



# INSIDE LOOK

*Summer 2022*

## Feline Diabetes

**Highly Treatable & Manageable**

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Festival 2022**

**Lifesaving  
Flight Transport**

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Membership**

**Looking for  
NEW Pet  
Therapy Teams!**

PHOTO CREDIT: Kelsey Weivoda,  
Marketing Manager, HHS





## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Jacki Rossi*

Dear HHS family - As we enter the "dog days" of summer, more than halfway through 2022, it's a perfect moment to reflect on the challenges and triumphs of this year.

Unfortunately, the challenges from the last few years are not behind us. While we made it through shutting our doors, skyrocketing adoptions, limited veterinarian care for animals in our communities, and owner surrenders, now, shelters and rescues across the country are overcrowded and facing insurmountable challenges every day. Adoption rates have slowed. Even dogs that are easy to place, aren't getting applications, which in turn limits our ability to help our transfer partners. Sometimes we receive up to 50 requests for help in one day. Resources are limited and foster homes are scarce. Some days it feels like we'll never be able to catch our breath.

**But here's our promise to you. We won't stop working hard every day to overcome these hurdles for the animals in our care and the people in our communities. And here's how...**

- Our **Animal Care** and **Behavior** teams work tirelessly with our animals to keep them enriched both physically and mentally during their time with us.
- We are growing our **Foster Care** program to open up space and allow the animals that need it the most, decompression time in a home.
- Our **Medical** and **Community** programs provide vital services such as low cost vaccination clinics and pet food banks to help keep animals in their homes.
- Our **Humane Education** and **Pet Therapy** programs are out in our communities educating and providing comfort during a time when people need it most.
- Our **Marketing** and **Development** teams are continuously thinking of new ways get these stories out and develop long lasting and sustainable relationships in our communities.

We will make it through this because of you - our dedicated volunteers who show up rain or shine, the adopters who walk through our doors and leave with their new best friend, our foster homes who open their doors and say, "how can I help?" and our supporters who continuously show up. And we need you, now more than ever, because together we are stronger. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Jacki Rossi | Executive Director

## Feline Diabetes

Diabetes in cats is similar to diabetes in humans. Whether it's an older cat, like Betty, our cover star, or plump kitties, like Brookie and Murphy, feline diabetes is treatable.

Betty was discarded in downstate Illinois, likely due to her age and symptoms. Since arriving at HHS, she was diagnosed with diabetes through our senior labwork protocols. She has been living the good life, getting the insulin and food she needs to thrive, and lapping up love from our staff and volunteers.

Brookie & Murphy, two chunky kitties, were pre-diabetic, likely due to a high carb diet. They were put on low-carb food to help reverse their condition, and have both since been adopted into loving homes.

Diabetes is most common in middle-aged, senior or overweight cats. Signs and symptoms that your cat may be diabetic include: eating and drinking more, urinating more, obesity, and in advanced cases, weight loss (the disease can consume fat).

If your cat is experiencing these symptoms, consult your veterinarian for a diagnosis. If you find your cat is pre-diabetic, putting him/her on a lower carb diet could potentially reverse the condition.

For a diabetic cat, seek guidance from your vet. Insulin injections are typically administered twice a day and you can learn how to do that at home (it's easier than you'd think). Cats who are diabetic can go into remission in some cases if the disease is caught early and the dosage of insulin is high enough.

Thankfully, early detection and proper treatment protocols will set you and your cat up for the best results so that a diagnosis of feline diabetes is manageable. And to help prevent it from developing, be sure to feed your pet proper amounts to help with weight management.







Luca



Argos



Wheat Thin



Charlie

# Going Home Day!

June was Adopt a Cat Month and we saw 161 of our feline friends find their forever homes!



Fiona



Candy



Rocky



Zach





## Pawsitively Good Award Winner

Nominated by our staff, Samantha Cheatham recently received the Pawsitively Good Award from NBC. This award honors individuals in the community who are “animal heroes” going above and beyond to help homeless animals find forever homes. She has dedicated 21 years as a staff member and has put her whole heart into helping animals in need find their happily ever after.

We can’t begin to quantify all of the animals in need she has helped, always watching out for the underdogs and cats, leaving no mamas or papas behind and making sure every pet possible gets the best chance at the life they so deserve. Congratulations Samantha!

# FIV Cats

Have you ever walked through our Roger & Julie Davis Cat Lodge and noticed “FIV+” on one of our cat condos? If you have, please don’t view it as a negative, but rather a glimpse into what these sweet souls have endured.

FIV stands for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus and is common among outdoor cats. It’s spread mainly through bites by an infected cat, and in some cases, it is transmitted to kittens from their mother. It is not transmitted through sharing water bowls or litter boxes, and studies show that FIV+ felines can safely live in harmony with non-infected cats without the threat of spreading the disease.

Take Champion, one of our recent FIV+ adoptable kitties. A good samaritan contacted our medical team for help with a cat who needed not only neutering, but help with other medical issues. He arrived with an abscessed wound on his tail that caused skin necrosis, and after weighing all possibilities, our medical team made the choice to amputate, treat his other bite abscesses and give him a full dental workup. While he was recovering, we discovered how sweet he was and opted to put him up for adoption instead of releasing him back into the outdoor cat colony he came from.

“Because he had likely been attacked by other cats outdoors and had endured bite wounds, he tested positive for FIV,” said Dr. Kristin Tvrdik, HHS. “It’s not a surprise, since unaltered cats mating and fighting for territory is a primary method of transmission. Spay/neuter reduces that risk.”

What we’ve learned from our FIV+ friends is that they can live full, happy lives as long as they have regular veterinary care, friendly cats to live with, and forever families giving them all the love they deserve!

**\*Champion has since been adopted into a loving home.**





# The Veterinarian Crisis: *More Pets Than Vets*

Our Medical Director, Dr. Kristin Tvrdik, and her clinic team, completed 2,633 total spay/neuter surgeries in 2021 (for our shelter pets as well as for those of other shelters in need) and are on track to eclipse that number in 2022. We are fortunate to have Dr. K's expertise, especially during a dire veterinarian shortage when shelters everywhere are having trouble finding help for their own spay/neuters.

A July 6 article in "The Atlantic" said it best: "There are not enough humans to take care of all the animals." The article points to contributing factors like the surge of new pet owners not keeping pace with new vets entering the field, and the number of vets who took early retirement during the pandemic. The remaining vets are spread too thin and are facing an overwhelming workload, demanding owners with no patience, and mental health issues plaguing these doctors who tend to be highly empathetic individuals and are now enduring so many distressing situations.

Because the problem is so prevalent, the non-profit Not One More Vet (NOMV) provides support to veterinary teams and students who are struggling or considering suicide.

According to the article and a recent Mars Veterinary Health report, "by 2030, the U.S. will need nearly 41,000 additional veterinarians and nearly 133,000 credentialed vet techs."

"I was looking through old items from vet school recently," said Dr. Kristin. "I found an article from 2006 warning that the veterinary crisis was coming and would be critical by 2012. I believe my graduating class was the last year that had even slight trouble finding a job (and it wasn't even that hard). Since then, the demand for jobs has far outpaced the new vets entering the field."

Within shelter medicine, the spay/neuter backlog from all over the country is exacerbating the problem of more pets than vets. "The shelter sector of veterinary medicine draws the least number of vets because of the low pay and stress," said Dr. K. "Fewer vets, more homeless animals and more people purchasing purebred pets (that also need spay and neuter services) has led to things being out of control."

While there is no solution in the near future, being aware of the crisis is a starting point. Practicing kindness within your own veterinary office is an easy way to start making a difference today.







## We're looking for NEW teams!

### *Dogs, Cats and Guinea Pigs*

Our dog, cat and guinea pig teams go out into the community helping kids learn to read, teaching teens to relax around test time, putting hospital patients at ease and bringing joy to the elderly. Our volunteer team members report back with the most touching stories and are clearly fulfilled by the caring work they're doing in the community, all while having fun with their pet!

Does your pet have what it takes to be a Therapaws Pet Therapy team member? We're always looking for new team members, including dogs, but are especially in need of cat and guinea pig team members right now.

For our cat team members, we're in search of calm kitties who like to sit on laps and have new people petting them, are well groomed, comfortable in a harness and leash, and who have lived with their family for at least six months.

For guinea pigs, we're looking for piggies who sit on laps and soak up pets and lovin' endlessly. Pet therapy recipients love all animals, but especially seem to enjoy our smaller furry friends like cats and guinea pigs.

If you think your dog, cat or guinea pig has what it takes to become a Therapaws Pet Therapy team member with you, we encourage you to contact our Program Manager, Andrea Wendlandt, at [andrea.wendlandt@hinsdalehumanesociety.org](mailto:andrea.wendlandt@hinsdalehumanesociety.org)



## Community Resources

### *Offering Resources that Help Keep Pets in Their Home*

Our Community Resources program was designed to help people and their pets by nurturing the human animal bond. Our goal is to offer resources that help keep pets in their homes.

We offer multiple pet medical clinic opportunities to provide access to affordable basic pet care for all community members, as well as supplemental food support with a pet food pantry.

We've also partnered with Cook County Animal & Rabies Control and with Rescue Pack to provide FREE rabies vaccines, microchips and pet food support for 750 pets from June through October of this year.

For details and dates of our Cook County Vaccination Clinics as well as our other affordable basic pet care opportunities, visit our website and search for Community Resources.

If you'd like to help with our efforts, please consider volunteering or donating. You can support our food pantry by purchasing from our wish lists on Amazon, Chewy or Walmart, found in the Community Resources section on our website.

**WE ARE ALL STRONGER TOGETHER.**



**ANIMAL ADVOCATE  
ACADEMY**



# New! Youth Program Membership

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF ANIMALS & PEOPLE

Our Summer Camps were sold out in just a few hours after they were announced. With that level of demand, we're doing all we can to accommodate more children. One way for us to grow is our new youth membership program called Animal Advocate Academy.

For an affordable \$50 annual fee per child (\$10 for each additional child from the same household), members will receive exclusive access to our youth programs, special events and more. These fees will allow us to offer more opportunities for children and teens to take part in learning about animal welfare and spending time with our adoptable animals.

Our youth programs and summer camps teach young people about proper pet care, advocating for animals and making new friends—both human and animal. "It's really about giving them pet welfare lessons when they're young so that when they're older they become responsible pet owners," said Kelsie Weisenberger, Humane Education Program Manager.



To become a member, scan the QR code, or visit our website and search for the Animal Advocate Academy.





# Training & Enrichment

## *Training your Dog with Kids at Home*

Dogs make great family pets, but before adding a canine to your family, it's important to "train your humans" first in order to teach your children how to respect their new family member. Teaching your kids how to approach and pet the dog, how to safely play, and when to leave the dog alone, goes a long way towards setting everyone up for success.

To start (or when children are visiting) be sure that you never leave kids alone with a new dog. When in doubt, use the crate. Crates provide a safe space for your dog to retreat to rest whenever they get overwhelmed or stressed.

Getting children involved with training and enrichment activities is a great way to nurture the bond between your dog and kids. Have them help prepare enrichment treats like Kongs with peanut butter, spread kibble in the grass for the dog to find, and even play hide-and-seek with the dog. If your dog can take food gently from a hand, kids can even help feed him or her and practice basic obedience commands like sit, down, and stay.

Adding a dog to your family is a lot of fun, but also a lot of work. Following the right steps and involving the whole family with proper care and training, builds an unbreakable bond between humans and dogs.



**To sign your dog up for class, scan the QR code, or visit our website and search for Training Classes.**



## Kitten Shower



With kitten season well under way, we held a Kitten Shower, inviting community members in for refreshments, kids' crafts and to learn about the importance of spay/neuter, details of our foster program, and of course, to enjoy playtime with kittens! All we asked was that attendees bring donations to help our shelter kitties. And they did!

## Veterans BBQ



To celebrate Military Appreciation Month and kick off our BJ Chimenti Angel Fund for Veterans and Pets Program, we invited active military, veterans and their families for an afternoon of fun. They were able to tour our facility, learn about volunteer opportunities, and enjoy games, food, and family fun.

## Oakbrook Center Event



We braved the rain and had an off-site adoption event at the Oakbrook Center that resulted in three adoptions in the first 30 minutes! We also collected donations and shared information with shoppers about fostering, training, and all of the other great initiatives we're working on every day to help more people and pets.



## Saving Animals One Transport at a Time

We recently rescued 16 dogs from an incredible organization that transports dogs by air from overcrowded shelters. Dog Is My CoPilot flies adoptable pets from overcrowded shelters to new adoption partners across the U.S. With the support of Petco Love, they have rescued and transported more than 23,000 dogs from all over the United States since 2012.

This flight came from Austin Pets Alive!, an animal shelter in Austin, Texas. Long-distance ground transportation can be stressful for the animals. The recent flight to Chicago was cool and comfortable for these pets. Eight local rescues showed up to save 43 pets and we were so proud to be one of those groups. We look forward to more life saving transports from Dog Is My CoPilot and are happy to report that all 16 of our Austin dogs have already been adopted into their forever homes.





**Pet Walk would not have been possible without our sponsors!**

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# Pet Walk Festival 2022

Once the rain cleared, our Pet Walk Festival brought out so many wonderful supporters who enjoyed the 1-mile pet walk, kid's dash, food and beverages, vendors, raffles, online auction, photo areas, cat cove, cake walk, doggie kissing booth, pie eating contest for dogs, dog agility, yard sale and more! Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who attended, and to our sponsors who made it all possible.



## Become a Humane Hero!

If you want to be more connected to our work, get exclusive videos and insider information, all while helping animals in need, please consider becoming a Humane Hero! The support of our fantastic members helps us give best in class care to our animals, and provide programs, resources and services to Chicagoland communities.

We couldn't do what we do without our Humane Heroes. There are multiple membership levels, so there's something for everyone. Our members receive monthly emails with exclusive behind the scenes peeks at the work we do, special discounts, promotions, breaking news and event perks.

We can't wait to welcome more members to this wonderful group. To become a Humane Hero, visit [hinsdalehumanesociety.org/membership](https://hinsdalehumanesociety.org/membership).



# Paws & Hearts

Thank You To Our Sponsors & Community Partners

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## SPECIAL MENTIONS

Generous gifts were shared with us through the estates of **Marlys Allen** and **The Libert Family**.

Shout out of appreciation to volunteers: **Heidi Conidi** for her work on the Pet Walk Festival Online Auction and Raffle Baskets; **Dee Downs** for her creative Kitten Shower refreshments; and **Anjali Peterson** for covering our printing costs for many promotions in this quarter; and **all staff** who baked for the Cake Walk at Pet Walk Festival.

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# Ranger

## ADOPTION STORY

Hi! Thought I'd send you an update since Ranger will be celebrating his third anniversary with me this week. As you can see, he still loves the garden. And true to his Husky heritage (which I now know thanks to the DNA test you offered as a fundraiser last year), he especially likes to dig holes to stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter. If you look closely, you can see one of his bunkers behind the rose bush. Thanks again for everything you do to make all the "perfect matches" possible! - Jean R.