Celebrating a Fantastic 2019!

✓ Kitty Korner!
✓ 3,300 adoptions!
✓ Great staff & volunteer efforts

And An Even Brighter 2020!

... with a new shelter on its way!
Message From the Executive Director

Tri-County Humane Society (TCHS) has come a long way since our humble beginnings in 1974. Our 93 percent placement rate in 2019 reflects hard work and dedication by staff and volunteers, as well as significant financial contributions from supporters. The animals for which euthanasia was deemed necessary were not decisions that were taken lightly. With the new city impound contracts added in 2019, we encountered more dangerous dogs and therefore it affected our placement rate. However, you’ll soon see that it didn’t interfere with our placement numbers, which soared higher than ever before. Tri-County Humane Society is truly a place you can be proud of.

We are the reflection of your care and concern for animals.

At TCHS, we serve a much needed and important role in our community helping companion animals find caring people. We love helping make happiness happen – and we’re really, really good at it! Happy endings have been happening here for many years and it won’t be long before they’re being made in our NEW SHELTER! You heard me right and it bears repeating – our NEW SHELTER!

The time has come and it’s really happening! The building is being built!

I wonder how many of my messages over the years have made mention of our need and dream of a new shelter? Without counting, I can assure you it’s been many. With that said, I can honestly say we didn’t jump into this willy-nilly. I think there were times we did our homework twice – just to be sure things hadn’t changed too much since the last time. But it’s all going to pay off. Behind where I sit today is the shell and beginning of a wondrous new chapter for TCHS.

A brand new building on our current land, incorporating the newest ideas and best practices in animal sheltering, will allow our staff and volunteers to do an even better job. This will be a place of greater comfort and help for the animals. It will be a place where we can expand our humane education programs for children. And it will be a new source of pride for the entire community.

Highlights from our annual report (see Page 4) show some of the great work from 2019 that Tri-County Humane Society was able to accomplish. You’ll see amazing statistics and outstanding programs showing how we’ve embraced new models of effectiveness and efficiency in the service of both people and pets. It was truly another stellar year for TCHS, all made possible by the generosity of people like you who care about animals!

Thank you— on behalf of the animals,

Vicki Davis, CAWA

P.S. Stay tuned as we move out the back door and into the front door of our new humane home. With your help, we can continue to shape a true humane “society.”

P.P.S. Due to COVID-19 some of our activities will be rescheduled. Please bear with us and watch the website & social media for updates!
Our Current Wish List

For the Animals
- Help support our new shelter! (See happinesshappenshere.org for details)
- Kitten milk replacer
- Puppy milk replacer
- Money for veterinary expenses
- Feliway for cats**
- Adaptil for dogs **
- Canned (pate) cat food**
- Rabbit/guinea pig food**
- Timothy Hay**
- Toys for animals (including gently used ones)
- Meat-flavored baby food
- Heating pads

For the Shelter
- Gift cards to local businesses/ fleet stores for pet/office/shelter supplies
- Laundry detergent
- Hand soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Rubbing alcohol
- Clorox wipes
- Paper towels
- Facial tissue
- Toilet paper

For the Office
- Color/white copy paper
- Postage Stamps (Forever and postcard)
- Scotch Tape
- Batteries (all sizes)

For the Volunteers
- Foster homes! Big need: Bottle baby kitten fosters, fosters willing to take puppies (with or without mom, but no bottle feeding)
- Animal transporters
- Birthday party hosts/ hostesses
- Kitty Korner volunteers

Recycled Items for $$
- Aluminum cans
- Vehicles
- Used ink cartridges (no large toners please!)
- Gently Used Pet Supplies

** denotes sold in our Re-Tail Shoppe!

A Note About Pet Food Donations:
We try to make sure that a meat protein source is the first ingredient in the food we feed to the shelter pets, and we avoid food with a lot of dye in it. Thank you for considering their digestive health when making a donation.

For our Special Events
- Silent auction items, such as new or handmade items, event tickets (sports, museums, concerts, plays, movies, etc.), unique experiences
- Bottles of wine for Wine, Kibbles, and Bids
- Plastic totes (medium & large)

Save the date for our Kitten Shower!
Tri-County Humane Society is again hosting a Kitten Shower to prepare for our very busy kitten season. TCHS took in 1,311 kittens last year – whew! While kittens bring so much joy, they also bring a lot of work and needs! We hope to hold the Kitten Shower from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 25th, at the TCHS Training Facility behind our shelter. It will feature fun games, snacks, and, of course, kitten cuddles! Admission is $2 per person and/or $5 per family, or an appropriate in-kind donation – high-quality kitten food, Kitten Milk Replacer, non-clumping cat litter, etc. Please watch www.tricountyhumanesociety.org for more details or necessary changes to the scheduled date, or keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Shop at TCHS
Find funny, quirky, even sassy animal-related novelties at TCHS’ Re-Tail Shoppe in our lobby! We’ve got a ton of products that will show your love of all things dog, cat, or critter. (They make great gifts, too!) The best part: All the proceeds go back to our pets.

2 Ways to Buy Once and Give Twice:

1. Shop our Re-Tail Shoppe for items with a “Buy Me 4 Shelter Pets” sticker! Because you purchased at TCHS, 100% of the profit benefits the animals, and we get items on our wish list!
2. Shop our Amazon Wish List using Amazon Smile! Visit our website (Get Involved—Donate—Wish List) for the link and details!
2019 Annual Report Highlights:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter Revenue</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019 %</th>
<th>2018 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Contributions</td>
<td>$1,431,751</td>
<td>$502,130</td>
<td>60.5%</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$181,562</td>
<td>$221,798</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Bequests</td>
<td>$103,571</td>
<td>$11,686</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$20,635</td>
<td>$15,994</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter Income</td>
<td>$627,444</td>
<td>$507,898</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$2,364,963</td>
<td>$1,259,506</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter Expenses</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019 %</th>
<th>2018 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$139,935</td>
<td>$145,868</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; Development</td>
<td>$277,129</td>
<td>$256,009</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>$75,443</td>
<td>$70,121</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter Expense</td>
<td>$585,171</td>
<td>$535,492</td>
<td>54.3%</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$1,077,678</td>
<td>$1,007,490</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capital Campaign Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital Campaign</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign</td>
<td>$518,815</td>
<td>$123,020</td>
</tr>
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</table>

$1,000,000 donation from Shelter Revenue has been board-designated to the Capital Campaign.

2019 Volunteer Highlights:

- Tracey Worzala: Adult Volunteer of the Year
- Joey Lucius: Above and Beyond Volunteer of the Year
- Kaylan Kremer: Junior Volunteer of the Year
A Purr & Wag of the Tail to...

Amazon Smile Customers who select Tri-County Humane Society as their charity. We received $435 in the last quarter.

Everyone who made TCHS’ Tending for a Cause at Beaver Island Brewing Company such a huge success. Board Members Blair Schrader and Bill Nelson were our volunteer bartenders, encouraging support with our friendly Cats. Vs. Dogs tips jars (cats won!). Paws-up to the TCHS Board of Directors for planning this fun event, which raised $1,671. (And thank you to Erbert’s and Gerbert in downtown St. Cloud for donating sandwiches!)

McDowall Company, their employees, and their families for donating the proceeds from their Halloween Family Fun – fundraiser to the TCHS new building fund.

Waffle-It, for donating from its third anniversary fundraiser.

Anderson Trucking Employees who selected TCHS as their charity at their holiday party.

Danny’s Dugout and St. Cloud Area Golden Gloves Boxing for sponsoring meat raffles to benefit the animals in our care.

Members of the St. Cloud Unschooling Network who hosted a craft show, donating proceeds.

Mrs. Oeding’s fourth-grade class in Becker was gifted $25 from the gratitude project to donate to someone who could use it. They talked about gratitude and how it feels good to help others in need and then donated the $25 to Tri-County Humane Society. “We know you work tirelessly to help animals find good homes and help those that are ill.”

Employees of Viking Coca-Cola for providing food for the animals as part of a holiday fundraiser.

Cloudy Town Sam’s RV Club for donating supplies to care for the animals.

The Janel Morgan Team for selecting TCHS as one of their charities of the year in 2019. A percentage of each home sale was donated to one of three nonprofits. In January, Vicki Davis accepted a check from The Janel Morgan Team for $9,400.

Members of Cold Spring Snap Fitness who participated in a challenge fundraiser for the animals – win/win!

The ADDA Club at St. Cloud Technical & Community College who made and sold holiday items benefitting TCHS.

FS3 Inc., of Annandale for hosting its annual “Going to the Dogs” Charity Golf Scramble and matching the proceeds. In December, the group presented a check to TCHS for $9,000.

Minnesota Truck Headquarters for making TCHS part of its “Race to 300” event. A portion of each vehicle’s sales during the event were donated to charity – and TCHS received nearly $10,000.

Callan’s Furniture and its customers for making TCHS a recipient of the Charity Furniture event.

Girl Scout Troop 636 for donating part of its proceeds to doing a supply drive for TCHS.

Petco in Waite Park for hosting Pictures with Santa, which in part benefited TCHS pets. (Thanks also to the volunteers who staffed this event!)

Red Carpet Events Center for hosting our annual Bloody Mary and Chili contest in January.

G Allen’s for hosting a meat raffle to benefit Tri-County Humane Society.

Crossroads Center for its partnership with Tri-County Humane Society for Gift Wrapping for a Good Paws. (Thanks to all the volunteers who did so, too!)

All the businesses that host our coin banks to support our shelter – and all the volunteers who collect the money for us!

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Spray-ghetti & meatballs dinner

4th Annual

tricountyhumanesociety.org/spay-ghetti

Due to COVID-19 concerns, this event will be scheduled for a later date.
Stay tuned!

Tickets $10 each online, at TCHS or at the door.

VFW POST 6992
901 N Benton Dr
Sauk Rapids MN 56379

Fun Fact:
The hearing of the average cat is at least five times keener than that of a human adult.

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320.252.0896 | PO Box 701, St. Cloud, MN 56302 5
Starting in January 2020 we are publishing our donor list a little differently to allow us to take a “deeper dive” into other topics in each newsletter. Memorials and Honorariums will be published in the issue nearest to the date received. Kennel Sponsors will be published in Issue 2; Constant Companions in Issue 4; and all other donations (from throughout the year) will be published in Issue 1, which is this issue.

Thank You, Donors!

ADDAClub, St. Cloud Technical & Community College
Bob Abel
Advanced Care Pet Hospital
Ronald Ahlman
Angie Ahrens
John & Caroline Andersen
Joleen & Mark Anderson
Nancy Anderson
Rollie & Barb Anderson
Steven & Valerie Anderson
Ross & Romelle Anfinson
Beth Anvary
Kenneth & Linda Bachofer
Nancy & Mike Backstrom
Mary Bahe
Cathy Bales
King & Barbara Banaian
Louise Baribeau & Mark Duea
Robert R Barr
JoAnn Baumgart
Bob & Rosanne Beattie
Eric Becker & Heidi Halverson
Jeff Bennett
Angie & Mark Benson
Benton County
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Dorothy Berg
James Berg & Mary Kruger
Kelly Berglund
Sara Berhow
Sandi Bernard
Jason & Jennifer Bernick
Tara Bernick
Bernice Berns
Denny & Carole Bettendorf
Tom & Sondra Beuning
Emily Bezdicek & Shane Zuhlisdorf
Dick & Mimi Bitzan
Stephen & Lola Blattner
Laura Blenkush
Marie Blomquist
Robert & Margaret Boatz
Katie Boecker
Matt & Jody Boisen
Cheryl Bounds-Spellacy
Heidi Boynton
Sharon Braiedy
Sandra Brakstad
Lisa Brownstein
Sharon & Craig Bucher
Kathleen Burdick
Elsie Buscher
Bonnie Bush
Mike & Julie Butkowski
Gordon & Kay Buyse
C & H Truck Repair
Kathy Calvin
Capital One
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Sara Christensen
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Daniel & Jodi Ciskovsky
John & Cindy Clemens
Companions Animal Hospital
Julie & Charles Condon
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Edward Cook
Barbara L Corson
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Moskowitz
Ron & Donna Court
Aaron & Sarah Crandall
Tom & Mary Cress
Geri & Marty Czech
Jane & Steve Daffrinrud
Dahlberg Family
Denise & Duane Dahlheimer
Dennis Dalman
Gene & Carol Danzeisen
Kristin Darnall
Mary Davis
Letti Delk
Richard Dendinger
Warren Determan
John Detra
Leigh Dillard
Patricia Ditlleson
Dwayne & Cindy Dockendorf
Ruth Dolven & Gary Kelle
Carol Donbroski Charitable Fund
Lisa Dorsch
Charles & Diane Malone Driver
Brock Droll
Mark Duea
Judith & Lyle Dunbar
Linda Dvorak
Gael & Barbara Eastwood
Maymie Ecker
Marlow Eckhoff
Diane Eichinger
Joyce & David Eickhoff
Tom & Sue Eickhoff Charitable Fund
Molly English
Olaf & Constance Erickson
Dale & Patty Evens
Steve & Carrie Fasching
John Faust
June Felch
John & Doris Feuchtengberner
Shirley Fiala
Darci Fiecke
Eric Fink
Robert & Stacie Flaherty
Michael & Ann Forner
Michael & Joyce Fossum
Krista & Matthew Fouquette
Judy Franz
Geri Friday & Megan Auger
Gerald & Rosalyn Fritz
John & Nancy Frobenius
Karen Frohrip
FS3, Inc
Jaime Fuchs
Linda Fuhrman
Michelle Garber
Kathy Geary
Jeanne Geiser
Kevin Genosky
Scott Gibson
Patricia & Glenn Goenner
Tanja & Joe Goering
Gail Gornik
Mike & Marcia Goss
Kevin & Carol Graves
Judith Grooters
Mike Grundhoefer
Anne & Mark Gucinski
Kathy Hagen-Acker & David Acker
Ann & Jason Hallonquist
Emily Hammond
Kelly Hanke
Esther & Michael Hanlon
Melissa Hansen
Ann Hanson
Brad & Lisa Hanson
Patricia & Richard Harper
Garth Harris
Jessica Harstad
Patrick & Rose Hegerle
Taylor Heim
Susan Held
Chad Heltemes
Robert & Mary Jane Hennen
Corrine Hibbard
Mary & Kent Hinkemeyer
Bob & Diane Hohmann
Bambi Holloway
Dick & Ann Holt
Terry & Kimm Holz
Home Town Title, LLC
Jan & Jim Hovda
James & Kelly Hover
Jim & Karen Howard
Pam Howard
Kaitlyn Hughes
Christine Hupe
Barb Husby
Roger & Thelma Huyink
Tom & Linda Hynes
Jo Iverson
Bev Jansky
Orrin Jardine & Jody Rademacher
Joseph & Carol Jerkovich
Carol & Gary Joffe
Ann Marie Johnson
Johnson-Moore Fund of the CMCF
Kevin & Julie Johnson
Sharon Johnson
John Jonas
Micya Jordan
Mary & Stephen Jost
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Mya & Ashley Justin
Kim & Tess Kasling
Nancy Keisling
Bob & Katherine Keller
Cindy Kennedy
Cari Kenner
Jerry Kenning
Kevin & Luana Klimek
Ron & Linda Klinkner
Kloster Industrial Assets, Inc.
Kathleen Klug
Maridee Knauf
Judy & Ken Knudsen
Jackie Kolbinger
Mike & Linda Koltes
Kate Koppas & Chris Shields
Raechel Loecken Konczewski
Dennis Konz
Pam Konze
Koopmeiners Family Fund of the CMCF
Kay Kortlever
Linda Kozak
Sandy & John Krebsbach
The Kremer Family
Francis & Michelle Krippner
Chris & Joanne Kudrna Fund of the CMCF
Dave Kuefler
Sue Kuzma
Bob Lacroix & Ruth Mestnik
Cathy Lampert
Andrew Larkin

Donations of time and talent by hundreds of volunteers, donations of products and services by area business, and donations of money by so many people who care. Thank you for saving lives!
Thank You, Donors! (continued)

This is a list of donors who made gifts in and gave us permission to publish their names.

Kevin Larson  
Lois & David Larson  
Bruce & Deb Latterell  
Tammy Leach  
John & Jerry Lenoe  
Dan & Marilyn Lepinski  
Steve and Debbie Leslie  
Cheryl Ley & Richard Witteman  
Dick & Rosie Leyk  
Diane Liebrenz  
Carol Lien  
Mary Lou Lierer  
Gretchen & David Lindgren  
Robert Lindstrom  
Dr. Yang Lo & Dr. Rachel Schuneman  
Gerard & Faye Loehrer  
Pam Loehr  
Roxy Darlene Long  
Martha Luedtke  
Deanna Lundquist  
Jannette Luthens  
Natalie Bloom Lyons  
Casey Maas  
Ryan Mack  
Karl & Lauretta Madsen  
Jeffrey & Julie Magera  
Thomas & Deirdre Mahoney  
Martin Mahowald  
Beverly Mallgrave  
Kateri Mancini  
Virginia & Harry Marso  
Christopher Martinson  
Robin May  
John Mazzitello & James Swanson  
Penny McDonald  
McDowall Company & their employees  
161

Raymond Zittlow  
Devor  
Emily Zempel  
Karen Young  
Laurel Yanish  
Josephine Yaroshefski  
Kathy & Joanne Tardiff  
Debbie & Kevin Wood  
Julie Wood  
Steve & Karen Wood  
Tracey & William Worzala  
Pam Wostrel  
Twylla Wozniak  
Don Watkins  
Paula Wavrin  
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Martha Weno  
Natalie Wenz  
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Michaela Willhite  
Cathie Williams  
Diane & Bill Winscher  
Jeffrey Winter  
Kathryn & Paul Wirth  
Luke & Yas Wotjanowicz  
Ann Wolff  
Debbie & Kevin Wood  
Julie Wood  
Steve & Karen Wood  
Tracey & William Worzala  
Pam Wostrel  
Twylla Wozniak  
Dan & Fawn Wright  
Laurel Yanish  
Josephine Yaroshefski  
Karen Young  
Emily Zempel  
Roger Ziegmeier  
Karen Zimmer & Scott Devor  
Raymond Zittlow
Dedications: In Memory of Pets

Buddy & Hunter
Hydrostat Inc.
Buffy
Nancy & Larry Norton
Buster & Ginger
Lin Funk
Buster & Baz
Ted & Claire Hotvet
Candy, Emma Lu, Sparty, Jake, Sasha,
Teddy, Annie & Tucker
Nicole Herr
Chai, Sami, Simon, Honner & Tasha
Gary & Nellie Klein
Chalupa
Brenda & Chelsea Olson
Charlie
Linda Christensen
Charlie
Dwayne & Cindy Dockendorf
Charlotte
Marti Bunde
Chase - Merry Christmas in Heaven!
Shonna Gacke
Chase De Boyd
Karl Krueger
Chase Gacke
Carol Berg
Cheerio, Benji, Kia & Ozie
Larry Ellis
Cherry
Lucy Lang
Chester
Sibyl Pelz
Chester
Sarah Smith
Chewbacca
Opatz Metals & Roloffs
Chewbacca & Butchie
Robin Jokela
Chloe
Mary Helen Montgomery
Chubbys & Isis Felderman
Marvin Felderman Jr.
Chuck, Judy, Liza, Brandon, & Madeline
Jamie Fuchs
Cleo
Stacy & Ryan Tamm
Cleo Latterell
Barbara Latterell
Cocoa, my sweet & sassy cat
Harlan & Lisa Larsen
Cody
Chuck & Joni Koehler
Cookie, Kitty, Tabby, Tigger, Ernie, Abby,
Lucky, & Samson
Susan Held
Cotton
Sharon Braunberger
Daisy
Barbara & David Burandt
Daisy Schad - One of the most special
souls I have ever met.
Libby Defrier
Daisy, Iris & Bernie
Sue Ellen Pope
Dakota & Trudy
Ginny Gapisinki
Daphne
Alan Mary & Kat Faber
Dash - Our Sweet Granddog
Sherri Bezidicek
Diana
Rose & Patrick Hegerle
Dodge
Janis Minnerath
Dogs, Cats & Horses
Jan & Ted Dahl
Dot Dot
Irv & Jean Loftus
Draco
Michelle Garber
Dugal
Randy & Brenda Fischer
Duke
Catherine Makowsky
Duke & Brin
Mike & Pam Dille
Ed & Marie
Jenny Rahe
Edgrr
Susan Dege
Ella
Janis Minnerath
Ellery
Meg Lewis
Ely
Brittany & Stephen Swarts
Emma
Becky Coulter & Sanford Moskowitz
Emma & Kelly
Larry & Marilyn Grover
Emmie
Jeanette Hannemann
Ettie Jane, Abby & Reggie
Jacquelyn Brunn
Ekow
Sue Johnson
Fluffer, Jake, Tesse & Katie
Denny & Carole Bettendorf
Fogurt, Joy, Squirt, Honey & Lucy
Barb Kolbinger
Frankie
Kaye Schimmich
Frannie
Patricia Perrier-Loesch
Freckles
Cyndy Schultz
Freya
Missy Pedersen
Gizmo & Dulce
Carla & Randy Johnson
Gralie & Buddy
Dean Trushenski
Greta
Mark & Sandy Hannemann
Gretchens & Misty
Bernice Koczur
Gussie & Hanky
Denise Olson
Harry
Konnie & James Benson
Harry
Mike & Cathy Cleland
Hawk
Trish & Dave Welle
Holy
Gary Hollenkamp
Holly & Princess
Charles & Rosemary Jerenberg
Holly Belle, Penny, Apache & Porchie
Jill & Jeff Waytashke
Homer
Anonymous
Homer
Loren & Renee Weinberg
Honey
Beth Thieschafer
Ike
Renee Dowsett
Isabel & Walker
Carollyn Wold
Isabelle
Lin Funk
Ivan
Laurie Klarkowski
Ivy
Jennifer Brutger
Jasper & Jack
Peter Gaetz
Jeanie
Annette Peters
Jenna, Mickey & Mona
Carolyn Carringer
Joey
Larry Asplin
Josie Jones
Karen & Dale Kleinschmidt
Kandi
Trish & Dave Welle
Kiki
Leslie Abraham
Kiki
Neal & Claudia Coit
Kitty
Thomas & Denise McNeal
Kona
Deb Kitttridge
Krusher - Our Beloved Border Collie
Jim & Lois Tesch
Kya
Carol McNeal
Leelo & Mac
John & Debra Fischbach
Lightning
Joan & Bob Anderson
Lily
Preface Hedin
Lincoln Murphy Reum
Amy Reum
Lila
Mary Boltuck
Lizzie
Spike’s Acme Fund
Lola
Larry & Myrna Habstritt
Lucie Hyatt
Darin & Michelle Hyatt
Lucky II
Pat Anderson
Lucy
Linda L. Satre
Lucy, Moly, Merc, Casey, Ralf, & George
Mary & Phil Dullinger
Mac, Our Super Cat of 20 Years
Mike & Wendy Holman
Maddy Lynn & Cleo Patra
Kourtney & Justin Piepenburg
Maggie
Rollie & Rene’ Krueger
Maggie
John & Gaylene Wendle
Many Cats Who Have Given Me Unconditional Love
Patricia Rosendahl
Matisse
Anthony Starcevic
Maverick, Pumpkin & Joey
Joan & Bob Anderson
Max
Anita Krebs
Maxie, Mitz & Fluffy
Dennis & Verna Koep
Mazy Mae Smith
Brandon Smith
All My Cats & Dogs
Bouquet St, Suite 101
Forest Lake, MN 55025
www.tricountyhumanesociety.org
8
Deductions: In Memory of Pets (continued)

- Prince, Marvin, Daisy & Buddy
- Barbara & David Burandt
- Pubert, Pubsley, Shiloh, and Newman
- Lisa Brownstein
- Remy
- Dee Whitlock
- Reuben
- James Hart
- Rio
- Runay Olson
- Rosie
- Chuck & Kitty Haselkamp
- Rori
- Kathy Hagen-Acker & David Acker
- Rufus
- Mike & Georgia Thienes
- Sable & Sheba
- Ed & Bernie Silvers
- Sadie
- Catherine Green
- Sadie
- Cleo O'Boyle
- Sadie
- Laverne Justin
- Sage & Karmie
- Wendi Jones
- Sam & Hunter
- Kelly Lukason
- Sammy & Charlie
- Connie Kollmann
- Sammy & Rosie
- Judith & Kenneth Neelund
- Scochi
- Elizabeth Wurdak
- Shadow & Hammer
- Boeckers Family
- Shatzie & Esther
- Ross & Karen Langsjoen
- Shelby, Buster, Ginger, Sasha & Rex
- Donna & James Leyk
- Shrek
- Pamela Marteness
- Sibyl Pelz
- Mark & Sue Durant
- Sierra
- Patricia Farrow
- Simon & Krusher
- Sue Williams
- Sir Bozley Joseph Brandywine
- Pat Shemick
- Snickers
- Robert & Roberta Nickerson
- Snickers April Mack
- Murray & Sue Mack, HMA Architects
- Sandy Gallus
- Goldie Gallus
- Sophie
- Rita Bartl
- Sophie Hoffman
- Phyllis Hoffman
- Springer, Tob, Pooh, Tigger 1 & 2
- Sandy Denne & Beverly Oehrlein
- Stella
- Christa Hartkopf
- Stella & Abe
- Bonnie Holm
- Steve
- Jackie & Sammi Goodwin
- Storm
- Peyton & Paige Budde
- Storm "Dougie"
- Greg Ogden
- Sylvester & Sawyer
- Kirk & Terry Atkinson
- Tali, Melissa, Ladd, Patches & Laddie
- Barbara & Tom Frank
- Teak, Willow & Lady
- Charity Sonnenberg
- "The Lord God Made Them All"
- Julie Aronson Dehnel
- The Wonderful Pets I've Loved
- Shiloh Griswold
- Tiger
- Becky & Randy Tenvoorde
- Tigger & Mickey
- Theresa & Robert Lewellyn
- Tinker, Tigger, Timber, Bandit, & Buddy
- Jim & Karen Howard
- Tobie
- Carol Koenig
- Toby
- Julie Bouchie
- Toby
- Lin Funk
- Toby Johnson - a sweet & goofy guy

Deductions… In Memory of People

- Allen Regehr
- Julie & Timothy Olson
- Alton & Dorothy Johnson
- Theresa Johnson
- Andrew Solinger
- Lois Solinger
- Arlys Larson
- BerganKDV
- Cynthia & Craig Cunningham
- Rose Mary Doehrmann
- Friends & Family
- Bruce Larson
- Glenn & Linda Mancel
- Debra Millner
- Alvin & Donna Schell
- Ann & Kevin Schell
- Carol Jean, Dale & Scott Sova
- Thomas & Jeanette Trobec
- Sandra Wright
- Audrey Imholte
- Susan Rosenberg & Jeffrey Roos
- Barb Meuers
- Jeremy & Erin Forsell
- Barb's Mom
- Barb & Chuck Seefeldt
- Bill Melville
- Barbara Melville
- Bill Schmainda
- Gerald Schmainda
- Bradley McClintock
- Laurie McClintock
- Bud Davis
- Mary Davis
- Carlos Ortega
- Bev Carlson
- Vicki Davis
- Evan & Carol Jones
- Carol Decker
- Diane Decker
- Carol Kramer
- Lynn Meyer-Kelzenberg
- Charlotte Nelson
- Vicki Davis
- Friends & Family
- Charles & Laurie Gahm
- Cheryl Hanson
- Jason & Mitchell Hanson
- Dale S. Christensen
- Linda Christensen
- Debra Joy Wagner
- Anita Backes
- Diane White
- Juliane & Mark Anderson
- Marv & Lana Feldman
- Brenda Fischbeck
- Debra Hoye
- Tim Ingeman
- Gerald & Sandra Jackson
- Bill & Judy Morgan
- John Munson
- Ken Schwinghammer & Carol Teter
- Jill Waytashek
- Tom Huffman & Kristin Vonnegut
- Toby, Bella & Mickey
- Keith & Marci Rich
- Toby, Winston, Brock & Natti
- Dan & Cecilia Rathburn
- Troy & Jackson Weide
- Jacquie Weide
- Tucker
- Nancy Efa
- Vera, Cookie & Babu
- Susie Osaki Holm & Mark Holm
- Whiner
- Marie Andersen
- Whiskers
- Lynn J. Cairns & John Olsen
- Willie & Hunter
- Ron & Diane Fink
- Willy
- Adam & Emily Herron
- Willy, Grace, Ollie, Snowflake & Little Mom
- Justin & Carol Otremba
- Winnie
- Joy Bowe
- Wolfe
- Lindsay Zerfas
- Wyatt
- Kim & Mark Hoff
- Zach
- Elaine Kaeter
- Zella
- Suellyn (Susie) Hofmann
- Zeusi & Pasha
- Rita Haniff
- Zoey
- Dan J. Robertson
- Dona David
- Jan Stanley
- Dorothy Bernice Olson - a big animal lover, especially cats
- Gladys Burmester
- Randy & Lynn Ellingboe
- Lora Robinson
- Rosemary & Frank Roehl
- Frances & Bruce Rowen
- Janice Sorell
- Charles & Joan Tanger
- Robert & Rona Tanger
- Steven & Carol Walz
- Dorothy Sadlo
- Jeanne Salzer
- Dr. Luther Dehnel
- Julie Aronson Dehnel
- Dr. William A. “Bill” Dahl
- Vicki Davis
Dedications... In Memory of People

Earl & Veronica Solinger
Sarah Marie Solinger
Elva
Chester & Louise Dziuk
Erma Therese Benoit
Rebecca Benoit & Jack Peterson
Florence Casper
Ralph Dent
Fran & Arlene McGreevy
John & Pati McGreevy
Francis Carriar
Kathy Carriar
Frank & Margaret Drinkwine
Scott & Lynette Erickson
Friends & Family
Ruth Hinnenkamp
Galen & Sandra Johnson
Diane Wesenberg
Gary Abraham
Leslie Abraham
Gayle Schmidt
Glady's Kucera
Jim & Brenda Mayer
Bill & Marilyn Ruhr
Jim & Brenda Mayer
Karen & Lyle Felsch
Harlow Ostbeoe
Jacqueline Osterhaus & Craig Lukow-Daniel Patton
Lois Rothstein
Diane Trisko
Jerry Barthel
Diane Barthel
Joyce Juel & Diana Holley
Maurice & Yvonne Roche
Judi Finneman
Rebecca Benoit
Judy Schweiger
Peggy Schlicht
Kathryn Pearce
Theresa & Robert Lewellyn
Kim & Bob Ritsche
Jan Ritsche
Kirsten Hansen
Michael Nixon
Linda Mohs
Dennis & Marguerite Schlichting
Lissie Kaufman
Jill Waytashek
Lori Carlson
Ruth Peterson
Lottie
NC's Doghouse
Louis Joseph Benoit
Rebecca Benoit
Nadine Henz
Maria Mendoza
Elizabeth & Richard Rauenhorst
Mary Pietz
Pam Pietz
Mary Roda
Marge Roda
Megan Atkinson
Kirk & Terry Atkinson
Melodie Dukowitz
Diane & John Larson
Missi Rogers
Shirley Fiala
Karen & Dale Kleinschmidt
Nancy (Davis) Hommerding
Mary Davis
Nikki Abel
Brenda Abel
Michele Abel
Robert Abel
William & Mary Claflin
Kathy Daniel
Vicki Davis
Vicki Devine
Diane & John Dornmanen Foundation
Tim & Carol James
Jane Roberts
Steve Upgren
Vadine Law Office
Lewis & Patricia Walker
Penny Horton
Tom & Mary Cress
Connie Cross
James England
Friends & Family
Jack Horton
Robert Peterson
Randal "Randy" Ryan Hohbein
Randy & Lisa Hohbein
Daryl & Marlys Johnson
Randy & Laura Mildenberger
Robert Noggle
Annette Hoeschen
Roman Braunberger
Sharon Braunberger
Sarah Leonard
Kim Golembek
Scott Burnison
Carol Walz
Shane Rengel
Linda Coleman & Eta Tripp
Steve Emblom
Spencer & Judith Buerkle
Steve Frank
Barbara & Tom Frank
Sue Holm
Debra & Daniel Schroeder
Susan Eickhoff
Accredited Investor Services
Christina & Greg Nyguen
Susan Patton
Emily Murphy

Dedications... In Honor of Pets

Adam's Three Snakes, Aleksey, Alice, Ambrose, Archie, Babousa, Baymax, Bella, Berbil, Boots, Buddy, Calvin, Charlie, Dobbie, Dottie, Engress, Foxy, Gabby, George, Gypsy, Happy, Harvey, Hot Fudge, Jerry, Kita, Lala, Lucky, LuLu, Madeline, Mishka, Miss Frizzles, Nala, Nola, Nova, Olivia, Osbourne, Ozzie, Parishoners 10 Rabbits, Penelope & Her Kittens, Pepper, Perry, Pete, Peter Rabbit, Pico, Pigeon, Roger, Rolly Poly, Ruby, Sara, Sascha, Stella, Stinker, Sweet Pea, Theo, Miss Kitty, Thumper, Toff, Tom, Treasure, Zalee
Sarah Marie Solinger
All God's Critters
Michael & Rosemary Haakonson
All My Critters
Arlene Mason-Kosfastad
All My Pound Puppies
Loretta Delk
All Our Dear Friends In Need
Patricia & Thomas Storey
All Our Fur Babies
Cindy & Dean Seppelt
All Our Furry Friends
Don & Jenny Anderson
All Our Rescue
Dick & Perian Stavrum
Barney
Sandra Brakstad
BooBoo & Reva
John & Leanne Qualey
Brittling & Mulberry
Vivianne Murphy
Buddy, Dela & Linksi
Pete Johnson
Duffy, Dusty, Muffin, Alfie, Sammy & Zipper
Donna & Donald Stelzner
Calvin
Brent Pikkala
Champ, Keeks & Moo Pickles
Adam & Emily Herron
Charlie
Glady's Burmaster
Chase
Pam Gacke
Chester & Merlin
Kelsey Polcher & Travis Hocket
Chloe
Carol McNeal
Clio & Lucy
Beth Wengler
Cloe
Mike Flanagan
Cooper
Gerre Ahlstrand
Cooper & Willie
Dan & Angela Wainright
Copper
Klarkowski Family
Daisy
Suzanne Schlangen
Danny
Patty Ingberg
Diablo
Kelly Sayre
Dottie
Thomas & Denise McNeal
Duke
Warren Determan
Edith
Gregory Greer
Family Cats
Doug & Sharon Schmid
Fergus & Whiskers
Brian & Kathleen Stanger
Finn
Nancy Goman
Gabby & Gibson
Chad Garlock
George Anderson Red Nose Pit Bull
Janet M. Anderson
Georgia & Sandy
Jim & Karen Howard
Gracie
Joanne McNabb
Happy & Zorro
Reed & Valerie Satterstrom
Hendrik
Jim & Bettina Hixson
Herman & Lilly
Diana & Marc Dale-Hargraves
Hobbis & Moo Moo
Mark & Jackie Molus
Jabbers Latterreil
Barbara Lattereil
Joe Meower & Kirby Pawkett
Teresa & Dan Stettler
Johnny - My Son Helped Rescue
Elizabeth Golden
Jorah
Spencer Kight
Kenzie
David & Sam Switzer
Kitties On The Farm
Irv & Jean Loftus
Leo
Kim Cordie
Leroy
Kim Buismen
Lily
Dennis & Kathryn Lyerly
Louie, Olive, Rocky & Peanut
Taylor Scherping
Lulu
Wayne & Mary Yokiel
Luna
Donald & Mary Jane Burton
Mac, Leelo & Stitch
John & Debra Fischbach
Maddy Lynn
Kourtney Piepenburg
Maggie
Carol & Barb Caspers
Maggie
Larry & Sandra Cox
Max
Anna Krebs
Max
Joe Streufert
Micky
Gary Gilbert
Miley
Addie Golombiek
Mokie
Glenn & Marlys Stocker
Dedications: In Honor of Pets (continued)

Murray & Daisy
Carole Packer
My Furry Family
Kris Stewart
Obie
Donald & Anita Fischer
Oliver
Linda & Tom Addicott
Oscar & Felix
Colette K. Stumpf
Peep
Dawne Ernest
Pepita
Liz & Xakk Asphodel
Princess Abby Lea & Lady Libby Lea
Donnie & Becky Willert
Rocket
Ernie & Ann Kruger & Family
Ruby
Jim & Joanne Schultz
Rusty & Dusty
Kathy Andersen & Mark Henry
Saving Rescue Rafa
Cindy O’Kon & Chris Shorba
Schatz
Patricia Farrow
Shadow
Paul & Joan Bartoli
Silver
Jim & Kris Noyes
Snoopy, Juno, Miss Kitty & Toby
Clark & Ann Erickson
Snowball & Charlie
C&H Truck Repair, Pat & Wendy Hicks
Squeeker
Ann & Bruce McNickle
Stray Animals
Ecko Brzinski
Stray Cats
Jeffrey S. Hamilton
Sunny
Scottie Devor & Karen Zimmer
Sweet Snowy Cat
Ed & Sharron Westrom
The Abandoned Cats & Dogs
Ken & Denette Lindner
The Critters
Russell Letson & Caesarea Abartis

Dedications... In Honor of People

2019 Carriar Family Reunion
Megan Pfannenstein through the Morgan Family Foundation
Alex, Sylvia, Ava & Ellie
Nadine Henz
All the staff & volunteers at TCHS
Rachel Melling
Jan Stanley
Audra Popp
Grace Popp
Barbara Placheki
Larry Asplin
Brad & Jen Donais
Ruth & Don Donais
Cheryl Springer
Maddie Springer
Companionship
Kevin Larson
Cynthia Kennedy
Keith & Venetta Kennedy
Dan Mondloch
Connine McCalla
Danny & Joy
Cheser & Louise Dziuk
Darryl & Karen Cameron
Bill & Judy Morgan
Dave & Kathy Hoffmann
Lynn Simonson
Debbi Dierkising
Missie Torborg
Dee Whittlock
Rita Lomheim
Dr. Ronald Hanson
Faith Thompson
Edie-World’s Greatest Mom
Barb & Chuck Seefeldt
Ella Storkamp’s Birthday
Jennifer A. Johnson
Gloria Hicks
Jason Walton
Grace Dahlberg
Melissa Dahlberg
Halle’s Birthday
Rita Roben
Jamie Katchmark
Trista Glover-Olson
Jan Hovda
Duane Cekalla & Susan Jensen-Cekalla
Jeff Winter
Preferred Credit Inc
Jim Breska
Sue Breska
Jordan Schelling
Janice Fucht
Justin & Kourtney Pienepenburg
Jackie Curtiss
Kate & Brandon
Laurie Klarkowski
Kevin & Jen Amdahl
Katie Jane Amdahl
Kim Hiltnar
Gladys Burrmaster
Kylie Christensen
Michael Christensen
Lana & Ron Nornberg’s Wedding Anniversary
Rebecca Benoit & Jack Peterson
Lana Nornberg’s Birthday
Rebecca Benoit
Dawn & Ron Grossinger
Leslie Abraham
Jan Grunert
Liz Morrison
Rosemary Marx
Lori Larson’s Retirement
Shawn Howard
Lori Berman’s Birthday
Jacob Berman
Mary & Harley “Biff” Smith
Jacqui Weide
Nora Vonnegut
David Ullrich
Our Grandchildren
James & Patricia Mondloch
Rachel & Doug Hoffman
Diane Dutcher
Reyna Danusis’s Birthday
Janie Danusis
Ryan Becker’s Birthday
Crystal Sticha
Koster & Roben’s Birthday
Don & Marilyn Wilke
Tinkerbell
Robin Olson
Trista
Jamie Fuchs
Uno
Micki Blenkush & Dan Michaels
Vincent
Pamela Dargis
Wendy, Lola & Keeshia
Stephanie Horvath
Zelda
Suelyn Hofmann

Coming Events:

Happiness Happens Here Capital Campaign Tours

- Thursday, March 26, 3-4 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 1, 5-6 p.m.
- Saturday, April 11, 1-2 p.m.

Please RSVP to Tauna Quimby,
give@tricountyhumanesociety.org or 320 252-0896
Learn more www.happinesshappenshere.org

Saturday, March 28th—
Spay-ghetti and (no) Meat Balls
Dinner to benefit TCHS

Friday, April 17th—
Wine, Kibbles and Bids

Friday, April 25th—
Kitten Shower

tricountyhumanesociety.org/calendar
April 22nd is Administrative Professionals Day!
Flower Delivery Order Form

Show your appreciation by sending flowers to an employee or co-worker on Administrative Professionals Day — or just surprise a friend or loved one! Any day is a good day to receive flowers and help animals! Delivery available only to St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, Sartell, and St. Joseph businesses only, no home residences. Must be available to receive delivery between 9am-12pm on Wednesday, April 22. Orders placed for outside these cities can be picked up at the Tri-County Humane Society on or after April 22.

Contact Information of Person Ordering Flowers: Please Print Clearly

Name: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

Phone: ___________________________ Address: ___________________________

DELIVER TO:

Business Address ___________________________

Directions/Landmarks ___________________________

Please clearly indicate below who you want the cards on each vase to be made out To and From.

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Total Vases Ordered _______ x $15.00 = Total Due $__________ Payment Method: Cash Check Charge

MC/Visa/Disc # ___________________________ Exp. Date ___________________________

Billing Address __________________________________________________________

I authorize the TCHS to process debit or credit card transactions from my account. Transactions will appear on my statement and will serve as my receipt.

Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Order form and payment must be received by Wednesday, April 15, 2020.
Mail form and payment to TCHS P.O. Box 701 St. Cloud, MN 56302 or call (320) 252-0896.
Promote Your Business with TCHS!

We offer several ways to promote your business to TCHS supporters: advertise in our quarterly newsletter, sponsor events, and more.

Contact Tauna Quimby in person at TCHS, by email give@tricountyhumanesociety.org or by phone 320-252-0896 ext. 28.

Newsletter Sponsors:
Kitty Korner

Tri-County Humane Society was lucky to count many successes in 2019, but one of the most significant ones was opening the TCHS Kitty Korner.

The use of the building at 1715 1st St. South in St. Cloud was generously donated by Jim and Brenda Feneis. The concept: A one-stop shop for cat enthusiasts; the cozy space can house up to 10 to 15 cats and kittens who are already spayed/neutered, microchipped, and ready to be adopted. (At the main shelter, all felines are spayed/neutered, but sometimes there’s a brief delay before adoption so that surgery can be completed.)

TCHS Kitty Korner opened in mid-June, with TCHS staff and volunteers tending to the cats and helping customers find their new best friends. As of mid-March, more than 330 adoptions have been completed there.

The response to the Kitty Korner from the St. Cloud community was immediately positive. Customers loved the one-on-one interaction with TCHS staff and volunteers, and the kittens appreciated the quieter setting (no barking dogs!) with plenty of natural sunlight streaming in the windows. In fact, Kitty Korner has become a great place for shy or skittish TCHS cats to thrive and find their homes faster.

The Kitty Korner has helped give TCHS another option for much-needed feline housing, Animal Care Manager Laura Lund said. TCHS took in 2,700 cats and kittens in 2019, and new contracts with area cities, including St. Cloud, upped the demand for TCHS’ services.

Jim Feneis, president of East Side Oil Companies and First Fuel Banks, says he and Brenda were happy to help TCHS with this endeavor. He said they were encouraged to support Tri-County Humane Society by their good friends, John and Cherie McDowall. Jim also has some personal reasons for the cause, besides loving cats: He suffered heart failure in May 2015. He now totes around a 6-pound computer and battery pack — “carrying my heart on the outside.”

“That gave me a second lease on life, and Brenda and I feel so good about giving back,” Jim said.

And Executive Director Vicki Davis said TCHS is so happy to have connected with Jim and Brenda Feneis. “The opportunity for Kitty Korner couldn’t have come along at a better time,” she said. “Ironic, when I was looking for an off-site adoption location, I used the building we have Kitty Korner in now as an example of what I was looking for. Just as ironic was finding out Jim Feneis owned it and I knew he had a soft spot for cats. The rest is history.”

The Kitty Korner building is up for lease or sale, but until then, it will be filled with furry residents looking for homes.

“It’s just a very good feeling, and we want to keep you guys in there as long as we can,” Jim Feneis said.

Who Rescued Who?

“I adopted Watson from Tri-County Humane Society in 2005, which makes him 15 years old. Since he was from a stray litter, his actual birthdate was unknown. I decided Feb. 2nd was good because it is Groundhog Day, which is easy to remember, and near the estimate of his birth.

I got him as a companion to my older cat who had lost her two other playmates. They never learned to get along, but Watson kept trying to induce her to play by pulling on the short hair on her head with his teeth. That would only make her rise up and tackle him to the floor, even though she weighed far less than him.

His spiky fur and small eyes made him the ugliest little kitten I’d ever seen, which only increased his appeal. He’s grown into a muscular adult with soft and sleek fur that looks like a gray and white tuxedo, and his eyes are beautifully expressive. He’s clumsy and knocks things over with his really strong tail.

Watson is the most insistently affectionate cat I’ve ever had. (I’ve had nine cats over the last 30 years, most living to nearly 20 - one was 22.) He’s a goofy cat who likes to fall asleep curled against my back with his arm over my neck. He’s been a great companion over the last 15 years and he’s still going strong.

I expect him to be one of my oldest cats.”
-Margo Kanthak

Who Rescued Who? We receive wonderful stories of TCHS alumni on a regular basis, and we want to offer our sincere thanks to all who take the time to share them with us. You can imagine the joy it brings us to receive pictures and updates from adopters like this one! It seems only right to share them with you, our friends and supporters who make our work possible. THIS is why we do what we do. Why you give, volunteer, adopt, and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.

Share YOUR adoption story with us by messaging our Facebook page or emailing us at: pets@tricountyhumanesociety.org. We’d love to hear from you!

www.tricountyhumanesociety.org
The Scoop … on Grain-free Diets

Have you ever walked into a store that sells pet food and felt completely overwhelmed? I know I have, and I’m a veterinarian. There are thousands of dietary choices for our co-pilots, our couch potatoes, our a.m. wake-up calls, our running buddies, and our hunting partners. From natural to organic, exotic meats to vegetarian, grain-free to raw diets, the myriad choices can lead to confusion about what is best for your pet. I want to focus on one of the more popular feeding trends: the grain-free diet.

What does “grain-free” mean?
Grain-free means the food has a substitute carbohydrate source, such as potatoes, lentils, quinoa or peas, in place of grains. Grain-free pet food lines the shelves these days. In 2011, grain-free diets made up just 11 percent of the pet food market, and in 2017 that number had increased to 44 percent!

Are grains bad for my pet?
Grains are often called “fillers,” but they are an excellent source of energy, and contribute valuable vitamins, minerals, essential fatty acids, and fiber to pet food. Some of the common grains found in pet foods are rice, corn, and wheat. The vast majority of dogs (and cats) are very good at utilizing and digesting nutrients from grains. In fact, there is no proof that grains contribute to pet health problems, except in the rare case of adverse food reaction secondary to a grain. Food allergies account for less than 10 percent of all canine allergies. Your dog is far more likely to be allergic to the indoor and outdoor worlds around her. And when a food allergy is present, it is usually due to an animal protein such as dairy or beef, not grains. Cats can have food allergies, too, and like dogs, the cause is most often an animal protein.

Why did grain-free diets become so popular?
Some of you may remember the melamine scare in March 2007. For those who don’t, wheat flour imported from China was adulterated with a nitrogen containing compound (melamine) to make it look like wheat protein (gluten), a more valuable ingredient. Unfortunately, the melamine combined with an acid in the pet food and caused acute kidney failure in dogs and cats. This was a scary situation for both pet owners and veterinarians, and a wake-up call for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The Food Safety Modernization Act was soon passed, and the FDA worked more closely with the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) to make food safer. With greater oversight and inspection came improved compliance (yay!), but also resulted in more pet food recalls (yikes!). This growing fear of recalls, coupled with popular human diet trends (Atkins, Paleo, low-carb) and lots of attractive marketing led to a quest for pet food options with low or no grains. (Grain-free does not mean low-carb. Many grain-free diets contain carbohydrate levels equal to or greater than grain-inclusive diets.)

Is a grain-free diet bad for my pet?
Maybe. Maybe not. What I can tell you is there is no evidence that a grain-free diet is better for your pet. The marketing around pet food has become quite creative. It’s easy to get swayed by certain claims, especially when we all want what’s best for our pets. Ingredients get a lot of attention, when what really matters are nutrients. Ingredients are just the vehicles that provide nutrients. New and trendy ingredients (sweet potatoes, chickpeas, lentils) may sound healthier, but that doesn’t mean they are. Making pet food is a complex process that requires experience, knowledge, and careful quality control. The recent spike in cases of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is giving veterinarians and the FDA pause because most of the affected dogs were being fed a boutique, exotic meat or grain-free (BEG) diet. There are far more questions than answers at this point and the FDA is working with the pet food industry to better understand the situation. The entire veterinary community is also hard at work researching and monitoring the issue.

I feed my pet a grain-free (exotic meat or boutique) diet. What should I do?
1. Look at the pet food label to see if it contains a nutritional adequacy statement. This provides important factual information as to whether the diet is “complete and balanced” according to AAFCO, how the company determined this (feeding trials or formulations), and for what life-stage the food is intended.
2. Ask yourself why you decided to feed the diet in the first place. Since there is no known health benefit to a grain-free diet, you may want to consider an alternative - at least until we know more about the possible link between diet and heart disease. But, before the switch, make an appointment with your veterinarian. Other than you, no one knows your pet better, and your veterinarian should be your source for nutritional advice, not the Internet or a salesperson at a pet food store. Every pet has different nutritional needs based on age, weight, and health status. Let your vet help you with this important decision.
3. Monitor your pet for any symptoms of heart disease - shortness of breath, weakness, reduced exercise, cough, collapse.
   If something doesn’t seem right, have your pet examined as soon as possible.

Trying to decide which diet is truly best for your dog or cat can be confusing, and downright exhausting. Years ago, when I worked in general practice, I would learn about a new brand of pet food weekly, sometimes daily. Grain-free diets have become increasingly popular over the past decade. Hopefully, this article helps explain why that occurred, how grains got a bad rap and helps pet owners feel more confident when choosing a pet food. And, when it comes to diet and its possible link with canine heart disease, the Scoop provides some hope.

Resources for pet owners:
https://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/petfoodology/

References:
Some of the information presented in this article came directly from my veterinary knowledge and experience. Other facts and figures were gathered from a presentation and various articles by two board-certified veterinary nutritionists: Julie Churchill, DVM, PhD, DACVN (University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine) and Lisa M. Freeman, DVM, PhD, DACVN (Cummings Veterinary Medical Center at Tufts University). Also utilized: AAFCO and FDA websites.
Wine & Beer Tasting, Dinner and Silent Auction Benefit for Animals

Due to COVID-19, this event is postponed. Watch our website and social media for the new date!

Wine, Kibbles & Bids is one of the Society's biggest fundraisers of the year.

Wine, Kibbles, & Bids is a wonderful way to positively impact your local community - and have a really great time!

Tickets available at TCHS or online at tricountyhumanesociety.org/wkb

Visit us at 735 8th Street NE, St. Cloud and www.tricountyhumanesociety.org
P.O. Box 701
St. Cloud, MN 56302

Return Service Requested