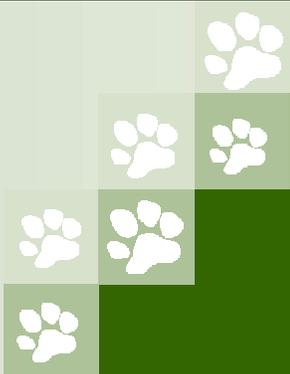


2013



Tri-County Humane Society

# Annual Report

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## Mission Statement

*We believe in the human/animal bond and exist to support Central MN by practicing and promoting quality adoption services and education programs.*



WIBS, Shelter Mascot



## Website

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

## E-mail

[pets@tricountyhumanesociety.com](mailto:pets@tricountyhumanesociety.com)

*Adopt • Donate • Volunteer*



**Executive Director**  
Vicki Davis

**SHELTER STAFF**

**HR/Operations Manager**  
Jon Rand

**Office Manager**  
Jennifer Jackson

**Customer Service Manager**  
Anna Stratton

**Customer Service Leads**  
Mae Marcattilio-McCracken  
Adam Lewis

**Animal Care Manager**  
Andrea Jaekel

**Animal Care Supervisor**  
Kendra Winkelman

**Animal Care Technicians**  
Bonnie Alexander  
Laura Lund

**Manager of Fund Development**  
Marit Ortega

**Volunteer Coordinator**  
Kimberly Williams

**Part-Time Staff**

Rebecca Christ  
Taylor Clement  
Brittany Davis  
Kay Klein  
Amanda Poepke  
Heather Royalty  
Josie Sias  
Nate Stein  
Ashley Toering  
Alan Zimmerman

## Message From the Executive Director

Dear friend and animal lover,

Typically, this is where I summarize and brag about our achievements in the previous year. Although we have plenty to be very proud of, I'm going to defer the contents of the rest of this annual report to tell that story. Our good friend Sue has beautifully summarized her thoughts on 'giving' – something that makes the rest of this report even possible and something I'd like to share with you here.

For the animals,

*Vicki Davis*

Vicki Davis, Certified Animal Welfare Administrator,  
Executive Director

*I believe there is a common bond, an inexplicable connection of souls, among people who love companion animals!*

*The compassion, the yearning to protect, nurture, and love the most vulnerable (and adorable!) companions this world has to offer, draws us close.*

*The joy in a wagging tail, a furry snuggle, a contented purr, brings profound joy to one's very core.*

*The Tri-County Humane Society, with Vicki Davis at its heart and soul, embodies all that is good in this fantastic human/companion animal union.*

*I've found that there are days in our lives when all we have to offer is our time. We're young, early in our careers, battling to make ends meet. And we have considerably more stamina than we will later in life (though we don't know it at the time)! It's at these moments that we give our time. We physically labor, we volunteer, we offer our presence. And each of these actions is rewarding and fulfilling...especially to those on the receiving end.*

*Eventually, there comes the day when we can perhaps afford to share a little more financially. We can't do as much physically, we have demands on our time from even more directions than we thought possible, we find the days flying by. It's then that we sponsor a kennel, we support the fundraisers, we donate bags of goodies to the shelter. And we are again rewarded and fulfilled, as are those who we're supporting.*

*And I imagine our world then goes full circle. We retire, live perhaps on a reduced or fixed income, can't afford the same kind of monetary gifts, but may find time to volunteer again...help with mailings, foster a furry friend, answer phones, give what we can.*

*I think it's incredibly important that we acknowledge and appreciate everyone in this journey—regardless of which phase they might be in. I truly believe that any contribution made to this organization—big or small, financial or otherwise...is enormously important and equally valuable to the wonderful mission of the TCHS.*

*EVERY selfless act is inspiring and heart-warming...from the youngest donors collecting and turning in their pennies, to the amazing veterinary staffs that donate their care and services, to the major corporate sponsors helping in ways we can't. Volunteers who clean kennels, those who take the animals out for walks on the anything-but-perfect days, those who ask for donations in memory of their loved ones...every one of you is precious, every one of you is important, everything that you do to help the animals is inspiring and appreciated!*

*It's a joy to support this amazing organization! I thank you so much for yours!*

Sue Wahl Storbeck - Proud TCHS Contributor and Supporter

# Medical Progress

The wellness of the animals in our care is always at the forefront of our minds. We have a dedicated team of animal health care specialists who helped some of the most vulnerable members of our society, the animals coming to TCHS.

We are so grateful for the services they provided in 2013. Those services gave 1700 animals that first big step toward another chance for a happy life.

Many local veterinary clinics provide us low-cost veterinary services: University of MN, Boysen Animal Hospital, Advanced Care Pet Hospital, Minnesota School of Business-Veterinary Program, Granite City Pet Hospital & Surgical Center, Pine Cone Pet Hospital, Companions Animal Hospital, Banfield Pet Hospital.

We are grateful to Dr. Lois Harmon, our veterinarian, and to the veterinarians who volunteer their services: Dr. Traci Diggs, Dr. Marta Powers, Dr. Tim Simpson, Dr. Laura Wilant, Dr. Karen Gjevre, Dr. Heather Vogal, Dr. Anne Lottie, Dr. Rohman, Dr. Melling.

Maggie came to the TCHS as a stray cat with a severe injury to her front right leg and was rushed to Advanced Care Pet Hospital. The diagnosis was grim. The wound on Maggie's leg was infected and not enough flesh and skin were available to close the wound. Even her bone was exposed. Maggie had to stay at the vet clinic. After some weeks it became apparent that Maggie needed more than just time for her leg to heal, so Dr. Gerds decided to perform a skin graft surgery, where part of Maggie's own skin was transplanted to the wound on her leg. After months of extensive care we are happy to let everyone know that Dr. Gerds surgery was successful and that Maggie is fully recovered! She is now in her new home and we have heard only good things about her!



*"Animal sheltering is constantly changing and today's organizations are faced with different challenges each day. Their ability to react to these challenges and to provide services and resources is an important component of success. Tri-County Humane Society has a wonderful history of thinking 'outside the box' by staying abreast of the latest tools, trends and programs and utilizing best practices to save animal lives. And they think 'outside the shelter' by engaging the community in their work through educational opportunities, providing lost & found services, low-cost spay/neuter services and plain old fun times like the annual 'Woofstock' Walk. Tri-County's involvement with the MnPAW state organization continues their commitment and service to the animals and people we all serve. It has been my great pleasure to work with and support Vicki and all her staff and volunteers at TCHS. Congratulations to you all on your incredible success."*

*-Lanie Anton,  
Community Initiatives  
Director for the ASPCA*

## Surgeries

### 1700 surgeries in 2013

- Cat spays 654 (620 in 2012)**
- Dog spays 163 (222 in 2012)**
- Rabbit spays 22 (17 in 2012)**
- Cryptorchid neuters 10**
- Tail amputations 1**
- Dentals 17**
- Eye removals 2**
- Dewclaw removals 2**

- Cat neuters 560 (538 in 2012)**
- Dog neuters 202 (258 in 2012)**
- Rabbit neuters 20 (20 in 2012)**
- Hernia repairs 18**
- Tumor removals 13**
- Cherry eye repairs 8**
- Quill removal 1**
- Open Wounds Closed 4**

MNSNAP (MN Spay/Neuter Assistance Program), the mobile spay/neuter clinic, had 18 visits to the St. Cloud area, 14 hosted by TCHS. In all, 542 more animals in our community were spayed or neutered thanks to MNSNAP.

Kindest Cut, another mobile spay/neuter clinic was in St Cloud twice in 2013 doing surgery on another 90 animals. Maybe not by tomorrow, but in time, these visits will surely have an effect on the number of unwanted pets in our community.



Tucker  
Intake: 8/13 Adoption: 10/13

## Tucker's Turn-Around

Tucker was surrendered because his family didn't have enough time for him anymore. During our behavior assessment Tucker turned out to have food guarding issues. He seemed like the perfect candidate for a food modification program. Working with food aggressive dogs was

always on the "goals list" for TCHS, and through recent conferences and training we finally gained the confidence to attempt our first modification.

Tucker gave it his very best and after about 1 month of training he no longer showed any signs of food aggression.

He was moved to the

adoption floor and it didn't take long for him to find his new family. We are very happy to be able to say that he is doing great in his new home and that he has not shown any bad eating habits.



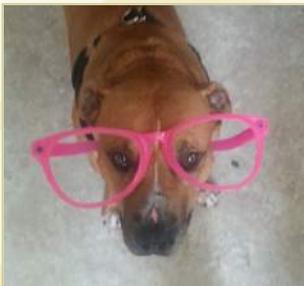
## Ruger's New Home

*Hi Tri-County Staff,*

*I wanted to give you an update on Ruger. Everything is going well since I last called you when we had a few worries about him and our cat. Ruger and Domo-Kun are getting along well now. Ruger is a sweetheart and is really good with the kids.*

*He seems to like dress up, which is great because the kids love to put glasses and things on him. He just walks around with them on until they fall off.*

*He was very well behaved the first time we left him home alone for a few hours. The second time he got into a few homemade dog cookies, but that was totally my fault. I had*



*them placed in an area that was too low and easy for him to grab.*

*Ruger does well at the dog park. He is very easy going on walks and will walk past other dogs on the sidewalk without a problem.*

*I rub and massage his hips, legs and shoulders every night and he really seems to like that. Due to his old age and the fact that he has steps to get in and out of the house, I thought it would be good for him.*

*We didn't change his name because of his age and we know he's been through a lot with so many changes already. It did not seem necessary or fair to change his name too.*

Update 2 weeks later...

*Things have been going great! He's a very well-behaved dog and has adjusted to the family. The kids really love him.*

*The cat and he get along okay. They don't really play but they have accepted each other.*

*He's so good about not rushing to food that is dropped by the kids like some dogs will do. So we keep enforcing that good behavior.*

*In all honesty, we didn't save Ruger, Ruger saved us. In a way he's become a therapy dog for us. Even in his old age, and with how many times he has been seeking a forever home, he has stayed strong. I think of that every time I am down.*

*Thank you so much.*

## A Family for Franny

Francine “Franny” came to the shelter in June. While Franny was waking up from anesthesia after being spayed, she unknowingly nipped one of our volunteers. That led to a required ten day bite quarantine. Unfortunately, she developed kennel cough during her quarantine so the next step was to start an antibiotic treatment. Finally, a month later, she was placed for adoption. The day after she was moved to the adoption floor, she went on a road trip to the 98 Country radio station and for a few minutes was the star of the airwaves. One of the DJs from the Mix 94.9 studio fell in love with her, and on July 26th she finally went to her new home! It was worth the wait. Here’s an update that Chad (her new dad) posted on his Mix 94.9 website right after coming back from the groomer.

*My wife and I have been searching for the right dog to add to our family. We already have a cat and a very active seven-year-old, so we needed one that would fit perfectly in the family dynamics. My friend and mid-day personality Cindy (the most supportive animal lover in the St. Cloud metro) happened to come across Franny and knew she was the one we’d been looking for.*

*Tracy and I have always adopted*



*our pets in the past, so this made perfect sense to go forward and adopt Franny. The team at Tri-County went to great lengths to make sure she was a good fit for us and couldn’t have been a better resource in helping us make an informed decision. They absolutely love those animals and want to make sure they find the “right” forever home. Franny fits right in with the family, and has already captured our hearts.*



Posted on TCHS's Facebook timeline.

*"Remember Miki ( Charlette )? We adopted her back in the summer time and she is now a year old. She is doing great and knows all her signs and commands, and she is even starting to work cows. We moved to a ranch in Wyoming and Miki loves it and she loves to get up early and help feed all the animals on the ranch. She truly is one amazing lil' healer. I just wanted to say thank you once again for giving this lil' girl a chance!"*





## Foster Care



Foster care volunteers help us literally expand the walls of our shelter. Our foster care program continues to be a critical piece of our lifesaving efforts, and in 2013 we brought the total number of foster homes to 136 with 802 animals going through our foster program.

When an animal is too young, sick or injured or just needs someone to teach him basic manners, foster parents help fill the gap between the time the animal is brought to Tri-County Humane Society and the time they are adopted.

Well deserved recognition to our top foster homes who opened their hearts and homes to lots of big and little noses in 2013 - Crystal Markfort: 47 animals, Nancy Sturtevant: 24 animals, Jessica Popp: 22 animals, and Lori Carr: 17 animals.

Our Foster Program helps us save more lives and you can be a part of that! For more information about becoming a foster parent visit our website at [www.tricountyhuanesociety.orgyou-can-help/jobs-and-volunteering](http://www.tricountyhuanesociety.orgyou-can-help/jobs-and-volunteering).

*"I am so proud of the progress of TCHS over the past years. Being able to spay and neuter the animals prior to being adopted out is amazing and helps the community as well. I have only been on the Board for 2 years, but I did also volunteer during college. I have seen the heartfelt dedication of the Director and the Staff and know that is how they get improvements for the animals and their care. This is a wonderful organization that needs to exist and has so much more it wants to accomplish. I plan on continuing to support TCHS for as long as they are needed to support homeless animals and the community."*

-Sherri Baker, TCHS Board president

## New Programs and Services

### Thinking Outside of the Litter Box

With a cat room full of cats that use a litter box, the chance of adoption for a cat that comes in for house soiling problems was never very good...until we launched our barn cat placement program! Now, spayed and neutered cats that are not de-clawed qualify for the program. Cats that come in for house soiling and are in need of a barn home are vaccinated and micro-chipped and then placed in their new home. Barn cats are free, although we do encourage adopters to help us with a donation.

We also successfully adopted out 2 cats that had been house soiling in the previous home to a new indoor home. The problems the previous owners described seemed to be very easy to fix so we gave it a try. After observing the cats at the shelter and in a brave foster home, they showed no sign of house soiling at all and were placed up for adoption. We will always be very open and honest about cats with a history of house soiling.

### Food Guarding Behavior Modification Program

In the past, dogs that showed signs of food guarding were considered too risky to put up for adoption. Now we look deeper into the behavior of the individual dog and can identify the ones that will qualify for behavior modification. Those dogs are then worked with daily over a period of 1-2 weeks.

It was always a goal of TCHS to be able to help dogs that show sign of food guarding.

In 2013 food guarding behavior modification was a topic at many conferences. Well known shelters introduced their methods and veterinarians along with behaviorists explained which animals would qualify and why. We listened.

After creating a protocol that would work for our setting, we launched our very own food guarding behavior modification program. Tucker was the very first dog to go through the program and he graduated with flying colors and is doing very well in his new home! Read Tucker's story on page 4.



Our amazing volunteers blessed us with the gift of 15,595 hours of time in 2013! And 336 new volunteers were trained!

With over 3,700 animals coming through our doors every year, it takes a small army to make sure that they get everything they need. As a private, nonprofit organization, TCHS operates with a limited budget, doing more with less and always looking for ways to better utilize our resources. TCHS would not be able to accomplish what we do every year without our hundreds of dedicated volunteers who donate their time and talents. TCHS volunteers work in a variety of areas including administrative support, animal care, special events, foster care, pet photography, in-shelter dog and cat training, adoption events and more. Time spent can be as rewarding for the volunteer as it is for the animals.

For information on how you can become a TCHS volunteer, please visit our website at: [www.tricountyhumanesociety.org/you-can-help/jobs-and-volunteering](http://www.tricountyhumanesociety.org/you-can-help/jobs-and-volunteering).



### Junior Volunteer of the Year

**Austin Reimer** volunteered 129 hours in 2013 as an offsite adoption volunteer, special event worker and tour guide. Austin volunteers alongside his mom, Jodie, to lead shelter tours for groups such as scout troops and birthday parties. He participated in our Companion Walk by bringing a shelter dog available for adoption to the event. As an offsite adoption volunteer, Austin also brings adoptable animals to local businesses. Volunteers like Austin are priceless and are also great ambassadors for volunteering amongst their peers. We hope he continues to volunteer with us for many years to come.



### Adult Volunteer of the Year

**Crystal Markfort** volunteered 281 hours in 2013. She's done a little bit of everything for us - shelter tours, animal care, special events and participating in our new volunteer mentor program just to name a few. As a mentor, Crystal helps new volunteers by working alongside them during their first shift. She was invaluable during the gift wrapping season, putting in countless hours at our booth. Looking to the future, Crystal is excited to get more involved by assisting with surgeries and helping out in other areas of need. We greatly appreciate her dedication and hard work.



### Above and Beyond Volunteer

In 2013, **Sara Marek** donated 369 hours in a variety of ways. She truly embodies the phrase "Jack of all trades," helping with anything and everything! Sara has participated in several fundraisers, including our Flower Fundraiser, Companion Walk, Santa Paws and Gift Wrapping. Sara became one of our volunteer mentors who help guide new volunteers during their first shift. She also continues to hold her own animal care shift and help with animal transporting. During the holiday season, Sara's generous nature escalated when she instigated numerous random acts of kindness to people and animals alike. We call Sara our super hero volunteer. We're so lucky to have her on our team!

*I have the privilege of working with our wonderful crew of hardworking and dedicated volunteers. They never cease to amaze me with their generosity and compassion for the animals in our care. We are truly blessed to have such amazing supporters and friends.*

*Kim Williams, Volunteer Coordinator*





## Vision For The Future

### We envision:

- A time when every treatable and rehabilitatable animal will be treated, rehabilitated and adopted to forever homes.
- A time when TCHS has abundant resources and finances to carry out its mission and vision.
- A time when TCHS will use technology efficiently to meet the needs for all staff, adopters and animals.
- A time when the community will be well educated about the TCHS mission, vision, purpose, and practices.
- A passion to continually explore new options and embrace new opportunities and improved animal care and enrichment techniques.
- A time when TCHS is recognized as the leader in responsible companion animal care.
- The continual development of a sound foundation to support the shelter as it evolves to meet ever changing community and animal welfare needs.
- A state of the art facility.

## Woofstock Companion Walk

Our 25th Annual 5k Walk for animals on September 7th, although a bit on the hot side, was a huge success, raising a net income of \$50,094 for the animals! The disc dog & agility demos and hot dog eating contest made for some great entertainment, along with fun games and numerous exhibitors.



## Flower Fundraiser

Our Administrative Professional's Day flower delivery fundraiser was a success! Our shelter has never smelled so good, with a record of 305 vases of roses prepared and delivered by volunteers to local businesses, raising a total of \$4,450 for the animals!

*On Give to the Max Day we raised an incredible \$11,994 for the animals during this 24-hour online giving day!*

## Wine, Kibbles & Bids

282 supporters joined us for our 12th annual wine and beer tasting, dinner and silent auction benefit for animals, held at the beautiful Gorecki Dining and Conference Center at the College of St. Benedict. Together, we raised a record net income of \$45,742 for the animals!



## Wrapping for a Good Paws

213 volunteers cheerfully put in 1,101 hours wrapping gifts at our gift wrapping booth at Crossroads Center, raising a record total of \$11,462 for the animals!

## Santa Paws



Our holiday portraits with Santa Paws fundraiser brought in a total of 201 portrait sessions during the 3-day weekend before Thanksgiving, raising a total of \$7,042 for the animals!





**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**  
Sherri Baker

**First Vice President**  
Mary Geller

**Second Vice President**  
Cyd Reuter

**Secretary**  
Sara Goodrum

**Treasurer**  
Jim Hart

Diane Buschena-Brenna  
Kurt Durrwachter  
Bill Nelson  
Kris Stewart  
Karen Zimmer

**Executive Director**  
Vicki Davis



It is a source of pride for us that the Tri-County Humane Society is an open-door shelter. No animal is turned away from our facility, regardless of health, age or temperament. And, TCHS gives all adoption animals as much time as necessary to find a new home.

Tri-County Humane Society partners and communicates with many animal welfare groups every day on a variety of issues; at times reaching out to a breed rescue to give difficult adoption candidates another chance at adoption, or by taking animals from another rescue that has too many animals and not enough adoption traffic. TCHS is committed to working with responsible partners to benefit the animals who so desperately need a chance for a new home.

**State**



TCHS is a founding member of MnPAW (Minnesota Partnership in Animal Welfare) and very active in the progressive work being done in MN. This coalition has taken huge strides in the spirit of working together. Networking as we have, animals who would otherwise have been euthanized were moved to a location where their needs could be met and a new home could be found.

The 2nd Annual MnPAW conference brought valuable and affordable information to Minnesota’s animal welfare community.

Session topics included:

- Evaluations and Behavior Assessments
- Successful Behavior Modification for Food Related Aggression
- Intake and Evaluations
- Volunteers - Recruiting and Retaining Them
- Overcoming Barriers to Adoptions

This collaboration continues to expand, be successful, and save the lives of many animals - the one goal all members of MnPAW share foremost.

In 2013, 64 dogs, 2 puppies, 19 cats, 27 kittens, and 3 small animals for a total of 115 animals were transferred into our shelter. All were from MN except for 4 Chihuahuas that came from California.

**National**



Animal welfare professionals network and share ideas about how to better improve practices within our industry.

Before research was done and data collected, myths and beliefs were the inspiration behind the policies made. All were done with the best interest of the animals in mind, but little did we know that some were actually doing the opposite. For example, years ago it was believed that the cleaner and more sterile the cage, the better. Now through studies at the national level (with a little common sense tossed in), we know that’s not the best practice, especially for cats. Spot cleaning allows cats to stay in their familiar

housing environment. Replacing and sanitizing everything in a cage every day can be very stressful, and stress is a leading contributing factor to disease. Spot cleaning will minimize stress, which will have a positive effect on the animal’s immune system. Not to mention it’s efficient for the staff and saves time. A win-win! Less stress equals potentially healthier animals equals potentially shorter length of stay.

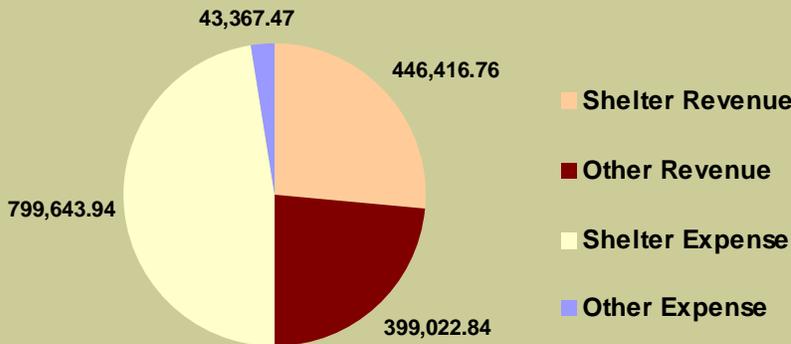
See how far we’ve come and the direction we’re going? We owe this growth and leadership to the collaboration TCHS participates in with the national organizations.

Our success to maintain our services is due to our strong base of annual donors. But our progress in the future and vision of a new shelter will depend on our community members supporting us at leadership levels.



## Finance

TCHS is a highly efficient organization which goes to great lengths to reduce our administrative costs so that the majority of funds can be focused on our lifesaving programs. Compared to other organizations with similar budgets, TCHS does a lot more for much less. We reliably receive high rankings according to national charity ranking organizations such as GuideStar and Charity Navigator. TCHS depends on the support of our local community to provide the highest quality services to the animals entrusted to us.



*"We've been finding new members of our family at the Tri-County Humane Society since 2005, when Cooper, the "Germlabeagle", joined us after our third golden retriever went to dog heaven. The German shepherd coloring, lab body, and beagle personality filled our house and our hearts...followed quickly by two reservation rescue cats, Boof and Yohan, named after Twins pitchers we'd seen right before we picked up the kittens.*

*Even when our house is already full of pets to love, I stop by the Humane Society between meetings some days just to see the animals, give them a quick hug, and head back out into a not always so loving and gentle world.*

*Thank you, Tri-County, for bringing family members, relief, and being there for questions as we've raised your former residents. Cooper is in his last days...9 wonderful years...we will return."*

*-John & Janelle Kendall*



### Sources of Funds

Shelter Revenue	\$446,416.76
Thrift Store Revenue	\$72,486.08
Donations	\$215,733.81
Fundraising	\$115,674.24
Grants	\$4,567
Other Revenue	<u>\$63,047.79</u>
<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>\$917,925.68</b>

### Uses of Funds

Shelter	\$824,461.07
Education	\$5,452.80
Thrift Store Expense	\$72,784.08
Fundraising	<u>\$13,097.54</u>
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>\$915,795.49</b>

Animal Stats	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	OTHER	TOTAL
<b>2013 INTAKE</b>	921	136	1390	1057	242	3746
<b>2012 INTAKE</b>	907	250	1245	1047	355	3804
<b>2013 ADOPTIONS</b>	804	126	1036	759	228	2953
<b>2012 ADOPTIONS</b>	748	248	914	763	328	3001
<b>2013 EUTHANASIA</b>	184	0	499	243	19	945
<b>2012 EUTHANASIA</b>	193	8	442	240	13	896

For years now, we have achieved and maintained the goal of no euthanasia of healthy adoptable animals. Now our focus is on the goal of no euthanasia of treatable and rehabilitatable animals. The progress made thus far is remarkable and staff takes great pride in every additional animal saved. More foster homes are one of the main tools in our tool box to make that happen.



# Tri-County Humane Society

*Adopt • Donate • Volunteer*

735 8th Street NE \* St. Cloud, MN 56304 \* (320) 252-0896  
[www.tricountyhumanesociety.org](http://www.tricountyhumanesociety.org)

From humble beginnings in a renovated gas station on Lincoln Avenue, the Tri-County Humane Society has made great strides establishing itself as a progressive animal welfare organization in Minnesota and a leader in the humane field nationwide.

