

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

# Paw Prints



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# Paw Prints

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Every year at this time, we begin looking back at the fiscal year just ended, as we prepare for our annual meeting and 'year-in-review' presentation.

It was no surprise to learn that we took in 1,050 cats and 549 dogs, which represents an increase of 65 dogs and 37 cats, compared to the prior year. When you add small animals to the mix, the total intake number for FY23-24 is 1,743 animals.

That's a big number and I'll admit that caring for that many animals has been a strain on staff and volunteers. As I write this, our shelter-animal population is 210, which means we're at full capacity in all areas: dogs, cats, and small animals.

Another big number is 6,648. That's the number of hours worked by volunteers since January 1, 2024. That's only half the year, and doesn't include all the hours our foster volunteers put in!

We also performed over 1,000 spay/neuter surgeries on shelter animals during the past year. That means more than half the animals

that come to us are not already spayed or neutered, and points to the need to increase access to affordable spay/neuter services in our community. That's something we can work on in the year ahead!

Smaller numbers can have a big impact too. On average, we provide pet food and other supplies to 20 families in need per month. Imagine how our intake numbers might increase if we weren't able to help.

As we reflect on these numbers, it's clear that the work we do together is more important than ever. Every intake, every adoption, every hour of volunteer time contributes to the well-being of the animals in our care and the community we serve.

Thank you once again for your continued support and dedication to our cause.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Tiefenbrunn".

Mary "Tief" Tiefenbrunn  
CCHS Executive Director



# ADOPT US!



Nala, 1 year



Harrow, 3 months



Gizmo, 8 years



Leia, 1 year



Bruce, 2 years



Skyler, 3 years



Laverne & Shirley, 2 years



Maggie, 3 years

These pets were available for adoption as of August 15, 2024.  
See all available pets online at [www.cuhumane.org](http://www.cuhumane.org)  
or by scanning the QR code above.

# Mutt Strut 2024 Raises \$27,000!

Many Thanks to all our Friends and Sponsors.



## Piper Rowan

*Mutt Strut 2024's TOP DOG*

A hearty congratulations goes out to Piper and Breanne! They raised over **\$6,000** for CCHS and won the coveted prize of seeing Piper's pretty face on the label of a Triptych brew coming out this Fall. Piper is a 2-year-old Australian Red Heeler/Cattle Dog/Hound mix and CCHS alum! We're so thankful for Breanne and Piper's dedication and the support they received from friends and family.

## Lucille Moody

*Mutt Strut 2024's Ms. Popular*

She may be small, but she is mighty... POPULAR! Congrats to Lucille and her human Destinee who, along with 114 individual supporters, raised over **\$3,700** for CCHS! Lucille is a 6-year-old Chihuahua/Yorkie mix who loves the outdoors almost as much as she loves food. Which isn't surprising considering Lucille won the peanut butter licking contest for small dogs at 2023's Mutt Strut!





# Avoid the Trauma of a Lost Pet

*Advice from the field*

Anyone who loves a four-legged family member can empathize with the anguish of a pet owner searching for their lost pet. Evidence of this empathy can be found every day on Facebook, where copious photos of lost pets and desperate pleas for their return are posted. Even small-town Facebook pages are peppered almost daily with lost or found pet alerts, followed by comments of support, advice, and good wishes.

The best advice we have for increasing the chance that you and your lost pet will be reunited is simple: **Microchip your pets!** (And update your contact information with your chip company if you move.)

It's well known among animal control and animal sheltering agencies that the "return to owner" rate for lost cats is abysmally low. A study by the Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine found that only 1.8% of non-microchipped cats returned home, while 38.5% of chipped cats were reunited with their owners. Need we say more? If your cats aren't chipped, make an appointment today! It can be done for a modest fee by either your veterinarian or by appointment here at the Champaign County Humane Society.

In addition to chipping, we strongly recommend that all dog owners keep a collar on their dogs at all times, and make sure the contact information on your tags is readable. A good collar and tags can get your dog returned to you directly by the finder. This is much faster than waiting for your dog to be picked up by animal control or brought to a vet clinic to be scanned for a chip.

Even if you don't think there is *any* way that your pet could get outside or break away from you, please take these precautions! Daily life includes the inherent risk of random accidents and unforeseeable circumstances. A moment of inattention or distraction; a door left open; a sudden noise that causes your cat or dog to bolt when you least expect it. Even the most competent and conscientious pet owner has been humbled by the vicissitudes of daily living.

Another thing you can do to increase your chance of finding a lost pet is make sure you keep some good quality photos of your pets on hand. Your photos should accurately portray your pet's size and unique markings, and represent your pets at their current age and body condition.

If your pet does get away, the very first thing you should do is contact Animal Control, file a lost pet report, and provide them with your photos. Next, you'll want to make some flyers to post around your neighborhood and deliver door-to-door. Although the internet is great - especially if you have neighborhood apps and use lost-pet platforms - you can't assume that everybody uses the same social media platforms or visits them as frequently as you do!



We have an additional tip for cat owners. When strictly indoor cats escape the home they are often found very close to the house. Focus your attention on plantings and structures right around the foundation of the home rather than searching the entire neighborhood. These cats are usually very frightened and find places to hide that are so small you could easily miss them. They will be too frightened to come when called. Go outside with a flashlight - best in the wee morning hours when the neighborhood is quiet - and look everywhere, even places where you don't think your cat could fit! Bring a tin of tuna or other tasty (aka stinky) treats to lure them out of hiding.

We hope these tips were helpful and that you never need to use them! To further help increase the return-to-owner rates in the Champaign County community, we will be hosting a low-cost microchip event this October with the help of our friends at Serra Subaru Champaign and the ASPCA. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more information! 🐾

# ***THE FUR BALL***



Save the date for this year's Fur Ball  
Dinner & Auction!

**Friday, November 1, 2024**

at the I Hotel in Champaign, IL

Learn more at [onecau.org/cchsfulball](https://onecau.org/cchsfulball)





DO NOT DISTURB

Bloom, adopted Dec. 2023,  
dreams about:

- Catnip
- The uncatchable red dot
- World domination
- Never having to worry about finding food, shelter, or a loving home



# 3 New Ways To Help...

...and 3 you may have forgotten!

**NEW!** **Wear your heart on your sleeve!** So to speak. Order some "Pawsitively Good Merch" like shirts, hats, and coffee mugs emblazoned with the Champaign County Humane Society logo! It ships directly to you and a portion of your purchase is a donation to CCHS. Scan this code or find our online store at [www.cuhumane.org](http://www.cuhumane.org).



**NEW!** **Party like it's your birthday!** Did you know we offer children's birthday parties? WE DO! If you're looking for a unique, meaningful way to celebrate your child's special day, consider booking their party at our new facility in Champaign! Or you can...

**NEW!** **Donate your birthday!** Do you like to celebrate your special day all month long? Then consider setting up a 30-day fundraiser to share with your entire network and let them know that our work is important to you! Contact our event coordinator Elizabeth Young to learn more! [elizabeth@cuhumane.org](mailto:elizabeth@cuhumane.org)

**Set it and forget it!** We can process an automatic monthly donation of any amount, via credit card or bank transfer. Our monthly donors ensure we have support all year long! Contact executive assistant Terri Hamer to get started. [terri@cuhumane.org](mailto:terri@cuhumane.org)



**Payroll payday!** Many local employers participate in the Community Shares of Illinois workplace giving program through which you can make donations via payroll deduction. Ask your employer about it today!

**Foster fanatic!** You provide the love and we'll provide everything else! Supplies, medical care, food - all provided by CCHS. Go to [www.cuhumane.org](http://www.cuhumane.org) and click on "Volunteer." Or scan this code to learn more.



# Alumni Pupdate



The following is from an email we received in May:

*"I adopted Talulah from your Humane Society in 2009. I was in my late 20s and Talulah was just a puppy.*

*She moved with me from Champaign, where I was a graduate student, to New Hampshire, and then to Virginia, and finally to our home in Maine, where we've lived for many years now.*

*I'm now in my 40s and she is **14 and 1/2** and still enjoying her life in Maine..."*

Happy tails, Talulah!







# Planned Giving

Just as pets come in various shapes and sizes, so does charitable giving. "Planned giving" refers to donations designated for an organization at a future date, often arranged through a will or estate plan. Additionally, you may have assets that are passed on outside of these plans, known as "gifts of non-probate assets."

Examples of non-probate assets include IRAs, 401ks, pensions, life insurance policies, and certain bank and brokerage accounts. Designation of these death-beneficiaries is done through the company that holds the account or policy. If the beneficiaries are properly identified, the asset can be transferred more quickly than the assets disbursed through a will that goes through probate.

In addition to providing a tool for writing wills and trusts, **FreeWill** - a free online resource - can help you plan for your non-probate assets.

FreeWill also has a tool for making or updating your estate plan in as little as 20 minutes. August is National Make-A-Will Month, an annual observance emphasizing the importance of creating a will. Go to **[freewill.com/cchs](https://freewill.com/cchs)** or scan this code to get started today.





# MYTHS & FACTS:

ADDRESSING MISCONCEPTIONS

by Mary Tiefenbrunn

## MYTH:

We could save more dogs if we had more kennel space.

## FACT:

Building a bigger shelter doesn't solve the problem.

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Shelters across the State of Illinois are operating at full capacity and asking pet owners to wait weeks or months to relinquish an animal because there are no kennels available. Recently a reporter asked me: "How much money will you have to raise to build more kennels for all the dogs coming in?" If only it were so simple!

### *1. If space isn't the issue, what is?*

Caring for an animal requires a lot more than the square footage of a kennel. Cages need to be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at least once daily. Animals need fresh food and water every day. They also need time outside their kennels for physical exercise and mental stimulation. Many shelter dogs need medical attention that requires daily treatments. Dogs also require well-ventilated housing, heated-or-cooled air, daylight and darkness, and a routine.

The ability – or inability – of an animal shelter to provide all these things is referred to as an agency's "capacity for care." Having 50 dog kennels in your facility does not necessarily mean that you have the capacity to properly care for 50 dogs. Capacity for care asks whether you have the resources, i.e., the necessary staffing (paid or volunteer), expertise, supplies, equipment, and funding to provide a proper level of care for all the animals in your facility.



## *2. Would having more kennels AND a greater capacity for care solve the problem?*

Not necessarily. The ultimate goal is not just to move homeless animals from the street into kennel facilities. The ultimate goal is to move as many of those animals as possible into new long-term homes. Broadly speaking, shelters have two ways of moving animals along; the ideal is directly from the shelter into a new home. The other is via transfer to another shelter that has space for more animals AND access to a human population seeking dogs.

The challenge many shelters are facing right now is not just animals coming in, but a slow-down in adoptions and hearing there is “no room at the inn” when they contact other shelters. The market for dogs appears to be saturated in all areas. With that being the case, shelters that used to readily accept transfers are full and the average length-of-stay for shelter dogs at all shelters has increased. If long-term life in a cage is not an acceptable outcome, and I would argue it is not, building more cages isn't the solution. In fact, industry experts advise communities planning to build new shelters to base their capacity not on how many animals they would like to house, but on how many animals they can expect to adopt out each month. It will always be easier to fill more cages, but warehousing animals is not the goal and relying on other shelters to take your overflow is a risky business.

## *3. So, what do we do?*

There is no quick-fix for the challenge shelters are currently facing. Of course we need to make sure that we promote and advertise pet adoption, streamline our adoption process as much as possible, and fast-track healthy animals to adoption. Even more, we need to focus our energy on the things that address underlying factors, including aggressive spay-neuter initiatives and other programs to help reunite lost pets and keep pets in homes. Such programs might address increasing access to veterinary care; assistance programs for low-income pet owners or pet-owners in crisis; and affordable/high-volume micro-chip clinics. With our communities' support, programs like these can significantly reduce the number of dogs needing care, and ease the pressure on our shelters, rescues, and County animal control. 🐾



# cats doing cat things:

alumni edition



**HIDING**

*Casey Sue, 2024*



**SEEKING**

*Moana, 2024*



**PLAYING**

*Henry (now Carraway), 2024*



**LOUNGING**

*Patches, 2023*



**JUDGING**

*Frosted Mini Wheats, 2024*



**"HELPING"**

*Nika, 2024*



## PAW PRINTS

Champaign County Humane Society  
4003 Kearns Drive  
Champaign, IL 61822

A MEMBER OF



# ADDRESS BLOCK

1234 YOUR STREET  
ANYTOWN, US 00000

## *Donor Spotlight:* **colorfil**

CCHS would like to congratulate C-U's very own **Colorfil Air Filters** by **Serionix** on their recent achievements:

- 1st Prize at the 2024 SuperZoo New Product Showcase,
- Pet Innovation Award for "Stain & Odor Remover Product of the Year," for the third straight year,
- Named in *Inc.* magazine's annual "Inc. 5000" list, recognizing the fastest-growing privately held businesses in the US.

And to put a cherry on top of their achievement sundae, you can now find Colorfil Air Filters at Lowe's home improvement stores and Chewy.com! But our favorite part is their commitment to the work we do. They donate 3% of each Colorfil purchase to CCHS. Since their first donation in 2019, they have donated over **\$173,000.00!** That's a lot of fresh air - thanks Colorfil!

*Serionix CEO & co-founder James Langer  
and the incomparable Meg*



*If your business is interested in becoming a CCHS corporate partner, please contact Development Director Sarah Sheppard at 217-344-7297 or email [sarah@cuhumane.org](mailto:sarah@cuhumane.org).*