



# INSIDE LOOK

*Summer 2021*

## [The Renewal Issue]

### Underdogs and Cats!

READ THEIR STORIES

### An Unprecedented Kitten Season

HELP CATS FIND THEIR WAY  
INTO HOMES

### Guardian Angels Hospice Program

CARE FOR ALL

Photo Credit of Beans the cat: Laura Dajoraite, [lauraphotos.com](http://lauraphotos.com)



**"IN THE SPIRIT OF  
"RENEWAL," PLEASE RENEW  
YOUR COMMITMENT TO  
HELPING PETS WHO HAVE  
FOUND THEMSELVES  
WITHOUT A HOME."**



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

### **From the Desk of the Director**

Springtime is when we usually talk about "renewal." The weather gets warmer, plants and trees bloom and wildlife awakens from a long winter's nap. If we've learned anything over the past year, it's that these are unusual times. So this year, we're experiencing renewal in the summer. Sure, we experienced all the normal occurrences of spring, but as the country begins to open up after a long COVID shutdown, this summer is shaping up to be the real time of renewal for 2021.

Life getting back to normal is a good thing in most ways. Visiting family and friends, going to the movies or just simply grocery shopping at the store, are all activities we've missed. There's a downside to this summer though. I'm hoping you'll join our staff, volunteers and board members as we combat what could be the most challenging summer in animal welfare in a long time.

Because of COVID-19, many stray animals were not picked up and brought to a shelter. These pets, mostly cats, reproduced and began having litters this spring. Along with other shelters, we are now receiving calls from the caring public to help the

ever growing number of strays. We're all doing our best, but I'm asking you for your help.

In the spirit of "renewal," please renew your commitment to helping pets who have found themselves without a home. Whether through volunteering, making a donation or attending an event, we need as many members of our community as possible to help the animals in need. Even if all you can do is follow/like/share our social media posts, please make a point to do so as often as possible. The more people are aware of all of the animals in need, the more help they will receive.

From all of us, we hope you fared well during the past year and for those who have experienced hard times, we hope you're on your feet again soon. Thank you for all your support and we look forward to seeing you around the shelter very soon.

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

**Tom Van Winkle | CEO/Executive Director**





# Welcome Back!

## *We've Missed You*

Our doors were closed to the public for more than 14 months. We had to change protocols, revamp adoptions, and find new ways to get the word out about our adoptable pets. We had volunteers step up and take on new roles and staff pitched in everywhere they could. It was a labor of love and we are so happy to have our doors (somewhat) wide open once more.

Now when visitors head to The Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center, they're welcomed by our Guest Experience Volunteers. Most COVID protocols have been relaxed, following our Governor's guidelines. All we ask is that non-vaccinated individuals wear a mask in the building. When visitors are ready to adopt, one of our Animal Care Extraordinaires will come and help them meet the furry friend of their dreams!

"Potential adopters were extremely patient and considerate while we were adhering to a limited capacity," said Todd Howard, Operations Director. "We had to waitlist individuals when we reached capacity, but they were all more than understanding of our process."

Adoptions are thriving now that our doors are open... during re-opening weekend alone we had 22 adoptions! Even our sweet boy Ollie, who had been with us since February, was adopted after only a day and a half of being open to visitors. Ollie came to us through Hardin County, and through no fault of his own, never had one adoption call or any interest in him. Dogs like Ollie are the reason we're so happy to be open. Having potential adopters come and see the animals' personalities really shine in-person, gives them more of a chance at finding their forever family, just like sweet Ollie.



Come visit us **Wednesday, 1 - 8pm** and **Thursday - Sunday, 12 - 6pm**. We'll be here with all of our furry friends, waiting to see you!



## Fundraising and Focusing on Forgotten Furry Friends

Virtual and socially-distanced events, as well as special promotions, kicked off back in April with our **Spring into Love** adoption event. All month, our bonded pairs and longer-term dogs were 50% off their adoption fees. Fourteen dogs were included in this special, along with one of our bonded beagle mix pairs, Angel and Nova. These two staff & volunteer favorites were with us for over a month. Thanks to this special, we were able to find their forever home together! By the end of June all of the dogs featured in this special were able to spring their way into loving families and find their happily ever after.



**Pet Totes** were a labor of love for staff member Dee Downs and her family. For \$25, Dee and her daughters re-created each pet's digital photo as a stylized drawing printed onto a tote bag. It was a huge hit with around 128 tote bags sold! Staff, volunteers and guests can now be seen walking around in style with their furry friends on their bag.

On Tuesday, May 25th, we hosted a day-long **Cat Cafe** followed by our **Virtual Kitten Shower**. Cafe guests snacked on home baked treats while sipping tea and coffee, as they played with our adoptable cats and kittens... the ultimate in multi-tasking! Our cats were tucked out just in time for our live streamed, virtual Kitten Shower that focused on everything to do with bringing a new kitten home. Staff members also discussed our foster program, the importance of spaying and neutering, kitten proofing your home, and how to raise the "purrfect" cat.

Most recently, we kicked off our reopening by celebrating **Adopt a Cat Month**. For the entire month of June, we promoted our 1-5 year old cats with a half-off special, shining a spotlight on an age range that often gets forgotten. We had a wonderful turn out of cat-loving adopters in June who not only wanted to take home kittens, but also the mama cats, seniors, and those with special needs.





# Pet Walk Festival RETURNS!

**HHS supporters... assemble!** Pet Walk returned for its 32nd year after having to take a break in 2020 due to COVID. We went all in on our superhero theme with special kids' areas, a superhero sprint, and superhero capes! In between rain showers, attendees joined us on a 1-mile walk (even the rain couldn't dampen the spirits of our walkers who got more than a little wet!) around the neighborhood surrounding our building, led by adorable HHS adoptable, Skittles. Hot dogs, shaved ice, a small vendor mall, a cash prize raffle and raffle baskets, tours and visits with Therapaws Pet Therapy teams and a Humane Heroes Members Ice Cream Social, rounded out the fun.

The children's areas were the real showstopper, with our Humane Education Manager, Lauren Link, creating exciting ways to show why we choose adoption. "In the Interactive Game, "Pet Investigators," our Jr. Board led the group through an activity where kids learned about responsible sheltering and pet ownership," said Lauren. "We had a great turnout of future animal advocates who wanted to learn all about animal welfare and where our adoptable animals come from!"

It was a superhuman day of fun, filled with approximately 150 visitors divided into two waves for COVID-safety. They came out supporting our mission and had a blast. We are so grateful for the support and so happy to be able to host an in-person event once again.

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS WHO MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE:**

Presenting Sponsor:  
**PetPeople**  
of Western Springs

Ruby Sponsor:  
**ELKAY**

Paw Prints Sponsor:  
**Oak Brook Kennel Club**

Corner Sponsors:  
Boyce Chiropractic  
Diesel's Frozen Treats  
Liebchen Brolin Kraus - HHS Alum

Vendors:  
Farmina Pet Foods | Floofins & Co | Jimmy Coco  
PetPeople of Western Springs | Tuffy's (NutriSource/PureVita) | Two Bostons







## Help for the Underdogs (and Cats!)

The heart of our mission is helping those animals most in need. Our Operations Manager receives about one hundred emails each week requesting help for animals needing everything from special surgeries to behavioral training.

Our goal is to take every pet possible, rehabilitate them and get them into loving homes. In 2020 we were able to adopt out 1401 animals... the largest number ever in our history.

Following are just a few recent **"Underdog & Cat"** stories that have come through our doors.

### RICO

Rico was a 10 year old terrier mix who had a few issues. One, he was a senior; two, he tested positive for heartworm; three, he was missing teeth that made his tongue fall out the side of his mouth; four he had a terrible skin condition that needed treatment... but fifth, and most important of all, he was sweet, loving and needed our help.

Because there are so many incredible adopters in our area with amazingly big hearts, Rico did not spend much time with us at all. He arrived on May 6, got his medical exam, started his heartworm and other treatments with us, had a behavior assessment, hit the adoption floor and was adopted into a wonderful home with two dog siblings just 36 days later.

### BLAZE

Blaze came to us through our veterinarian, Dr. Kristin Tvrdik, from a former colleague of hers who reached out to get help for a cat who had been in a fire back in 2015. Dr. Kristin remembered his burn marks from when she did his neuter surgery all those years ago.

He was returned six years later and was losing weight, so Dr. Kristin's colleague intervened and got him to us for help. We took him in and finished rehabbing him. He gained weight once he was on meds and was the first adoption during our re-opening weekend. In fact, there were two kind people waiting to meet him, illustrating to us yet again, how many caring adopters there are.



## SULTAN

Sultan was hit by a car in November 2020 and had been left outside untreated ever since. His leg was broken and infected. He was surrendered to Aurora Animal Care & Control because the other dogs he lived with were starting to pick on him, likely due to his injury.

Sultan was traumatized, with good reason, but was still friendly and let staff members pet and walk him. Six months outside in this kind of pain was too much for anyone to have to endure. Thanks to the Zach Leathers Emergency Medical Fund, we were able to quickly get his leg amputated and help this sweet boy on the road to recovery. At press time, Sultan was up for adoption and waiting for a family to choose him.

## PUMA

Thanks to Dr. Kristin, Puma is our first hospice dog up for adoption. (Walt was a hospice cat, adopted out six months ago with kidney and inflammatory bowel disease. He's still going strong with his loving family!) Puma is an older dog with an incurable, chronic illness with which we know he will live, but probably not for long.

"There are dogs and cats like Puma and Walt who would typically be humanely euthanized," said Dr. Kristin Tvrdek, HHS Medical Director. "But in their cases, we know they have time left, are not in pain, and even though they may not live long, they deserve their golden years and we know we can find homes to live them out in."

Puma has been adopted by a loving volunteer, is enjoying all the benefits of his own home, and we'll be there to help his adoptive family with medicine, medical visits and whatever they need to keep sweet Puma happy.



## An Unprecedented Kitten Season

The residual effects of COVID are still being revealed, including its effect on homeless cats. "So many animal welfare groups found that their typical resources for spay and neuter had to shut down during COVID," said Dr. Kristin Tvrdek, Medical Director, HHS. "Now we're seeing the results of that in a kitten season with more pregnant cats in need than we've ever seen before."

Dr. Kristin started a program to help fill in those spay/neuter gaps by charging a nominal fee to help rescue groups and shelters without veterinarians, get their cats (and dogs) altered through our clinic.

"We're getting so many requests to help mom cats and we don't always have enough foster families to fulfill those needs," said Samantha Cheatham, Operations Manager, HHS. "I have not seen this many come through in the two decades I've worked here and it takes a piece of my soul to turn down any of these cats in need."

To learn more about fostering to help in this difficult kitten season, visit [hinsdalehumansociety.org/programs/foster-care-program](https://hinsdalehumansociety.org/programs/foster-care-program) or contact [kelsey@hinsdalehumansociety.org](mailto:kelsey@hinsdalehumansociety.org).



## HHS Guardian Angels Hospice Program

Through the generosity of donors and the willingness of volunteers to give their time, we're able to accept and care for returned adoptions and new pets that have varying needs.

The HHS Guardian Angels Hospice Program provides comfort care for pets with terminal illnesses and chronic disease that can only be managed and never "cured."

Adoption for these pets is typically out of reach, but adoptive hospice homes provide the ideal place to receive specialized care that can help reduce symptoms of disease and alleviate discomfort. The goal is to ensure these pets have quality time enjoying the comforts of home, despite coming to us without one.





## PET THERAPY

### Pet Therapy Recharges Senior Spirits with Some "Puppy Love"

After 14 months, with many seniors in isolation due to COVID 19, our Therapaws Pet Therapy teams finally returned to our elder care facilities in late May. It's not only the residents who are happy to see the wagging tails. Therapy teams are also excited to return to the work they love.

"It's so great to be back," notes Dietre Hayford, a Therapaws team handler with her Cockapoo Bosco. "We recently were at Plymouth Place in La Grange Park. Staff was so thrilled Bosco was back. We saw some residents that we knew from before COVID, too."

To date, seven facilities are now receiving pet visits, with five more scheduled for July. Several more locations are targeting August or early fall returns. Each facility advises their requirements and policies for returning visitors and some may request additional time to obtain the necessary approvals. "We hope to return to a full schedule by the fall," said Susan D'Alexander, Pet Therapy Program Manager.

Even with the long shut down, the Therapaws program welcomed a new location to our partner portfolio - Aspire Senior Living in Westmont. Visits to the Memory Care and Assisted Living units began for the first time on June 21. "Our residents are delighted to learn that Hinsdale Humane Society will be offering pet therapy visits each month," said Kathleen Riley, VIVA! Life Coordinator at Aspire Senior Living Assisted Living. "We love seeing the smiles on our residents' faces." We do too!



## HUMANE EDUCATION

### Summer Camp at HHS

Summer camp season is in full swing and we're loving it! Every week, a different group of animal lovers, ages 6-12, comes to our facility to learn about animal welfare, advocacy, and to participate in traditional and not-so-traditional camp activities. "Our campers have been practicing animal first aid, discussing animal emotions and communication, and meeting our friendly Therapaws pet therapy teams," said Lauren Link, Humane Education Program Manager.

Special thanks are due to our Junior Board Camp Counselors who have been making things extra special for our campers this year. "We're looking forward to a summer full of fun, new experiences with both human and animal friends," said Lauren.

New this year is our All Abilities Camp designed for children with developmental and cognitive disabilities. Campers are provided with an array of activities that will encourage them to get active, express their creativity and share their emotions.

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS WHO MADE OUR CAMPS POSSIBLE THIS YEAR!**



CAMPERSHIP SPONSORS: Casey's Market | Hinsdale Orthopaedics - Illinois Bone & Joint Institute | Klepacki & Blair Orthodontics | State Farm - Andy J. Herrero, Agent | Trinity Lutheran School | Maria Vasos - Law Offices | Jennifer Voss

SUPPLY SPONSORS: Burr Ridge United Church of Christ | Oak Brook Public Library





# Training & Enrichment

Yolonda

## Training Classes for Everyone

Our dog training classes are ongoing and open to all dog owners with a variety of classes and learning options.

“There’s really something for everyone,” said Yolonda Bradshaw, Training & Enrichment Program Manager, HHS. “We offer group classes as well as one on one and even virtual options covering everything from behavior consultations to puppy training and canine enrichment.”

With so many puppies and adult dogs adopted during the past year, training classes at HHS provide an affordable way to correct any unwanted habits and behaviors that may have formed during COVID lockdowns with pets.

“Just like with humans, social isolation has been hard on dogs,” said Jamie Merlo, Animal Trainer, HHS. “We provide our students with creative ideas and tricks, mental games and other ways to engage their dog while strengthening the human-animal bond.”

From working to modify problem behaviors like anxiety, fear and leash pulling, to providing guidance on jumping, nipping and chewing, Jamie & Yolonda give students positive reinforcement tactics to help puppies and dogs become their best selves and set them up for success with their families.

For more information about Training & Enrichment at Hinsdale Humane Society, visit: [hinsdalehumanesociety.org/programs/training-enrichment](https://hinsdalehumanesociety.org/programs/training-enrichment)





## SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

*"Rogers Behavioral Health in Hinsdale has been collaborating with Hinsdale Humane Society (HHS) since 2019. Our child and adolescent patients are able to earn "Fun Friday" time with the animals by working towards their treatment goals. While visiting HHS, the patients are able to practice therapeutic techniques like asking questions to the trainers, social skills with staff and each other, self-regulation (waiting their turn, listening to directions, volume, etc.) and learn about how animals can help them cope with anxiety, loneliness and other feelings they might be experiencing. During COVID, when visits were not possible, HHS made every effort to stay connected with our patients by sending letters from Heidi, a therapy dog. Our kids loved receiving these letters and reading about her adventures. We're looking forward to expanding our partnership with HHS to include adult patients in the coming months. We cannot speak highly enough about the work they do with our patients!" —Cynthia Cole, Director of Operations at Rogers Behavior Health*

Our thanks to Rogers Behavioral Health for their willingness to incorporate Therapaws Pet Therapy into their treatment plans, and for generously sponsoring our Summer Camps the past two years. Neville the therapy rat (pictured with a Rogers' therapist below) is ready to get back to work. It's so nice to have good friends in the neighborhood!



# Paws & Hearts

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

### Foundations

- Amazon Smile
- Chicago Community Trust
- DuPage Foundation
- Exelon Corporation
- Fidelity Charitable Foundation
- GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
- Paypal Charitable Giving

### Matching Gifts

- Bank of America
- Costco
- UnitedHealth Group

### Sponsors

- Hinsdale Nurseries
- Burr Ridge Veterinary Clinic
- WestPoint Financial Group
- Klepacki & Blair Orthodontics
- AMITA Health
- Midwestern University
- RML Specialty Hospital
- Advanced Orthodontic Specialists
- Greenwise Design & Build
- Mavco Insurance Agency
- PetPeople Western Springs
- Rogers Behavioral Health
- Two Men and a Truck

### Community Partners

- Boehringer Ingelheim
- Boyce Chiropractic
- Burr Ridge Senior Living
- Burr Ridge United Church of Christ
- Casa Margarita Restaurants
- Comfort for Critters
- Diesel's Frozen Treats
- The Lane School
- Matrix Partners, Ltd.
- Menards-Hodgkins
- Mortgages4aCause
- Oak Brook Park District
- Oak Brook Public Library
- Oak Trace Senior Living
- Puppy Paws
- Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
- Real Dog Mom's of Chicago
- St. Paul Church by the Lake
- Spreadshirt, Inc.
- Two Bostons Stores
- Urban Mutt
- Westmont Public Library

### Special Mentions

Many thanks to our good friends at **Hinsdale Nurseries** for the grounds clean-up in anticipation of our Pet Walk Festival.

A round of applause, please, for **Kelsey and Brittany Downs of Jimmy Coco** on their great idea for our May Pet Totes Fundraiser and their beautiful work on the pet pictures for the tote bags. The event was a huge success!

Pawsitively beautiful -- that's how the new murals look in our Roger & Julie Davis Cat Lodge and Counseling Rooms. We appreciate the artistic talent brought to us by **Crayons Gone Wild** and **Lindsay Vidmar**, a Mother McCauley graduate!





Toby



Pierre



Cheeto



Vinny



Skittles



Arlo

Photos Courtesy of: Laura Dajoraite  
- lauraphotos.com & Danny Herrera,  
HHS Volunteer



**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](http://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org)**

#### **Board of Directors**

President: Dave Garland  
Vice President: Jay Schaldecker  
Secretary: Jeanne Van Dyke  
Treasurer: Laurie McMahon  
Members: Robby Bartholomai, Brian Davis, Jessica DeVries, Barbara Hollis, Jill Marquardt, Tina Martinez, JoAnn McGuinness, Alison Muehrcke, Mark Schlosser, Andrew Schmidt

#### **Staff**

Executive Director: Tom Van Winkle  
Operations Director: Todd Howard  
Medical Director: Kristin Tvrdik, DVM  
Shelter Director: Jessica Hiltner  
Business Development Director: Jacki Rossi  
Development Manager: Deborah Kraus  
Development Assistant: Sarah Livingstone  
Marketing Director: Robin Carroll  
Marketing Manager: Kelsey Weivoda  
Events Coordinator: Dee Downs  
Humane Education Program Manager: Lauren Link  
Pet Therapy Program Manager: Susan D'Alexander  
Technology & Website Director: Mary Drew  
IT Specialist: Lori Buchowitz  
IT Technician: Sam Tiemeyer  
Volunteer & Foster Coordinator: Kelsey Barry  
Administration/Reception: Kathy Daly  
Operations Manager: Samantha Cheatham  
Operations Supervisor: Carla Wudi  
Animal Care Staff: Brian Haack, Annie Kell, Lia Bouzarelos Kopta, Danielle Kosnik, Theresa Papaurelis, Patty Powell, Matt Saunders, Cassie Vail  
Veterinary Technician: Fred Dehart  
Training & Enrichment Manager: Yolonda Bradshaw  
Animal Trainer: Jamie Merlo  
Maintenance: Jake Razzino

***Thank you to Katrina Garagiola for the design of Inside Look and to all of our volunteer photographers for their contributions.***





Hinsdale Humane Society  
21 Salt Creek Lane  
Hinsdale, IL 60521

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #279  
Hinsdale, IL

## ADOPTION STORY UPDATE | CORMAC



**Hello HHS!** - It's that time of year again to send the yearly update for Cormac (known as Martin at HHS). Tomorrow marks his 4th Gotcha Day!

Cormac has loved the changes in routine that Covid has given him - like most dogs do. He spends far more time outside in the yard during the day, and he loves midday walks.

In this last year Cormac has also made friends with the neighborhood kids. There are a couple boys that will start howling as they run down the block to our fence to see if Cormac is outside. If Cormac is inside, though, and he spots them running, he immediately starts whining and runs to the backdoor to go outside and greet them. We recently added a little treat container near our fence for them, and they have Cormac shake and spin each time they come by.

Other things he has loved over this last year are laying on our front porch and

being the neighborhood watch, while also getting extra attention from friends of ours around the neighborhood. He also loves the Covid-implemented midday "snack time" when he gets a frozen dental treat while I eat lunch. He loves his snuffle mat that he got for Christmas, but he's not quite as convinced about his helicopter hat. Hikes still remain his absolute favorite, especially when we get up to the Northwoods, and we are confident he is going to be over the moon spending an entire week in the Boundary Waters next month.

Cormac continues to be the best sunbathing coonhound and nothing beats the last four years he's been with us. Thank you for all your continued work, and wishing you all the best this year!

**-Caitrin & Colby & Cormac**