

May 2026

Tattle Tails

Humane Animal Welfare Society (HAWS) of Waukesha County, Inc.

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HAWS 
Humane Animal Welfare Society

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.

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Direct Line: Your Shelter, Our Community, For the Animals We Love

By Maggie Tate-Tehtmann, Executive Director

Animal welfare and sheltering have grown so much in the past sixty years. At each stage and phase, HAWS is proud to support our communities. We all come to the shelter with a different story—each animal, each person. But we all meet here.



If you are entering our doors to adopt a companion animal, thank you for including a pet in your life. Your life, and theirs, will be richer and more fulfilled. The bond you form will outlast both of your lifetimes. If you are entering our doors because your pet was lost and we found them, we've taken great care of them while they've been away and are happy to reunite you (no worries, these things happen to all of us). If you are entering our doors seeking assistance with your pet, thank you for thinking of us as a partner in caring for your companion. We are here to support you with resources including accessibly priced veterinary care for your pet, to keep your family together. If you are entering our doors making the difficult, but compassionate decision to surrender a pet, we see you; we honor you. We'll take incredible care of that pet, knowing how much you love them, and we'll steward them to their next destination.

If you are entering our doors as a young person participating in our humane education programming, welcome! We are proud of your interest in learning to responsibly care for and humanely regard animals you'll encounter, both in our facilities and in the world. We know you'll learn things that will stay with you for the rest of your life, impacting how you show up for animals and people. If you are entering our doors as a volunteer, the care you provide goes far beyond the cuddling and chores. You bring compassion and understanding in ways that awe me each and every day. We're so grateful for the many hands that keep both the main shelter and the HAWS Schallock Center running smoothly.

If you enter our doors as a team member, I am so grateful for your expertise and the joy you bring to your work. I know every one of you is truly here because it is all about the animals—entering each day thinking about what we can do, what we can offer the person standing in front of us seeking support, the animal in front of us needing care. Thank you for being my superheroes!

Most importantly, if you are entering our doors as an animal seeking our care: you will be respected, cared for, regarded and thought of in ways that are simply beyond words. You'll become a permanent part of the hearts of the volunteers and team members you meet here.

HAWS is your shelter, you ARE our community. Every animal, every human makes this organization.



BEHAVIOR DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

hawspets.org/training-behavior

The Extra Mile for the Animals

By Sophia Nijem, Shelter Canine Behavior Manager

Our behavior team is fully committed to supporting every dog in our care. We prioritize enrichment, emotional well-being, and individualized support, especially for our long-term residents, as they patiently wait for the homes they deserve.

Life at the shelter can be overwhelming. Dogs are suddenly surrounded by new smells, unfamiliar noises, and unfamiliar people. Upon arrival, each dog is not only assessed and vaccinated but also welcomed with open arms.

While HAWS works to match every dog with the right home as soon as possible, one persistent barrier often impacts length of stay: appearance.

“Bully” mixes remain in our shelter significantly longer than other breeds, such as lab mixes. These longer stays often result in the need for additional behavioral and emotional support. In some cases, extended shelter stays can lead to stress, withdrawal, or declining well-being.

Working for, and with, Will

Will, one of our long-term residents, is a powerful example. As a bully mix, he remained at HAWS for seven months before being adopted. During that time, it was essential that we found creative and intentional ways to support his mental and emotional health. Through our Mod Squad program, Will participated in enrichment activities such as swimming, field trips, and emotional regulation work. While there were moments when the wait became difficult, where he appeared withdrawn and low energy, these supports helped him remain resilient and ultimately successful until he found his home.

Looking ahead, our current longest resident has been in the shelter for five months. She is a social, dog-friendly bully mix—yet she is still waiting. Why? Unfortunately, barriers such as housing restrictions and widespread breed bias continue to limit adoption opportunities for dogs like her.

Bully mixes are loving, capable companions who deserve the same opportunities as any other dog. As a community, we must reflect on how we can reduce these barriers, both structurally and socially, to help these dogs reach their forever homes more quickly.

“ We are so very happy with Ebony; she is a love bug. Our whole family adores her, and we are so thankful to HAWS and Ebby's fosters for saving her and waiting for us to find her. She's a delight. Don't know how we managed without her. ”
 Susan S.





BABY ZEUS



BIG BOY ZEUS



CAT COLONY



WHOPPER THE CAT



RABBIT-TAT

FOR THE ANIMALS WE LOVE

By Jennifer Smieja, Communications Specialist

Every day presents its own challenges at HAWS. Some are met head on and straight forward. Other times, well, we like to get creative....

Zeus, God of the Skies

Our own Greek God, Zeus the puppy originally arrived at HAWS in 2022 on a life-saving airplane transport. Zeus quickly left HAWS for his next adventure, but his odyssey would lead him back to HAWS.

This past winter Zeus returned, needing medial patella repair surgery on both knees due to joint issues, as well as treatment for heartworm. His medical plan involved blood work, x-rays, medications, two separate surgeries done a month apart, and support for physical therapy and rehab.

We were determined to elevate him back to his strong and mighty status!

His first surgery—a success—was done by our friend Dr. Dzika on March 12th with the second scheduled in late April. Per his foster home, he’s been “great for his physical therapy and handling all the extra care like a champ.” We’re confident Zeus will have a full recovery and be enjoying all the things he loves as soon as possible.

FIV Positive is Not a Negative!

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is a virus that attacks the immune system of cats. Once infected, there is no cure or treatment for FIV. But, studies show that cats with FIV live just as long as FIV-negative cats and can live many years without any health problems.

HAWS often is able to use our small colony room to house FIV cats together, reminding potential adopters to give these fabulous felines a chance. As of this writing, the room’s residents are Whopper and Jinxy, two young, friendly gents enjoying their digs and patiently waiting for their adopter(s) to arrive.

Don’t overlook a great cat—be positive!

Rabbit-Tat

Most of the animal housing areas at HAWS are concrete block and other very solid, permanent surfaces. But, the small animal ward is full of moving parts that can be converted into the most appropriate housing for each species that arrives for our care.

Recently, with our population of rabbits down to a bonded pair and a singleton, the team has been able to forego use of the usual cages and create “rabbitats.” Using X-pens and other rabbit-safe enrichment items, two much larger enclosures gives the bunnies space to roam comfortably 24/7, significantly lowering their stress! The rabbits are LOVING the new setup!

Being able to casually view smaller animals outside of typical caging gives potential adopters a much better idea of that animal’s personality, as well as a better visual of what type of living space rabbits should have in a home.



Live and in PAWson

How do you get someone to care about animals? Through personal interactions provided by HAWS’ Outreach/Mobile Adoptions team, through Education encounters, and Foster-to-Adopt programs!

Just try to resist. We dare you.



NEW LOCATION! **PETS WELCOME!**

HAWSFEST
A festival to benefit HAWS

Saturday, May 2nd
Waukesha County Expo Center
hawspets.org/hawsfest

FEATURING:
Lure Course & Dog Dash
(Dash timed by Waukesha Co. Sheriff)

- Same-Day Adoptions
- Raffle Baskets
- Goat Paintings
- Pup Cups
- Merchandise for Sale
- Cash Raffle
- Dozens of Vendors
- “Adopt a Pet” Activity for Kids
- Appearances by HAWS Ambassador Animals Kaa & Peaches

Food available from Smoke Ring BBQ, The Pink Mocha Cafe & Coffee House, Chick-fil-A Delafield, Denson’s Catering

ADOPTION STORIES

hawspets.org/adopt



MIA

Mia has brought nothing but joy into our lives. She is loving her routine filled with cozy naps, long walks with Mom and Dad, and plenty of treats, of course! We couldn't be happier to have Mia in our family. Thank you, HAWS, for bringing her into our lives!

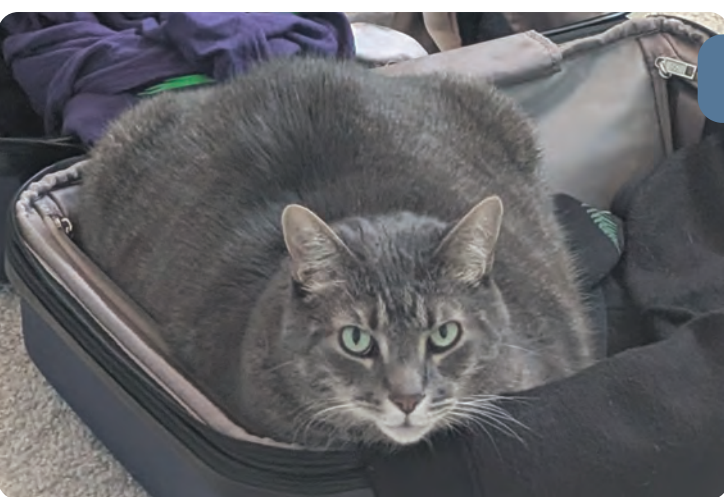
- Franki H.



ZEV

I came to HAWS to tour the facility with my daughter, Sarah, who volunteers walking dogs there. Zev (formerly Indy) and I immediately bonded, and I adopted her that day. She is a very bright mini-Australian Shepherd! She responded to her new name in one day. After eight days "who's first" had her wait at the door for me to enter first. At nine days "wipe your feet" had her walking onto a carpet and laying down before we went upstairs. She has filled my heart with joy. Thank you, HAWS!

- John K.



OLIVER

We adopted Oliver, formerly Big Oliver, in 2024. After spending time with him at HAWS, giving him all the attention he desired, he decided we were good enough to be his new family. He settled into his new home quickly by giving us cuddles...lots and LOTS of cuddles! He loves playing with his toys, bird watching, hanging out at the tap yard, and playing with our other cat, Mochi. He gets all the blanket forts, boxes, and clean clothing piles his heart desires. We're so happy to have him as part of our little family!

- Royce & Samara-Raine



SOPHIA & FIONA

We could not be happier with our little fur family. We adopted Sophia and Fiona, a bonded pair of two-year-old cats that are sisters! Fiona was immediately comfortable while Sophia took a bit longer. Both are sweet, loving and comfortable around other people. We love them so much!!

- Jeanne B.



FOSTER TO ADOPT!

PICKLE & PEANUT

We adopted two guinea pigs in June of 2025. The brothers, now named Pickle and Peanut, continue to do well in our home and are very loved by all. They love their fresh veggies and stretching their legs in their outside enclosure. Thanks HAWS!

- Stacy T.



HOWIE

Howie came to us three summers ago after fostering him during summer camp. We knew we had a clever dog when he opened the lever door and escaped from his waiting room while we completed paperwork. The vet calls him a "pointador" and he definitely walks with his nose to the ground. Howie helps bring in the mail, has learned about 30 words/tricks, keeps the rodents away from our gardens, and loves to bump noses with the bullfrogs. He is quick to learn, so gentle, loves everyone, and has filled our house with laughter. We love our Howie!

- Connie & Dan



DUCKY

Ducky came to HAWS paralyzed in his back legs and unable to poop or pee. Also, his tail was amputated due to nerve damage! After fostering, I adopted Ducky. He has regained full use of his back legs and is now very athletic—he can RUN so fast now and wants to play with everything. He recovered much of his bladder and colon function, but still needs some help via meds and does wear a diaper. He doesn't mind at all! He's the happiest cat ever and loves other cats, as well as coming to work with me!

- Molly P.



HANK

Hank (formerly Henri) is doing amazing—full of energy, always collecting sticks, and somehow convinced he's a lapdog and always gets the best spot in bed! He truly is the sweetest and goofiest boy. Everyone who's ever met him absolutely loves him. We are so in love with him and couldn't ask for a sweeter addition to our lives.

- Keaton S. & Maddie M.



SHARE Your HAWS adoption story!
Email update & pictures to marketing@hawspets.org.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

hawspets.org/humane-education



HAWS SCHALLOCK CENTER FOR ANIMALS

hawspets.org/schallock-center



Youths Advocate for the Animals

Sometimes an interesting request is all it takes to grow HAWS' favorite education programs!

Hannah's Haven

Our Hannah's Haven reading program began as an encounter available at the HAWS Schallock Center for Animals. This popular program has expanded, with HAWS' Education team members taking alumni dogs to local schools for one-on-one reading sessions as well!

The newest iteration of Hannah's Haven now specifically assists school students below reading level. Our team again takes the dogs to the students, who spend time in their school library or a quiet classroom for 20-minute reading sessions.

Study after study explains why these programs work—dogs are calm and attentive, creating a supportive environment for the students to read aloud. The key factor: the environment allows kids to work on their confidence and reading fluency, without judgement. And the dogs really enjoy it, too!

Humane Education Manager Alexis K. notes: "I've seen kids at the beginning of the semester, hesitant to read aloud, end up excited to come and having fun reading even with inflection and character voices!"

Girl Scouts' Celebration

The Girl Scouts marked their official 114th Birthday on Thursday, March 12, 2026 with service projects, wearing green, and earning special patches. Local Girl Scouts chose to celebrate by doing a service day at HAWS! Almost 80 Girl Scouts created blankets, made 'Adopt Me' posters and toys for the shelter animals, and learned about HAWS and what we do. Additionally, the girls had collected and brought in many donations like food for animals, toys, and cleaning supplies.

"They were all excited to be here and to be able to help the animals," said Humane Education Lead Olivia D.

"This experience [at HAWS] offers something unique that traditional therapeutic settings often cannot replicate. Many of our teens struggle with anxiety, depression, trauma, and social challenges. Being in the presence of animals provides a calming, nonjudgmental space where they can feel safe, accepted, and at ease. In addition, the program fosters a sense of purpose and responsibility. They see firsthand how their efforts make a difference."

- Nicole Messer, Newport Academy

Newport Academy

Newport Academy was searching for a place for their students to go to have a positive impact and experience in the community. Alexis worked with them to create a program giving the students service opportunities, while also drawing parallels between a shelter animal's mental health and a human's mental health.

Participants often begin the day anxious and uncomfortable—but that quickly grows into confidence! They all love the animals and giving back, and have been amazing helpers always willing to do whatever is needed. Many of the same students come for each visit, creating a unique experience for them to get to know our shelter pets and staff, and for our staff to get to know them!

KIDS' CORNER

The Newport students shared their thoughts!

"I look forward to it each time we go." - Adelia
"I've been exposed to a lot of new things." - Eli
"I wish we had more time with the animals." - Ryan
"It's calm and relaxing." - Kayden
"It's cool." - Ari
"It's good animal therapy." - Liv



Healing Vibes from the Animals

The United for Waukesha Resiliency Center (UWRC), a program of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Southeast Wisconsin, was created for those in the community who were present at or affected by the Waukesha Christmas Parade on November 21, 2021. The HAWS Schallock Center for Animals joined with UWRC for a number of programs that helped provide community and connection.

Through this partnership, HAWS offered two sessions that combined goat yoga with therapeutic encounters with our resident horses, plus an additional two sessions of just goat yoga. Goat yoga sessions were led by a trauma-informed instructor; horse mindfulness sessions, led by a member of HAWS' Equine team, helped participants to get more in touch with themselves with the assistance of the empathetic HAWS herd.

These events were open for all who wanted to attend, advertised on the UWRC website and Facebook page. HAWS is proud to have had this important and impactful partnership, using animals to help members of our community on their journeys through tragedy and loss.



TALES BY THE FIRE: SUMMER KICKOFF!

**Saturday, June 6th
5:30 - 7:00pm**



Bring a picnic to enjoy with your family beforehand at 5pm!

Join us for an adventure-filled evening for all ages at the HAWS Schallock Center for Animals.

Meet the HAWS Herd, explore the property, create a bird feeder to take home, splash into fun at our water table, and set out on a summer nature walk while filling out a special Bingo sheet for a prize. End the evening gathered around the crackling fire with a s'mores kit, and listen to animal-themed stories that celebrate the magic of summer nights.

Scan the QR code for details and registration!



**Save the Date!
HOOVES & FLIGHTS**
A fundraiser for the HAWS Herd
Saturday, September 19th

HAWS 
SCHALLOCK CENTER FOR ANIMALS

GET INVOLVED

hawspets.org/volunteer

LEND A PAW: Volunteer Day
Saturday, May 16th, 11am-3pm
SCAN to get involved!



OUTREACH/MOBILE ADOPTION

hawspets.org/host-event



Dedication for the Animals

We asked several of our volunteers to share why they are passionate about HAWS!

Amy Bottin, Friends of HAWS

I started with the Friends of HAWS in late 2019 and am currently the VP. We have a wonderful, dedicated group of volunteers who raise funds to support the shelter in areas where help is needed. My favorite contribution from the Friends of HAWS is the electronic sign out front. The sign offers the community a way to see animals for adoption, daily hours, and fundraising events. I look forward to seeing what other ways we can support HAWS, the staff, the animals, and our community.



AARON & CODY

Aaron Douglas, Horse Chore Crew

I work from home and while that gives me extreme flexibility in my day job, it can also be lonely not having direct interaction with other people. Over the years I have come to find HAWS to be an organization I have high trust in and support more actively. I started volunteering at the HAWS Schallock Center in the fall of 2024 when I realized how close to home that opportunity was.

Since then, I've found a community of people to connect with regularly and have made meaningful relationships with awesome animals like Cody! I see the impact that HAWS has in our community and I'm really proud to be a part of that in some small way, all while they support me in my need for purpose.



KIM & JIMMY

Kim Uttech, 2.0 Dog Walker/Playgroups

My passion is as a dog walker, assisting with playgroup facilitating and running, and mentoring new dog walkers. Each interaction with the dogs is aimed at helping them relax, gain confidence, and become more adoptable by alleviating their stress, boredom, or anxiety.

Rallying Alongside the Animals

Waukesha County locations of The Chocolate Factory joined forces to host another Give Back Night for HAWS on March 26th, with 25% of their sales donated to the shelter. All six of their County locations participated—Delafield, Elm Grove, Menomonee Falls, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee, and Waukesha! The store on Moreland Road also welcomed the Mobile team and a few happy adoptable pets during the evening.

These dine and donate event partners truly put more fun in the fundraising. They encourage community interaction and give HAWS and our adoptable pets the much-needed visibility and support, all while doing what they do best. We're totally here for it! The Mobile calendar during warmer weather months often includes places like Culver's restaurants, local fave Bubba's Frozen Custard, Arby's, our favorite taprooms (many of which have dog-friendly patios!), Liquid Johnny's, and on and on. Check our event calendar, grab your BFFs—human and canine—and join us outside this summer!

We are also thrilled to partner in annual events like the Milwaukee Admirals Dog Days, Waukesha Sobelman's Betty White-inspired fundraiser, Angelina's of Delafield's Easter Eggs on the Ceiling, and the Wilde Subaru Same Day Adoption Event, to name just a few, raising funds and awareness for HAWS.

Combining people and pets in activities means everyone wins!



DINE & DONATE



ADMIRALS DOG DAY



MARTHA & LUCKY

MOBILE HIGHLIGHTS

MAY

- May 2nd: HAWSFest
- May 9th: Sendik's Greenfield
- May 10th: Sendik's Franklin
- May 16th: Sendik's New Berlin
- May 17th: Sendik's Waukesha
- May 30th: MKE Dog Park Event

JUNE

- June 14th: The GOAT Bar & Grill for Bingo

JULY

- July 10th: Food Truck Friday
- July 13th: The Greater Lombardo Open
- July 18th: Good Harvest Ice Cream Social
- July 19th: The GOAT Bar & Grill for Bingo

*Stay tuned for our upcoming Yappy Hours in partnership with our good friends at Tito's!

Interested in hosting HAWS' Outreach/Mobile team? Contact carrie@hawspets.org.



THE FRIENDS OF HAWS

hawspets.org/friends-of-haws

2026 Calendar Cash Raffle: Tickets sold through May; drawings in June.

Garden Center Sale: Through June 30th

Shop at Shady Lane Greenhouses, W172 N7388 Shady Lane in Menomonee Falls; mention HAWS at checkout and HAWS receives 25% of the sale!

HAWSFest: May 2nd, 10am-3pm

Join us at the Waukesha County Expo Center where we'll be offering HAWS wear - including new designs, pup cups, and the very popular HAWSFest raffle.

Rummage-O-Rescue: June 5th & 6th, 10am-3pm

This "Name Your Price" event features general household items, home décor and more.

Clothing & Textile Drive: August 29th, 10am-3pm

Annual partner event with St. Vinny's - Waukesha. Drive up/drop off; details on the items accepted is available at hawspets.org. Special "thank you" bags for the first 100 vehicles!

COMING UP: September 15th: Bubba's Give's Back Night
September 19th: FREE Electronics/Scrap Metal Drive, WCTC - Pewaukee
November 13th & 14th: Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm at HAWS.

Please contact us at friends@hawspets.org with any questions.



Humane Animal Welfare Society
of Waukesha County, Inc.

701 Northview Road
PO Box 834
Waukesha, WI 53187-0834

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL? Don't miss out! Get on HAWS' email lists at hawspets.org.

CALENDAR

Events are held at HAWS' shelter in Waukesha unless otherwise noted. Please check hawspets.org/events regularly for updates and for all Mobile Adoption visits.

hawspets.org/hawsfest



Saturday, May 2nd
10am-3pm
Waukesha County Expo Center

MAY

**Lend a Paw:
Volunteer Day**
Saturday, May 16th
11am-3pm

Take part in hands-on projects that support the animals; sign up for a time slot and make a difference!

*Scan the QR code for details and to join us!



SEPTEMBER

**Annual
Membership
Meeting**
September 29th,
7pm

Learn more at hawspets.org/leadership/



EACH MONTH

Friends Meetings

May 13, Jun. 10, Jul. 8, Aug. 12 6:30pm
All adults welcome! See hawspets.org/friends.

Cat Pedicures

May 9, Jun. 13, Jul. 11, Aug. 8 9:30-11:30am
May 26, Jun. 23, Jul. 28, Aug. 25 5:30-7:30pm
Please visit hawspets.org/events prior to your visit for procedure and registration.

**Pedicures for Rabbits
& Guinea Pigs**

May 16, Jun. 20, Jul. 18, Aug. 15 9:30-10:30am
Pedicures are limited to the first 20 animals.
No pre-registration or call-ahead available.

SAVE
the date!

**Happy Tails
Gala**
October 16th



Sponsorships NOW
available at
hawspets.org/happy-tails/



**Two Great
Ways to
Recycle**

When you're done reading, please either pass this issue along to a friend, or safely recycle in your community.

Follow us for more news, resources and fun:



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