



INSIDE LOOK

Spring 2020

**Life in a New
World**

**Events
Postponed
Due to
COVID-19**

Animal Stories

**Humane
Education
Spotlight**

Photo credit: Danny Herrera, HHS Volunteer

Life in a New World



Director's Letter / **Tom Van Winkle**

It's March 16, 2020 as I write this letter and to say that we're living through uncertain times is an understatement. If I fast forward just one day to March 17, 2020, things might have changed so much that I would be writing a completely different message. What hasn't changed are the animals who need Hinsdale Humane Society and all of the other shelters across the country.

It would be incredibly selfish of me to use this space to complain about how hard it is for the staff at HHS during these times. We all know what we're experiencing (or hopefully soon can say "have experienced") and it's unprecedented. Every single person in our great country is feeling the effect. Instead, I want to write about what hasn't changed due to the COVID-19 virus.

The constant during this time of great fluctuation is the need to provide care for the millions of homeless animals in our country. Thankfully, our pets will not be afflicted by COVID-19, yet those without a home will be greatly affected by this pandemic. As people focus on the spread of this horrible illness, the challenges facing homeless pets will naturally fall from focus.

Please understand, I'm not saying this refocus is misplaced, but rather I'm hoping that by the time this goes to print, the COVID-19 crisis will be nearly over and our readers will be in a position again to help our four-legged friends. Because the animals can't stockpile food, medicine and blankets like we can, they depend on all of us to dig deep within our hearts and give them the basic care they so badly deserve.

Asking for donations during a national crisis is extremely difficult and emotional. All of us know that there are more pressing issues at hand. Yet if our mission is not kept at the forefront of people's minds, the very creatures that mean so much to us will suffer.

Whether it's a roll of paper towels, pet supplies or a cash donation on behalf of those without voices, I ask that you please keep HHS in mind as our lives return to normal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Van Winkle".

Tom Van Winkle
Executive Director



Events that Make a Difference for our Animals

Before the pandemic hit, we were fortunate to be able to squeeze in a few wonderful events.

Small Dog Tea Party

The Real Dog Moms of Chicago created the Small Dog Tea Party to help our facility. Held at the Drake Hotel in Chicago guests and their “small” dogs enjoyed tea, lunch, photo opps and more.

“What an amazing opportunity to partner with a similarly-minded organization,” said Dee Downs, Events Coordinator, HHS. “They pulled out all the stops and worked their tails off to raise funds for our homeless animals.”

Our thanks to the Real Dog Moms of Chicago for their tireless work and for helping animals everywhere.

Young Artist Night

Young artists from Kindergarten through 12th Grade participated in our Junior Board’s first Young Artist Night. Attendees supported the hard work and talent of the artists by voting on their favorite pieces. Prizes were awarded at the end of the evening.

“We were thrilled to present this celebration of young artists and the animals they love,” said Jen Gordon, Humane Education Manager. “Our Junior Board did an extraordinary job with this event that brought together a community of 40 young artists and their supporters.”

Special thanks to United Rent-a-Fence in Addison, IL for the donation of the displays used to hang the works of art.



Bachelor Finale Viewing

“Bachelor” fans and HHS Board members, Ami Hindia and Tina Martinez, came up with the idea to host a viewing party of the show’s season finale in our PRRC lobby.

Guests watched the show on our couches and enjoyed pizza from LaBarra, wine donated from Tannins, Elmhurst and sweet treats from Nothing Bundt Cakes, Darien. Jewelry shopping from Kendra Scott rounded out the night. Attendees also got to Facetime with former contestant Clay Harbor, and mingle with bachelorette, Amber James.

“This was new for us,” said Jacki Rossi, Business Development Director. “But we’re always looking for new ways to introduce people to our organization and our facility, and this event was definitely that!”

Our thanks to everyone who attended our events, including our Insanity Workout Class (thanks to Athleta for the swag bags and Shelbie Detzler for teaching the class!) and our Spring Cat Cafe (featuring treats from Nothing Bundt Cakes, Elmhurst). We look forward to seeing you all at future events once we are able.



New initiatives launched in response to the COVID-19 crisis

With events cancelled or postponed, we found some community-minded ways to engage friends and followers amidst the crisis



21 Salt Creek Lane
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521
630.323.5630
www.hinsdalehumane.org

Dear friends,

Gosh, do I miss you!! I know it's been awhile since I've seen you, but I have been thinking about you. I bet you're wondering what I've been up to since I haven't been able to visit. Well, I have had plenty of time to chase squirrels in the yard. Those critters are hard to catch. I can honestly say I haven't caught one yet. I have also been able to spend more time getting dirty. Just today I went outside and refused to come in when my person (Dietre) called me. I decided to take a bit of time in some muddy parts of the garden. Much to my unhappiness, Dietre decided I need a bath after that. I am now sitting on the sofa (quite damp) dictating this note to her. (My paws make typing tricky.)



I can't wait to trot down the halls of your home and visit with you. I promise to be clean and ready to wag my tail. I miss our visits!

Until we see each other again, Paws Up,

Bosco

HHS Therapaws Therapy Dog
Hinsdale Humane Society



Like most non-profits dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, we're facing fundraising shortfalls due to cancelled or postponed fundraising events, fewer adoptions due to social distancing measures and dwindling donations.

We've created some new initiatives to keep our mission on people's minds via positive messaging and community engagement:

Pets on Carryouts

We're partnering with restaurants throughout the community, encouraging people to order out to support them, while also keeping adoptable pets in mind. We've provided flyers of adoptables that get attached to carryout food containers. At press time, Baldinelli's, Cafe Salsa, Casa Margarita, Citrus Diner, Di Leo's Carryout and Catering, and Lucca's Pizzeria, are all participating in this initiative. Our thanks to all of them for their support. Please support them by placing an order!

Livestreaming of Adoptables

With the shelter closed to the public at press time (other than appointment-only adoptions), staff members have been livestreaming the activities of the animals waiting for their forever homes, providing Facebook and Instagram followers with real-time updates on the activities, personalities and the stories of shelter residents.

Letters from Dogs and Cats

Our adoptable animals are always looking for things to do while they wait for forever homes, and our Therapawps Pet Therapy teams were missing their weekly visits to senior care facilities, hospitals, schools and libraries during the crisis. In response, the residents, patients and libraries who utilize our Pet Therapy have been receiving emailed letters from our dogs and cats to help keep their spirits up until we are on the other side of the pandemic and can resume our visits.

Emails to our Therapawps Pet Therapy Teams

The children our Pet Therapy teams visit in schools, libraries, behavioral health centers and bereavement groups who are currently missing our visits, can stay in touch with our pets via email, sharing what they're reading and what they're doing at home with their families. Just click on any pet and send them an email from this link: <https://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/pet-therapy/ourpets/>

Bad Drawings Virtual Fundraiser

Supporters donated \$15 to this fundraiser in which staff and volunteers were standing by to create custom drawings of each participant's pet. We did share a

disclaimer that supporters might get one of our extremely talented artists, or they might get someone who needs to hang up their paintbrush. Either way it was a fun way to celebrate "art" while benefiting our pets in need.

Priority Supply Drive

With dwindling supplies to care for our animals, HHS asked friends and followers to consider donating supplies from our online wish list at <https://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/help/wish-list> from their preferred retailer (including Amazon <http://a.co/iEXhRru>) and had them shipped directly to our facility at 21 Salt Creek Lane, Hinsdale, IL 60521.

Humane Education Online Learning Opportunities

In light of many cancelled Humane Education events, our team prepared livestream educational opportunities for Facebook and Instagram to keep students engaged and learning about animal care and welfare during the crisis. Topics include a virtual tour of our facility, reading to our pets live, and cat and dog enrichment. Visit [hinsdalehumanesociety.org](https://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org) for a list of scheduled topics, dates and times, or to view the presentations.

Revised Operating Procedures

At press time, operating modifications to ensure the safety of our guests, staff and volunteers, included being closed to the public, with adoptions still taking place by appointment only. Visit [hinsdalehumanesociety.org](https://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org) for the most current operating procedures.

Current Postponed Events

As soon as we have them, we'll publish new dates and times on our website and social media for the following postponed events:

- Goat Yoga sponsored by Vintage Charm
- Pet CPR & First Aid
- Signs by Caitlin
- Kitten Shower
- Pet Blessing & Brick Ceremony
- Pet Walk Festival

Thank you so much to all of our partners, friends, donors, and social media followers. The support, encouragement, donations, supplies and offers of help we have received during the pandemic have been extraordinary and we are beyond grateful.



The Suite Life

Special Pets Who Needed Unique Medical Help

Our Irving & Phyllis Millstein Medical Suite has experienced quite a few unique cases recently. Following are just a few of them.

Taylor is a handsome 5-year old Siamese cat transferred to us from Aurora Animal Care & Control. He was a stray with a severe upper respiratory infection and a ruptured eye. Sadly, his eye was beyond repair and required removal, but his surgery went beautifully and he immediately felt better, gobbling up a whole bowl of food right away (always a good recovery sign!)

Mr. Piddles, otherwise known as P-Diddles, is a 4-year old Terrier mix transferred from Tennessee with a broken leg. Although splinting was attempted, his leg was already too damaged and x-rays showed a pellet/BB in his foot, which may have been the cause for the fracture. Our medical team amputated the leg so he could be pain-free. Mr. Piddles was fostered by our veterinary technician, Fred, and he fit in so well with the rest of the resident dogs, that Fred and his wife couldn't say goodbye and opted to adopt him!

Phoenix and Sid were transferred to us from animal control facilities throughout Illinois. Phoenix, a 3-year-old orange/white tabby, had a previous tail fracture, resulting in loss of feeling in the majority of his tail (it was essentially just hanging there).

We performed a tail amputation, leaving him with a cute little bunny tail. He's feeling much better with the injured portion/dead weight removed. Sid, a 9-month-old tabby, had an injury to the tip of his tail that caused tissue on the last few inches to die and become stiff. We removed the affected portion, relieving discomfort and the source of infection and happily, he still has a nice, long tail left over.

Rocky is a 1 year old Min Pin mix whose owner knew he had ingested a piece of clothing. He stopped eating and was vomiting for two days. A local animal hospital diagnosed the obstruction, but his owner chose not to pursue treatment and instead brought him to us to surrender. Although we do not usually accept emergency medical cases, we made an exception since he was in distress. Rocky had surgery in our clinic to explore his GI tract, received IV fluids, anti-nausea medicine and of course pain medication. A large knot of cloth was found stuck/not moving in his small intestine and the rest of his intestines were very irritated from attempting to pass the obstruction. After a few days of medications and careful monitoring, Rocky turned a corner, was starting to eat on his own, and feeling much more comfortable. When he was healed, we saw what a fun, silly and adorable boy he was. And so did his new family, who happily brought him to his forever home right after he went up for adoption.

The Sheltered Life

The Story of Totes

Sweet girl Totes had a rough hand dealt to her. Physically neglected, she was given her name after she was found in a Hinsdale dumpster inside of a Tupperware tote... a tote with no air holes, on a cold winter day. Thankfully, she was found and brought to us back in November. That's when her next chapter began.

A 12-year old rat terrier, she was deaf and lame with poor body and hair condition, multiple massive mammary tumors, a cough, and teeth that needed removal. She also had incurable Cushing's disease which meant she would eat and poop constantly and urinate 10-14 times per hour.

Despite the abandonment and medical conditions she endured, her disposition was beyond sweet. She gave kisses to all who got close enough, and was so clearly grateful for food, beds, laps and any attention she received.

The emotional, physical and financial responsibility of Tote's care was taken up by none other than our own Dr. Kristin's family who took her into "fospice" care (fostering a hospice pet).

"We still grow tearful when we think of what this little girl endured," said Lauren Tvrdik. "The good news is, her remaining time on earth is being filled with love, comfort and happiness all the way around."

After more than three months in their care, sweet Totes' life came to an end when her mammary tumors ruptured. On the day she passed, she was happy, full with her favorite treats, and had the family that made the end of her life so special, by her side as she crossed the rainbow bridge.

We couldn't be more grateful to the Tvrdik family for opening their hearts and home to Totes and for making the last months of her life the very best they could be.



Remembering Edelweiss Donohue



On March 1, long-time HHS Volunteer, Laura Donohue had to say goodbye to her beloved Edelweiss. A note from Laura follows:

"She was a special angel that God let me save at 5 weeks of age while fostering her through her battle with distemper. She has been such a blessing in my life and all the lives she touched through pet therapy. I remember we were working with a two year old who knew sign language and was not verbal. When we were done his mother said 'say thank you to Edelweiss,' and rather than using sign language he (actually) said Thank You! As much as my heart is broken with losing her, God must have wanted her back because of the wonderful job she did here on earth. I'll never forget my special little angel and she will always be a part of my heart."



Cathy & Bogey at AMITA Cancer Institute



Ellen & Tucker, Gay & Delilah at an AMITA-sponsored Food Pantry

Growth, Reinvention, Renewal

Therapaws Pet Therapy was growing nicely as Spring 2020 approached. In partnership with AMITA Health for over a decade, we were invited to expand our healing work in their facilities by launching visits to their Cancer Institute and Outpatient Center and by having teams on hand to shake paws with those in need visiting the AMITA-sponsored Northern IL Food Bank at Hinsdale Adventist Church.

Then COVID-19 reared its ugly head and we had to reinvent the Therapaws Program during the temporary suspension of in-person visits by teams. Therapy animal teams turned instead to "writing" letters to eldercare facility residents. And our website's Therapaws Gallery accepted inbound inquiries from the community -- young and old alike. The pets love hearing from friends about what they're doing to keep busy while sheltering-in-place, whether it's reading good books, watching movies, taking long walks or playing games with family.

Our teams are looking forward to renewing in person encounters once our community is ready. Virtual pet therapy is helpful, but nothing replaces pets, purrs, a "woof" or a wet nose!

Humane Education's Response to COVID-19

Many Humane Education events and programs have been cancelled or postponed, and more may need to be reimaged as we all adapt to changes being made to slow the spread of COVID-19.

What does this mean for Humane Education? Do we move to E-Learning like most schools? We strongly support learning that takes place in the context of personal interaction, face-to-face activities, camp, groups, etc. However, everyone's health and safety is, and will continue to be, our highest priority.

Until we can return to normal or determine what the new normal is and adapt to it, we encourage everyone to join our new Humane Education Enews list by emailing Jen.Gordon@hinsdalehumanesociety.org. That way, you'll receive the most up to date information about our program offerings.

"Everyone's health and safety is and will continue to be, our highest priority."

Humane Education Spotlight: The Junior Board

Our Junior Board is a close-knit group of teens from various local high schools that meets regularly to develop and implement ways they can spread our message to the community about animal welfare, animal safety and the importance of the human-animal bond. They also volunteer to help us with our community outreach, fundraising, humane education events and programs, while mentoring our youngest volunteers and future Junior Board members.

The Junior Board recently held its largest event: Young Artist Night (read the full story about this event on page 3). This group of innovative teens is always thinking about new ways to help promote humane education whether it's through unique events, programming or outreach. We can't wait to see what type of event they'll plan next!

We also want to congratulate our Junior Board members who are graduating this year. Their leadership, enthusiasm and energy will be greatly missed. We are so proud of their accomplishments and all the good we know they will do as they continue to learn, grow, and make a difference in the world.



Helping Pets When They Need it Most

Ensuring there is help for our neediest animals, especially during the COVID-19 crisis, has been a focus for us recently. Our Medical Fund offsets the cost of testing, specialty care, and treatments we cannot provide in our clinic.

Recently that fund was depleted by a number of pets with challenging medical needs. On our Facebook page, we've been sharing some of their stories and asking for a \$5 donation to help replenish our fund for future cases.

Following are just a few of the animals that recently needed our help. Thanks to you, we were able to give it to them.



Don our hyperthyroidism kitty

When 14 year old Don was surrendered to us, we were told he was a young, mother cat. In fact Don was a neutered male cat well into his senior years. His medical exam and labwork revealed he was suffering from severe dental issues and hyperthyroidism. Most of his teeth were gone and the few that were left were diseased. After an extraction, he was left with one molar and a few front teeth left. It has not slowed his appetite at all! His other issue, hyperthyroidism, is a manageable condition for an adopter. In fact, we've recently had success adopting out cats with this issue. HHS will help Don's adopter with three months of medicine and a free medical recheck. He also qualified for our Match Me Up Adoption Campaign, so his adoption fee has been waived by a kind donor.



Pepper, one of our Border Collie mix pneumonia puppies

Earlier this year, a group of six puppies arrived from Kentucky at our facility. They all found their forever homes the first week they were up for adoption. However, just one week later in their new homes, several of the pups began to show symptoms of severe respiratory illness and two were diagnosed with severe pneumonia. Life-saving treatments including isolation, oxygen supplementation, IV-fluids and IV-antibiotics were administered to give these pups their best chance at survival. As the adopters rushed for medical treatment, our main priority was and is to provide them with the resources they need. We are happy to report that all of the puppies recovered and we are so grateful, after the dramatic start they had on their journey, that they are all with their families and living their best lives.

If you can help more specialty needs animals like these, please visit our Facebook page or our website at <https://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/help/special-medical-needs-animals> to read more stories about animals who have recently received help from our Medical Fund when they needed it most. No donation is too small to help a pet in need.



Paws & Hearts

A Big Thank You To All of Our Sponsors and Community Partners

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- Rogers Behavioral Health - Hinsdale
- Ruff-Life - Elmhurst
- Saveway Fine Wines & Spirits
- St. Paul Church by the Lake

- Tannins Wine Bar & Boutique
- United Rent-a-Fence, Addison

In Kind Donations

Barks and meows of appreciation to all supporters who stepped up during the COVID-19 crisis to donate much needed supplies. Special thanks to Tuffy's Pet Foods (NutriSource/PureVita)

Shout out to partners in Pets on CarryOuts

- Baldinelli's Pizza - Hinsdale
- Cafe Salsa - Countryside
- Citrus Diner-Westmont
- Di Leo's Pizzeria - Elmhurst
- Lucca's Pizzeria - La Grange
- Casa Margarita - All locations

A special thank you to Real Dog Moms of Chicago for all of their fundraising efforts at our jointly hosted Small Dog Tea Party in February

Our gratitude to everyone who donated so kindly to our Match Me Up Campaign. Thanks to matching donor Mr. Vinaya Sharma, together we reached our goal and have already placed 7 harder to adopt cats into loving forever homes because of this campaign.



Inside Look is published quarterly for friends of the Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center operated by Hinsdale Humane Society

**21 Salt Creek Lane | Hinsdale, Illinois 60521
630-323-5630 | www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org**

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Hinsdale Humane Society
21 Salt Creek Lane
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Our wishes for health and safety to all of you

Adoption Story



Hi HHS staff:

We adopted Neo in December. When I first met with your counselor Adrian to look at possibilities for my family, including a child who has issues with anxiety, I was extremely appreciative of his consideration of our needs. He suggested meeting Neo, and Neo has been amazing with both of my boys from day one.

It's been almost three months now, and we are so happy with how Neo has adjusted to home. For a dog who was pretty nervous in the shelter, he has grown into a gentle, playful, lovable guy. He has a new dog best friend, and is learning to go on runs with me. During this time of shelter in place, he is a much needed distraction and source of comfort to the whole family. He plays with the boys, "helps" in the kitchen, and is a great snuggler. Neo seems to be pretty content with the whole pack being home all the time too!

Thank you so much for all of your efforts at this difficult time. I'm glad we made the trip a little further to Hinsdale (where I fostered animals years ago when I lived in Elmhurst and where my late father volunteered for years). The guidance and support you provide make for great adoption matches.

Thanks so much. We will be making an additional donation in Neo's honor and my dad's memory to try to help you guys through the pandemic.

Heather, Alex, and Max H.