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Profits Over Pet Shelters:

How the ASPCA and HSUS
Shortchange Local Pet Shelters





The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) are thought of as America's two premier charities that care for pets. Both organizations have filled televisions nationwide with countless tear-jerking advertisements featuring suffering cats and dogs, along with the promise that your donation can go to an animal in need.

But just how much do these two groups actually do to financially help local pet shelters?

Despite what most people assume based on their names, the Humane Society of the United States is not affiliated with your local humane society, nor is the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals affiliated with your local society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. HSUS does not run a single pet shelter, while the ASPCA runs one adoption center in New York City.

In reality, the two groups do little to fund local shelters. Despite having massive budgets and high executive compensation, just one to two percent of the total money spent by each organization actually ends up in the hands of local pet shelters. Instead, a massive chunk of the budgets of these two organizations is actually spent on fundraising and self-promotion.

According to tax documents, in 2021, HSUS had a budget of \$138 million and a total revenue of \$260 million. However, just \$1.6 million of this reached local pet shelters in financial grants, just 1% of their total budget.

HSUS donated money to pet shelters in just 18 states. Pet shelters in 32 states and Washington, DC did not receive a single financial grant.

According to recent public polling:

80% of Americans wrongly believe “The Humane Society of the United States is an umbrella group that represents thousands of local humane societies across America.”

81% wrongly think “The ASPCA is an umbrella group that represents thousands of local SPCAs across America.”

The picture for the ASPCA is just as woeful for shelter pets. In 2021, the ASPCA brought in \$390 million in revenue, and spent \$302 million. The organization gave just \$5.5 million in grants to local pet shelters, under two percent of their total budget.

These grants reached pet shelters in 29 states and Washington, DC. Meanwhile, 21 states saw their pet shelters receive \$0 from the ASPCA.



Where does the Humane Society of the United States' money go?



CEO Compensation:
\$486,156



Executive Compensation:
\$4.3 million



Postage and Shipping:
\$958,000



Fundraising:
\$56 million



Lobbying:
\$1.2 million

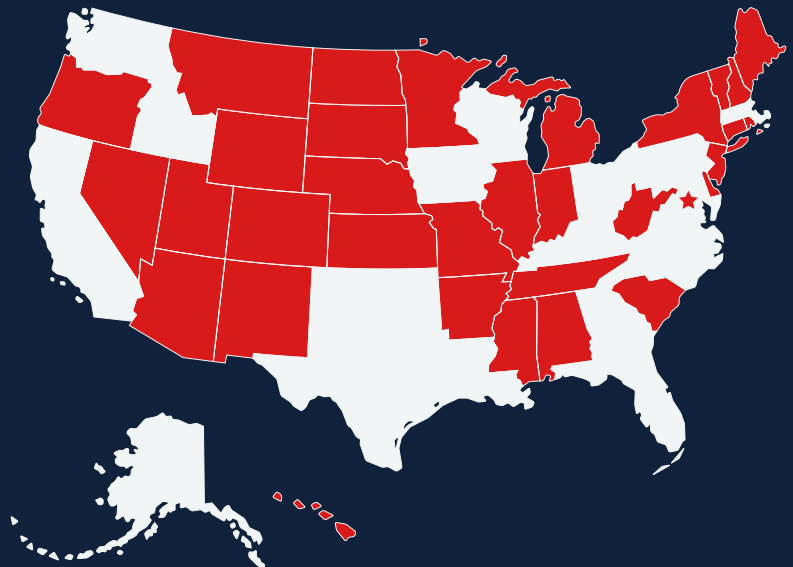


Stashed in Offshore Accounts:
\$67 million

States Without Financial Contributions to Pet Shelters from HSUS

 \$0 in financial grants to pet shelters

States that received no financial grants from HSUS: AL, AZ, AR, CO, CT, DE, HI, IL, IN, KS, ME, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, ND, OR, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VT, WV, WY, DC





Where does the ASPCA's money go?



CEO Compensation:
\$990,525



Executive
Compensation:
\$5.5 million



Pension Plan:
\$4.8 million



Investments:
\$312 million



Fundraising/Advertising:
\$135 million



Travel:
\$5.3 million

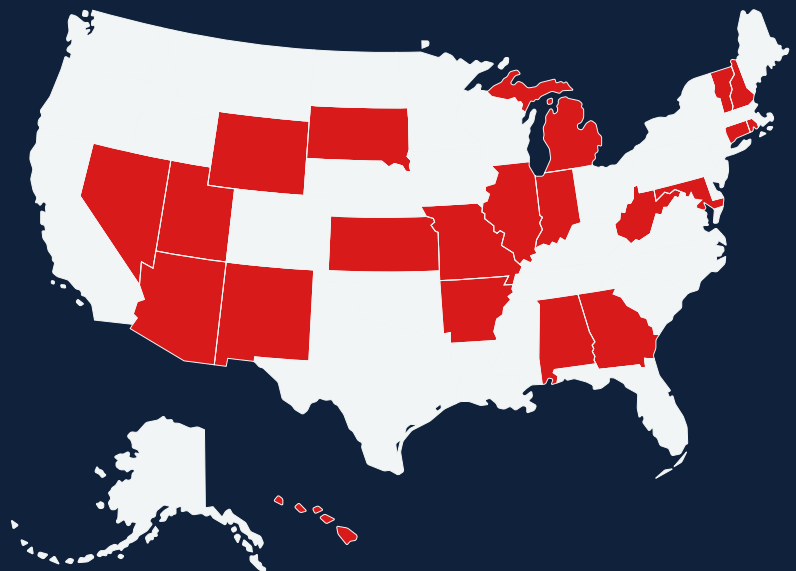


Stashed in Offshore Accounts:
\$11 million

States Without Financial Contributions to Pet Shelters from the ASPCA

 \$0 in financial grants to pet shelters

States that received no financial grants from
the ASPCA: AL, AR, AZ, CT, GA, HI, IL, IN, KS,
MD, MI, MO, NH, NM, NV, RI, SD, UT, VT, WV, WY





Methodology

Nonprofits are required to annually file a Form 990, which details the organization's spending. Likewise, both organizations publish annual audited financial statements, conducted by outside groups.

The Form 990s and the audited financial statements for 2021 (the most recent available documents from both organizations) were analyzed for both groups, with a particular focus on the executive compensation, expenses, and grants. Both groups list individual grants made to other organizations on their tax returns. Grant recipients were researched to determine if they were, in fact, a pet shelter.

For the purpose of this study, pet shelters are defined as organizations that have a facility for housing abandoned pets. This includes both local animal welfare groups that run shelters, as well as local governmental animal services departments that run shelters, and does not include animal welfare organizations without shelters, and local governmental organizations that give no indication of running a shelter. Pets do not include livestock or horses.

Grants were only counted if they were actual donations of financial assistance. In 2021, HSUS donated pet food to shelters, but the organization notes that it merely "distributed" the food; HSUS says Chewy made the actual donation of food.

Polling

National polling conducted in 2023 finds that there is significant confusion in the public's mind about what the ASPCA and HSUS do. According to the polling:

- **81%** wrongly believe "The APSCA is an umbrella group that represents thousands of local SPCAs across America."
- **73%** wrongly think "My local SPCA or pet shelter is affiliated with the ASPCA."
- **80%** wrongly believe "HSUS is an umbrella group that represents thousands of local humane societies across America."
- **76%** wrongly think "My local humane society or pet shelter is affiliated with the Humane Society of the United States."

All of these beliefs are mistaken. The millions of dollars in TV ads full of dogs and cats, combined with the names of the ASPCA and HSUS, have misled the public and created this confusion.



Humane Society of the United States Grants to Pet Shelters in 2021

State	Number of Financial Grants	Value of Financial Grants	% of HSUS Budget
ALABAMA	0	\$0	0.00%
ALASKA	1	\$250,000	0.18%
<i>Bethel Friends of Canines</i>		\$250,000	
ARIZONA	0	\$0	0.00%
ARKANSAS	0	\$0	0.00%
CALIFORNIA	1	\$89,811	0.06%
<i>San Diego Humane Society and SPCA</i>		\$89,811	
COLORADO	0	\$0	0.00%
CONNECTICUT	0	\$0	0.00%
DELAWARE	0	\$0	0.00%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	0	\$0	0.00%
FLORIDA	2	\$4,000	0.00%
<i>Humane Society of North Central Florida</i>		\$3,000	
<i>Leon County Humane Society</i>		\$1,000	
GEORGIA	2	\$5,000	0.00%
<i>Furkids Inc</i>		\$5,000	
HAWAII	0	\$0	0.00%
IDAHO	3	\$350,000	0.25%
<i>Animal Shelter of Wood River Valley Inc</i>		\$90,000	
<i>Panhandle Animal Shelter</i>		\$130,000	
<i>Idaho Humane Society Inc</i>		\$130,000	
ILLINOIS	0	\$0	0.00%
INDIANA	0	\$0	0.00%
IOWA	1	\$15,000	0.01%
<i>Humane Society of Scott County</i>		\$15,000	
KANSAS	0	\$0	0.00%
KENTUCKY	2	\$19,800	0.01%
<i>Danville-Boyle County Humane Society</i>		\$15,000	
<i>Kentucky Humane Society Animal Rescue League</i>		\$4,800	
LOUISIANA	1	\$197,000	0.14%
<i>Louisiana SPCA</i>		\$197,000	
MAINE	0	\$0	0.00%
MARYLAND	2	\$5,500	0.00%
<i>Baltimore Animal Rescue & Care Shelter Inc</i>		\$5,000	
<i>Maryland SPCA</i>		\$500	



State	Number of Financial Grants	Value of Financial Grants	% of HSUS Budget
MASSACHUSETTS	1	\$20,000	0.01%
<i>Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals</i>		\$20,000	
MICHIGAN	0	\$0	0.00%
MINNESOTA	0	\$0	0.00%
MISSISSIPPI	0	\$0	0.00%
MISSOURI	0	\$0	0.00%
MONTANA	0	\$0	0.00%
NEBRASKA	0	\$0	0.00%
NEVADA	0	\$0	0.00%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0	\$0	0.00%
NEW JERSEY	0	\$0	0.00%
NEW MEXICO	0	\$0	0.00%
NEW YORK	0	\$0	0.00%
NORTH CAROLINA	1	\$27,500	0.02%
<i>Humane Society of Charlotte inc</i>		\$27,500	
NORTH DAKOTA	0	\$0	0.00%
OHIO	1	\$15,000	0.01%
<i>Cleveland Animal Protective League</i>		\$15,000	
OKLAHOMA	3	\$111,320	0.08%
<i>Humane Society of Tulsa</i>		\$5,000	
<i>Oklahoma Humane Society</i>		\$100,000	
<i>Tulsa SPCA</i>		\$6,320	
OREGON	0	\$0	0.00%
PENNSYLVANIA	1	\$5,000	0.00%
<i>The ANNA Shelter</i>		\$5,000	
RHODE ISLAND	0	\$0	0.00%
SOUTH CAROLINA	0	\$0	0.00%
SOUTH DAKOTA	0	\$0	0.00%
TENNESSEE	0	\$0	0.00%
TEXAS	1	\$5,000	0.00%
<i>Houston SPCA</i>		\$5,000	
UTAH	0	\$0	0.00%
VERMONT	0	\$0	0.00%
VIRGINIA	1	\$15,000	0.01%
<i>Richmond SPCA</i>		\$15,000	
WASHINGTON	3	\$336,000	0.24%
<i>Auburn Valley Humane Society</i>		\$101,000	
<i>The Humane Society for Seattle/King County</i>		\$125,000	
<i>Yakima Humane Society</i>		\$110,000	



State	Number of Financial Grants	Value of Financial Grants	% of HSUS Budget
WEST VIRGINIA	0	\$0	0.00%
WISCONSIN	2	\$155,000	0.11%
<i>Dane County Humane Society</i>		\$80,000	
<i>Wisconsin Humane Society</i>		\$75,000	
WYOMING	0	\$0	0.00%

Appendix A: HSUS gave a \$30,000 financial grant to the Humane Society of Puerto Rico, which operates pet shelters, in 2021



ASPCA Grants to Pet Shelters in 2021

State	Number of Financial Grants	Value of Financial Grants	% of ASPCA Budget
ALABAMA	0	0	0.00%
ALASKA	2	\$120,000	0.04%
Juneau Animal Rescue		\$30,000	
Alaska SPCA		\$90,000	
ARIZONA	0	0	0.00%
ARKANSAS	0	0	0.00%
CALIFORNIA	7	\$465,000	0.15%
Pretty Good Cat		\$20,000	
San Diego Humane Society And SPCA		\$30,000	
Wags And Walks		\$40,000	
Riverside County Department Of Animal Services		\$55,000	
Los Angeles Animal Services		\$110,000	
Pets Lifeline, Inc.		\$20,000	
LA County Animal Care Foundation		\$170,000	
COLORADO	5	\$1,105,000	0.37%
Humane Society Of The Pikes Peak Region		\$20,000	
Foothills Animal Shelter		\$21,000	
Humane Society Of Boulder Valley		\$54,000	
Denver Dumb Friends League		\$750,000	
Dogs Playing for Life		\$260,000	
CONNECTICUT	0	0	0.00%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	1	\$12,000	0.00%
Humane Rescue Alliance		\$12,000	
DELAWARE	1	\$6,000	0.00%
Brandywine Valley SPCA		\$6,000	
FLORIDA	2	\$25,000	0.01%
True And Faithful Pet Rescue Mission, Inc		\$10,000	
Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando		\$15,000	
GEORGIA	0	0	0.00%
HAWAII	0	0	0.00%
IDAHO	4	\$199,000	0.07%
Mountain Humane		\$20,000	
Snake River Animal Shelter Inc		\$64,000	
West Valley Humane Society Inc		\$75,000	
Friends of the Shelter Inc.		\$40,000	



State	Number of Financial Grants	Value of Financial Grants	% of ASPCA Budget
ILLINOIS	0	0	0.00%
INDIANA	0	0	0.00%
IOWA	2	\$178,800	0.06%
<i>Dubuque Regional Humane Society</i>		\$29,000	
<i>Animal Rescue League Of Iowa Inc</i>		\$149,800	
KANSAS	0	0	0.00%
KENTUCKY	1	\$84,000	0.03%
<i>Kentucky Humane Society</i>		\$84,000	
LOUISIANA	8	\$390,000	0.13%
<i>Acadiana Animal Aid</i>		\$20,000	
<i>St. John The Baptist Parish Animal Shelter</i>		\$15,000	
<i>St Charles Parish Animal Shelter</i>		\$35,000	
<i>Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter</i>		\$80,000	
<i>Louisiana Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals</i>		\$100,000	
<i>Terrebonne Parish Animal Shelter</i>		\$100,000	
<i>Jefferson Protection and Animal Welfare Services</i>		\$30,000	
<i>Lake Area Partnerships for Animal Welfare</i>		\$10,000	
MAINE	1	\$8,500	0.00%
<i>Midcoast Humane</i>		\$8,500	
MARYLAND	0	0	0.00%
MASSACHUSETTS	1	\$25,800	0.01%
<i>Second Chance Animal Services Inc</i>		\$25,800	
MICHIGAN	0	0	0.00%
MINNESOTA	1	\$45,000	0.01%
<i>Tri-County Humane Society</i>		\$45,000	
MISSISSIPPI	2	\$110,000	0.04%
<i>Olympic Peninsula Humane Society</i>		\$20,000	
<i>Oktibbeha County Humane Society</i>		\$90,000	
MISSOURI	0	0	0.00%
MONTANA	5	\$255,000	0.08%
<i>City Of Havre Animal Shelter</i>		\$8,000	
<i>Heart Of The Valley, Inc</i>		\$14,000	
<i>Lewis & Clark Humane Society</i>		\$55,000	
<i>Humane Society Of Western Montana</i>		\$163,000	
<i>Stafford Animal Shelter</i>		\$15,000	



State	Number of Financial Grants	Value of Financial Grants	% of ASPCA Budget
NEBRASKA	1	\$34,000	0.01%
<i>Nebraska Humane Society</i>		\$34,000	
NEVADA	0	0	0.00%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0	0	0.00%
NEW JERSEY	2	\$47,500	0.02%
<i>Animal Welfare Association, Inc</i>		\$27,500	
<i>Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter, Inc</i>		\$20,000	
NEW MEXICO	0	0	0.00%
NEW YORK	16	\$1,470,838	0.49%
<i>Focus On Ferals Inc</i>		\$6,000	
<i>Gimme Shelter Animal Rescue Inc</i>		\$10,000	
<i>Paws Crossed Animal Rescue Inc</i>		\$10,000	
<i>Humane Society Of Rochester and Monroe County PCA</i>		\$20,000	
<i>Animal Haven</i>		\$25,000	
<i>Humane Society Of Yates County</i>		\$30,000	
<i>Bideawee Inc</i>		\$50,000	
<i>Columbia-Greene Humane Society</i>		\$50,000	
<i>Tompkins County SPCA</i>		\$51,920	
<i>Jefferson County SPCA</i>		\$52,400	
<i>Broome County Humane Society And Relief Association</i>		\$60,000	
<i>Rochester Animal Services</i>		\$68,000	
<i>Animalkind</i>		\$79,000	
<i>Animal Protective Foundation Of Schenectady Inc</i>		\$97,600	
<i>Mohawk And Hudson River Humane Society</i>		\$160,918	
<i>Animal Care Centers Of NYC</i>		\$700,000	
NORTH CAROLINA	3	\$55,000	0.01%
<i>Pet Partners Network, Inc</i>		\$10,000	
<i>Humane Society Of Charlotte Inc</i>		\$20,000	
<i>Mcdowell County Animal Shelter</i>		\$25,000	
NORTH DAKOTA	1	\$22,000	0.01%
<i>Souris Valley Animal Shelter</i>		\$22,000	
OHIO	3	\$55,000	0.02%
<i>Citizens For Humane Action Inc</i>		15,000	
<i>Columbus Humane</i>		\$20,000	
<i>Gigi's Shelter For Dogs</i>		\$20,000	



State	Number of Financial Grants	Value of Financial Grants	% of ASPCA Budget
OKLAHOMA	1	\$20,000	0.01%
<i>Horse And Hound Rescue Foundation</i>		<i>\$20,000</i>	
OREGON	1	\$20,000	0.01%
<i>Oregon Humane Society</i>		<i>\$20,000</i>	
PENNSYLVANIA	2²	\$24,000	0.01%
<i>Providence Animal Center</i>		<i>\$24,000</i>	
RHODE ISLAND	0	0	0.00%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1	\$109,000	0.04%
<i>Charleston Animal Society</i>		<i>\$109,000</i>	
SOUTH DAKOTA	0	0	0.00%
TENNESSEE	2	\$40,000	0.01%
<i>Nashville Humane Association</i>		<i>\$20,000</i>	
<i>Peaceful Kingdom</i>		<i>\$20,000</i>	
TEXAS	3	\$59,000	0.02%
<i>Athens Animal Rescue Shelter</i>		<i>\$10,000</i>	
<i>Tri-City Animal Shelter & Adoption Center</i>		<i>\$20,000</i>	
<i>SPCA Of Texas</i>		<i>\$29,000</i>	
UTAH	0	0	0.00%
VERMONT	0	0	0.00%
VIRGINIA	4	\$69,750	0.02%
<i>Augusta Regional SPCA</i>		<i>\$10,000</i>	
<i>Lynchburg Humane Society Inc</i>		<i>\$12,750</i>	
<i>Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society Inc</i>		<i>\$15,000</i>	
<i>Roanoke Valley SPCA</i>		<i>\$32,000</i>	
WASHINGTON	9	\$296,250	0.10%
<i>Spokane Humane Society</i>		<i>\$6,100</i>	
<i>Spokane County</i>		<i>\$25,000</i>	
<i>Okanogan Regional Humane</i>		<i>\$8,000</i>	
<i>Yakima Humane Society</i>		<i>\$10,000</i>	
<i>Whitman County Humane Society Inc</i>		<i>\$12,000</i>	
<i>The Humane Society For Tacoma And Pierce County</i>		<i>\$24,000</i>	
<i>Seattle Area Feline Rescue</i>		<i>\$48,000</i>	
<i>Blue Mountain Humane Society</i>		<i>\$62,650</i>	
<i>Wenatchee Valley Humane Society</i>		<i>\$100,500</i>	



State	Number of Financial Grants	Value of Financial Grants	% of ASPCA Budget
WEST VIRGINIA	0	0	0.00%
WISCONSIN	6	\$115,500	0.04%
<i>Dane County Humane Society</i>		<i>\$10,000</i>	
<i>Humane Society Of Burnett County</i>		<i>\$11,500</i>	
<i>Madison Cat Project</i>		<i>\$20,000</i>	
<i>Watertown Humane Society, Inc</i>		<i>\$20,000</i>	
<i>Wisconsin Humane Society</i>		<i>\$20,000</i>	
<i>Humane Animal Welfare Society Of Waukesha County Inc</i>		<i>\$34,000</i>	
WYOMING	0	0	0.00%