



*Dedicated to making Michigan a no more homeless pets state.*

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**Open Letter to MHS Board**

You are at a crossroads... do you become phenomenally successful at saving pets or continue status quo?

With the resignation of CEO Cal Morgan, you have the opportunity and duty to appoint a compassionate director to turn around your abysmal performance of killing a majority of the animals in your care and restoring integrity to your organization's name, "HUMANE".

In recent years, MHS has been under public scrutiny due to high rates of killing at your three animal shelters in the counties of Oakland and Wayne, causing board members to resign, public outcry to intensify, and a change.org campaign asking for Mr. Morgan's and Mr. Williams' resignations. <http://www.change.org/petitions/michigan-humane-society-mhs-board-of-directors-call-for-the-resignations-of-mr-cal-morgan-and-mr-david-williams-2> .

For years your management has provided excuses and rationale for your pitiful inability to save the lives of animals in your care. On your website, you claim that *"Since January 2010, MHS has found homes for 100% of the healthy dogs and cats in our care."*

On the contrary, the 2012 Michigan Annual Shelter Report, submitted by MHS to Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, (<http://www.michiganpetfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/MDARD-SHELTER-Report-MHS-2013.pdf>) shows 60% of dogs and 63% of cats who came through the doors of MHS **were killed**, (**almost 14,000 animals**, 25% of all the homeless animals killed in Michigan's 150 shelters) and these figures do not include animals brought to you by their owners for humane euthanasia because they were too sick to have an acceptable quality of life.

Two of your three shelters are in middle to upper class communities and you do not have the mandated challenges faced by a municipal animal control agency. Surely 60%+ of the animals in your care are not so old, sick or vicious to warrant being killed.

Macomb County also had been under public scrutiny for their poor performance in saving the lives of the animals in their care. In January 2013, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel appointed a new director for the Shelter and Animal Control,

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one who is known for his compassion for animals. During the new director's eleven months on the job, he has increased the shelter's live release rate from 37% in 2012 (the same as yours) to 70% in 2013. And unlike MHS, Macomb County Animal Shelter is an open admission shelter with mandated animal control responsibilities.

As a not-for-profit organization, you are not accountable to taxpayers, voters, elected officials or shareholders. You are, however, 17 individuals with the responsibility and power to hire the CEO and establish policy for the state's largest animal welfare organization.

As fiduciaries for those who entrust homeless animals to your care and/or donate their time and money (almost \$9 million in fundraising and contributions FY 2011/1012), your hiring decisions and operating policies can reduce the number of homeless animals in your service area and substantially increase the numbers that find new homes.

<http://www.guidestar.org/FinDocuments/2012/381/358/2012-381358206-0918273a-9.pdf>

Your staff, clients, volunteers, financial supporters, and Oakland and Wayne County communities desire leadership committed to addressing the stray problem in Detroit and willing to make the transition to an organization eager to collaborate and develop partnerships with various animal welfare organizations. At the same time, national animal welfare groups and funders are looking to provide resources and assistance to Detroit, but only to an organization demonstrating live-saving values.

Of the 56 open admission shelters reporting to MDARD in 2012, MHS ranked 41<sup>st</sup> in Save Rate. [http://www.michiganpetfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2012-Save-Rate-Reports\\_V7\\_totals-and-amended.pdf](http://www.michiganpetfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2012-Save-Rate-Reports_V7_totals-and-amended.pdf). Other shelters face the same problems as MHS and manage to save many more lives, most with far fewer resources.

Sheltering success is measured in **lives saved**; effective management saves nine out of ten. Across the country, over 300 communities, including 19 counties in Michigan, have passionate, mission-driven leaders saving nine out of ten animals in their care - going out the front door – ADOPTED! You only have to look as far as Ann Arbor to find one.

<http://www.hshv.org>

We challenge the MHS Board to appoint a CEO who makes no excuses and to whom SAVING HOMELESS ANIMALS' LIVES is the priority.

Michigan Pet Fund Alliance Board of Directors  
[www.michiganpetfund.org](http://www.michiganpetfund.org)