

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

# Paw Prints



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# Paw Prints

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*Penned on 2/2/22*

It's snowing hard and the temperature is falling! If you're reading this magazine, I can trust that your pets are inside and warm - and possibly keeping you warm too.

*(Whether 8 pounds or 80, my pets have always been lap warmers!)*

The warmth we provide our pets - and the warmth we get from them, whether actual or metaphorical, is what we're all about. By we, I mean everyone at CCHS and all of you - our extended family.

We felt that warmth from you in a big way on the weekend of January 15-17, when 483 of you responded to the Betty White Challenge by making a donation to CCHS.

Betty once said that she stayed in show business to fund her animal business. I think it's clear that she was not alone in that approach to a career!

The outpouring of warmth was not limited to our community. Animal shelters and rescue groups across the entire nation - and maybe the world - felt the love. I don't think we'll ever know how much was raised, but we know it's a big number.

I think people responded so favorably to Betty White because she was authentic.

There was never anything phony about Betty and animal lovers appreciate authenticity. It's one of the things we like about our pets; the way they wear their hearts on their sleeve and give us their true selves - always.

Betty expressed what drove her to support animal causes in simple terms:

**"Our pets are here to comfort us and to love us, and it really is not much to ask that in return we care for and protect them."** We can all relate to that.

Thank you for honoring Betty this winter. We are honored to have earned your support.

*Mary Tiefenbrunn*

Mary "Tief" Tiefenbrunn  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
HUMANESOCIETY

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April

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Breanne

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Daniella

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Elijah

Emily

Justina

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Kayla D.

Kimmy

Meredith

Missy

Norlan

Sarah C.

Suhna

Yaziria



Peanut, adopted July 2021

Thank you all  
for your hard work  
and dedication.

Help our staff stay strong by  
donating bagels, snacks, lunch,  
pizza, or anything yummy!

To set up a date, email  
[terri@cuhumane.org](mailto:terri@cuhumane.org).

# REASONS TO SMILE ABOUT 2021

33

Working cats placed  
into barn homes

62

Dogs graduated from  
CCHS training programs

102

Families provided with  
free pet food and supplies

359

Spay/neuter surgeries  
performed

1,500+

Animals adopted into  
loving homes





# ASK THE EXPERT BREANNE TABBERT



## BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST

*After taking Colby home, his owner, Taylor, was faced with some behavior she didn't quite know how to handle. She reached out to our animal behavior specialist, Breanne, to help her make sense of what she was seeing.*

**Taylor:** How do I get Colby to stop jumping on me and pulling on the leash during walks? Sometimes when we are outside, he totally loses control. He will grab the leash and won't let go no matter how many times I tell him to stop or sit.

**Breanne:** Over-arousal can be a common issue with adolescent dogs as they try to figure out how to properly engage, play, and communicate with people. When Colby is so excited that he won't listen to you, it is important to figure out how to bring his focus back to you. It's possible Colby isn't being sufficiently challenged mentally and is deciding on his own how to stay entertained. It may be beneficial to try some activities that will make Colby mentally tired on walks, as well as physically tired.

**Pro Tip: Bring along a clicker and some tasty treats to practice basic manners on the walk.**

**T:** Thanks Breanne, that makes complete sense! What should I do when we are out on a walk and he starts pulling on the leash? He doesn't listen and isn't interested in treats.

**B:** It can be very difficult to get their focus back on you once they are invested in something else. There are some preventative measures you can try to stop them from getting to that point. Walking equipment, like an EZ walk or Gentle Leader, are great options because they are designed to give you more control over the dog with less force. Another option could be to start muzzle training him with a basket muzzle. Basket muzzles will still give him the freedom to open his mouth and eat/drink normally, but it removes the ability for him to grab at you during walks. Though some people perceive a dog wearing a muzzle in a negative way, I believe it is a very responsible tool and can prevent your dog from accidentally hurting you when he is in those excitable, aggressive states.

**Pro Tip: Training your dog to comfortably wear a muzzle can be daunting, so turn it in to a game!**

**T:** If I see that he is about to get super excited, is there something I can do to stop it before it begins?

**B:** If you have any inclination that his behavior is going to escalate, I would turn around and walk in the opposite direction and get him away from that stimulus as quickly as I can while also reinforcing this behavior by dropping treats along the way.

***Pro-tip: We drop treats on the ground and play "Find It" with our dogs. It keeps their focus on the ground, away from you, and makes them use those super-sensitive noses to find the treats in the grass.***

**T:** That is awesome! I will have to try those things. I think Colby will love having more games to play, but I have to confess, sometimes it is difficult to even get Colby's leash on for a walk. I sometimes find myself dreading it.

**B:** It can be difficult to look forward to a walk when it's a major feat to simply get a leash on your dog. I recommend using something of "high value" to distract him, like a plate smeared with some peanut butter. As Colby works on licking up the peanut butter, you are free to attach the leash to his collar without him noticing.

***Pro-tip: If general arousal is an issue, make leaving for walks boring. Make gathering your stuff a calm and quiet activity. You can even leave the leash out in plain sight so the leash itself isn't an exciting trigger.***

**T:** Thank you so much for all your thoughtful help. You have seriously been the MVP of helping Colby be the best family member he can be, and I am extremely grateful.



### **Do you have a question for the expert?**

Our Animal Behavioral Specialist, Breanne Tabbert, is happy to answer any questions you may have about why your pet is doing that . . . *weird thing*. Reach out to her at [Breanne@cuhumane.org](mailto:Breanne@cuhumane.org)!