



# INSIDE LOOK

*Spring 2022*



## Parvo Puppies

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**Adoption Photos!**

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

# LETTER FROM OUR CEO

*Tom Van Winkle*



Although we can't say COVID is behind us, it is safe to say the future looks brighter than it has in the past two years. As we emerge from a troubling time, I want to recognize the tremendous work of my team. A common saying is "you won't get rich working at an animal shelter." But if this staff could be paid for the effort and emotion they pour into animals in need, they would be among the wealthiest in the world.

They didn't miss a day of care for our animals, everyone filled in when needed, and voluntarily cross-trained on all animal care positions in case an emergency arose.

There isn't enough room in this newsletter to mention the trials and tribulations they were up against, but there is enough room for me to say - THANK YOU. I want everyone reading this to know that the animals you support are being cared for by the very best.



**Tom Van Winkle | CEO**

## From Parvo Patients to Playful Pups

Some days in rescue are hard. Of the many challenges our animal care team faces, one of the toughest is parvo puppies. Seeing a typically perky puppy, now lethargic and sad, is heartbreaking.

Parvo is a deadly and contagious virus, spread from dog to dog, by direct or indirect contact with their feces. Vaccines can prevent it, but for the unvaccinated, left untreated, mortality can reach 91%. Many rescues lack the funding and resources to provide those lifesaving vaccines, let alone the staff to successfully battle the deadly virus.

Parvo is treated with diligent supportive care including hydration, anti-nausea medications, antibiotics, adequate nutrition and rest. Because it is highly contagious, our staff follows strict protocols including wearing hazardous materials gear when working with the pups in isolation. Cross contamination is kept at bay by ensuring no germs are tracked into other areas of the building.

Typical vet hospital recovery rates are between 75-90% and at-home care is only 50%. We typically mirror outpatient protocols and thankfully due to our stringent process, our recovery rate for parvo pups is around 90%.

Our cover models, Shenzi and Ed, are two of a litter of six puppies from Arkansas who were infected. All six responded beautifully to treatment, and have gone on to thrive as healthy and happy pups.

**Thanks to your support, we're able to give them their best possible outcome. We couldn't do what we do without you.**







Choco



Caroline



Fredd



Ed

# Going Home Day!



Misty



Hawk



Rick



Floppy





Golden



## Losing the Stigma Surrounding Surrenders

One thing we hear a lot in the shelter world is “How can someone surrender an animal? I could never do it.” Sometimes it isn’t an option for people to keep their beloved pet whether it’s for physical, emotional, or financial reasons. We’re trying to end the stigma of surrendering an animal because where there is judgment, there is guilt, and those individuals may go to other lengths to not be in this situation.

Take Golden, our beautiful (and recently adopted) two-year old Golden Retriever. One frigid and snowy Sunday we received a call from our volunteer who was panicking because there was a dog abandoned in our neighboring parking lot. It was around five degrees outdoors and no place for a dog to be on his own.

Staff members rushed down the block to the empty medical lot and found a sweet and timid dog tied to a light pole with no one else in sight. He came right to us, happy to see friendly faces, and we rushed him back down the street to the shelter.

We are incredibly lucky to have found him when we did in that brutal weather. No one can say exactly why his family made that choice, but maybe, had they not felt guilty bringing him to us, they could have walked him through the front door instead of leaving him to an uncertain fate out in the frigid cold.

We offer low cost medical care, pet food pantries to help with supplies, and education to assist families in keeping their pets. But sometimes it just doesn’t work out. We would much rather get a call for help or to surrender that pet, than see dogs, cats, and critters left at our door, or down the street like Golden.

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**“found a sweet and timid dog tied to a light pole with no one else in sight. He came right to us, happy to see friendly faces.”**



# Medical Clinic Stories

*It's hard to convey how much drama comes through our shelter and clinic doors. Despite how exhausting it is, we know we're fortunate to be able to help. That's thanks to our donors who keep our doors open and our clinic funded. We sat down with our Medical Director, Dr. Kristin Tvrdik, to chat about a few recent medical stories. Here's what she told us:*

She recently treated a male cat named **Mossy**. He came from Chicago Animal Care and Control with terrible wounds on his paws, likely caused by bites from living outdoors. Without treatment, painful abscesses began to form. Mossy has been successfully treated and is healing comfortably with his foster family.

**Betty** was abandoned outdoors in Southern Illinois, likely because of her age and weak condition. She is a sweet and loving diabetic senior. Diabetes is very treatable. With insulin injections from our team, she is now healthy, happy and getting the medical care and TLC she deserves in her senior years. Once she is stable, she will be up for adoption.

A transport partner came to us with beagle/aussie mix puppies. Unfortunately, one of them arrived with a broken tail. **Jetta** was in a lot of pain, so Dr. K removed the tail so she could be comfortable. It took time get it to heal properly (Jetta was a rambunctious pup who kept opening up her wound!) but she went on to find her happily ever after.

**Gumdrop** was a heartworm patient, found alone and tied up to a sign in the South. She began treatment, was adopted, completed her last injection, and is now living the good life in her home waiting to be re-tested to make sure she is negative post-treatment.

**Anzu** was a purebred chow-chow dog rescued from a hoarder breeding situation in southern Illinois. She was unspayed, had severe dry eye and entropion (a condition in which the eyelid is turned inward so the eyelashes rub against the eyeball). Part of her condition may have been genetic, but part was lack of care from the breeder. Dr. K fixed her eyes to relieve her discomfort. Anzu had clearly been breeding pups her entire life. Thankfully now she is spayed, her eyes are healed, she is gorgeous and is living her best life with a family who is obsessed with her.

These are just a small sampling of the stories from our Clinic. To see dates for our upcoming affordable PetIQ clinics, visit: [hinsdalehumaneociety.org/events/petiq-clinic](https://hinsdalehumaneociety.org/events/petiq-clinic)





## Nurturing the Human-Animal Bond

We've always strived to support veterans, but with the recent launch of the BJ Chimenti Angel Fund for Veterans and Pets, that support just increased tremendously.

This program, created through the legacy and selfless spirit of our Board Member, BJ Chimenti, accomplishes four things: 1) it brings pet therapy to veterans 2) it gives veterans volunteer opportunities 3) it matches support animals with veterans in need and 4) it provides veterans with discounted adoptions and medical care.

"We want to support our veterans in any way we can," said Andrea Wendlandt, Therapaws & Veterans Program Manager. "But specifically with matching veterans and support animals, we hope to help levels of PTSD and moral injury subside by providing that human-animal bond."

Veterans that are looking to adopt their new best friend start by visiting our facility. Once an animal with a suitable temperament comes into the shelter, that pet will go through six weeks of training before being adopted by the veteran. Currently the program's first veteran-support animal adoption is underway and we hope to share that update soon.

For more information, contact [andrea.wendlandt@hinsdalehumanesociety.org](mailto:andrea.wendlandt@hinsdalehumanesociety.org).

## Community Resources

### Supporting Police Officers

Our Community Resources Program brings important services like pet food pantries and affordable vet clinics to those in need. Recently the program has expanded to provide help to a new group of individuals: local police officers.

We work with 12 area police departments to reconnect stray animals with their families. This means officers are often corralling scared dogs and cats into their squad cars, largely without proper animal handling training. "The Leashed Up Movement provides slip leads, upcycled from climbing rope, (provided by Movement Gym in Chicago) to our police department partners," said Jessica Hiltner, Shelter & Community Programs Director. "Secondarily, we offer workshops to police departments, training on proper leashing techniques and bite prevention skills."

Another goal of the program is to provide pet therapy visits to police and fire departments. "Their jobs are stressful and we want to show them the love and calm that animals can bring," said Hiltner. To date, two police and one fire department have signed on for pet therapy sessions. For more information, contact [jessica.hiltner@hinsdalehumanesociety.org](mailto:jessica.hiltner@hinsdalehumanesociety.org).





# Humane Education

*Summer Camp, Youth Opportunities & More!*

***Our Humane Education program is kicking into high gear with new programs, in-person activities, and an animal-filled summer camp!***

Recently, we launched an Animal Advocates Club for animal lovers age eleven to fourteen. Club members learn about animals, adoption, and where our adoptables come from, along with possible careers they can aspire to that involve our furry friends.

Our Books, Barks, Meow program is back and children of any age can read to our adoptable animals. Not only do they get to spend time with shelter pets, but our animals love the attention they receive from these visits.

Summer camp returns with around 280 campers including All Abilities Animal Friends Camp for children with developmental and cognitive disabilities. Campers will be provided with an array of activities encouraging them to get active, express their creativity and share their emotions.

"I'm excited about expanding our programs and involving our Pet Therapy teams at camp to put a greater emphasis on mental health and the human-animal bond," said Kelsie Weisenberger, Humane Education Manager.

We also have "camperships" open for our All Abilities Camp, in which generous donors can sponsor the registration fee and help families pay for their session. If you're interested in sponsoring a campership, contact [deborah.kraus@hinsdalehumanesociety.org](mailto:deborah.kraus@hinsdalehumanesociety.org).

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**"Our animals love the attention they receive from these visits."**



# Training & Enrichment

## *The Importance of Enrichment*

Enrichment is a pivotal part of an animal's life, whether they're waiting for their forever home in a shelter or comfy at home with their family. Thanks to our incredible Training and Enrichment Manager, Jamie Merlo, our animals experience enrichment that brings them a sense of control over their environment and helps reduce stress in their kennel.

We use peanut butter-filled Kongs, frozen ice popsicles, calming music and different scent markers (lavender, rabbit, and even raccoon smells) to help enhance their experience with us. Enrichment gives them the choice to participate and to what extent, and it's great for them both physically and mentally. It can even help dogs at home who may be exhibiting unwanted behaviors. Owners can bring their pups on long walks or "sniffaris," using their nose to guide the walk, along with scavenging, foraging activities and food puzzles to decrease boredom and separation anxiety in the home.

***"It's amazing how many people seem to have a lot of their dogs' behavioral issues start to improve when they introduce enrichment into their lives."*** says Jamie Merlo, Training and Enrichment Manager, HHS.

In our Agility For Fun class, dogs can work physically and mentally while moving through the obstacles to build confidence. We see dogs come in for their first class nervous to use a ramp and then find that when taking baby steps, it isn't so scary and they start to run through the course with ease! You can even make your own agility course at home by creating tunnels, placing a broomstick between two chairs to create a hurdle, or lining up objects to make a weave pattern for them to run through. If you're willing to work with your pet and provide positive enrichment and training, they'll thank you with lots of tail wags and couch cuddles now that their minds and bodies have been tired out!







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## Thank You Donors

Thank you to everyone who tuned in and donated to help us reach our goals in our second year of **Unleashed**.

Special thanks to our **Gold Sponsors**: Hinsdale Bank & Trust and SavWay Fine Wines & Spirits, our **Ruby Sponsors**: Oak Brook Kennel Club, Rainwalk Technology, and State Farm - Tina Tzinares and our **Paw Prints Sponsor** Liebchen Brolin Kraus - HHS Alum.



## Wine & Whiskers

We put a new spin on our classic Cat Cafe and introduced our first Wine & Whiskers event. Attendees were able to play with and pet our adoptable cats while enjoying wine and cheese.

**Everything's better with wine... and cats!**



## Bunny Bash

Attendees joined us for an Easter Egg Hunt, homemade sweet treats sale, kids' crafts, raffle baskets and photo ops with "some-bunny." This event was sponsored by local author, Mistie Psalidas, who held a signing of her new children's book, "The Truth About the Tooth".

## PET WALK FESTIVAL

June 25th, 2022 from 1-4pm



# SAVE THE DATE!

[www.hinsdalehumansociety.org](http://www.hinsdalehumansociety.org)



**We want you, starting at 4 hours a month!**

Help get the day started right for our shelter pets in a flexible, fun volunteer environment.

Fill out an application at:  
[hinsdalehumansociety.org/volunteer/adult-volunteers](http://hinsdalehumansociety.org/volunteer/adult-volunteers)

Contact [kelsey@hinsdalehumansociety.org](mailto:kelsey@hinsdalehumansociety.org) or call 630-323-5630





## Impact Leadership Award Winner

Nominated by his staff, Tom Van Winkle took home the award for Impact Leadership from the Greater Oak Brook Chamber of Commerce. His innovations in developing a lifesaving animal shelter management software program, establishing funding for a shared rescue van, medical clinic support and Veteran Appreciation initiatives, have not only inspired his staff, but have gone on to help countless pets, people and other rescue groups. Congrats to Tom!



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## JOIN AAPP

There are 90.5 million pet owners in the U.S. The goal of the American Association of Pet Parents (AAPP) is to provide them with an affordable, comprehensive resource for reliable behavioral, health and nutrition information to help pets everywhere. For just \$18 a year, members not only get all of their questions answered in one place, they also receive discounts on pet products and a portion of their membership fee goes to help homeless pets. Just for our friends, the annual fee is 20% off with the code above. Visit [myaapp.org](http://myaapp.org) to become a member today!

## Paws for Effect

We're always innovating ways to raise funds for the animals, programs, services and resources we provide to communities.

In addition to small and large events, we're adding in special raffles and new initiatives like "Paws for Effect".

The best voice to advocate for our mission is your very own pet, like our staff member's pet, Liebchen, pictured here. Who better than your dog, cat, guinea pig, bunny, or whatever species you call your best friend, to make a donation request from your family, friends or associates, to support our life saving/life changing work?

We're asking everyone to set up a Paws for Effect fundraiser in the name of their pet(s). More details are coming soon on how to accomplish this peer to peer fundraiser. And, we're making this a contest during the month of May leading up to Pet Walk. We'll have honorary donor recognition for your pet(s) on our website leading up to Pet Walk and some fun and distinguished roles for the top tier at the event itself on June 25th.

***Peer to peer and paw to paw, let's make this a win for all pets and the people who know how special life can be when furry friends are a part of it!***

For more information, contact deborah.kraus@hinsdalehumanesociety.org.





# Paws & Hearts

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

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- Liebchen Brolin Kraus - HHS Alum

## Community Partners

- Access Credit Union
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- Brookfield Zoo (Chicago Zoological Society)
- Burr Ridge Community Church
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- Vintage Charm - La Grange
- Wabash County Animal Shelter Buddies
- Wayne County Humane Society
- West Suburban Veterinary Associates
- Zazu Hair Salon

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

Thank you to our **HHS Jr. Board** for their March Madness initiative to build awareness of our adoptable pets.

Loving memories of **Paul Volk** and **Carol Norling** for remembering Hinsdale Humane Society with generous gifts from their estates.

Shout out of appreciation to volunteer **Heidi Conidi** for all of her work on Unleashed Silent Auction and Raffles for Wine & Whiskers.



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

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





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Pat

## ADOPTION STORY

Pat is doing wonderful. We got her purring the very first day! She was shy and scared at first but now she is coming to us to play. She loves belly rubs and playing with her toys.