



# INSIDE LOOK

*Summer 2020*

## The Gratitude Issue

For All Who Deserve Our Thanks!

**Our Hero Staff**

**No Mamas Left Behind**

Advocating For Dog And Cat Mothers

**“Looking at 2020 from a different perspective, there actually is a lot to be grateful for...”**



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

Unless 2020 makes a quick turnaround, it's going to go down as one of the worst years in our memories. We're only a little over half-way through and have already been hit economically, medically and socially. But looking at 2020 from a different perspective, there actually is a lot to be grateful for.

There isn't enough room here to recognize all who deserve our thanks. Essential workers, medical personnel, first responders, peaceful protesters and more. I'd need way more than a page to thank them for their bravery, empathy and self-sacrifice. For our purposes, let's focus on animal welfare heroes (although I hope everyone will find a way to thank someone who has helped our society during these dark times).

When the pandemic hit, most animal welfare groups had to scale back or shut down. This meant pets were left to fend for themselves, animals in shelters languished, donations dried up, volunteers stayed home and staff lost jobs, while others risked their health to continue caring for the animals. Most of these situations hit HHS, and we wouldn't have blamed anyone for saying, "I can't do this!" But that didn't happen and instead, so many stepped up and they deserve a tremendous amount of gratitude.

**Staff** - Every member rallied and made sure our animals were well cared for, adjusted our programs to fit the "new normal" and adapted quickly to the majority of our work going virtual, almost overnight.

**Volunteers** - Even though we greatly scaled back their

activities, we still had dedicated people come to help ensure our animals received the best care possible.

**Pet Therapy Teams** - Pet therapy works best in-person, but since that wasn't an option, our teams took their programming virtual to bring joy to those who needed it most.

**Foster Homes** - The need for temporary homes for animals hit an all time high and our fosters delivered. They took in all types of pets to be sure they got the love and care they deserve.

**Adopters** - We were sure our adoptions would drop, but just the opposite occurred. Even with virtual interviews and social distancing, people came to give our pets new homes in greater numbers than ever before!

**Donors** - We do our work because we love pets, but without financial support, we can't fulfil our mission. Our donors continue to provide financial support required to save the lives of the animals that come through our doors.

I don't feel I'm able to go into enough detail on this one page about everything that was done to help our humane society and the animals in our care. For now, the best way to share my feelings of gratitude is simply to say a very heartfelt, **THANK YOU**.

**Tom Van Winkle** / Executive Director





# ☆ Our Hero Staff ☆

Living through unprecedented times has thrown everyone for a loop. Instead of focusing on the negatives, particularly those related to COVID, we wanted to share how positively our animal care team in particular, has handled all of it. They pivoted and adjusted, all while providing the best possible, uninterrupted care for our animals.

When asked to completely change multiple aspects of what they typically do, every staff member jumped in enthusiastically to do what it takes for the welfare of the animals. From changing to appointment-only adoptions, to adapting our phone systems to the vast quantity of calls coming in, our Operations staff worked tirelessly together to make all of the necessary changes.

Receptionists started working from home to allow for only essential staff in the building, while they determined best ways to manage the growing number of calls. People sheltering in place became interested in adopting animals in numbers we'd never seen before.

Staff adapted quickly to managing the lists of callers and how to most efficiently get back to them. When that became too much to manage (the average number of calls rocketed to 127 per day/3,902 per month!), the team started utilizing emails to help manage information for all of the interested adopters.

Conducting adoption interviews over the phone was a big change for our counselors who are accustomed to in-person meetings. Locations for in-person adoptions were changed from small counseling rooms, to larger, safer, open spaces that had to be stocked with supplies and thoroughly cleaned after each adoption meeting.

Wearing masks posed challenges not only because they're hot and make communication difficult, but because many of the animals were frightened by them.

Then there was the sheer number of animals coming through the door that all had to be touched by our veterinarian and her team with an exam or a surgery. The number of animals they saw, in addition to the fact that they were helping other organizations with their spays and neuters, as well as running clinics for the public, was beyond impressive.

Working with limited staff, new procedures and record numbers of animals, were just a few of the roadblocks our animal care staff worked through and conquered, making them true heroes of the animal welfare world.



# The Miracle of Increased Adoptions during the Pandemic

*Record Numbers Of Adopters Came Forward To Give Homes To Animals In Need*

Who would have imagined that pet adoptions would increase by nearly 50% during a pandemic? But with everyone sheltering in place and finally finding the time to add that dog or cat (or two!) to their families, animals in need saw the benefits!

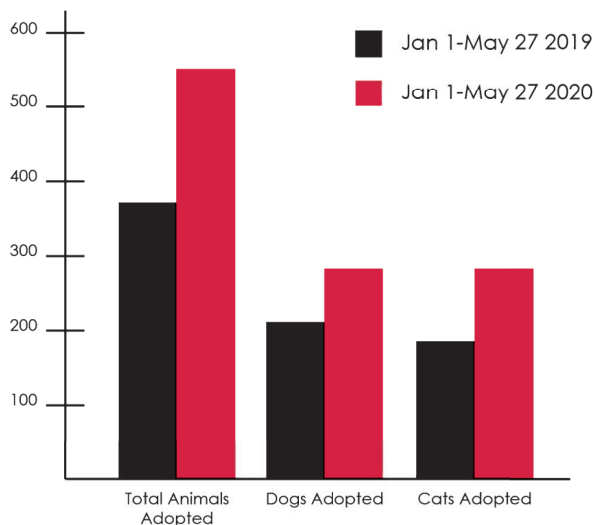
"Things have been so crazy," said Samantha Cheatham, Animal Care Manager, HHS. "It's been such a whirlwind like I've never seen in my 19 years here. On one hand, adoption demand has been through the roof, while on the other hand, many of our usual resources for animals in need of help, have either been shut down due to COVID, or they were having their own rise in adoption numbers and didn't need help getting pets out."

The reality is, there are always animals in need. You just have to get creative and find them. "We had to come up with new ways to get to the animals that needed help," said Cheatham. "Our connections in Alabama would have typically come here, but because of COVID, they couldn't, so our staff members would meet them halfway, taking our van and filling it up with animals."

Research and calls also revealed a rescue group in Texas that needed help. "In Texas and Alabama, they were NOT having the same adoption demand we were," said Cheatham. "Where we used to take animals from down south once a month, we were pulling them in every other week in order to help them. They were struggling to get animals adopted and we had more adopters than pets, so it worked out."

We are so grateful to everyone who came forward during these past months to make a difference in the lives of homeless pets. While adoptions have begun to slow down slightly in the summer months, our hope is that more people will continue to consider adoption when the time comes to add a furry family member.

## Animals Adopted 2019 vs. 2020



**So far, 2020 saw a 46% increase in adoptions with 56% more cats and 36% more dogs adopted.**



# The Sheltered Life: No Mamas Left Behind



## *Advocating For Dog And Cat Mothers*

Our mission is focused on advocating and providing for all animals, including those that are harder to place. Among that latter group are often the mothers of the adorable puppies and kittens that get adopted so quickly.

Because mother dogs and cats may have spent much of their lives breeding, (sometimes in inhumane conditions) they can be fearful, or have medical issues related to all of those litters. It can take extra work, medical treatment and funding to rehabilitate and get them ready to be part of a loving family. “Thankfully we have the behavioral and medical resources to work with those harder to place pets,” said Kristin Tvrdik, Medical Director, HHS. “Our goal is to never leave those mamas behind.”

One of those mamas was Elina. She had beautiful puppies that all found their homes quickly. But Elina was shy and under socialized, and would not be easy to adopt out. Our staff and volunteers worked hard with her, helping bring her out of her shell by socializing her with other dogs and spending one-on-one time with her. She slowly became more comfortable and was adopted into a loving home with another dog.

Mimi and Grace were two mama cats with kittens from a rescue partner that had limited resources. They arrived very sick with upper respiratory

infections and received medical treatment before going into foster care. They nursed and groomed their babies despite the fact that they were still so sick themselves and couldn’t even eat. “They were the definition of great mother cats, powering through their own discomfort to care for their kittens,” said Tvrdik.

Then there was Ginger. “She was very shy and it is so sad because in some cases these animals have been used for breeding their whole lives, and need some extra TLC,” said Samantha Cheatham, Animal Care Manager, HHS. Ginger’s puppies got adopted right away, as is often the case, but happily, she was adopted quickly after, into a loving family with another dog.

“We celebrate when the mamas get adopted first before the babies or right after,” said Cheatham. “We’re so happy to get them out of here because we know puppies and kittens will go quickly and it’s sad to see the older ones sit here watching and waiting for their turn as their babies all go home.”

Aries the dog was given up to a partner shelter back in October of 2019, when at nine years old, she was past the breeding age. Despite the difficult life she has led, she does not let it get to her one bit, and is an absolutely sweet and loving girl. “Aries is the reason we will continue striving to make sure no mamas get left behind,” said Cheatham.



Elina



Grace



Aries



# Low-Cost Pet Vaccinations and Food Bank

We are all living through unprecedented times and now more than ever, our organization is looking for ways we can help make a difference in the lives of people and their pets.

Through generous funding from the Irving & Phyllis Millstein Foundation for Animal Welfare, we are providing everyone with low-cost pet vaccination services. We're also offering our guests free pet food from our Pet Food Bank.

"People are struggling from job losses due to COVID, and other types of hardships," said Tom Van Winkle, Executive Director, HHS. "These clinics provide basic, low-cost pet care services to help all individuals keep their pets healthy during this difficult time."

Dr. Kristin Tvrdik, HHS, leads the clinics with her medical team at our facility every first Saturday and third Tuesday of the month (except for holidays). The clinics are by appointment only and interested parties are asked to register online.

"The clinics have been filling to capacity quickly," said Dr. Tvrdik. "So that's an indicator to us that this is definitely something needed for people and their pets, especially right now. We're so fortunate to have funding from the Millstein Vaccination Program that makes this possible for everyone in need."

Services at the clinic include basic vaccinations for dogs and cats, as well as microchip service, heartworm tests and preventatives, rabies and more. A "cheat sheet" to help people determine what they might need to get to stay up to date is available on our website and our Pet Food Bank is also available to Clinic attendees.

"Because of COVID we're handling the pets with curbside service where everyone can stay safe, and we've actually found the pets behave really well on their own with us in the clinic, so that's a happy by-product of all of this," said Tvrdik.



Visit [hinsdalehumanesociety.org](https://hinsdalehumanesociety.org) or call **630-323-5630 x41** with questions about the clinics.



# The Suite Life: We “HEART” our Heartworm Positive Dogs



With all of the changes thrown at the entire animal rescue community due to COVID, we've had to adapt accordingly to help pets in need get to safety. Because many of our usual rescue and transport partners had to suspend or alter their operations during COVID, we had to pivot quickly to find new resources. Our research revealed shelters down South were in need of help for their animals.

Many groups in that area of the country do not have the resources, funding or medical care that we are so fortunate to have. While we were able to take in and help many Southern pets in need, among those were a large number of heartworm positive pups that needed treatment and our help.

“Heartworm comes from an infected mosquito biting a dog and transmitting that infection to it,” said Kristin Tvrdik, DVM, HHS. “The infection then enters their bloodstream, transmitting larva that develop into worms, and those worms grow around the dog's heart. Despite the difficult treatment protocols required to cure these dogs, we would never turn away an animal because of it.”

Heartworm is highly preventable with an affordable monthly chewable and annual test. Those monthly chewables are even more affordable through our low-cost clinics twice a month at the shelter, ranging from \$50 for half a year to \$80 for a full year of preventative.

If a dog does become infected, most cases are treatable, although at a substantial cost. “On the open market, it can cost several thousands of dollars to treat an infected dog,” said Tvrdik. It is typically a ten-month process to cure with a series of medications, followed by injections that each need to be followed by 2 weeks of cage rest for the dog. Eventually they finish treatment (still getting their monthly preventative throughout) and are slowly able to increase activity and be cleared completely.

“Happily we can treat heartworm positive cases in our clinic more affordably, and we cover the cost for our adopters,” said Tvrdik. The shelter has treated two dozen heartworm positive dogs from April 2019-April 2020. Since April 2020, there have been eight more cases. “All of the dogs that have completed treatment in the past year have remained negative, so that's a great success rate with our treatment protocol,” said Tvrdik.

Heartworm preventative is administered year round because it is always working to treat the possibility of the previous month's infection. If you are considering adding a second dog to your home and that dog is heartworm positive, thankfully, it is not transmittable between dogs who are on heartworm preventatives.

***As we always say, don't let heartworm disease become a heartbreaker.***

*A few of our recent heartworm positive dogs.*

Faith



Boomer



Bubba







# Therapaws Pet Therapy Goes Virtual



## *Pet Therapy Supports Summer Reading Programs Virtually*

Even pandemic-closed libraries couldn't stop young readers from participating in the popular READ to the Pets program this summer. Our Therapaws Pet Therapy Coordinator, Susan D'Alexander, worked with several of our READ libraries to offer scheduled, one-on-one reading times via Zoom. The reader was placed in a "waiting room" until their time, so their session was "private" between the child, the pet team and the librarian. Thomas Ford library in Western Springs, La Grange, Brookfield and Clarendon Hills libraries offered the program this summer, potentially helping over 50 children with their summer reading goals.



## *St. Thomas Hospice Yearly Summer Camp Features Therapy Pets Online*

Each year, AMITA's St. Thomas Hospice Bereavement camp hosts a day-long camp for young participants. Our Therapy teams are always a favorite part of the day. Keeping the tradition going, four teams plus HHS' favorite therapy rat, Neville, delighted the children with their stories on June 23. Thanks to Teddy and Jango, the therapy dogs; Frisky the therapy cat; Ernie and Edyth, the guinea pig couple; Neville, and all of their handlers for brightening the day of children who have experienced the loss of a loved one.



## *Care for the Caregiver*

Our teams support hospital and rehab patients in a partnership with AMITA Health. But rarely do we have the opportunity to support the people who offer care. AMITA partnered with our teams to give some TLC back to the caregivers.

Called "Care for the Caregiver," the teams will be available to any doctor, medical support staff, and/or office teams who need a break from the daily stress and wish to interact with a therapy pet. AMITA described the event as a "healthy dose of Pet Therapy, designed to reduce stress and improve physician and associate well-being."

The first event was June 30 at AMITA staff offices in Hinsdale. AMITA hopes it becomes a regular weekly event, rotating between La Grange and Hinsdale locations.





# Humane Ed Good News You Can Use

They say when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Our Humane Education department took that old adage to heart, reimagining and redesigning our camp programs, and sold out all camps for a second time.

How could we be as safe as possible, maintain social-distancing, adhere to government guidelines, and present a fun summer camp experience during a pandemic? By providing a social distanced camp experience with our Propeller Wags & HHS' Together-Apart Tented Campgrounds!

Campers, each with their own camp tent, are learning pet care basics, building adaptation skills, discussing resilience, playing social-distancing games, learning about the spread, treatment and prevention of human and pet diseases, all while enjoying hands-on time interacting with pets in a safe, welcoming, together-apart camp setting. Each camper also gets their very own t-shirt. (Special thanks to Alexis Korkowski for the fun design.)

Thanks to our sponsors, generous donors, and the creativity of our Humane Education Manager, Jen Gordon, well over 100 children are having the opportunity to learn, grow, have some summer fun and enjoy a little lemonade!

## Thank you to our Propeller Wags & HHS' Together-Apart Tented Campgrounds Sponsors

**Camp Sponsor**  
Propeller Wags

**T-Shirt Sponsors**  
Oak Brook Kennel Club | Rogers Behavioral Health  
| Mavco Insurance Agency

**Supply Sponsors**  
AMITA Health Adventist Hinsdale Hospital  
| Burr Ridge United Church of Christ



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

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Veterinary Technician: Fred Dehart

**Thank you to Katrina Garagiola for the design of Inside Look.**

## **Fundraising Fundamentals**

*Following Are Just A Few Ways To Give That Are Making A Difference In The Lives Of Homeless Animals.*

### **Virtual Kitten Shower**

Kitten season kicked off on Sunday, May 17 with live streams of our first Virtual Kitten Shower. Fans watched the babies play and socialize, learned about kitten season, the importance of spaying/neutering, and our foster program. Big thanks to all our supporters who joined us online and helped with much needed supplies!

### **Front Porch Photos**

This fundraiser provided a safe, social-distanced outing for people and/or pets, with professional photos featuring everything from family portraits to graduations. Our fantastic photographer Laura Dajoraite, brought everyone's visions to life. See Laura's work at <https://lauraphotos.com>.

### **Planned Giving: Lasting Love**

Our Lasting Love program allows you to plan for your pets' possible future, should you predecease them. It is an extraordinary and loving thing to do for your pet(s). If you've taken the time to put together an estate plan, then you've given careful thought to your future, the people and organizations in your life, and you've taken steps to be sure your wishes are followed.

Pets are loving members of our family. It's important that as we make plans for our estate, our pets are included in that planning, so that their future is given careful, loving attention, should they outlive their human companion.

Lasting Love is available to individuals who have included Hinsdale Humane Society in their estate plans. If you would like additional information about how to plan for your pet, contact Annie Krug, Hinsdale Humane Society, [annie.krug@hinsdalehumanesociety.org](mailto:annie.krug@hinsdalehumanesociety.org), 630-323-5630 x48.

### **Matching Gifts**

Did you know many corporate employers offer matching gifts for an employee's donation to a charitable organization? Your gift can go further to helping us save lives and provide crucial programming to the community. Please contact [deborah.kraus@hinsdalehumanesociety.org](mailto:deborah.kraus@hinsdalehumanesociety.org) or 630-323-5630 x32 for more information and to see if your company can match your gift!



# Spotlight on our Community Partners

## **Brittany Downs - Fresh Wave®**

Our community partnerships play a vital role in the work we do - from advocacy and awareness, to engagement and financial support - we are continually looking for creative ways to collaborate.

That's why we were thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with Fresh Wave® natural odor removing products. Their products cover up odors (and boy do we have them!) by making the odor molecules disappear while being super gentle on the environment. "This partnership is extremely beneficial to our shelter and helps elevate our events as well," said Jacki Rossi, Business Development Director, HHS. "With the animal traffic we see on a typical day, the air fresheners have worked beautifully throughout the entire shelter - even our offices."

### **Fresh Wave has supported us in different ways over the years:**

- They were a **major sponsor for our Grand Opening Weekend**, providing products for our adoption counseling rooms, shampoo for our resident dogs, and samples for our adopters' bags.
- They **contributed products for attendees** at our Small Dog Tea Party at the Drake Hotel Chicago.
- Most recently, they **provided all the dog wash supplies and samples for gift bags** during our Dog Spa Day event on July 18th.

**We look forward to partnering with Brittany and her team at Fresh Wave in the future! [freshwaveworks.com](http://freshwaveworks.com)**



# Paws & Hearts

## **Foundations**

- Amazon Smile
- Caroline Wilson & G. William Cotts
- Christopher Family
- Harbor Partners
- Hewlett Packard Enterprise
- Nolan Family Trust
- Northrop Grumman

## **Grants**

- DuPage Community Foundation
- ExxonMobil Foundation
- Second City Canine

## **Matching Gifts**

- Apple
- Bank of America
- CBRE Group
- Clorox Company Foundation
- Costco
- Discover Financial Services
- Expedia Matching Program
- Hewlett Packard Enterprise Foundation
- Microsoft Giving Campaign
- Tableau Matching Program
- UnitedHealth Group

## **Sponsors**

- Hinsdale Nurseries
- Yorktown Shopping Center
- West Suburban Veterinary Associates
- Burr Ridge Veterinary Clinic
- WestPoint Financial Group
- Klepacki & Blair Orthodontics
- AMITA Health
- RML Specialty Hospital
- WillowGrove Pet Clinic
- Propeller Wags
- Oak Brook Kennel Club
- Rogers Behavioral Health - Hinsdale
- Mavco Insurance Agency
- Lincoln Mortgage & Funding Corp
- Phoenix Real Estate Solutions LLC
- Jay Schaldecker

## **Community Partners**

- Bryan Middle School
- Burr Ridge United Church of Christ
- CSC Family Partners
- Chamberlain Group
- Downs Family
- Follett Higher Education Group
- Freedom Food Clinics of IL
- Geldner Center
- Giving DuPage
- Grounds & Hounds Coffee
- Hometown National Bank
- IDesign Salon & Blow Dry Bar
- Matrix Partners, Ltd.
- Nylabone
- OMI Industries (Fresh Wave)
- Pet People Enterprises
- Robert W. Baird & Co.
- Southwestern Real Estate
- St. Paul Church by the Lake
- Tom James Company
- Wild Earth Dog Treats

## **In Kind Donations**

- Still sending barks and meows of appreciation to all who contributed much needed supplies during COVID-19 and kitten season.

## **Shout Out to Partners in Pets on CarryOuts**

- Baldinelli's Pizza - Hinsdale
- Cafe Salsa - Countryside
- Casa Margarita - all locations
- Citrus Diner - Westmont
- Di Leo's Pizzeria - Elmhurst
- Lucca's Pizzeria - La Grange
- Prime n' Tender Meats - Hinsdale
- Sweet Ali's - Hinsdale

**A special thank you to Kelsey Weivoda and Danny Herrera for photos on Grad Cards, and Laura Dajoraite for donating her time and talent for Front Porch Photos.**



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## ADOPTION STORY *Shadow*



**Hello!** My family wanted to give an update on Shadow, who we adopted from HHS in February of 2019. After the heartache of losing our dog, Kipper, who was also an HHS alum, we fell in love with senior dog, Shadow. We immediately knew our family needed him, and he came home with the new name of Sherlock, or "Erla" as our toddler excitedly called him. He lived out his last year so loved and finally surrounded by a family and little puppy brother who loved snuggling up with him. Due to many medical complications, he unfortunately passed away this March. While our family is still heartbroken, we are forever grateful our lives were blessed by Sherlock. Our vet said he was an incredible fighter, beating many odds until the very end, and we like to think it's because he finally had a family of his own that he wanted to enjoy every possible minute.

Thank you for allowing this sweet boy to spend his last year as a part of our family!

Sincerely,  
Marielle R.