



INSIDE LOOK

Fall 2021

NEW

Look Inside!

Xena's Story

HEARTBREAKING TO HEARTWARMING

**A Day in the Life
of Ava the Cat**

KEEPING THE HUMANS IN LINE

**Access to Care by
Dr. Kristin Tvrdik**

PHOTO CREDIT: Kelsey Weivoda, HHS Staff



LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Tom Van Winkle



Although I love springtime, fall is when I feel rejuvenated. Maybe it's because I prefer cooler weather or maybe I'm just strange... but either way, this is the perfect time of year to introduce the new look of our newsletter.

Of course we love the old version, but as with all things, there's always room for improvement so that supporters like you receive the best end-product possible. I hope you like what we've done, and more importantly, I want to thank you for all of your support.

We are very grateful for the help you provide us with in caring for so many animals (more now than ever!) that desperately need our help.

Tom Van Winkle | CEO

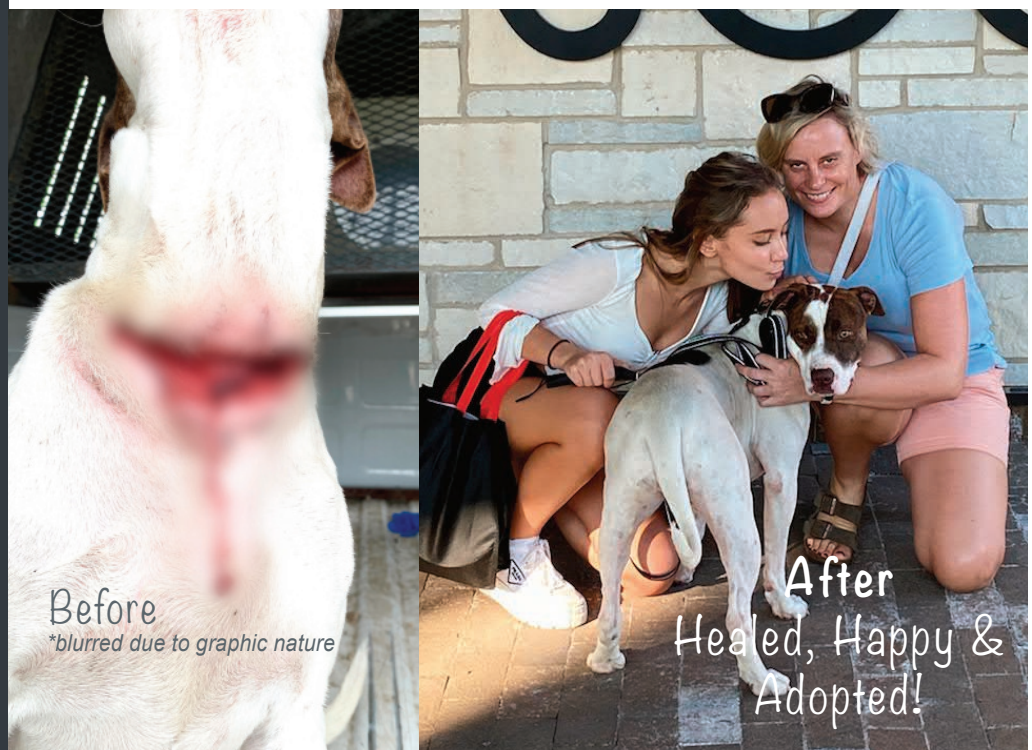
Xena's Story

Xena is a brindle and white pit bull terrier mix who came to us from Arkansas. We don't know her whole story, but we know she has experienced serious trauma.

When she was found, her throat had been cut. We don't understand what would drive a human to commit such a heinous act of abuse against a voiceless pet. It's the goal of every person in animal welfare to protect the vulnerable and prevent animal suffering and neglect. The wonderful advocates at Kitties & Kanines Shelter in Arkansas treated Xena and nursed her to health before sending her to us for adoption.

Xena's skin is healed, but the wounds from abuse run deep and she will likely always be skittish. Our male staff members and volunteers worked with her to build her confidence around men in particular. The beautiful end to her story is that she found her loving forever family.

It takes a village of support to help a dog like Xena and we're so grateful to our rescue partners, veterinarians, volunteers and staff, and to all of you who donate to help turn a heartbreaking story like Xena's, into a heartwarming one.



Before
**blurred due to graphic nature*

After
Healed, Happy & Adopted!



Going Home Day!

PLUS Our Pitties & Kitties, Clear the Shelters Campaign Results:



28

kitties adopted



22

spay / neuters
in 2.5 hours!



6

pitties adopted



"A DAY IN THE LIFE OF..."



- Ava the Office Cat

7:00 AM

Wake up to discover no one has delivered my food yet. Rude. While I wait patiently, I decide to dive into a box full of crunchy paper to get my day going.

8:30 AM

The humans decide it's time to feed me and release me from this room I'm in (I think it's called an office?) To thank them, I eat the entire bowl in minutes and yell for more.

10:55 AM

Time to hide behind a computer screen and sneak attack the person typing on it! It really keeps everyone on their toes and that's the whole reason I'm here, right?

12:30 PM

Stare at a cat in the window with intense eye contact. If this was a competition, I would win. When I move, they move too. I don't get it.

3:00 PM

I hear cheering and see one of those white boxes coming through the hall. I think one of my friends is getting adopted! I wonder when someone will want to come and see me? Maybe they'll take me home too! I've lived here for a while now and I'd really like a couch to snuggle on. Maybe one day...

3:45 PM

These squiggly things coming out of the wall look like fun. Wouldn't hurt to bat them around a bit. But now the humans are shoosing me away and saying something about an unplugged printer.

5:00 PM

Dinner time. Here come some humans with a bowl full of food, my favorite thing! I may show off my zoomies a little bit to thank them. They always seem to laugh when I do that.

6:30 PM

Time for my nightly nap. When the day winds down, I'm exhausted from running this place. I would love the chance to retire in someone's home. Until then, I will be here whipping these humans into shape.



Saint Gin's Story

From Intake to Foster

Meet Saint Gin, a 2 year old Great Pyrenees who came to us from southern Illinois. We don't know the extent of his previous situation, but we do know he was severely neglected. When Saint Gin arrived at our partner shelter, Washington County Animal Control, he was **so malnourished that his fur was falling out. His frame was almost as thin as a soda can! If that wasn't enough, he also had a limp in his rear right leg.**

Saint Gin was transferred to us on July 20, and immediately became a staff favorite with his sweet and gentle demeanor. On a feeding schedule of at least 3 meals per day, he slowly began gaining weight and his fur began to fill back in. At press time, he was living the life of luxury in a foster home, being showered with love (and snackies!) and awaiting the results of an x-ray on his leg. His long journey home is not over, but he is on the mend, seems to love life and is always happy no matter what.

Access to Care

Our own Dr. Kristin Tvrdik Shares Details of a New Movement



The COVID pandemic has made it evident that now, more than ever, families are wanting to adopt pets.

In animal welfare, we have long known that there are far more animals in the country than adopters available for them. As an industry, we are coming to understand that the phrase “Owning a pet is a privilege, not a right” is not fair to our pet-owning public or our animals around the country that are desperate for homes. Instead, we are embracing a movement called Access to Care.

Many pet owners are desperate for resources like pet-friendly housing, veterinary care, and pet supplies like food and basic preventative

medications. These are families that love their pets dearly and want to keep them and provide for them, but are often forced to make the decision to relinquish their pets to shelters due to lack of resources.

We cannot adopt or spay/neuter our way to a solution for the pet overpopulation crisis in our country. Instead, we must adjust our focus to keeping animals in their homes and keeping families together. As a whole, animal shelters and organizations should make it a priority to ensure that people from all communities and means are able to care for their pets. The American Veterinary Medical Association has highlighted a need for a shift in veterinary teaching hospitals to reflect these needs. Currently, veterinary schools expose students to specialist-level care, as these are the patients that enter the teaching hospitals. Students are taught they must offer the “Gold Standard” level of options to pet owners in order to provide the best medicine. This can create a false sense of understanding regarding what the general public is able to pay in order to care for their pets.

A recent study indicated that new veterinary graduates and their employers would like to see veterinary schools teach the Spectrum of Care. This stresses that basic, low-cost care is NOT substandard or unsuccessful. Conversely, advanced or state-of-the-art veterinary care is NOT necessarily better or a higher standard for a patient. We must embrace the fact that a family can provide basic, loving care for their pets and that is more than enough. Destigmatizing low-cost medicine and an understanding that basic care is the right choice for many households is the first step in ensuring that more pets and their owners receive what they need.

Visit hinsdalehumanesociety.org/events/vaccination-clinic for more information about low-cost basic pet care clinics (like the one pictured below in Franklin Park) and our pet food pantry.



Training & Enrichment

The Reality of Retractable Leashes



We know many people use retractable leashes when walking their dogs. What we don't know is if people are aware of the negative impacts they can have. While we may not be popular for saying this, we felt it was important to share what we know about them and what we've seen.

RETRACTABLE LEASHES CAN CAUSE INJURY TO BOTH OWNER AND DOG

When a retractable leash extends quickly, (for instance, if your dog takes off suddenly after a squirrel) the sheer force can yank you right off your feet. And that fast-moving cable can cause skin burns or even the amputation of fingers.

Since most retractable leashes result in your dog being a good 15-20 feet ahead of you, there's almost no way to protect them from surprise dangers like cars, coyotes or even other aggressive dogs. And there's no quick or easy way to reel them in from the danger since the leash sets them so far away from you.

RETRACTABLE LEASHES CAN CAUSE BEHAVIORAL ISSUES

We get the appeal of a leash that potentially allows your dog to feel more freedom on a walk. But that freedom can result in your dog not listening. If Fido is over 15 feet away, he has no inclination to listen to you, making it difficult to stay in control. If you have a dog already prone to pulling on leash, a retractable reinforces that negative behavior. By design, constant pressure on the leash teaches dogs that in order to move forward, they need to pull and keep pulling, since when they slow down, they get reeled in.

For the reasons above and many more, most trainers do not recommend them, including our Training & Enrichment Program Manager, Jamie Merlo. "If you're working on leash manners, we definitely don't recommend using a retractable leash, as it undermines everything you've been working towards," says Merlo.

To learn about better leash options, or to address any other issues you're having with your dog, contact Jamie at jamie.merlo@hinsdalehumanesociety.org

Pet Therapy

Our Therapaws Pet Therapy teams touch hearts year round while they visit senior homes, schools, and different community events.

"I remember bringing my therapy dog, Eddie, to a woman who was bedridden and not reactive to anything or anyone," said Pet Therapy Program Manager, Susan D'Alexander. "When I brought him into the room, she turned to look at him, broke into a huge smile, and reached out to touch him. I was told that they were amazed to see her react this way for the first time since being there."

Stories like Eddie's happen almost every visit. Therapy animals spread joy and even education to those who need it most. Some of our teams are even HHS alumni who just couldn't wait to jump in and help out.

And we don't draw the line at therapy dogs. We've had cats, rabbits, and even guinea pigs in our program!

We currently have 15-20 active teams and more demand than we can handle. So, if you're interested in becoming a Therapaws team with your own pet, visit hinsdalehumanesociety.org/pet-therapy to learn more.

"dogs, cats, rabbits, and even guinea pigs, we've got them all!"



Neville the Rescue Rat

Our sweet Neville crossed the rainbow bridge in August. Neville taught children that animals aren't scary and he made them giggle. He brought smiles to people's faces when they were having a bad day. He brought comfort to people's hearts when they were sad. He brought laughter to a shelter that was his home for two years. He was the sweetest and most fearless little creature that ever lived.

REST EASY, SWEET BOY.



Humane Education

Our humane education program is one of a kind. From tours to “teen”ternships, summer camps to book clubs, we have something for every young animal lover. Our programs even help invoke a sense of confidence around animals that may not have been there before.

“One of my favorite moments was a 6-year old coming to read to our animals through our Books, Barks, Meow program,” said Lauren Link, Humane Education Program Manager. “He had a lot of fear of new places and animals. He was actually inspired after meeting our pet therapy rat, Neville. When he saw Neville go through the kennels with ease, he thought he could be brave and do it too!”

Not only does our program teach how to respect, protect, and understand animals, but it also inspires a new generation of animal advocates and volunteers. Many who start with us end up becoming dog walkers, cat socializers, or helping us in the kennels when they become old enough.

For more information on our Humane Education program, visit hinsdalehumanesociety.org/programs/humane-ed



GOAT YOGA

August 17th, 2021



Thank you for attending!



Happy Hour



Baby Goats



Attendees



Animals Helped: Countless



October 2nd, 2021

A Great Alumni Reunion

There was:



BBQ



Cigars



Whiskey



Beer



Bags



Raffles



Face
Painting



Pie Eating
Contest
for Dogs

95+

2-Legged Attendees



4-Legged Attendees:
too many to count

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GOAT YOGA



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Tracy Anderson - Hinsdale

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Midwest Coast Brewing
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Churchill & Oliver Rossi
Seasons 52
Shae Hog BBQ Sauce
Two Bostons
Wyatt's Dog Company



Heidi Gebauer 3rd Annual Golf Outing

The family of a beautiful and kind-hearted girl named Heidi has honored her memory for the past three years in the most lovely and fitting way. The recent 3rd Annual Heidi Gebauer Golf Outing raised incredibly generous funds for animals in need, which was one of Heidi's passions. We are so grateful to the Gebauer family for choosing us to share in the memory of their daughter, and to the family, friends and business associates of the Gebauer's who so kindly donated in Heidi's honor.



We Need Your Help!

Times are tough for everyone. That includes us. We rely solely on the generosity of our supporters along with partners and businesses in the community. Hosting events is just one of the many ways we raise funds for the rescue and care of homeless animals and our community programs and services that help people and their pets.

We're able to continue a 68 year tradition of watching out for the underdogs and cats because of supporters like you! And now, more than ever we need your help. After a year of record adoptions during the pandemic, the aftermath of year one has hit us hard.

More pets than ever are in need of help due to lowered spay/neuter rates when veterinarians had to lessen or stop their work completely at the start of the pandemic. Please consider one of the many ways below that you can help financially or with general support.

Ways to Give

- Donate
- Ask your Employer about Making a Matching Gift
- Become a Humane Hero Member
- Shop at our online store
- Sponsor an Animal
- Adopt a pet!
- Donate in Memory/Honor
- Volunteer
- Purchase a Commemorative Brick
- Like, comment and share our social media posts
- Join our President's Circle
- Grow into our 1953 Society

Visit our website and click on "How To Help" to learn more or contact deborah.kraus@hinsdalehumanesociety.org.

Paws & Hearts

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

Foundations

- Allstate Foundation
- Amazon Smile
- DuPage Foundation
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- Paypal Charitable Giving
- Pledgeling Foundation

Matching Gifts

- Bank of America
- Costco
- United Health Group
- US Bank

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- Klepacki & Blair Orthodontics
- AMITA Health
- Midwestern University
- RML Specialty Hospital
- Compass Realty - Tracy Anderson
- Mortgages4ACause
- Hinsdale Bank & Trust
- SavWay Fine Wines & Spirits
- Liebchen Brolin Kraus
- State Farm - Tina Tzinares

Community Partners

- Arlington Heights School District 214
- The Birches

Special Mentions

Many thanks to all of our **volunteers** who kept our dogs walked, cats socialized and our grounds in order during a very hot summer. And, we appreciate all of the hard work from our **young supporters**. We had record earnings from lemonade stands this season!

Always helping HHS, a shout out to our **Jr. Board** for the success of their Summer Movie Night Fundraiser.

Loving memories of the **Scudiero** and the **Considine** Families who were so very generous to remember our organization's work in bequests from loved ones' estates.

- Burr Ridge Community Church
- Burr Ridge Meadows Improvement Association
- Comfort for Critters
- Diesel's Frozen Treats
- Girl Scouts GCNWI Troop 55694
- Girl Scouts GCNWI Troop 55250
- Greenwise Design & Build
- Grounds & Hounds Coffee Co.
- Happy Dog Barkery
- Heaven's Door Whiskey
- Helping Hands Club
- Jimmy Coco
- Just Food for Dogs
- Kramer's Foods
- Lagunitas Brewing
- Lionheart Financial Ltd.
- Matrix Partners, Ltd.
- Midwest Coast Brewing
- Montini Catholic High School
- Mortgages4aCause
- OakBrook Center
- PetPeople - Western Springs
- Philadelphia Insurance Companies
- Phil's Bar & Grill - Brookfield
- The Planning Center
- Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
- Churchill & Oliver Rossi
- SavWay Fine Wines & Spirits
- Shae Hog BBQ
- St. Paul Church by the Lake
- Two Bostons Stores
- United Radio Communications
- Wyatt's Dog Company



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I just wanted to send you an update on one of my kitties that I adopted from Hinsdale Humane Society 18 years ago. This adorable little guy, formerly known as Rev, now my sweet loving Romeo, is celebrating his 19th birthday tomorrow! He has been the most amazing kitty, a good will ambassador for his multiple kitty brothers, a bunny brother and a puppy sister! He has outlived 2 kitties, and the bunny, but still has one brother and a puppy sister that he lives with. He is in good health for a 19 year old and I hope to have him for a while longer. We now live in North Carolina, but will always be grateful to the family who surrendered him and to your organization for adopting him to my family.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR ANIMALS!

Sheryl C. and Romeo