. The movie discusses what life will be like in the year 2050 if we continue down our current path of booming populations, animal agriculture, and reliance on single-use plastic.
HUMANE ACTION Pittsburgh and Animal Wellness Action invite you to a free film screening of the groundbreaking new documentary ENDGAME 2050, followed by a 60-minute discussion with an amazing panel of experts, shown below.

Want to join us for this exciting event?
• Watch the film at your convenience on YouTube at https://youtu.be/o8YomEOExkc
• Then join us for our panel discussion on September 24 from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. EST on Zoom by registering at https://bit.ly/34dUgyw.

• HAP’s “No Plastic Please” Director Sabrina Culyba also hosted an online screening and panel discussion of the documentary "The Story of Plastic" in partnership with Allegheny Cleanways.

COMpassionate Living

Ethical Eating Collective
In previous Climate Action Plans released by the City of Pittsburgh, a goal of reducing meat intake by 50% by 2030 was included. This goal has now been taken out and replaced with less meaningful meat reduction benchmarks.

Led by Taylor Wainwright and Gwendalyn Huffman, HAP has created the Western Pennsylvania Ethical Eating Collective. The goal is to assist the City of Pittsburgh in reprioritizing meat reduction goals to combat climate change. The Collective also consists of HAP President Dr. Brian Bonsteel, HAP ED Natalie Ahwesh, Jewish Veg ED Jeffrey Spitz-Cohan, and Dr. Steven Uretsky.
The United Nations #1 recommendation to combat climate change is to drastically reduce meat consumption. The Collective will work across Western Pennsylvania to improve people’s health and make plant-based foods accessible to all communities.

**BISCUITS BINGO**

HAP was invited to be a beneficiary of the Pittsburgh Police’s 22nd Annual Biscuits Bingo. In addition to raising funds and educating attendees about our work, HAP’s Compassionate Living team worked with organizer Officer **Christine Luffey** so the event was vegetarian for the first time in its history! Pictured below is Officer Christine Luffey with fellow Pittsburgh police officers (left) and HAP volunteers at Biscuits Bingo (right).

**COMPASSIONATE EVENTS**

Our Compassionate Events team, which asks organizations to host cruelty-free fundraisers by taking meat off the menu, grew our partner list to 19 organizations.

**ECOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP**

**“NO PLASTIC PLEASE” — LIVE VIDEO**

HAP’s “No Plastic Please” campaign grew and evolved during the pandemic year. During Summer 2020, NPP Campaign Director **Sabrina Culyba** hosted a series of Live video sessions on Facebook about avoiding plastic waste and interviews with other Pittsburghers connected to the issue of plastic.
PITTSBURGH PLOGGERS

NPP was also excited to welcome Pittsburgh Ploggers under its fold- Pittsburgh Ploggers is a local initiative begun by HAP’s Director of Marketing Shannon Dickerson to organize Pittsburghers to pick up litter while out walking or jogging. In an effort to expand the impact of litter pickups, NPP brought in the Litterati app for photographing and tagging litter.

Together NPP and PP members picked up and tagged thousands of pieces of litter in the Pittsburgh area. Based on this work, the City of Pittsburgh's Clean Pittsburgh Commission adopted Litterati as a city-wide initiative and will be utilizing it in 2021.

REIMAGINE TAKEOUT

In 2020 NPP also launched the Reimagine Takeout initiative to build local support for replacing single-use plastic in food service applications including restaurants and schools. This effort, with guidance from NPP leadership Bob McGrogan and Carolyn Fletcher, established foundational relationships and groundwork for both school and business pilots to be undertaken as Pittsburgh emerges from the covid-19 pandemic.

PLASTICS COLLABORATIVE + HAP

HAP has also been an integral member of the Plastics Collaborative, a collaboration of 35 local organizations working in Pittsburgh to reduce the use of single-use plastic. HAP’s Executive Director Natalie Ahwesh co-chairs the Policy working group, NPP Campaign Director Sabrina Culyba co-chairs the Messaging working group, and NPP leadership member Bob McGrogan sits on the Pilots working group.
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
HAP members wrote several letters to the editor that were published in the Pittsburgh region and beyond. Letters included:

- **Cheryl Mosco** – ending PA pigeon shoots
- **Kayla Seifert** – advocating for the creation of wildlife corridors
- **Natalie Ahwesh** – ending wildlife killing contests and analyzing the relationship between COVID and animals used for food

HAP BLOG
A new biweekly blog authored by Aimee Douglass and Hannah Lewis educates readers on the most pressing animal issues.

HAP NEWSLETTER
HAP started a monthly newsletter written by Director of Communications Rachel Sekine-Tenny. The newsletter includes the important work of HAP, gives tips for living a compassionate lifestyle, and highlights state and federal bills needing action by our members.

HAP PODCAST
Teaming up with Guinness World Record Holder Jason Hinkledire, Natalie Ahwesh started a podcast to interview people making a difference around the country for animals. Episodes can be found on Podbean, Spotify, and several other streaming services.

LEGISLATION
Meetings with legislators looked a little different in the era of COVID. Below are some pictures of in person legislator meetings taken early in 2020, but we were fortunate enough to meet with over two dozen legislators from across the Commonwealth via Zoom.
VICTORIES

CITY OF PITTSBURGH PIGEON AMENDMENT In March 2020, HAP worked with Pittsburgh Councilman Bruce Kraus to amend an outdated law on protecting wild birds. HAP’s updated law makes it illegal for anyone to harm a wild bird, and only a few entities can trap them. Several cases have been brought to Pittsburgh Police Officer Christine Luffey’s attention by HAP member Cheryl Mosco, Pittsburgh’s Pigeon Champion. These efforts have led to multiple charges and convictions.

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR RESOLUTION As a member of the Endangered Species Coalition, HAP was asked to assist in ascertaining cosponsors of a state resolution that would provide funding for wildlife corridors, which provide safe haven for wildlife and minimize traffic accidents. HAP was able to procure cosponsorship from nearly every member of the Western PA House Delegation.

HORSE RACING INTEGRITY ACT As part of the end-of-year federal spending bill signed by President Trump, anti-doping measures in Thoroughbred horse racing are officially enacted. The bill bans race-day doping of horses, a practice prevalent in the U.S. HAP members had been educating legislators on this issue and bill for several years.
IN THE WORKS

PITTSBURGH REPTILE ORDINANCE

In the past several years, Pittsburgh Animal Care and Control, the Pittsburgh Police, and Humane Animal Rescue have had to handle dozens of dangerous reptiles let loose by pet owners who no longer wanted to care for these animals.

Alligators and crocodiles belong in the wild. Even in captivity, they belong in spacious facilities that can meet all their temperature, UV, dietary, and medical needs. These animals are dangerous and cannot be trained by the average individual.

Red-eared slider turtles also do not make good pets. They are an invasive species and when released into the wild, compete with native species for habitat, food resources, nest sites, etc. Further, these turtles can easily carry salmonella bacteria, which can easily be transmitted to humans. Dozens of turtles have been found in our sewer system, left to suffer horrible deaths.

HAP, in partnership with Humane Animal Rescue of Pittsburgh, is proposing an ordinance to Pittsburgh City Council that would ban ownership of these animals, except by properly accredited institutions.

ENDING PA PUPPY MILL MISERY

Our campaign to end Pennsylvania Puppy Mill Misery made great progress this year! HAP hosted two forums of experts from as far away as the United Kingdom to share their expertise on best practices for puppy mill legislation. Findings and recommendations are being used to draft several bills that will be introduced in the PA State House in 2021 by a bipartisan team of legislators. A special thanks to the following for their guidance in assembling the package of bills:

Representative Jason Ortitay, Representative Anita Kulik, Representative Valerie Gaydos, Representative Melissa Shusterman, Charlotte Longster, Dogs Trust U.K., Wayne Pacelle, Animal Wellness Action, Mindi Callison, Bailing Out Benji, and Dan Rossi, Humane Animal Rescue of Pittsburgh
HAP HIVE
Globally there are more honey bees than other types of bee and pollinating insects, thus bees are the world's most important pollinator of food crops. It is estimated that one third of the food that we consume each day relies on pollination mainly by bees — now considered an endangered species. HAP seeks to install ‘bee hotels’ throughout the city as an educational project, built by children, to increase the bee population.

LIVING WITH WILD NEIGHBORS
Raccoons and groundhogs are part of wild, wonderful Pennsylvania. Understandably, we don’t want these animals in our homes, but there is never an excuse for animal cruelty. Pittsburgh has one of the most inhumane trapping and euthanasia programs in the country. Each year, thousands of animals are euthanized by Pittsburgh’s Animal Care and Control — at taxpayer expense. Trapping doesn’t solve the problem and should be used only for life threatening emergencies, such as an animal in your living space. Humane solutions exist.

HAP hired Em Media to launch a regional advertising campaign for 2021 to educate people on living peaceably with wildlife. In addition, we are working with Animal Care and Control to become better educators over the phone and on the web to help residents find alternatives to trapping.

HAP HEROES AWARD GALA
Although we were not able to hold our 2020 Gala, we want to highlight the good work of our honorees.

Pittsburgh Police Officer Christine Luffey, Congressman Mike Doyle, Fitness Guru Richard Butler
SENATOR ROY AFFLERBACH AWARD FOR LIFETIME SERVICE TO ANIMALS, PITTSBURGH POLICE OFFICER CHRISTINE LUFFEY

Our highest award given for monumental achievement in animal protection is being presented to Pittsburgh’s best friend in animal law enforcement. Officer Luffey, famous for rescuing Effie from abuse and neglect, is known as the animal authority on the street and in the courtroom. She’s one of a kind, but with her efforts to train officers in animal protection throughout the city, we trust that her legacy will produce a ‘model humane police department’ both willing and able to help animals in need.

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR, U.S. CONGRESSMAN MIKE DOYLE

Ranked as one of America’s most bi-partisan members of the U.S. Congress, Representative Mike Doyle is widely respected for his humanitarian efforts and for giving a voice to animals. For his exceptional pro-animal voting record, Congressman Doyle is HAP’s Legislative Animal Champion.

COMPASSIONATE LIVING AWARD, RICHARD BUTLER

As our partner in the ‘Heart of a Hero’ campaign, Richard Butler introduced ‘plant-strong’ eating into the vernacular of City of Pittsburgh employees. His innovative approach to reversing heart disease and diabetes with a diet that is sustainable and kind is what compassionate living is all about.

We are hopeful that 2021 will allow us the opportunity to gather in person and honor these animal champions appropriately!

SURROUNDED BY GOOD PEOPLE

GRANT WRITING

Led by Director Janice Bahary, the grant writing team, including Hannah Lewis and Bob McGrogan, are strategizing and preparing grants to fund our campaigns and general mission.
ADVISORY COUNCIL
We are grateful for our Advisory Council members who we rely on for their expertise in growing our organization.

Creator of The Forever Diet Christin Bummer, Jewish Veg Executive Director Jeffrey Spitz-Cohan, The Better Meat Co. CEO Paul Shapiro, and Allegheny County Treasurer John Weinstein

OFFICERS
Brian Bonsteel, President and Founder
Natalie Ahwesh, Executive Director and Vice-President
Sam Ahwesh, Treasurer
Mario Costanzo, Secretary
LEADERSHIP
Janice Bahary, Director of Grant Writing
Sabrina Culyba, Director of “No Plastic Please”
Shannon Dickerson, Director of Marketing
Aimee Douglass, Lead Blogger and Strategic Planning
Jason Hinkledire, HAP Podcast Host
Gwen Huffman, Co-Director of Ethical Eating Collective
Hannah Lewis, Grant Writer and Assistant Blog Writer
Bob McGrogan, “No Plastic Please” Strategic Analyst
Brittany Menhart, Fish and Wildlife Strategic Analyst
Emma Powis, Administrative Assistant
Kayla Seifert, Director of Fundraising
Rachel Sekine-Tenny, Director of Communications
Taylor Wainwright, Co-Director of Ethical Eating Collective

INCOME
HAP raised $28,100 in 2020, $22,500 from grants and $5,600 from individual donors. These funds were spent on things such as campaign materials, parking, printing, insurance, a CRM, Zoom, website development, and Adisa organizational coaching. $10,000 is set aside for the 2021 Wildlife campaign.

All “staff” members take no pay which allows us to use financial gifts for campaigns and modest administrative expenses. HAP currently operates from an in-home office and holds public gatherings (pre-pandemic) through the generosity of Humane Animal Rescue, saving the cost of meeting space.
THANK YOU

Your contributions to HAP over the years have brought about some of the most meaningful animal protections that our region and state have ever known.

We remain grateful to have your trust and support in all forms. Combining our many talents together into the well ordered advocacy community that we enjoy today is a win for animals in Pittsburgh and far beyond.

Because of you, the ‘Model Humane City’ is really happening.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Curly Tail Coffee, Caiolinn Ertel Photography, Hauser’s Furniture, John Craig Media, Neely House Design, Spring Point Partners, SueAnn Southworth Jewelry, and Tucker-Arensberg Attorneys.

Martin and Donna Hauser (left), Albert Lee (center), and John Craig (right)