



# INSIDE LOOK

*Fall 2020*

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Photo credit: Danny Herrera, HHS Volunteer

**20-POUND, BARKING,  
SQUIRREL-CHASING, CRAZY MAN  
= MY NEW BEST BUDDY**

Meet Frank!



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

Resilience is “the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties.” If there was ever a year to test our resilience, 2020 is most certainly it! But, unfortunately 2020 is just a typical year for the animals that come through our shelter.

It's a chilly, rainy day as I write this and I'm trying to think of something really inspirational to help us get through another day of what seems to be a never ending year of challenges, sadness and heartache. Then I looked over at my new best friend, Frank. In May of this year I lost my last best friend, Freckles, after 14 years of being together. I was heartbroken. 2020 had dealt me yet another blow.

But, in August I met Frank, a 7 year old Beagle mix with an underbite. He came to HHS by way of Tennessee. With a bare spot on his neck from a collar biting into him and missing patches of fur from fleas. I wanted a big dog, but instead ended up with my new best buddy: a 20-pound, barking, squirrel-chasing, crazy man. I couldn't be happier, yet I can't help but think of Frank and all of the animals at HHS when I think of resilience.

At one time or another, the vast majority of animals that come to HHS have had a home. Some of them have been good homes, others not so good, but they were part of a family. Then, through no fault of their own, they find themselves homeless and in a new and strange environment. There are other animals

everywhere and strange people always in a hurry, scurrying about. Then, it's night time and they are all alone in their kennels/cages. It is quiet, dark and lonely. And then it starts up again the next day, until a new family chooses them. Now they must start all over again. They have to figure out the new rules of the home, get used to new smells and most importantly, how to love a new family.

2020 has been a year I hope is never repeated. There have been a few bright spots, but overall, I'll be happy to see it go. When I think of the word resilience, I think of the millions of pets who become homeless every year, and realize 2020 is just “groundhog day” for them.

In no way do I want to minimize the heroic efforts of those staff and volunteers who come in every day to care for our animals. They too have earned the title of “resilient.” But this letter is focused on our animals, because it's easy to overlook the incredible changes they too have to endure.

To all creatures, human and animal, I say thank you for getting up every day and bringing joy to each other's lives, just as Frank is bringing joy to mine.

**Tom Van Winkle**  
*Executive Director*





# Farewell to a Friend



What do you call a staff member of 26 years? A Quadranscentennial + one? Whatever the term is, we call her Mary Alex, and it seems she has been a fixture at Hinsdale Humane Society for as long as any of us can recall.

She's not alone, with at least three other staff members coming right up behind her to celebrate their 20+ year anniversaries. We asked Mary what originally drew her to the shelter. "I knew I wanted to work with animals," said Mary (or Ms. Mary, as we call her). With her Southern drawl, she went on to explain that shortly after moving to Hinsdale, her neighbor (a former board member), encouraged her to visit the shelter and see about a job. "The Executive Director at that time, Di Aldridge, told me she needed someone to manage the volunteers," said Mary. "Back then, there were about 35. Today there are about 350."

Mary took on that role, and eventually added on bookkeeping to her job description. In 1997, she added the title of mom when her son was born. "I would bring my baby to the shelter in a basket and time my work for when he was napping," said Mary.

As HHS grew in its mission, new programming like Pet Therapy and Humane Education was added on. Mary jumped in anywhere she was needed to help

expand HHS' work into the community, eventually giving up her volunteer management to take a larger role in finance and administration. "From the time I started to the time I left, we grew from 10 employees to 30, and our building almost tripled in size!" said Mary. "It has been so enjoyable seeing the industry, adoptions and programs grow. It's been like watching your kid grow up."

Mary is heading back to her roots by relocating with her husband to Charlottesville, Virginia. "I'll enjoy the mountains and a little bit more laid back pace and being near my family." Once she arrives, she's not sure she'll work in animal welfare again. "I am allergic to everything!" Ironical for someone who dedicated her career to helping animals. "I'm not sure what I'm going to do... it's a new chapter and the future is limitless."

Mary's sharp wit has brought levity to a job that can be very hard, and has brought joy to all of her co-workers. "We're so grateful to her for all of her kindness, dedication and most of all, the laughs," said Tom Van Winkle, Executive Director.

And with that, we have to share Mary's favorite phrase right back with her: "Bless Your Heart!"  
**You will be missed.**



# Fundraising Resilience

*When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade... and Dog Washes and Goat Yoga and Puppy Parties! Take a look at all of the socially-distanced ways we safely celebrated animals while raising funds for them.*

## Dog Washes

Our Dog Spa Day event, sponsored by Tina Tzinares from State Farm in Hinsdale, offered socially distanced spa treatments for pups, including baths with Fresh Wave shampoo, nail trims, bandanas, and goody bags for pets and their people.

Because that was such a hit, we did it again a few weeks later in August, this time run by our very own Junior Board. They scrubbed pups, served up doggie ice cream, handed out goody bags and stayed safely apart and protected with masks.

## Goat Yoga

Sponsored by our friends at Vintage Charm, we couldn't have been more thrilled with how this event came together. Baby goats from Blue Sky Farm were the stars of this event. Demand is high for another goat yoga, which we will do in the spring of 2021. Until then, Namaste to all of the attendees.

## Adopt a Dog Month

To raise awareness of adoption and the importance of spay/neuter, Adopt a Dog month covered a lot of bases for us this year. We celebrated puppies by livestreaming them at play, as we shared training tips, talked about fostering and shared ways to help puppies in need. The event brought in loads of much-needed supplies from our wish list. Our Clear the Shelters Encore helped us get our harder to adopt dogs into loving homes. A \$1000 matching challenge from the Lucht Family in memory of their HHS rescue dog, Sampson, allowed us to waive fees on special dogs in need. Then Subaru of Countryside came forward with their Subaru Loves Pets program, donating \$100 for every dog adopted during Adopt a Dog Month. Their focus on "Underdogs" who are overlooked, aligned beautifully with our mission.

Last but not least, we debuted our new Training and Enrichment program, offering tips from our trainer, Bailey McConnell, and launching a series of classes designed for different levels of abilities, both in-person and virtual. *(Read more on page 9).*



## Clear the Shelters

While Clear the Shelters looked different this year, we were still able to get 17 pets into loving homes on Clear the Shelters day, August 29. Since all shelters are struggling through the pandemic, this year's focus was on adoptions and donations.

Adoption fees were not waived, but we were able to provide everyone with a 50% reduction of fees on cats, as well as a reduced fee microchip and rabies clinic.



# Ways You Can Help

*Helping is in our DNA as an organization, dating back to September 22, 1953, when six Hinsdale women braved soaring temperatures and piles of filth, to improve the condition of the municipal pound building. They ensured that any animals brought in would be comfortable, loved and safe.*

*Our mission is to carry on the work they started, by not only giving back to the animals, but also to the communities all around us. To keep doing what we do, we rely on donations. Following are just a few of the ways you can help.*

## Become a Humane Hero Today!

Joining our team of Humane Heroes is one of the best ways to help dogs, cats, and our community programming and services year-round.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, dogs without microchips were reunited with their owners only 21.9 percent of the time, while dogs with them are reunited 52.5% of the time.

Baguette the French Bulldog didn't have a chip when he arrived to us as a stray. We used all of our resources to search for his family, but without a microchip, the search success rate diminishes greatly. Happily, he found a new home through us once his stray hold was up.

A small monthly contribution from you can make a big difference in the lives of animals in need. Visit <https://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/membership> to become a Humane Hero today.

## Queen of Hearts

One of our favorite ways of fundraising is to give something in return to those who are helping our mission. Queen of Hearts became the perfect vehicle for ensuring a winner every week, and much needed funds for our organization.

Our inaugural sponsors, SavWay Fine Wines & Spirits and WillowGrove Pet Clinic, helped us with a starting pot of \$1000. That pot grows every week, giving participants a chance to win \$50 or more every week!

Special thanks to our Build the Pot Sponsors, Floofins & Co and Liebchen Kraus, HHS alum. Our Queen of Hearts raffle is a win-win: play to win AND help the animals! Visit <https://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/events/queen-of-hearts>

## HHS Online Store

Have you seen the fun animal welfare bling available on our website yet? Super cute, empowering messages, designed to share your passion for helping animals, on shirts, hats, mugs, fanny packs and more!

Every purchase raises funds for our homeless animals until they find their forever homes. We'll be adding new designs and ongoing sales and specials, so please check back often. Think of our store when you're in search of unique gifts for the animal lovers in your life!



Thank you to our Queen of Hearts  
Inaugural Sponsors:





# The Shelter

## Courageous

### Corndog: *Lost and Found*

When it comes to resilience, Corndog wrote the book on it. He was transferred to us from Animal Rescue Corps (ARC) in Tennessee at the end of summer 2019. He came in with two similar looking dogs, all rescued from a hoarding situation. All three had heartworms and were very shy. Corndog was the most under socialized of the group and posed a flight risk. "Not being socialized at that important age can cause them to run," said Samantha Cheatham, Operations Manager, HHS. With loads of patience, socializing and TLC from staff and volunteers, as well as time in a foster home with a staff member, Corndog was finally ready for adoption.



He was adopted into a loving home. For reasons beyond his control, one year later he was returned. But in a moment of high drama, Corndog broke loose from his adopter just as he was being returned to us, and he took off into the nearby woods. Our staff launched into recovery mode with the help of some incredibly resourceful and knowledgeable volunteers who reached out after we posted Corndog on Lost Dogs Illinois. Considering how incredibly timid he still is, it took the help of these seasoned experts to get him back to us safely. With a campaign of flyers and social media, trail cameras, humane traps strung with meat, and liquid smoke that lured him to the trap, just four days after he broke free, he was brought back to our facility. He spent time in our offices decompressing, resting, soaking up warmth, comfort, food, and all of the love and attention our staff can lavish on him. After a full medical exam, he was put back up for adoption.

"We are very clear with adopters that he will always be shyer," said Samantha. "His family will have to be extra diligent and make sure he is double-leashed on walks, that there are no breaches in a fenced-in yard, etc. He will never be the dog that goes to the dog park or Petco. He will have his safe place and will enjoy being there with his safe people. And we think he'd do really well with another dog in the house. We never give up hope that his perfect match is out there."

At the time this newsletter was headed to the printer, Corndog was busy meeting potential adopters, in search of his perfect match.

### Tungsten & Midwest: *Orphaned and Adopted*

What could be more sad than two kittens orphaned when their mother was hit by a car? After the trauma these two went through together, understandably, they were bonded for life. Shortly after arriving, they went into foster care for bottle feeding. They were given all the nutrition, care, love and TLC possible to help make up for them losing their mama too soon. As expected they grew incredibly attached to one another.

Likely as a result of their early trauma, they were both very shy and needed time to adjust to their surroundings, and absolutely needed to be adopted out together. Happily, they were given that chance when a wonderful adopter came forward to give these two their happy ending after a rough start to their young lives.





# erred Life

## is Animals

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### **Roxy: Scarred and Discarded**

This sweet girl came to us from Southern Illinois. Some facilities have a type of overnight “dumpster” where people can drop off their unwanted pets. That’s where she was found.

“Her whole face had scars and we can only speculate as to what caused them,” said Samantha Cheatham, HHS Operations Manager. “We know she did not have a good beginning in her first two years of life and that she has likely dealt with cruelty, based on her scarring and her being severely underweight.”

She was adopted out in the south but was returned right away. That’s when she came to us. Roxy is a bully mix and will start to look more like one as she gains weight. Roxy is the epitome of resilience and of living in the moment.

“Something happened to her to receive those scars, but she is still so sweet and loving and just wants to be by people,” said Samantha. “No matter what cruelties come their way, whether it’s not being fed or being physically abused, they still just love. That’s what makes them so great. They want their people and to be loved. Let’s love them and give them the respect they deserve.”

A wonderful adoptive family chose Roxy and she is now soaking up all the love they have to give her.

### **Roni: Hurt and Healed**

Sometimes resilience takes the form of healing and time. That was the case for our Roni. He had been living outdoors since Christmas of 2019. A caring individual who lived nearby was feeding him as a community cat.

This sweet 5 year old boy had a tipped ear which indicated he was neutered and living outdoors. He had a bad wound on his back and was in horrible condition by the time he reached us for medical help.

He received multiple procedures to help him heal, including wound flushing, a tie-over, medicated bandage and a tail amputation. We imagine as an outdoor kitty, he received his wounds from fights. He successfully underwent multiple medical procedures and surgeries, proving he is a fighter himself.

After almost six months of procedures, surgeries and recuperation time, including TLC from his adoring fans at the shelter, Roni was finally up for adoption. It took a little while, but he eventually made his match with a family and is now living the sweet life in his home.



# Humane Education: *Together-Apart Summer Camp*

Campers had a wonderful time at Propeller Wags & HHS' Together-Apart Tented Campgrounds this past summer, learning about pet care basics, resilience, playing social-distancing games, learning about treatment and prevention of pet and human diseases and enjoying hands-on time interacting with pets.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE:

**Propeller Wags**  
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**AMITA Health Hinsdale Hospital**  
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## PET THERAPY *Care for the Caregiver*

AMITA's Janet Kennedy knew this year would bring challenges like no other. She saw it in the faces of AMITA Health patients and families. She also saw the untiring dedication the medical staff provided helping to meet those challenges.

As part of AMITA Health's Mission Integration team for outpatient services, Janet's role is to ensure AMITA's values of compassion and dignity are the foundation of her programs. When thinking about new ways to support this goal, an idea emerged.

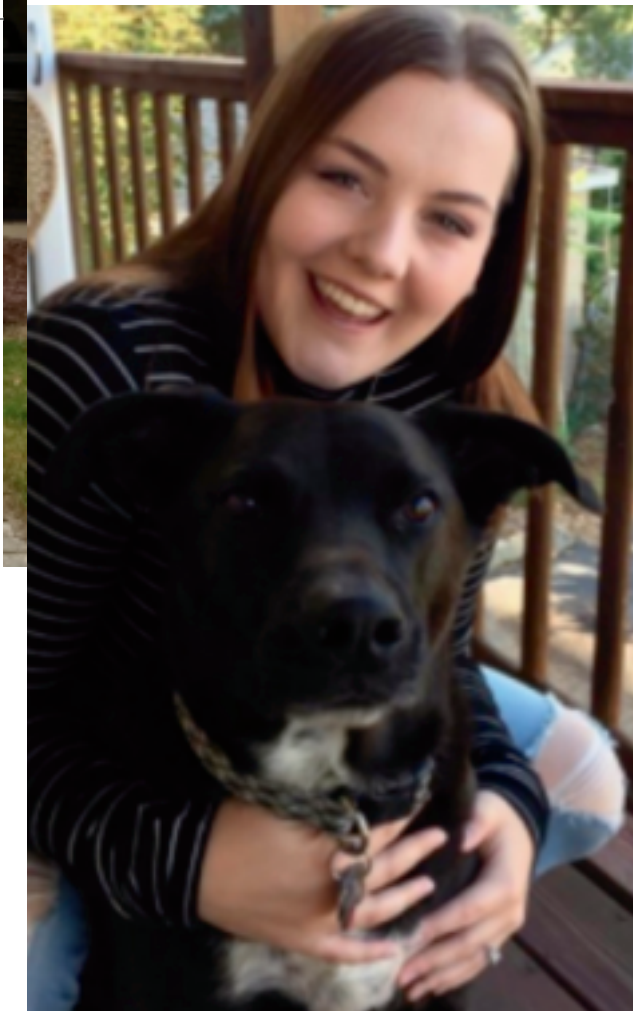
**Care for the Caregiver was born.** Supported by Hinsdale Humane Society's Therapaws Pet Therapy program, the idea was to bring teams of therapy dogs to medical staff at AMITA outpatient settings in La Grange, Hinsdale, and Bolingbrook, including medical office buildings supporting these hospitals. Visits are held outside, and safety protocols are met. "Due to COVID-19, our therapy pets cannot do the work they love - visiting schools, elder care facilities and hospitals," said Susan D'Alexander, Pet Therapy Program Manager. "This gives us a chance to share the power of animal interaction with others dealing with great stress during these unprecedented times,"

Becky Webb, Manager of AMITA Health La Grange Residency Program, sums it up this way: "Happiness really was a warm puppy for our residents. The dogs brought smiles, laughter, and much needed connection for our residents. We'd love to have them visit on a regular basis." The program is delivering. To date, fourteen Care for the Caregiver events have occurred since June 30 with more on the way. Per Janet, "We are so happy to give back to those who give so much." Our therapy animals agree.

The popular concept has grown to other area hospitals and even inspired finding new homes for dogs. Stella, an employee of RML Hospital in Hinsdale, volunteered to help at an event and met Theo the Basset, a Therapaws pet. The visit brought back many fond memories of her family pet and reminded her of her love for Bassetts. This inspired her to begin a search for a furry companion of her own. Says Stella, "Thank you HHS for the memories you create and the memories you bring back to us."







# Training and Enrichment

*We're thrilled to offer our new Training and Enrichment Program, designed to help all pet owners with a variety of positive-reinforcement training classes, and to help our shelter pets with mental and physical stimulation while they're with us.*

## **Meet our Trainer, Bailey McConnell**

Bailey has been involved in animal welfare her entire adult life. She is a Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training Partner and brings to the table her knowledge of applied behavior analysis as a trainer and as a shelter and rescue worker and volunteer.

## **HERE ARE SOME OF OUR NEW COURSE OFFERINGS:**

### **Meet the Trainer**

This class is a 45 minute to 1-hour meeting with a Q&A segment to discuss training goals and behavior concerns. We'll guide you to the training avenue best suited for you and your dog. There is no cost for this interactive webinar.

### **Puppy Socialization - Puppy Peer Group**

Proper socialization is the key to a well-rounded adult dog. Bring your pup in for an hour to hang out with comparable sized and aged friends. We'll discuss puppy socialization and getting ahead of rising behavior concerns.

### **Puppy Pre-K**

This 4-week class teaches basic tricks such as sit, paw, down and attention to the handler, while building positive associations to the scary things in life, such as the vet's office.

### **Best Friend Foundations**

This is a 6-week skill-building class to learn about canine communication and how to approach basic behavior problems. Some topics; loose leash walk, polite greetings, and basic management tools to employ in your life.

### **Canine College**

Take it to the next level in this 4-week class with canine learning theory and training more advanced behavior. We'll address topics like sensitivities and fear, recall and "leave it." Strengthen your bond with your dog and help solidify the basics.

### **Virtual Sessions: (via Zoom)**

Our new virtual training sessions offer you tools, techniques and exercises to begin working with your dog right away.

For more information about all of our class options & fees, visit:

**[www.hinsdalehumansociety.org/programs/training-enrichment](http://www.hinsdalehumansociety.org/programs/training-enrichment) or email Bailey at [bailey.mcconnell@hinsdalehumansociety.org](mailto:bailey.mcconnell@hinsdalehumansociety.org)**



SUBARU  
Loves  
Pets



## Sponsor Highlight:

### Autobarn Subaru of Countryside

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. Our ongoing partnership with Autobarn Subaru of Countryside exemplifies our motto of “stronger together.”

In addition to our work together during October's Adopt A Dog Month, Subaru of Countryside has held adoption events and vaccine clinics for us as part of their Love Promise and Subaru Loves Pets initiatives, to help animals find loving homes. They were also part of our grand opening celebration in 2018.

Proving they are “more than just a car company,” Subaru is dedicated to giving back to the community. We are so thankful to have a caring partner like them to help make a difference in the lives of animals. Please visit their website at [www.theautobarnsubaru.com](http://www.theautobarnsubaru.com)

## Lasting Love

For your pet



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 at [annie.krug@hinsdalehumanesociety](mailto:annie.krug@hinsdalehumanesociety) or at **630-323-5630 x48**.



Earlier this autumn, we launched the President's Circle. This special giving society was named in honor of the women and men who have led this organization since 1953 and acknowledges donors who give an annual, unrestricted gift of \$2500 or greater. It's our privilege to thank the leaders of the past and lift up those guiding us to a secure future. Today we stand on solid ground because of those who have brought us to this moment.

The goal for this year is 100 members of the President's Circle and we're well on our way. This initiative will have a transformative impact on the animals in our care. For complete information, including the perks that come with giving at this level, and access to make your President's Circle gift, visit: <https://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/help/presidents-circle>.

If you have any questions, contact Annie Krug, Development Officer, at [annie.krug@hinsdalehumanesociety.org](mailto:annie.krug@hinsdalehumanesociety.org). We thank all of our President's Circle members for their ongoing support of our mission to provide compassionate care for the animals, as we work every day to find them forever homes.



# Paws & Hearts

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

### Foundations

- Allstate Foundation
- Amazon Smile
- CNA Foundation
- Costco
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- Paypal Charitable Giving

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- SavWay Fine Wines & Spirits
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- Liebchen Kraus

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- Mortgages4aCause
- Pet Supplies Plus - Westmont
- Rush Health - Chicago
- Salt Creek Club
- Scheck Lumber Company
- St. Paul Church by the Lake
- Tannins Wine Bar & Boutique

### In Kind Donations

We've been so blessed by generous donors contributing much needed supplies during the COVID-19 restrictions. Wagging tails and purrs continue throughout the PRRC.

A special thank you to our **HHS Jr. Board** for hosting our August Dog Wash and **Dee Downs** for making the most delicious doggie ice cream.

Heartfelt appreciation to the family of **Heidi Gebauer** for hosting the 2nd Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser in her Memory and donating the proceeds to HHS.

Grateful thanks to **Phil's Sports Bar & Grill** for keeping our staff well fed on many occasions.

Barks and waggin tails sent to the anonymous donor who sent many boxes of **Beggin Strips** to keep our pups happy!



**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  
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***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

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**Due to COVID we are still closed to visitors and continue to handle adoptions by appointment only.**

**Our Millstein Vaccination Program**  
low-cost pet care clinics run twice a month.  
*Check [hinsdalehumanesociety.org](https://hinsdalehumanesociety.org) for details.*

**Play to win and help HHS by buying a raffle ticket in our Queen of Hearts fundraiser.**  
Tickets available on our website.



#### **We want to give an update on Bagheera (formerly Trigger).**

It has been over a year since bmv this sweet, little, big-eared boy walked into our home. Now Bagheera has made himself quite comfortable and his parents very happy. He enjoys long walks, playing in sprinklers, and being his momma's shadow around the house. He has a nice yard to do his zoomie sprints, a cuddly sleeping spot between Mom & Dad, and a big box of toys to go head and shoulders into to pick a favorite of the day. Also, Bagheera loves being around other dogs and will charm a delicious donut off anyone who has one. After the loss of our first dog who lived 17 wonderful years, we learned something very important. The only way to heal and honor him was to pay it forward by adopting a dog that was in need of a loving home. We are so happy and in love with our baby Bagheera!

**We want to thank all the workers and volunteers at Hinsdale Humane Society for everything they do to make stories like ours possible.**

—Carisa T.