



Humane Animal Welfare Society  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HAWS' HELPING PAW EXTENDS NEAR AND FAR**

*Waukesha shelter assisting local, national shelters facing overcrowding issues and emergencies*

**WAUKESHA – February 4, 2026.** [HAWS](http://HAWS), the Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha County, is assisting overcrowded shelters and at-risk pets, both locally and nationally.

HAWS continues to receive animals from the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC), to help ease the overcrowding that organically occurs at a facility that supports their community's stray pets. Waukesha County's own strays are being reclaimed from HAWS and reunited with their families at a rate of 88%, freeing space and allowing adoptable pets to be transferred in.

As a **BISSELL Pet Foundation (BPF) partner**, HAWS was notified by BPF of an urgent situation in Missouri involving an overwhelmed caregiver facing serious health issues. In response, BPF provided a grant to support emergency medical care and transport, enabling HAWS and the Washington County Humane Society (WCHS) to assist [Ozarks Pet Rescue](#) (OPR) in a large-scale rescue effort. Approximately 60 dogs and cats from the caregiver's property require immediate safe placement and veterinary care.

Because of this coordinated teamwork, the caregiver "can soon focus on her own health while the dogs and cats can continue on being loved," said a representative from OPR.

**Projected timeline for the rescue effort:**

- A veterinarian will be at the caregiver's property Tuesday to complete Health Certificates and Rabies vaccinations, while OPR will administer FVCRP and DHPP vaccines.
- Transport to the rescue partners is planned for Wednesday, returning to HAWS late Thursday.
- Pets will be available for adoption at HAWS and WCHS as soon as possible, with an eye towards having them on the adoption floors by the weekend.

Noted HAWS' Executive Director, Maggie Tate-Techtmann: "We empathize with both our local and national shelters and rescues, and are proud to partner with them to offer compassionate support, meet the needs of pets, and help them find their new forever homes. It is important we do this with both our neighbors and the broader community, for pets *and* their people."

**PLEASE NOTE:** ETA at HAWS is 5pm Thursday. Media is welcome to be at HAWS when the transport arrives, but any animal interaction may be limited until Friday after they become more settled. HAWS reps will be available for comment upon request; please text Jen Smieja at 262-408-7083.

A non-profit organization established in 1965, the Humane Animal Welfare Society assists over 12,000 animals and welcomes more than 35,000 human visitors each year. HAWS is an open admission, no-kill shelter dedicated to strengthening the relationship between animals and humans through adoptions and education, making a more compassionate community possible.

HAWS is located at 701 Northview Road in Waukesha, Wisconsin. For more information call (262) 542-8851 or log onto [hawspets.org](http://hawspets.org). Follow HAWS on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube. HAWS: Growing Our Humane Community.

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