

Village of Elm Grove Annual Report for 2020-2021

The Village of Elm Grove continues to be a municipality serviced by Elmbrook Humane Society (EBHS) for a number of animal related services including assisting stray and injured domestic animals, sick and injured wildlife, Humane Officer needs, and ongoing animal related education and assistance for any resident who seeks EBHS out for help. The Village of Elm Grove and EBHS work together and are committed to ensuring a safe community for both animals and citizens to reside.

From July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021, EBHS provided the following services to the Village of Elm Grove:

Wildlife

EBHS staff responded to concerns from Village of Elm Grove residents ranging from sightings of wild animals believed to be sick or injured, to complaints about nuisance animals.

EBHS provided assistance when possible, renting out traps where appropriate, and providing on-site removal of animals trapped in or on the personal property of residents.

EBHS assisted 15 injured/sick wild animals from private properties in Elm Grove including birds (7), raccoons (6), hawks (1), turkeys (1), bats (1), squirrels (1), and rabbits (1). Animals that were treatable were rehabilitated through the services of Wildlife in Need Center (a licensed wildlife rehabilitation center in Oconomowoc) and returned to the area that they were found. Animals deemed too sick or injured to be successfully treated and released were humanely euthanized and their remains disposed of as required by state law. Early in 2021, Wildlife In Need Center shutdown due to lack of staffing. During their almost 4 month shutdown, we worked tirelessly with other partners to ensure wild animals had options for care if they were able to be rehabilitated. Our staff and volunteers provided an incredible amount of transportation driving to Madison, Milwaukee, and Richfield to make sure our wild animal friends had access to the care they needed.

EBHS continued to provide the Village of Elm Grove monthly newsletter with articles addressing wild animals as well as other educational pieces to inform residents. We continued our work to educate residents as to what can and cannot be done when dealing with wild animals.

In the event a wild animal is involved in a bite, EBHS works with all parties involved. EBHS sends the specimens, as needed and required, to Madison for rabies testing.

Companion Animals

EBHS took in 25 stray dogs and cats, an increase of 13% over the same time period last year. Of those, 6 of these animals were returned to their owners, 18 were adopted into new homes through our organization, and 1 remains in our care. EBHS responded to all stray animal control calls; however, some animals were unable to be captured, others were reunited with their owners at the scene, and others brought to their home if it was close by.

As you are aware, many of these calls are received overnight when the shelter is closed, and our staff responds to calls for service 24-hours a day.

EBHS also took in 4 surrendered animals from residents in the Village of Elm Grove, compared to 2 for the same time period last year. These were animals that were given to us due to financial constraints, divorce, change of housing accommodations, family changes, or for behavior reasons. We found new homes for 3 of these animals and a partner organization helped us with 1. For 6 years in a row, our organization did not encounter any situations in which a large number of animals needed to be removed from their homes - thankfully! As this is needed, our organization will of course be available to help animals, citizens, and law enforcement.

Being a No Kill organization, EBHS is committed to finding homes for all healthy, manageable, and treatable stray and surrendered pets from the Village of Elm Grove. With that commitment, we are a resource to Village of Elm Grove residents throughout the process of adopting a pet and beyond. We accept the return of pets adopted from us after ensuring all efforts have been exhausted to keep the pet with its new family.

Our safekeep service is available to and allows residents of the Village of Elm Grove to temporarily house their animals at the shelter due to fire, catastrophic illness, death in the family, or in situations of domestic violence. This animal care is provided without cost to the owner, EBHS incurring all costs. The average stay for an animal in these situations is approximately two weeks.

Our re-homing program is a resource to any resident of Waukesha County. This program provides assistance to pet owners in need of re-homing their furry or feathered family member in which they prefer to do so on their own. We provide a courtesy posting on our website and promote animals in need of being re-homed on our Facebook page.

EBHS participated in Village of Elm Grove events when invited, and our Humane Education pivoted its programming to a virtual platform to be able to continue to work with area schools and scout and civic groups. During the 2020-2021 school year, we continued to work with schools offering our READ to ME program in which children read to dogs. We provide these services for free and encourage Village of Elm Grove schools and civic organizations to contact EBHS for customized and age appropriate programs.

Humane Officer Activity

Our Humane Officers investigated cases ranging from animals at large, to animals locked in hot vehicles, to situations where there was suspected animal abuse or neglect. Where appropriate, our Humane Officers worked with Village of Elm Grove Police to coordinate abatement orders, warnings, and citations. Our Humane Officers continued to respond to barking complaints as asked by Village Police. Our organization will continue to be available to help animals, citizens, and law enforcement with both animals posing a safety concern and when pet owners are not able to provide adequate care due to challenges with housing, arrest, and more.

We look forward to serving the Village of Elm Grove and your residents for the remainder of 2021 and going forward.