



INSIDE LOOK

Winter 2022

Digglet's Story

Embracing Differences

 **Adoption Photos!**

Spotlight

Our Long Term Staff Members

**PHOTO CREDIT: Samantha Cheatham,
Animal Care and Intake Director, HHS**

LETTER FROM OUR E.D.

Jacki Rossi



As we usher in the new year, I'd like to thank you for your unwavering support. It helped us accomplish so much last year! Our focus for 2022 is on nurturing the human-animal bond. You'll see it reflected in all of the work we do.

From saving more lives and building forever families, to providing vital services and programs to our communities, the heart and soul of our work is helping both people and pets. You'll see more in this issue on exactly how we're doing that.

We couldn't be more grateful to have you - our village - right by our side every step of the way.

Wishing you a healthy and happy new year!

A handwritten signature of Jacki Rossi in black ink.

Jacki Rossi | Executive Director

Digglet's Story

A Little Help Goes a Long Way

While we're here for people and pets, our work tends to begin with the pets. That was the case when little Digglet came our way. One of our wonderful transfer partners, Franklin County Animal Control in downstate Illinois, brought this sweetheart of a cat to our attention.

"They sent a message to us because they didn't have the resources to help with his corneal rupture," said Samantha Cheatham, Animal Care and Intake Director, HHS. "His health was excellent other than that, and they said he was the nicest cat ever. He really was the best kitty!"

At just six months old, we knew our Dr. Kristin could help him live a full and healthy life. While the best solution for Digglet was removal of the eye, we also knew there would be an adopter out there who would see past his differences.

Digglet came through his surgery beautifully and quickly charmed his way into a dream adoptive family who embraced him for who he is - a gentle boy, who just needed a little extra help and love.

**"It's a small thing to help one animal,
but to that one animal it's a big thing."**

- Gene Baur





Going Home Day!



Bonded Pairs

When Two is Better Than One

When you visit us, you may see some kennels with two animals peering out at you. Whether they're siblings, a parent/child duo, or best friends, we have them together because we know they'll thrive in their new home as a bonded pair.

Studies show that bonded duos make the transition into a new home easier than singles, and that there's an added benefit of improved social development. They often gain confidence from each other, as was the case with Lenny and Clarice, a staff and volunteer favorite bonded mother & son pair.

Clarice was found in a ditch, protecting her eight puppies. Unfortunately, only Lenny survived, resulting in a deep, unbreakable bond between the two of them. They were inseparable best friends and the definition of a bonded pair.

After many requests to adopt just Lenny, we held strong that they needed to be together so "no mama is left behind". We couldn't let Clarice suffer more heartbreak. Lenny's confidence brought out the best in his mama and Clarice's kind and gentle demeanor helped curb Lenny's unbridled enthusiasm.

They found a family to love them both together and now they're spending their days happy with their family and snuggling one another. Here's to more happily ever afters for all the bonded pairs.



Changes in Animal Welfare

Animal welfare is experiencing an unfortunate trend: going backwards in time.

Recently, pet overpopulation was dwindling, and we were starting to work on important welfare issues like advancement of access to care, transport, and helping underserved communities and animals.

Now we're finding ourselves going backwards with pet overpopulation prevalent once again due to lack of spay and neuters and an increase in returns and abandonment.

Euthanasia lists are filling up across the country with animals who have run out of time through no fault of their own. Many facilities do not have space or resources because of the influx of animals in need.

HHS, and all shelters, rescues and foster groups, need support now more than ever, through adoption, fostering, volunteering and donations. Please consider helping us all move in a more positive direction. Your help allows us to save more animals who need us, especially now.

Stronger Together

Our Irving & Phyllis Millstein Medical Suite

In another unprecedented year, we saw the animal welfare industry reeling from lack of access to spay/neuter surgeries and affordable, special needs medical care.

Because we are all stronger together, our own veterinarian, Dr. Kristin Tvrdik, and her medical team of Patty Powell and Fred DeHart, jumped in to help other groups in desperate need of spay/neuter surgeries for their homeless pet populations. "In addition to helping our own animals, we were also able to help other rescues and shelters, and even some public clients, with their spay/neuter surgeries," said Dr. Kristin,

Medical Director, HHS. "It was a lot to take on, but we feel like we helped make a big dent in curbing the homeless pet population in 2021."

Not noted in the tally of this year's record numbers, are the numerous special procedures that our animals needed, from eye surgeries to mass removals.

To say that Dr. Kristin and the medical team were busy this year is an understatement. The outlook for 2022 is even more animals in need, but we're confident our team will be able to make an even bigger impact both in our near-in communities and beyond.

2021 HHS CLINIC STATISTICS

497

Millstein Low-Cost
Vaccination Clinic Patients

45

Heartworm positive dogs
admitted & treated

21

FIV positive cats
admitted

2

FelV positive cats
admitted (a first at HHS)

SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES COMPLETED

1,126

Cats

+

227

Dogs

=

1,353

Total Spay/Neuter Surgeries
for Other Rescues

94

Surgeries for Feral
Cat Rescue Groups

+

83

Surgeries for
Private Caretakers

=

177

Total Feral Cat TNR
Procedures

38

Cats

+

17

Dogs

=

55

Total Spay/Neuter Surgeries for
Public Clients (not including THHS)

298

Cat Spays

+

210

Dog Spays

+

336

Cat Neuters

+

204

Dog Neuters

=

1,048

Total HHS Shelter Resident
Spay/Neuter Surgeries

1,975

Cats

+

658

Dogs

=

2,633

Total Spay/Neuter
Surgeries in 2021





15+ Years OF DEDICATION TO OUR MISSION

It takes a unique group to weather the ups and downs of working in an ever changing non-profit. We're fortunate to have this group of women, who over the past 15+ years, have helped shape HHS into what it is today.

Samantha Cheatham

Q: *What is it that has kept you here all this time?*

A: Saving lives! I love seeing where our animals come from, watching their journey and seeing them blossom. Most of all it's seeing the smiles on people's faces when they take their new family member(s) home.

Patty Powell

Q: *What are the most memorable stories from your time here?*

A: Being able to learn from and work with Dr.

Kristin and too many adoptions to list! Moving to this big building with a surgical suite so we can help more animals find homes faster, and becoming more and more united in our cause to save animals in need together.

Deborah Kraus

Q: *What is the biggest change you've seen in your 15+ years at HHS?*

A: Expansion of our mission to include a breadth of community outreach: helping people keep their pets, helping young ones be responsible pet owners and custodians of animal life around them, and helping those in need benefit from the love, emotional support and therapy of interacting with a pet.

Kathy Daly

Q: *What do you think the future holds for HHS?*

A: If we can continue to educate the public on altering animals, proper care and training, puppy mills, feral cat colonies, etc., the future will be bright. There will be fewer homeless animals crowding shelters. But I don't think we'll ever go out of business! There will always be a need for training, education and low cost medical care.



To read all of the responses from these key staff members, please visit our blog at hinsdalehumanesociety.org/blog/

Alternatives to Prong Collars

While the prong or “pinch” collar is commonly used when teaching a dog to walk well on a leash, we know that these collars can negatively impact your dog’s behavior. Prong collars do tend to stop pulling or lunging on leash, but the downside of that quick fix more often than not, leads to redirected aggression and injuries.

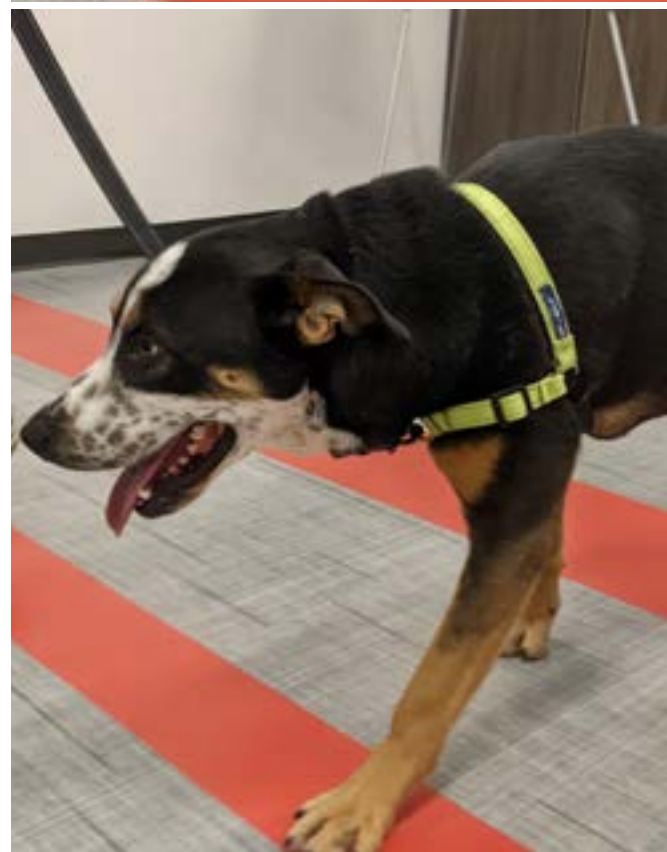
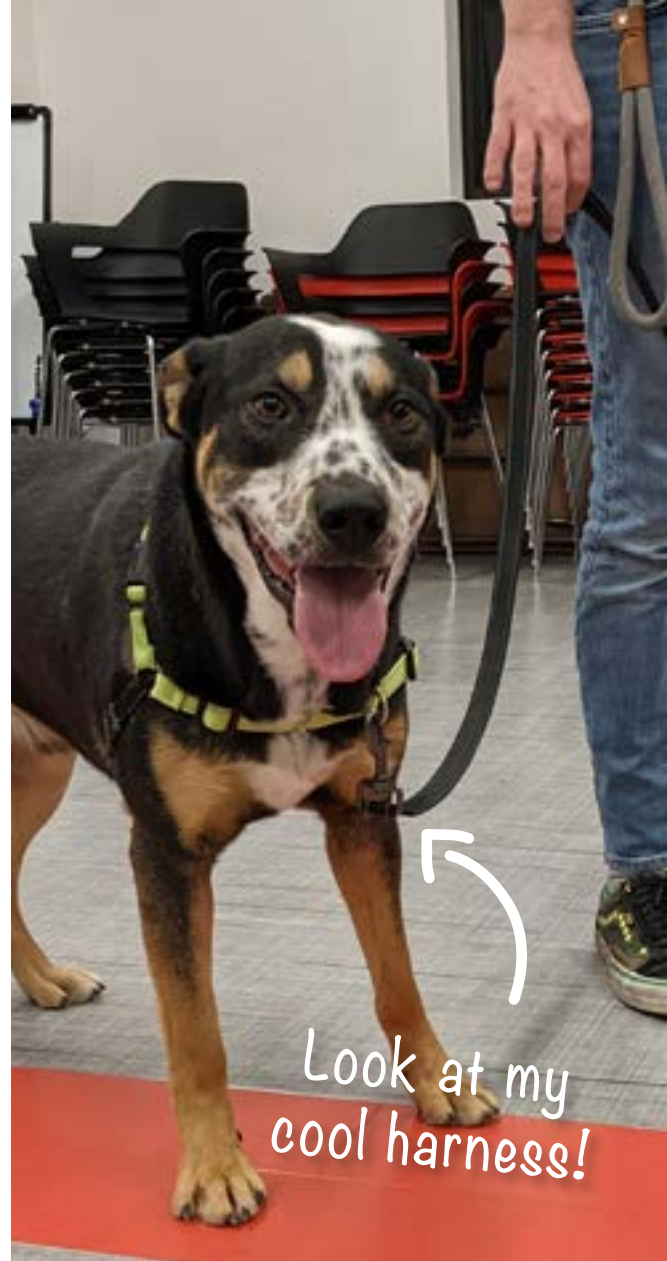
“We promote positive reinforcement training for all aspects of behavior modification,” said Jamie Merlo, Training & Enrichment Manager. “Instead of using pain or fear to teach your dog what NOT TO DO, flip the script and train your dog what TO DO when walking.”

There are great alternatives to prong collars that can help your dog learn to walk politely without causing pain or behavioral issues.

“We typically use no-slip collars, often referred to as “Martingale” collars,” said Merlo. “These allow for more control while walking and they teach dogs not to pull, without causing them any pain. For dogs that still pull while wearing a Martingale, a harness could work better. A front clasp variety allows the handler to control from the front, so when the dog pulls, they will be redirected around toward the handler.”

In need of help teaching your dog to walk politely or to work on changing other behaviors? Consider signing up for classes with one of our expert trainers. Visit hinsdalehumanesociety.org/programs/training-enrichment

“alternative collars can help your dog learn to walk politely without causing pain or behavioral issues.”



Humane Education

Jr. Board Recent Events

Our Junior Board hosted two recent events: Fright Fest and Jingle Ball. These compassionate teen animal advocates planned, promoted and produced both with great success.

Fright Fest included an outdoor showing of Hocus Pocus, a haunted hallway, pet costume contest, and snacks, while Jingle Ball featured holiday-themed crafts and snacks, letters to Santa, and a scavenger hunt.

Our thanks to the creative and hard working Junior Board and to everyone who attended. Watch our social media, website and check your email for updates in our Humane Education program coming soon!



Community Programs

Giving Back to Communities

Our mission is to advocate, educate and adopt out pets, acting as a voice for animals who depend on people for their care. To nurture the human-animal bond, we provide communities with services and programs to help with basic pet care and to ensure the compassionate treatment of all animals.

“Our recent Blood Drive with the American Red Cross, was an example of the types of events and resources we’ll be presenting within our new Community Programs,” said Jessica Hiltner, Shelter & Community Programs Director. “In addition, every month we partner with HCS Family Services’ food pantry to provide food, litter, collars, harnesses, leashes and more, to families in need.”

In our final pet food pantry of 2021, we were able to feed 31 dog and 18 cat families, handing out 154 cases of donated food, along with other necessary pet care supplies, all in bags donated by Kramer Foods. “We’re so grateful for our community and thrilled we can give back,” said Hiltner. “In 2022, we look forward to growing our monthly pantries with HCS, as well as creating our own pantry on-site.”

Our thanks to all who donated in support of our animals and to help others in need.





Hinsdale Humane Society

UNLEASHED

A Virtual Fundraiser

Saturday February 26th

6-6:45pm CST VIP Happy Hour

7-8pm CST Unleashed Event

Furry Friends | Live and Silent Auction | Fund a Need | VIP Trivia Game & Puppies! | Music by Jason Benefield | Shelter Stories | Entertainment from the Comfort of Your Home

Gold Sponsors: **HINSDALE BANK** & TRUST COMPANY, N.A. **SavWay** Where Wine & Spirits Come Together Bloomington • Greensburg • St. Charles

OUR RECENT EVENTS

PHOTOS WITH SANTA PAWS



Santa



Photographers



Attendees



CAT CAFE



Sessions



Kittens



Attendees

PUPPY PARTY



Sessions



Puppies



Attendees

12 STRAYS OF CHRISTMAS



Dogs



Cats



Adopted in
December

ANNUAL SUPPLY USAGE

DOG FOOD



Bags of food



Pounds of food



Cases of wet food

CAT FOOD



Bags of food



Pounds of food



Cases of wet food

CAT LITTER



Bags of litter



Pounds of litter

The Year Behind and A Year of Hope Ahead

As we look in the rearview mirror, we wave goodbye to another challenging year. But thanks to supporters, we've kept hope alive and adopted out even more animals than during our record pandemic year in 2020. ***Our final number of pets adopted out in 2021 was 1,592!***

But our work is far from done. There are so many animals in need of our help. Between strays, returns and unaltered animals creating more animals, we've had our work cut out for us. The hope for 2022 is that we'll continue to nurture the human-animal bond (needed now more than ever) and help even more pets find their happily ever after.

None of this happens without the ongoing support of our communities. People like the Buczkiewicz family who donated a truckload of supplies, are just one example of the generous support we receive during the holiday season. Rather than giving gifts to one another, they chose to bring gifts to our animals! We also saw many of our long term, harder to adopt pets find homes during the holidays.

But we need that support and magic all year long. Especially with another challenging year ahead. We're looking at supply chain issues causing us to purchase medical supplies in bulk quantities, a new HVAC system down the road, and countless other expenses.

There are so many ways to give all year long that help us keep doing what we do. One of our favorites is our Humane Heroes membership program. We have exciting new developments for 2022 including a monthly behind the scenes e-newsletter with news just for our members, as well as an online store with discounts, reduced fees for events and so much more.

To learn about all the different ways to give to help homeless animals and the services & programs we provide to communities, please visit hinsdalehumanesociety.org/help/ways-to-give



Paws & Hearts

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

Foundations

- Amazon Smile
- Andrew Family Foundation
- Alvin F. & Clara G. Bates Foundation
- Barnes Foundation
- Carol Wilson & G. William Cotts Foundation
- Chicago Community Trust
- Collins Family Heritage Foundation
- The Joanna Foundation
- Johnston Family Trust
- Koranda Family Foundation
- PayPal Charitable Giving
- Perkins Malo Hunter Foundation
- Pledgeling Foundation
- Donald & Verna Peterson Fdn Trust
- Rose Houston Charitable Foundation
- Cafe LaFortuna
- Chicago Rescue
- Central Federal Savings & Loan Assn.
- Community Bank of Downers Grove
- Companion Protect
- Congress Park School
- Elkay
- English Garden Flower Shop
- Field Park School
- Flying High Sports & Rec Center
- Friends of FCAC
- Dr. Merrill Galera Family Medicine
- Gebauer Tile & Stone
- Girl Scouts GCNWI Troup 51078
- Girl Scouts GCNWI Troop 55909
- Girl Scouts GCNWI Troop 55421
- Gower West School
- Happy Paws Foundation
- Hinsdale Central C.A.R.E. Club
- Hinsdale Dentistry
- Hinsdale Nurseries
- Jimmy Coco
- Kendra Scott - Oak Brook
- Kiwanis Club of La Grange
- Kramer's Foods
- Lucky Dogs
- Lyons Township High School Speech & Language Students
- Mathias Group at Morgan Stanley
- Marketing Innovators
- McNaughton Builders
- Morton East High School Students
- Northman Beer & Cider Garden
- Oak Brook Center
- Oak Brook Kennel Club
- Parsons Architects LLC
- PetPeople-Western Springs
- Real Dog Moms of Chicago
- Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Rough Edges Confectionery
- SavWay Fine Wines & Spirits
- SEASPAR
- Side by Side Pet
- Spreadshirt, Inc.
- St. Paul Church by the Lake
- Smithereen Pest Management Services
- Sweet Ali's-Hinsdale
- W.I.L.D. Canine Rescue
- Wabash County Animal Shelter Buddies
- Trinity Lutheran School
- Two Bostons Stores

Matching Gifts

- AbbVie
- Bank of America
- Costco
- Fannie Mae
- Lionheart Financial Ltd.
- MacArthur Foundation
- Microsoft Giving Campaign
- Sardiga Schluter Family Charitable Fund
- Savage Family Fund
- United Health Group
- Universal Tennis Mgmt LLC

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- Midwestern University
- RML Specialty Hospital
- State Farm - Tina Tzinares

Community Partners

- American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Boehringer Ingelheim
- Burr Ridge Hot Yoga
- Burr Ridge Senior Living

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Loving memories of **Marlys Allen** and **Mary E. O'Leary** for remembering Hinsdale Humane Society with generous gifts from their estates.



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

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ADOPTION STORY

We adopted Gracie just over one month ago and we are happy to report she is doing AMAZING! She is a happy girl who has warmed up to us so quickly. She loves being outside but is still getting used to the cold. Wherever mom and dad are, she is not far behind. She loves snuggles, napping on mom's or dad's lap and running around with her doggie cousin! She is learning how to play solo and with other dogs for (what we think is) the very first time. She loves all foods and flavors but anything with whipped cream is her favorite. She loves meeting new friends, people or pups and is so sweet and gentle. She is silly, playful, smart and adorable. We love her so much and are so happy we found the perfect dog for our family!

- Katie & Josh C.