

# A year full of successes, new beginnings



**New animal shelter  
opens, Sept. 10, 2020**



**TCHS adjusts to  
COVID's challenges**



**Adoption  
records  
set!**

# 2020 Annual Report



### MISSION STATEMENT

We believe in the human-animal bond and exist to support Central Minnesota by practicing and promoting quality adoption services and education programs. Incorporated Dec. 11, 1974

## Board of Directors

### President

Cheryl Ley

### 1st Vice President

Jason Hallonquist

### 2nd Vice President

Emily Bezdicek

### Secretary

Kourtney Piepenburg

### Treasurer

Sharon Welke

### Members At Large

Ron Brandenburg

Monique Halet

Bill Nelson

Heather Robbins

Kelly Sayre

Blair Schrader

Merilee Stang

Kris Stewart

Tim Stewart

Emily Swanson

Jody Terhaar

### Executive Director

Vicki Davis

### Contact Information

320.252.0896

[www.tricountyhumanesociety.org](http://www.tricountyhumanesociety.org)

MN Kennel License: MN140200

Email happy adoption updates to [pets@tricountyhumanesociety.org](mailto:pets@tricountyhumanesociety.org)

org

## Message From the Executive Director

As we reflected on 2020 to collect pieces of the year worthy to be included in our annual report, I have to say there were several big events competing for top billing. It's a year that won't be easily forgotten for many reasons. Seriously, who will be able to forget (as much as we'd like to) everything surrounding COVID? And closer in the TCHS circle, very few of us will forget the year we built and moved in to our new shelter despite the presence of COVID. With that said, the votes are in and I declare the "new shelter" news the best in show!

Opening this new animal shelter was a vision and dream come true that had been decades in the making. We certainly didn't expect to do it in the middle of a historic pandemic – but if you look through the chaos, there's a silver lining. As someone once said, when life throws you a rainy day (or months!) play in the puddles! Well, our best playtime happened around an increase in customers' interest in adopting. Our adoption rates were already high, but with many people staying home more or some nearly all the time, our furry clients were leaving almost as fast as we could get them ready for adoption. Consequently, more adoptions happened in 2020 (by appointment) than in 2019!

I'm proud to say that our team – our staff, volunteers and Board of Directors – rose to the challenges of 2020. They made changes to the way we do things – often on the fly – to help keep our community, staff and volunteers as safe as possible while doing what we do best: finding animals homes. We adopted or reunited 3,700 animals last year! We did thousands of surgeries for our pets. And while the numbers of volunteers were lower and special events (in-person ones, at least) were nearly nonexistent, we still managed to make 2020 successful for TCHS, animal placement and otherwise. And it will always be notable for our organization because we opened our new shelter on Sept. 10, 2020, after two days of moving by staff and volunteers – socially distanced, of course!

This annual report is just a snapshot of what happened in 2020. Behind every statistic is a story, and we're proud that happy endings were plentiful. During a year that challenged the world, TCHS is still standing strong and poised for an even brighter future. We want to share our successes with all of you – because we could not have done what we did without our community, this year or any other. When COVID is managed or (here's hoping) nearly nonexistent, we can't wait to celebrate the accomplishment of our new (debt-free!) shelter with all of you. Until then, stay healthy and safe, and know that we (and the animals) truly appreciate your support. Turn the pages and you'll see how TCHS played in the puddles of 2020!



Vicki Davis  
TCHS Executive Director, CAWA

# 2020 Highlights

**3,731**

Number of animals placed.  
In 2019, it was 3,668.

**94%**

Placement rate.  
In 2019, it was 93%.

**2,819**

Number of cats received.  
In 2019, it was 2,700.

**808**

Number of dogs received.  
In 2019, it was 979.

**280**

Number of "other" animals received.  
In 2019, it was 276.

**1,018**

Number of animals placed in foster care.  
In 2019, it was 1,161.

**24,987**

Facebook followers at the end of year.  
That's up 2,030 from 2019.

**1 and 1**

Number of new shelters opened!  
Number of old shelters razed!  
(But memories accumulated over 30 years: **COUNTLESS.**)



## Employees

### Management Team

Executive Director  
Vicki Davis

HR /Operations Manager  
Jon Rand

Animal Care Manager  
Laura Lund

Customer Service Manager  
Anna Stratton

Manager of Fund Development  
Tauna Quimby

Volunteer Coordinator  
Kate Kompas

### Shelter Staff

Animal Care Technician  
Rose Hegerle, CVT

Surgery Technician  
Kayla Hodgden

Foster Care Coordinator  
Kallie Braun

Customer Service Lead  
Adam Lewis

Office Manager  
Lisa Pederson

Special Events Coordinator  
Angela Mundis

### Part-time Shelter Staff

Ashley Adamsky

Jodie Andersen

Jana Beard

Kayla Carry

Kalynn Gray

Brenna Habel

Terry Hampton

Breanna Johnson

Taylor Johnson

Kaylee Kivel

Levi Lindeman

Bryn Liffbrig

Levi Lindeman

Sara Morales

Cassidy Morris

Stephanie Otto

Rebecca Partch

Annessa Rosch

Amy Schneider

Joy Schoenberg

Emily Schwintek

Hannah Smith

Dovie Tholl

Tamara Vorachit

Cha Vue

Brandy Yantes

Alan Zimmerman

# Animal Statistics



653 dogs placed



121 puppies placed



1,485 cats placed,  
1,202 kittens placed

## Animal intakes

**2,413** (Up 37 from 2019)

## Stray/safe keeping animals

**1,201** (Down 165 from 2019)

## Transfers

**297** (Up 84 from 2019)

270 "others" placed



# Veterinary Services

Despite surgeries being virtually halted when COVID-19 first took hold, TCHS

increased its number of surgeries in 2020 from 2019 by 81! Surgery Technician Kayla Hodgden started in her role in January 2020.



And now the surgery team has an in-house surgery suite! (See **PAGE 10** for more about the new shelter.)

## Staff Veterinarians



Dr. Anne Lottie



Dr. Gina Kobluk

## Volunteer Veterinarians

Dr. Traci Diggs

Dr. Carol Evans

Dr. Charlie Johnson

Dr. Cal Kobluk

Dr. Deanna Quade

Dr. Thomas Rohman

Dr. Jennifer Terhark

## Partner Veterinary Clinics

Advanced Care Pet Hospital

Animal Haven

Boysen Animal Hospital

Granite City Pet Hospital

Pinecone Pet Hospital

# Surgeries

**On-Site Surgeries: 2,351**

**Off-Site Surgeries: 26**

**Total surgeries: 2,377**

Surgery	2020
Cat Spay	1,099
Cat Neuter	904
Dog Spay	145
Dog Neuter	168
Rabbit Spay	19
Rabbit Neuter	24
Cryptorchid Neuter	19
Dental	39
Eye Removal	4
Entropion Eyelid Repair	4
Hernia Repair	11
Leg Amputation	8
Polyp Removal	3
Quill Removal	3
Toe Amputation	2
Tumor Removal	1
Wound Repair	4
Tail Amputation	5
Bladder Stone Removal	2
Exploratory	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,377</b>

# Foster, Volunteer Teams

Our foster volunteers help care for **hundreds** of our animals every year — they're like our second shelter. We are so grateful for everyone who helped prepare these animals for adoption — **thank you so much!**

## Foster care by the numbers

Tri-County Humane Society sent a total of **1,018\*** animals to foster care in 2020:

**753** cats and kittens

**197** dogs and puppies

**44** rabbits

**19** guinea pigs *and ...*

**2** bearded dragons, **2** mice, **1** bird

Reasons: Too small/young (277), Foster to Adopt (275), nursing (227), socialization (73), medical (84), pregnant (48), Adoption Ambassadors (22), upper respiratory infection (9), rehabilitation (2), behavior (1).

*\*The number of animals in foster care in 2019 was 1,161.*

*\*\* The governor's orders amid COVID-19 temporarily halted most "nonessential" surgeries. TCHS sent many unaltered animals home under "Foster To Adopt" to get them out of the shelter. They later returned for their spays/neuters, then were adopted.*

**'Virtual' Kitten Shower a Success!**

**We hosted our 2nd kitten shower to benefit our foster care program, raising \$751 and getting many in-kind donations.**



Foster Care Coordinator Kallie Braun with Shrimp, who was a bottle baby (inset).

## Top Foster Homes

1. Brent and Paula Jacobs, 33 animals.
2. Cynthia Ryg, 28 animals.
3. Marcia Chouinard, 23 animals. (tie)
4. Crystal Markfort and family, 23 animals.
5. Nancy Sturtevant, 20 animals.

With the formula of 1 hour per animal per day, foster homes logged 99,898 hours in 2020.

Tri-County Humane Society's volunteer program was hit hard by COVID-19. To keep our staff and remaining volunteers as safe as possible, we quickly cut down the number of volunteers on each shift and halted all "extracurricular" activities such as special events (the ones that were done in person, anyway), offsite adoptions at Petco and PetSmart, and visits to senior care centers. It's no surprise that volunteer hours in 2020 were dramatically down from past years. However, volunteers still managed to log **10,870** hours of service. The annual report is usually a time when we showcase how much community outreach we did; this didn't happen for obvious reasons in 2020. But we are always proud of our volunteers, and even more so in a difficult year. Thank you!

**Number of volunteers in 2020 (not counting service workers): 477**



*Faye Dyson*

*Adult Volunteer of the Year*



Faye has been a volunteer with TCHS since 2018; since then, she's put in more than 600 hours helping at the shelter. In 2020, she scaled back on some of her volunteer duties at the shelter to focus on helping Surgery Technician Kayla Hodgden as a volunteer surgery assistant. Kayla says Faye won't hesitate to come in to help in surgery in a pinch and that she often stays late to make sure the job gets done well.  
Thank you, Faye!

*Alex Freihammer*

*Junior Volunteer of the Year*



Alex has been a volunteer photographer for TCHS since 2019. She put in almost 60 hours of service in 2020, turning in absolutely impressive photos of the shelter's animals (many of which are featured throughout this report). We know Alex's work got a lot of animals noticed – and got them homes. We are so lucky she used her time and talents to help our pets.

*Scott Devor*

*Above and Beyond Award*



Although he's long been a good friend of ours, this year Scott truly outdid himself by helping organize teams to ensure we moved our shelter in a timely fashion. He and his wife, Karen Zimmer, are also generous donors. Scott has been known to build shelves, even entire storage rooms for us in the past; we don't know if we could have done the move without him. And, for years, Scott has played Santa Claus during our annual Santa Paws event.

*Pam Gacke*

*Dedication Award*



Ask any TCHS staff and they'll tell you without missing a beat how valuable Pam has been to our team for the more than four years she's been volunteering at TCHS. Pam has boundless amounts of energy and is always the first to volunteer for just about anything. She logged more than 400 hours in 2020, passing 2,000 total hours. We are so glad she is such a good friend to us!

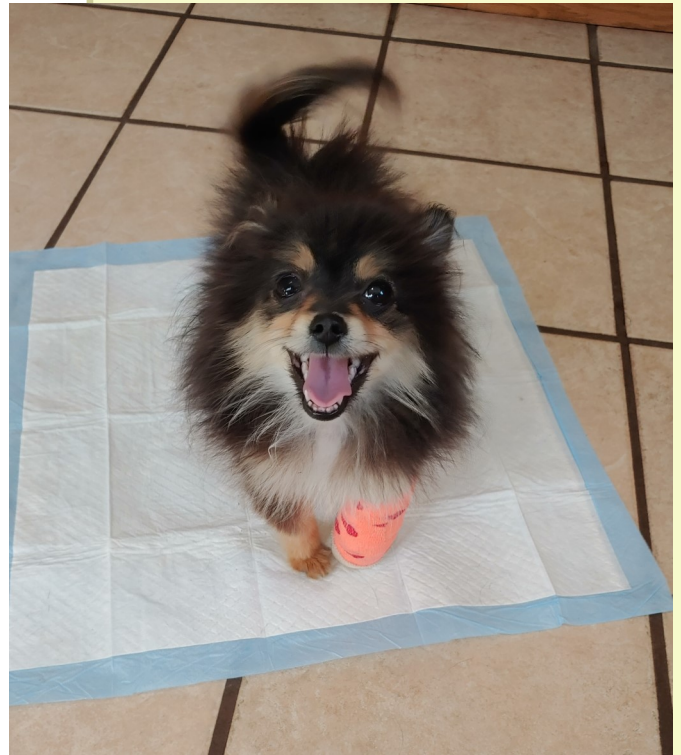
# Happy Tales

At TCHS, many animals arrive healthy, but there are always some who need a little more help. Here are some of their stories:

## *Bernadette (Bernie) Keeps Fighting*

This then 5-month-old female Pomeranian arrived at the shelter with a fractured leg. Bernie's previous veterinarian had repaired the fracture with a surgical plate and splinting. Unfortunately, her family was unable to continue providing the necessary post-operative care. There were bandage complications, and the surgical site of Bernie's fracture repair was badly infected. Amputation was a reasonable option because the infection was so severe. But the TCHS veterinary team discovered, upon further evaluation, that Bernie's knees have genetic abnormalities that require surgery. This made saving her leg even more important. Bernie needed daily bandage changing and medical care, which were provided by a foster home with a vet tech.

All the hard work paid off and her leg healed. But Bernie wasn't 100 percent yet — she became critically ill after she contracted leptospirosis (a deadly bacterial infection), and her foster home again took on her care during her recovery from that illness. Now she's feeling great and is waiting on knee surgery with her adoptive family!



## *Then Live Trap, Now Good Life*

Otto was a semi-feral (untamed) kitten spotted outdoors with visible injuries. After the finder was able to humanely live-trap him, he was surrendered to TCHS for evaluation, treatment, and potential adoption.

It took some extra TLC to socialize while providing pain control for his extensive injuries. He had x-rays taken and was found to have a fractured rear leg beyond repair, a fractured tail beyond repair, and a small pelvic fracture. Our veterinary team amputated his tail and rear leg. Otto spent time in foster care during recovery from surgery. His fosters fell in love with him, making him what we at TCHS lovingly call a "foster fail"!







## *Age is Just a Number!*

Alex was a 13-year-old domestic shorthair cat who arrived at TCHS with a medical condition the family could no longer manage: He had been diagnosed with hyperthyroidism (an over-active thyroid gland), and the former family had some trouble medicating him.

Shelter staff's initial examination showed that Alex was underweight and had signs of early dental disease. But what he lacked in good health he made up for in personality: He quickly won the hearts of shelter staff! After a thorough evaluation by our veterinary team, lab work, regular medication, and a dental cleaning at TCHS, Alex was ready for his new home!

## *Aspen Recovers from Seizures*

Aspen arrived as part of a litter of 2-month-old Golden Retriever/Border Collie mix puppies. She was adopted quickly, and started having seizures in the adoptive home. She was returned to the shelter for further evaluation and care. Aspen received immediate medical care including IV medications to stop the seizures, fluids, and close monitoring and treatments as more seizures occurred during her stay in the shelter. The veterinary team ran lab work to evaluate her organs, which were normal. She was placed in a foster home with anti-seizure meds. After a few rounds of medication and dose changes, her epileptic seizure activity was suppressed, and she's found her home!



## *Ozzy's Health Soars!*

Ozzy came in to the shelter with overgrown nails and an injured foot – poor bird! This parakeet went to foster care for rehabilitation and was adopted. His new home reports he loves to talk and sing when music is on. He is a big fan of treats and will “step up” on your finger. He's especially happy that he now has a friend, Mo (the blue bird)!

# The New Shelter At A Glance

## First date open:

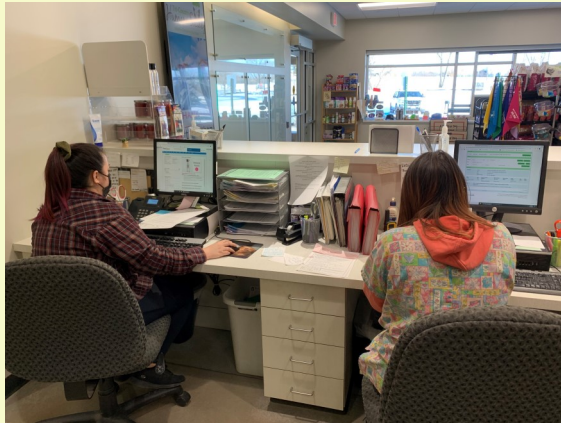
Sept. 10, 2020

## Square footage:

14,886 sq. ft.

## Notable features:

- 3 (!) cat colony rooms and a cat meet-and-greet room
- Expanded space for customer service team
- In-house surgery suite
- Private pet intake area
- Expanded exam room



## TCHS adjusts to COVID's challenges

Tri-County Humane Society made many changes to cope with the effects of COVID. To regulate customer traffic, TCHS implemented an appointment system for viewings and adoptions. All volunteers and customers started wearing face coverings long before the state mandate went into effect. (Certified Veterinary Technician Rose Hegerle, whose many talents include sewing, outfitted every staff member and many volunteers with reusable cloth masks.) And most special events became virtual to keep participants safe (see opposite page). TCHS also sold "Essential" and "All Paws on Deck" T-shirts to help raise money for the shelter; "All Paws on Deck" was particularly popular, selling more than 100 shirts!



**LEFT:** Special Events Coordinator Angela Mundis in the "Essential" T-shirt. **BOTTOM:** Rose Hegerle, CVT, with face masks she made.



# TCHS Finances

Revenue		Expenses	
Contributions	\$1,144,074	Programs	\$174,281
Fundraising	\$251,842	Fundraising/marketing	\$18,990
Shelter/programs	\$716,351	Operations	\$913,991
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,112,267</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,107,262</b>

*Revenue includes but is not limited to events, adoption fees, stray contracts, bequests, and our Capital Campaign for our new shelter.*

*Expenses include veterinary supplies, the TCHS newsletter, costs of events, wages, health insurance, payroll tax and utilities.*

**Total assets: \$5,991,367\***

**Total liabilities: \$94,523\*\***

*\*Checking/savings, buildings/property/equipment, investments*

*\*\* Includes PPP loan forgivable in May*

## Fundraisers

COVID-19 made Tri-County Humane Society turn most of its fundraisers “virtual” - with online silent auctions, fundraising drives, etc. (The Flower Fundraiser and Best Bloody Mary and Chili Contests were canceled.) Thanks to new Special Events Coordinator Angela Mundis and generous donors, TCHS still had a strong year!

**Wine, Kibbles & Bids:** \$77,003 (vs. \$80,000 in 2019)

**Give to the Max:** \$48,975 (vs. \$22,114 in 2019)

**Santa Paws:** \$5,817 (vs. \$8,500)

**Companion Walk:** \$47,695 (vs. \$50,000 in 2019)

**Gift-Wrapping:** \$5,644 (vs. \$6,500)

**Off-Site Coin Banks:** \$12,280 (vs. \$12,684 in 2019)



# Dreams do come true!

From fundraising, building,  
and planning ...



To open for  
business!



Thank you for your support!

