

MS – 101

Montgomery County Humane Society

Special Collections and Archives
Wright State University Libraries

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Introduction

The records of the Montgomery County Humane Society were accessioned into Special Collections and Archives at Wright State University through the local records program of the Ohio Historical Society in April of 1978. The collection fills 2.5 Hollinger boxes and 40 file folders. The material is arranged into four series of record groups. Series I contains administrative records. Series II is composed of financial records. Series III contains the reports of various programs and activities of the Society and other philanthropic organizations. Series IV is the Society's monthly newsletter, Animal Talk.

Organization History

The Montgomery County Humane Society was organized in 1901 as one of ten organizations affiliated with the Federation for Charity and Philanthropy of the Greater Dayton Association. It is a non-profit, tax deductible, incorporated, private organization, chartered by the state and empowerment by the Ohio Revised Code to offer their services to the County Commissioners. The intent and purpose which brought the Society into being is the inclination of humane principles towards all living creatures.

Originally the work of the society was divided into two departments: the Children's Department and the Animal's Department. The Society dealt with complaints related to violations of the law relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals and children, abandonment, non-support or ill-treatment of a child by its parents, the employment of underage children in vocations injurious to health, life and morals, the neglect or refusal of an adult to support destitute parents, and paternity issues. Gradually, the majority of the other concerns were delegated to other departments so that today the Society as charge of animal control for the City of Dayton and Montgomery County, operates an animal shelter, and investigates complaints of cruelty to animals. Occasionally, the Society will cooperate with Family Services in investigation child-abuse complaints. The Humane Officers are law enforcement officers with full police powers, including concealed weapon bond and powers of arrest where animal law violators are concerned.

The general mission of the Society is the enforcement of state animal law in Montgomery County. The duties include:

1. Maintaining an animal shelter for lost, sick, injured, abandoned, stray, and unwanted animals.
2. Rescuing animals in distress.
3. Adoption of pets into new homes.
4. Providing quarantine kennels for animals suspected of rabies.
5. Teaching kindness towards all living creatures.
6. Providing euthanasia when necessary.
7. Representing the community at the legislative level in state and national humane activities.

The Society receives its income from three main sources:

1. A portion of dog license fees and fines distributed with the County, performed on a monthly basis from the Montgomery County Dog and Kennel Fund.
2. The Animal Shelter for services, covered by an agreement with the County, performed on privately owned animals.
3. The memberships and donations received from backers and supporters sympathetic to their cause.

There is an actual fourth source of income when the County Commissioners make approbation for the Human Society out of the County General Fund.

Scope and Content

The records of the Montgomery County Humane Society are divided into four different record groups or series:

Series I contains the 1913-1914 Organization and Administrative report, the proceedings of the Advisory Committee from 1908-1910, and the minutes of the Board of Directors from 1901-1955. Minutes from 1913-1920 and 1935-1940 are missing.

Series II, Financial Records, consists of a guide to the use of the accounting system, monthly financial statements dating from 1916-1925, budgets from 1916-1920, audits from 1919-1943, and the State Auditor's Report from 1926-1942.

Series III comprises reports of various philanthropic organizations dating from 1915-1929, departmental activity reports, a report of the 1957 Pet Parade and pictures of animals and several persons who were active in the organization.

Series IV contains issues of the Humane Society's monthly newsletter, Animal Talk.

Records are arranged chronologically within each series.

Container Listing

Series I: Administrative

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Organization and Administration	1913-1914
	2	Proceedings of the Advisory Committee	Dec. 1908-Jan. 1910
	3	Minutes of the Board of Directors	Dec. 1901-Jan. 1913
	4	Minutes of the Board of Directors	Feb. 1923-July 1923
	5	Minutes of the Board of Directors	July 1923-Dec. 1928
	6	Minutes of the Board of Directors	Jan. 1929-Nov. 1934
	6a	Minutes of the Board of Directors	Jan. 1927-Nov. 1937
	7	Minutes of the Board of Directors	Oct. 1940-Jan. 1946
	8	Minutes of the Board of Directors	June 1946-Jan. 1951
	9	Minutes of the Board of Directors	Feb. 1951-May 1955

Series II: Financial

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	10	Guide to Use of the Accounting System	
	11	Monthly Financial Statements	1916
	12	Monthly Financial Statements	1917
	13	Monthly Financial Statements	1918
	14	Monthly Financial Statements	1919
	15	Monthly Financial Statements	1920
2	1	Monthly Financial Statements	1920
	2	Monthly Financial Statements	1921
	3	Monthly Financial Statements	1922
	4	Monthly Financial Statements	1923
	5	Monthly Financial Statements	1924
	6	Monthly Financial Statements	1925
	7	Budgets	1916-1920
	8	Dependents' Trust Fund Amounts	1916-1918
	9	Statistical Reports	1919-1926
	10	Correspondence CPA	1926-1928
	11	Audits	1919-1925
	12	Audits	1926-1931
	13	Audits	1932-1937
3	1	Audits	1938-1943
	2	State Auditor's Report of Examination	1926-1933
	3	State Auditor's Report of Examination	1933-1940
	4	State Auditor's Report of Examination	1940-1942

Series III: Programs and Activities

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	5	Departmental Activities Report	n.d.
	6	Summary of Survey of the Social Agencies affiliated with Federation for Charity and Philanthropy	1915
	7	Report on Dayton Day Nursery	1925
	8	Dayton Social Service Exchange Report	1928
	9	Review of Social Service Situation in Dayton	1929
	10	"How to Conduct Pet Parades"	1957-1958
	11	Be Kind to Animals Poster	n.d.
	12	Photographs	
		(1) Elder and Johnston Company's Display Window "Be Kind to Animals"	
		(2) Montgomery County Animal Shelter side view	
		(3) Montgomery County Animal Shelter front view	
		(4) Girl mounted on black pony	
		(5) Boy mounted on white horse	
		(6) Girl and white dog	
		(7) Fox on a leash	
		(8) Allen C. McDonald – early member of the Humane Society	
		(9) Mrs. George Shaw Greene – early member and officer on the Board of Directors	
		(10) Judge Harry N. Routzohn – one of the original founders of the Humane Society	
		(11) Richard C. Craven	

Series IV: Newsletter

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	13	Animal Talk	May-June 1980

Series V: Album/Scrapbooks

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
	1	B. Omer Hostetter Scrapbook News clippings, articles, ephemera	1924-1946