



## Humane Society of Missouri Collection (S0263)

**Collection Number:** S0263

**Collection Title:** Humane Society of Missouri Collection

**Dates:** 1923-1970

**Creator:** Humane Society of Missouri, 1870-

**Abstract:** The Humane Society of Missouri Collection contains a charter, constitution, amendments to the articles of association, petitions, annual reports, and publications of an organization dedicated to preventing and alleviating the suffering of animals.

**Collection Size:** 0.01 cubic foot  
(1 folder)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center). If you would like more information, please contact us at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org).

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Humane Society of Missouri Collection* (S0263); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

**Donor Information:** No accession information recorded at time of donation.

**Processed by:** Processed by Zack Palitzsch and Isaac Alexander, October 2023.

### Historical Note:

The Humane Society of Missouri (HSMO) was founded in 1870, only four years after Henry Bergh (1823-1888) organized the first American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. HSMO's goals include preventing cruelty to animals, aiding the enforcement of laws to prevent cruelty, educating people, and conducting free animal clinics. HSMO provides

inspection, emergency services, rescue services, shelters, cremation, clinic services, adoption, euthanasia, education, and rabies control. From 1870 through 1945, HSMO also cared for children subject to cruelty.

The first shelter for HSMO was located on 1618 Carr Street. The first horse ambulance to rescue animals in St. Louis began service in 1911. In 1928, a large donation from John J. Lichter--in honor of his late wife Irene V. A. Lichter, former HSMO director-- allowed HSMO to build better facilities at 1210 Macklind Ave. The organization struggled with finances during the Great Depression. Still, annual events like scattering birdseed from airplanes and horse parades continued. Thanks to several donations by Mary Mitchell from 1922 through 1937, HSMO was able to stay afloat. Following the Great Depression, a bequeathment from Mary C. J. Todd in 1942 allowed the construction of a hospital and clinic named in her honor. The first female veterinarian in Missouri, Dr. Suzanne "Chief" Saueressig (1925-2013), joined HSMO in 1955 and would continue to work there for 55 years. Expansions on the Macklind building continued over time, and a new branch in Maryland Heights opened in 1974. Programs for pets to visit nursing homes and hospitals, and to pair older pets and senior citizens began in the 1970s and 1980s. By 1988, HSMO opened a Large-Animal Rehabilitation Center (now Longmeadow Rescue Ranch). Throughout the 1990s, other initiatives like Kids for Critters Camp, the annual dog walk "Bark in the Park," microchipping animals, and the Foster Care Program began. In 1999, the Macklind location was demolished and converted into Carol Gates Throop Park. Throughout the 2000s, HSMO continued its building expansions and efforts to rescue animals and led the largest dog fighting rescue in U.S. history in 2009.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged chronologically.

### **Scope and Content:**

The Humane Society of Missouri Collection consists of annual reports, brochures, forms, and other promotional and educational materials for the Humane Society of Missouri (HSMO). The collection contains blank forms for pick-up services, humane trap rental, surrendering pets, adopting pets, cruelty investigations, and inspections. There are also brochures with instructions for the proper care of pets including cats, dogs, horses, small pets, fish, and cold-blooded pets. Bookmarks reiterate proper pet care and HSMO services. Other items of note include a coloring book and comic book educating children on HSMO's mission. Also included are an amended 1923 charter, reports on HSMO's 1933 activities, shelter reports of services rendered in 1969, and an advertising insert from the St. Louis Post Dispatch celebrating HSMO's 100-year anniversary. The materials in this collection date from 1923 to 1970 and are arranged chronologically.

### **Container List:**

- f. 1                      A charter, constitution, amendments to the articles of association, petitions, annual reports, and publications, 1923-1970

### **Index:**

<b>Index Terms</b>	<b>Folders</b>
Animal welfare--Societies, etc.	1

Index Terms	Folders
Animal welfare--Missouri	1
Humane education--Missouri	1
Humane Society of Missouri	1