December 2020

Tattle Tails

Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha County, Inc.

2020: WHAT A LONG STRANGE TRIP IT’S BEEN

By Lynn Olenik, Executive Director

This quote from the song Truckin’ by the Grateful Dead, circa 1970s, describes 2020 perfectly. We all long to switch the terms “pandemic,” “pivot,” “adapt” and “flexibility” for “routine,” “stability” and “health.” People are taking a look at their foggy crystal balls and trying to see if their dreams from a year ago are still in there somewhere.

Donors also reached out to ask how they could help. Many gave generously to our Big Little Pet Pantry, making it easy for folks to keep their pets as economic challenges and unemployment affected so many. Many offered their year-end donations early, or simply pulled from their reserves to help. This type of community support is keeping our doors open, allowing people to keep the pets they love and to keep our staff employed. The estate and bequest gifts from those who pre-planned for HAWS in their wills added a layer of security to our operations.

People are appreciating the simple things in life – family held close, and pets as a vital part of the family. The comfort, entertainment and companionship offered to us by our fuzzy and feathered friends during our isolation is perhaps more appreciated and valued than ever before, especially as other activities have been trimmed back or canceled.

Throughout 2020, HAWS has continued to thrive and, though experiencing some slowdowns, we continue to meet the needs of our community’s animals because of our donors, our volunteers and our staff.

Through our many adjustments, a few things have stood out to us at HAWS:
• The comfort of pets in our homes, their companionship and love, is needed more than ever.
• Our Waukesha community steps up like no other.

At the beginning in March, we placed a record number of animals in the two weeks when safer-at-home orders began. People answered our request for adoptions to clear out the shelter, making it easier for our staff to provide care for the few remaining, as well as the safe keep pets and the strays that arrived. The public and staff adapted to online interviews and adoption applications. So many of HAWS’ pets found forever homes! Though May was a slower month for adoptions, we rebounded in July and August, with more adoptions than the previous year! We are thankful for the many wonderful people opening up their homes to pets.

2020 By The Numbers!
• 4,161 pets adopted
• 1,381 rescue calls answered
• 7,292 spay/neuter surgeries
• 1,700 pets in training classes
• 11,900 education program participants
• 8,000 lbs. (and counting!) of pet food/supplies distributed to those in need!
Earl on during the pandemic, I looked around the shelter normally bustling with activity, full of people, animals coming and going, dog training classes, laughter and good will – and realized just how quiet it had become. Staff, divided into small work pods, were getting things cleaned, but had little time to provide the extras either for the animals or each other. What was missing was our volunteer core. The realization dawned of what they truly bring to HAWS.

Many of our volunteers are retirees. This group, over 60 and singled out as one of the higher risk groups, makes up over 70% of our in-shelter volunteer corps. Their focus is animal activities and enrichment, dog walking, cat cuddling and small animal socialization.

Corporate volunteers, another group that helps with projects, were also absent as most were transitioning to a work-from-home model.

We made the decision to ask volunteers to join us in our structured work groups, so our animals would get the attention they needed. As they began to return in small numbers, dog walkers and Mod Squad, cat cuddlers and small animal folks, and, eventually, lobby greeters, the atmosphere picked back up.

In short, our volunteers provide not only for the animals but their sense of dedication, camaraderie and selfless giving breathes life into HAWS! The animals, the staff and the entire building is much better because of you.
HAVEN EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS
Learning to Make Lemonade
By Khris Erickson, Education Department Manager

Just like the rest of the world needed to change and adjust, HAWS Education Department’s plans for programming changed almost overnight with the advent of COVID-19. In March we went from visiting classrooms and hosting kids on-site to having to figure out how to get educational material out virtually. We were in the same boat as other educators, dealing with a lack of knowledge and needing to figure it out as we went along.

We also had to make decisions as to what would happen with our summer camp sessions. Would we cancel altogether, offer virtual camps, offer a hybrid, or change our camp structure so that we could safely host kids here at HAWS? This was not an easy decision to make. After much research through the CDC website, and attending webinars through the American Camp Association and Association of Professional Humane Educators, we decided to hold in-person camps but with strict modifications to ensure that the campers, their families and our staff would remain safe.

We’ve had to make changes to our other programs as well – including birthday parties and school-year kids’ clubs. We now offer both in-person and virtual programs, giving families options that fit their comfort level of social interaction.

HAWS’ education programs have actually benefited from this unfortunate turn of events! Because we needed to limit camper interactions this summer, we had to throw out many of the games and activities we would normally have put in the schedule. As a result, we were able to discover some fantastic new lesson plans. Additionally, we found some great activities that couldn’t be used this summer because they required groups to work together, but we’ve put them aside for the future.

We’ve learned about some wonderful online learning platforms that allow us to create our own games and activities that can be used for our virtual programs. Education staff has learned how to use new (to us) technology in a manner that is effective in reaching our virtual audience.

Our virtual programs are reaching kids in communities outside of Waukesha County, including one in Illinois! Virtual programming is allowing us to reach kids that may never have been able to participate at HAWS, and may not have been familiar with HAWS previously, with over 16,000 views and counting!

While the changes in our world aren’t what anyone would wish for, HAWS’ Education Department has managed to make lemonade out of lemons, and has become stronger for it!

SNIP UPDATE
Staying Safe, Staying Strong!
By Alysha Danko & Cassie Gugin, HAWS SNIP team

When the COVID-19 outbreak hit, HAWS’ SNIP clinic had to adjust the way we do business, in order to continue providing veterinary care to all the animals that walk, fly or hop through HAWS’ doors.

The week the safer-at-home order took effect, our clinic split into two teams, rotating in and out of the clinic with Dr. K. leading one team and Dr. Meyer leading the other. We were determined to do all that we could for the health and safety of our staff, members of the community, and the animals we are here to assist. Although we had to temporarily halt our services to the general public, we were able to stay available for rescues and, of course, all of HAWS’ animals. During that time, we helped a total of 111 HAWS’ animals, 270 rescue animals and 37 outdoor cats, which averaged out to 18 surgeries a day! When one team was busy at HAWS’ saving lives, our other team members stayed busy by maintaining the shelter grounds and many other tasks that were previously tackled by volunteers who were staying safe at home.

While we continue to observe social distancing, and have made many changes to our intake and discharge procedures to maintain health and safety for pets and people, we are proud to say we did it as a team! We have expanded and can now spay and neuter over 40 animals a day to help catch up on all of the pets in need of care!

Thanks to Petco Foundation, HAWS continues to achieve no-kill status, three years running! Generous grants from Petco Foundation support HAWS’ SNIP clinic and programs including Project Guardian – allowing HAWS to perform up to 8,000 surgeries each year and lower our incoming stray cat totals by 50% since 2003. Petco Foundation is a purr-fect partner!

For information on all of HAWS’ educational opportunities – in-person and virtual – log on to hawspets.org/humane-education!

Learn more about all of the resources available to pet owners from HAWS’ SNIP clinic. Visit hawspets.org/spay-and-neuter-program/ or call 262-542-8851, x109.

Register now at hawspets.org/mboard and-neuter-program/ or call 262-542-8851, x109.

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It’s All About the Animals!

Share YOUR story: use the form on our website under “Adopt!” or just email us at marketing@hawspets.org. Don’t forget to send us your Alumni pictures, too! For more great stories check out #MondayMailbag on HAWS’ Facebook page!

RESCUE TAILS...

A Year Full of Rescues

HAWS’ Animal Rescue Team has had a successful 2020. Staff has assisted with over 1,000 stray animal and wildlife calls...and the year is not over yet! The Team lent an assist to wildfire and domestic birds, dogs, cats, and even a stray pig and ball python! Close to 300 animals have been reunited with their families, re-homed, or transferred to WildLife In Need due to staff efforts.

Highlights included HAWS staff being able to return a stray Papillion to her owners – who came all the way from Utah to reclaim her. While the stray pig was not reclaimed, he was adopted and will live out his life with other pig friends at a local sanctuary. The stray python, found by a DNR Ward at Lapham Peak, recovered from its adventure and was also adopted to a new loving home!

...AND ADOPTION STORIES

BINDI

About a year ago I was struggling to acclimate to the college setting. I missed my home and especially my pets I left behind. I thought about getting an Emotional Support Animal (ESA), but my family wasn’t on board for another dog. After some persuasion they said yes, and I went to HAWS, just “to look” (we all knew that wouldn’t be the case). I saw a sweet and compassionate pup in a kennel and the butt wiggles were something else! Long story short, a couple days later I was bringing her home. Little did I know my life would completely change for the better! Bindi is my go-to for hiking, snuggling and endless laughing. She gets me out of the house and making friends. She’s kind and loving to everyone on campus and I am 100% sure she knows her job is an ESA. I can’t imagine my life and college experience without her. I can say without a doubt she is one of the best things that happened to me and has developed me into the person I am today. — Bailey J.

EDITH GRACE

I hadn’t been to any shelter for at least 20 years, but HAWS was the first place I looked. I fell in love with a cat named Monkey, who had been at the shelter over nine months. In the adoption room, Monkey wouldn’t even look at me and tried to get as far away from me as possible. After three short visits with her (yes, I kept leaving and coming back to the room on purpose), she came right up to me and even sat on my lap! We went home and Monkey was rechristened Edith Grace, named for a friend of mine, Ed, recently diagnosed with cancer. Edith made herself right at home. The first time I opened a can of cat food, she knew the sound and came bounding in the kitchen! She loves batting toys around, taking stroller rides and sleeping at the top of her kitty perch. She is funny and loving. Ed was able to see pictures of Edith and was so happy about her; he died a beautiful 45-year friendship. HAWS is not a shelter just made for the animals. — Sue S.

Staff Spotlight

Michelle Milford

Development Assistant
BA, Zoology/Environmental Studies

What do you do at HAWS all day? I process all gifts made to HAWS (thank you!), manage our donor database, work to increase our reach in the community and support fundraising efforts and strategy.

What makes you good at your job? I’ve worked in the non-profit sector for some time; it takes a lot of passion and persistence. Additionally, I love working with people as well as animals!

What did you want to be when you grew up? A zookeeper (which I did for a while)!

Who are your pets? Clyde the dog, Isaac the cat, and 4 laying hens (Regina George, Ruby Meg, Dora Dale & Princess Fiona).

Your hobbies/interests outside of work: Any activity that gets me outside; we hike a lot as a family. I also enjoy baking, scrapbooking and reading.

Why do you work at HAWS? I have always required three things out of a job – a sense of fulfillment in my duties, being passionate about the mission and enjoy coming to work each morning. HAWS checks all those boxes for me!
I think we can all agree that 2020 has been a unique year! I have been employed with HAWS since April of 2020, and I do have to admit it has been a very strange time for a career change. However, through the ups and downs of this year, I was able to transition into this amazing role. I am so grateful to have such a fantastic team that helped me grow so much in these past eight months. Despite the times, the HAWS Mobile team was still able to appear at about 100 events since June!

We thank our partners for continuing to host mobile adoption events, and to those housing HAWS’ cats offsite for adoption as well – including PetSmart, Hooves & Paws, and Petco.

We couldn’t have these events without the help of our wonderful Mobile volunteers! This group helps get our department on the road as much as possible, and it has been a pleasure getting to know them. Our summer Pups & Pops events have now turned into Cocoa & Companions for our colder months – so check out our schedule online!

We would love to see you out on the road in 2021!

DYNAMIC DUO
Simon (formerly Skunk) joined our family in 2019, and immediately made himself at home. We love his spunky nature! About a year later, we noticed Sophie (formerly Sprocket) on HAWS’ website. On August 9, 2020 we brought her home. At first, Sophie was a little quieter, not shy, but preferred watching rather than joining in. It took about 3 weeks but today Sophie is not only a joiner, but an instigator. Thank you HAWS! — Barb S.

Find a new family member! Log on to hawspets.org/adopt-a-pet to view available pets and to get started with the adoption process. Contact our team at 262-542-8851 with any questions.

A new normal has set in, and we are hopeful for a very bright 2021.

HAWS Mobile team was still able to appear at about 100 events since June!

I am also so thankful to our community for their dedication to host HAWS for events this past year. So many of our partners helped us focus on outdoor events, and ever-changing ones at that. The flexibility and kindness of everyone certainly didn’t go unnoticed. We thank our partners for continuing to host mobile adoption events, and to those housing HAWS’ cats offsite for adoption as well – including PetSmart, Hooves & Paws, and Petco.

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MOBILE ADOPTION HIGHLIGHTS
Teamwork
By Katie Gerls, Mobile Adoption Coordinator

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Congratulations to HAWS Volunteers of the Year for 2020!

Anya Behringer – Mod Squad
Deb Dollak – Friends of HAWS
Carol Doleysh – Cat Cuddlers, colony attendant, cat pedicures
Chris & Lisa Fabisiak – Dog walkers
Noah & Zahnah Finco – Foster caregivers
Jill Gress – Dog walker
Colleen Jessup – Dog walker
Laura Witek – Cat cuddler, colony attendant
Jeff Young - Landscaping

Pictured left to right: (Christopher Tousignant, employee of the year) Anya Behringer, Colleen Jessup, Zahnah & Noah Finco, Lisa & Chris Fabisiak, Laura Witek.

Not pictured: Jeff Young, Jill Gress, Debbie Dollak, Carol Doleysh.

FRIENDS OF HAWS NOTES Please contact us at FriendsofHAWS@gmail.com with any ideas or questions!

This year has certainly been challenging for the Friends to maintain fundraisers at the level of prior years. But we won’t stop helping the animals of HAWS in any way we can. All scheduled events are subject to change due to COVID-19 precautions and guidelines, but please save these dates, keep an eye on hawspets.org and HAWS’ Facebook page, and join us as you are able!

Holiday Bazaar – Saturday, December 5th.
Waukesha JanBoree – Saturday, January 16th.
Have-a-Heart Bake Sale – Saturday, February 13th.
Sussex Indoor Market – March 2021, date TBD, at Sussex Civic Center.
Flower Sale – Spring 2021, date TBD.
(Media Sale – has been postponed until 2022.)

Learn how you can join in support of the “HAWS cause” as a volunteer, foster family or advocate at hawspets.org or by calling 262-542-8851 x120.
Welcome to the HAWS family!

Join the Friends! Learn more at hawspets.org/friends-of-haws.

Congrats to Friends Volunteer of the Year Debbie Dollak! Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication to HAWS, the animals, and the Friends.

Earn Money for Homeless Animals While You Grocery Shop

Sentry Stores: Ask for a Funds For Friends sticker when you check out.
Albrechts: 325 Golf Rd., Delafield
Piggly Wiggly Stores: Hartland and Oconomowoc

Please be sure to submit the entire receipt; do not trim or cut. Thank you!
DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR OF...

Abjad from Jared McCutcheon
Abdullah, Yunes from Kristin Johnston
Abbo, Randy from Stacy Giddings
Ashley B., for her 28th Birthday from Zack Sanders
Baby, Tim from Mary Osgood
Boettcher, Kelsey from Patricia McFarland
Daisy from Farnsworth, Leah

Graziano, Jonathan from Family & Friends
Grisso, April G. from Barry Grady

Graziano, Kathy from Hydro-Thermal Corporation
Griss, Brian from Barry Grady

Graziano, Jonathan from Family & Friends
Grisso, April G. from Barry Grady

Honor your loved one, person or pet, with a donation to HAWS. Donations can be made via mail, phone or through hawspets.org by clicking on “Ways to Give.”

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF...

Anderson, Kimberly from Laura Garcia
Bartels, Robert from Family & Friends
Behnke, Randall from Family & Friends
Berberet, Paul from James and Catherine Wilson
Bertling, Clifford from K左右
Bingle, Norman from Family & Friends
Blackmore, Mary from Julie Blackmore
Blanchard, Shirley from Jared McCutcheon
Boz, Dorothy from Peter T."Barry"
Borgstrom, James A. from Family & Friends
Butler, Gary M. from Family & Friends
Cantis, Arlene from William Vaska
Christoph, Christel from Charis Christoph
Conamos, Jon from Julia Wells
Conway, Gaylene A. from Elizabeth Rosier
Dailey, Sandy (Stan) from Laura Knoop
Drews, David from Jane Zeman
Elhens, Renee C. from Family & Friends
Esson, Laurie from Family & Friends
Farnsworth, Leah from Peter T."Barry"
Faucott, Arthid from Dave St."Buddy"
Flynn, Patti from Patricia Rahn Koch
Gold, Earl from Kay & David Emminger
Garnsey, Patricia from Louis S."Buddy"
Graziano, Kathy from Hydro-Thermal Corporation
Griss, Brian from Barry Grady

Honor your loved one, person or pet, with a donation to HAWS. Donations can be made via mail, phone or through hawspets.org by clicking on “Ways to Give.”

CARING KIDS make some great donations to HAWS through special projects, donation drives and more: Ellie & Chlo & Judah & Elsie, Finn Eigenberger, Claire Germain, Katelyn Fepseben & Payton Matthews-Brockway, Landry Rebbell, Cole & Jacob Ruehlow, Maleena Uribe, Caroline Wolters; Boy Scout Troop 55 from Wisconsin Hills School, Cadette Girl Scout Troop 4572 from Big Bend, Girl Scout Troop 9863 from Big Bend.

Mia’s Sweets & Treats, the annual fund-raiser lead by Mia Justman, set a new record, donating $7777 to HAWS!

HAWS’ Tattle Tails newsletter is available online! Read Tattle Tails on the go, send the link to friends, zoom in for better readability! Simply go to the “Events & News” section of our website and click on “Newsletters.”

Surrounded by a CARING COMMUNITY

Thank you to these amazing businesses, groups and individuals for their incredible generosity! Amazon Susses, Bayshore on Okauchee Golf Outing, Derby Realty, Ella’s Public House, Empower Credit Union, Ewald Kia Oconomowoc, Fleet Farm Oconomowoc, Dr. Lori Gensch, Holy Hill Farm Art Farm, Hound & Gatos, Jolie Jorns & John Perrin, Monica Krueger, Marilyn Mee, Steel Tank Brewing, We Rate Dogs.

Wild Reidar Waukesha hosted HAWS’ Mobile for another very successful ASPCA/Subaru of America/Subaru Loves Dogs Adoption Day: 17 pets found their new loving homes in 5 hours at the dealership!

Honor your loved one, person or pet, with a donation to HAWS. Donations can be made via mail, phone or through hawspets.org by clicking on “Ways to Give.”

Be sure to follow HAWS’ Facebook page for pictures of our generous donors. Let us know you want your picture posted — we’ll even include an adoptable pet in your photo shoot!

HAW’S THANKS!

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DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL? Don’t miss out! Get on HAWS’ e-list at hawspets.org; sign up on our home page.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events are held at HAWS unless otherwise noted. Check hawspets.org regularly for updates and Mobile Adoption tour stops!

DECEMBER

**Holiday Bazaar**
**Saturday, December 5th**
**Time: TBA**
Get in the holiday spirit with the Friends of HAWS in a modified version of this great annual event! Details and updates at hawspets.org and on HAWS’ Facebook page.

**Christmas Eve**
**December 24th**
HAWS will be open for limited hours. Please call 262-542-8851.

**Kids ‘N Critters Winter Day Camp**
**December 28th-31st**
Spend Winter Break at HAWS! Details at hawspets.org/kids-camp-waukesha.

**Christmas**
**December 25th**
HAWS will be closed to the public.

JANUARY

**NEW YEAR’S DAY**
**January 1st**
HAWS will be closed to the public.

**Waukesha Janboree at HAWS**
**Saturday, January 16th**
11am - 3pm
Outdoor Trail Frolic, grab’n’go lunch, adoptable pets and more!
Details and updates at hawspets.org and on HAWS’ Facebook page.

FEBRUARY

**Have-A-Heart Bake Sale**
**Saturday, February 13th**
**Time: TBA**
Share the love with the Friends of HAWS in a modified version of this great annual event!
Details and updates at hawspets.org and on HAWS’ Facebook page.

REGULAR EVENTS

**Monthly Friends of HAWS Meeting**
See page 6 for details; meetings may be virtual as needed.
January 13, February 10, March 10
7:00 PM

**Cat Pedicures**
Low-contact procedures are in place. Please visit hawspets.org/calendar-of-events prior to your visit!
December 12, January 9, February 13, March 13
9:30 – 10:30 AM

**Pedicures for Rabbits & Guinea Pigs**
Low-contact procedures are in place. Please visit hawspets.org/calendar-of-events prior to your visit!
December 19, January 16, February 20, March 20
9:30 – 10:30 AM

**Kids ‘N Critters Winter Day Camp**
December 28th-31st
Spend Winter Break at HAWS!
Details at hawspets.org/kids-camp-waukesha.

**Waukesha Janboree at HAWS**
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Outdoor Trail Frolic, grab’n’go lunch, adoptable pets and more!
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**NEW YEAR’S EVE**
**December 31st**
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Please call 262-542-8851.

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Please note, events are subject to change due to COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations. Please check hawspets.org or HAWS’ Facebook page for the most up-to-date information, or call 262-542-8851 with any questions.

**Volunteer at HAWS**
Support the HAWS’ cause – hands on! Many opportunities are available. Apply at hawspets.org or call 262-542-8851, x120.

**Help Homeless Pets by Joining HAWS!**
Log onto hawspets.org for information on how to become an Annual or Sustaining Member.

Like “Humane Animal Welfare Society – HAWS of Waukesha” on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @HAWS_Waukesha!