Tri-County Humane Society

Adopt • Donate • Volunteer

November 2026







TCHS Works to Map Out Our Future

Our leaders, community have been collaborating on our 2027-30 strategic plan

We've identified priorities, areas we'd like to develop, including programming, operational excellence

Learn more on **PAGE 7**

Free Pet Food Pantry Keeps Expanding

TCHS teams up with local organizations to get thousands of pounds of pet food to those in need

PAGE 9



Santa Paws Returns Nov. 12-14

Find the sign-up link and more details on **PAGE 6**



P.O. Box 701, St. Cloud, MN 56302 | www.tricountyhumanesociety.org | 320.252.0896

Tri-County Humane Society

Adopt • Donate • Volunteer

Mission Statement

We believe in the human-animal bond and exist to support the animals and people of Central Minnesota by practicing and promoting quality animal care, offering compassionate customer service, and providing humane education.

Incorporated Dec. 11, 1974
MBAH Kennel License # MN140200

Fall 2026 Society Summary
Published quarterly by TCHS

Executive Director
Marit Ortega

Board of Directors
Lacey Solheid, President
Meghan Woods Lehrer,
1st Vice President
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Rebecca Kempenich, Secretary
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Tri-County Humane Society
735 8th St. NE St. Cloud, MN 56304
320.252.0896
pets@tricountyhumanesociety.org
www.tricountyhumanesociety.org

TCHS Shelter Hours:
12-6 p.m. Monday through Friday
12-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays
Closed on holidays.

For Pets' Sake Thrift Hours:
12-6 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays
12-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays
Closed on holidays.

Stay connected with TCHS on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and LinkedIn!

Letter From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Tri-County Humane Society continues to provide valuable and necessary services in our community for both pets and people, and we are always looking to the future. What are we doing well? Where is there room for improvement? What aren't we doing that we could be to better support the pets and people of Central Minnesota and beyond? I want to share my sincere thanks to all who offered feedback last spring as we rolled out our community survey in preparation for a three-year strategic plan.

The results are in, and we are excited to share them with you!

In August, the TCHS Leadership Team and Board of Directors adopted a 2027-30 Strategic Plan. The plan focuses on three main pillars that showed up in all of the surveys and meetings with key stakeholders: build on operational excellence, increase programming for the public good, and sustain financial growth and stability. We have created a three-year vision for each of these pillars, with top priorities that we will be exploring (see page 7).

We are in a great position to expand our services.

Thanks to decades of leadership that prioritized being good stewards of the donations we receive, we have established a healthy growth investment portfolio and, most recently, an endowment seeded with $1 million from bequests received in 2025. We do not receive any federal funding, so cuts in recent years have not directly impacted us, though we remain heavily dependent on our community to support us, with 40% percent of our annual revenue coming from donations and fundraisers.

Your gifts and participation in fundraising events sustain our work!

We are grateful for your continued support as we explore ways to better serve you, our community, and the animals who make our lives infinitely better.

For the animals and all who love them,

Marit Ortega

Executive Director
ed@tricountyhumanesociety.org
(320) 371-0871

P.S. Share your gratitude! Please join me in supporting our wonderful staff, volunteers and fosters for National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week! *(Hint: They are very treat-motivated!)*



November 1-7, 2026: National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week

This national observance recognizes the life-saving efforts by shelters across the nation, particularly acknowledging the hard-working people supporting these efforts. Send your love with heartfelt messages of thanks, leave us a positive Google review, drop off a treat for our breakroom, make a donation in a staff or volunteer's honor … There are many ways to show your appreciation!

Thank you for all that you do to support our work for animals.

Our Wish List

For the Animals
Meat-flavored baby food
Kitten milk replacer
Churu "squeeze treats"
Peanut butter (xylitol-free)
Wet cat food
Wet puppy food
Dry kitten food
Dry puppy food
High-quality sensitive stomach food for cats and dogs (preferred brands include Purina, Hill's Science Diet, Royal Canin)
The Walkie leashes (Weiss Walkies)
Feliway for cats: sprays, diffuser refills
Adaptil for dogs: sprays, diffuser refills

For the Shelter
Gift cards to local businesses for pet/office/shelter supplies/silent auctions
Cotton swabs
Clorox wipes or disinfecting wipes
Distilled water
Bleach (unopened bottles)
70 percent isopropyl alcohol
Live traps (30" by 9" by 11")
Gallon-sized plastic bags

For the Office
White copy paper
Colored copy paper
Sheets for a Scotch laminator
Forever postage stamps
Postcard postage stamps
Manila file folders

For Volunteers
TCHS is looking for a professional photographer (or professional-level photographer) who'd be willing to volunteer regularly to take pictures of the animals.



Must be comfortable with/willing to handle cats and dogs, and return edited photos within 24 hours.

Note: All prospective volunteers/fosters must apply to be a part of our team. Foster/volunteer applications can be found at www.tricountyhumanesociety.org, or paper applications are at the shelter.

Amazon Wish List

Please scan the QR code to check out our shopping wish list!

Chewy Wish List

Please scan the QR code to check out some of our most-needed items from Chewy!

Special TCHS Request



Tri-County Humane Society needs a new autoclave! Autoclaves are pressure vessels that sterilize equipment and materials used in surgeries. TCHS ensures that every dog/puppy/cat/kitten/rabbit is spayed/neutered before their adoptions are completed. Our veterinary team performs up to 300 surgeries a month, and we typically have two autoclaves running on busy surgery days. Unfortunately, one of our autoclaves is quite old and has had multiple repairs over the years. It's stopped working, and we do not believe it's efficient to fix it yet again. The list price for a new one, including shipping, is around $8,000.
If you would like to contribute to a new autoclave, please contact Executive Director Marit Ortega at 320-371-0871 or ed@tricountyhumanesociety.org.

Shop at TCHS



Cats Flip for Yeowww! Catnip-Filled Treats

We're sure your cat is on the "nice list" – and you don't want to forget them during your holiday shopping! Pick up some Yeowww! catnip toys for your favorite feline. The toys are made with durable cotton twill fabric and filled with Yeowww! organically grown catnip - and nothing else! Yeowww! products in our Re-Tail Shoppe range from $5.99 to $10.99, and all profits go back to our shelter animals.

For Pets' Sake THRIFT

Our Pets' Sake Thrift is located next to our shelter and offers gently used pet-related products at low prices. Items we generally carry include leashes, collars, carriers, kennels, etc.
Wednesdays through Fridays: 12-6 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays: 12-5 p.m.
Closed on holidays. Hours subject to volunteer availability. Please bring donations for the store to the main shelter. Apply at our website to volunteer in the thrift store.

Participants Help TCHS Net $51,100 From Woofstock Event

The weather might not have cooperated, but Tri-County Humane Society supporters still showed up for homeless animals during the 38th annual Woofstock, our Companion Walk for Animals.

Woofstock was Sept. 26 at Wilson Park. TCHS had 123 people register for the walk, and more than 40 dogs attended.

Woofstock is a rain-or-shine event, and it was all rain, very little shine, that day. TCHS is so grateful to all the participants, the sponsors, the more than 70 volunteers who helped, and the vendors who braved the wet, chilly weather to make it a great day for animals.

Top 10 Individual Fundraisers

1. Carly Ludwig, $2,000
2. Linnea Lang, $1,789
3. Emily Bezdicek, $1,155
4. Nancy Flodquist, $1,035
5. Kate Kompas, $863
6. Angie and Adelyn Koshiol, $639
7. Olivia Schomer, $638
8. Janice Ressemann, $520
9. Judy Vossen, $450
10. Jean Michael, $360

We want to do a special thank you to Joseph and Carol Jerkovich for matching our first $5,000 in Woofstock fundraising pledges!







(Clockwise from top) Volunteers Mark Schmidt and Pam Gacke lead the walk. More than 40 dogs joined the walk. Merritt Bussiere sings tunes from the era.

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KLOSTER Collateral Resources

LAMAR ADVERTISING COMPANY

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orangetheory FITNESS

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unity Spiritual Center of Central Minnesota



2026 Woofstock Vendors

Anna Marie's Alliance
The Barking Birch Pet Lodge
Central Minnesota Therapy Animal Association
Club Pilates
ConnectAbility of MN
Custom Heartfelt Designs
Happy Paws Bakery
Lemon Lovers Club
Mantra Salon and Spa
Mobile Meagan
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Pet Evolution
Pet Supplies Plus
Poppler Demand
RocketUp Tattoo
Sam and Danni's Pet Resort and Spa
St. Cloud Soo Bahk Do
Texas Roadhouse
Witchypoo's
Young Living Essential Oils









2026 WOOFSTOCK PLANNING COMMITTEE

Katie Carlson
Registration/silent auction

Jordan Jackson
Registration/silent auction

Raylene Johnson
Dog activities/silent auction

Kate Kompas
Marketing & Communications Manager

Jean Michael
Kids' activities

Brianna Reinke
Development Manager

Olivia Schomer
Volunteer Coordinator

Save the Date!

The 39th annual Woofstock, Companion Walk for Animals, will be Saturday, Sept. 25, 2027, at - for the first time -
Lake George! We're so excited to meld tradition with some fun changes. We hope you'll join us!

Santa Paws Holiday Photos Event Returning to TCHS

It's beginning to look a lot like Santa Paws! Tri-County Humane Society's holiday portrait event is a tradition for many pet lovers and a wonderful year-end gift to homeless animals.

The event will be Thursday, Nov. 12, and Friday, Nov. 13, from 12-7 p.m. both days, and Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For $55, you'll receive a flash drive with five portrait photos taken by a professional photographer with full publishing rights. All the profits from Santa Paws support our shelter.

Once again, the set will be in the building next to the shelter. (It's the home of our For Pets' Sake Thrift store.) Of course, pets are welcome at Santa Paws - over the years, we've even had horses and goats!

We couldn't make this event happen without our sponsors and volunteers. We want to thank early sponsors Lisa Crayford of Country Gallery Photography and Kloster Collateral Resources.

Stay tuned to our website and social media for more information about Santa Paws, including the full photographer schedule, the volunteer Santa lineup, and a sneak peek of this year's set. The theme is expected to be "Christmas Tree Farm" - we know it will be a hit!



A Santa Paws portrait taken by photographer Dave Schwarz from the 2025 event. This year's set is once again being designed by a team that includes TCHS volunteer/supporter Brooke Strassburg.

Sign Up Online For Santa Paws

Participants are asked to book an appointment via our online sign-up. Payment will be due at the time of appointment; we'll accept cash, check, or card. We will accept walk-ins, too - we just ask for patience!

Sign up at our website or scan the QR code.

TCHS Prepares for Give to the Max Day on Nov. 19

Give to the Max Day is Minnesota's biggest online giving holiday for nonprofits. This year it falls on Nov. 19, although gifts made anytime during November can count toward Tri-County Humane Society's total. Our goal this year is to raise $60,000. We've secured some matching grants to help you double your donation, and we're looking for more! Every bit of generosity on Give to the Max Day makes a tremendous difference for homeless animals. The Give to the Max organization will do giveaways and prizes for some lucky organizations on Nov. 19, so we'd love to get their attention with an outpouring of donations!

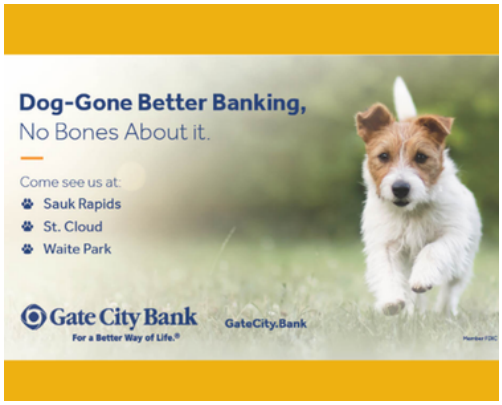
gtmd
november 19, 2026

Match!: TCHS is seeking matching gift challenges. Please contact Development Manager Brianna Reinke at 320-371-0735 or events@tricounty humanesociety.org.

Give!: Make your gift online (www.tricountyhumane society.org, or GiveMn.org), in person at our shelter, or mail to TCHS, P.O. Box 701, St. Cloud, MN 56302 (Attn: GTMD).

The Scoop ...

Will return in our February 2027 newsletter! We hope everyone - and every pet - has a safe holiday season and happy new year!



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We've Been Dreaming Big for Our Future – It's Time To Share Goals

Over the past five months, our Board of Directors and leadership team have been working diligently on creating a three-year strategic plan for Tri-County Humane Society. We surveyed donors, adopters, volunteers, fosters, staff members, and the community to seek input on what we are doing well, what we could do better, and what we are not doing that perhaps we could be to better serve pets and the people who love them.

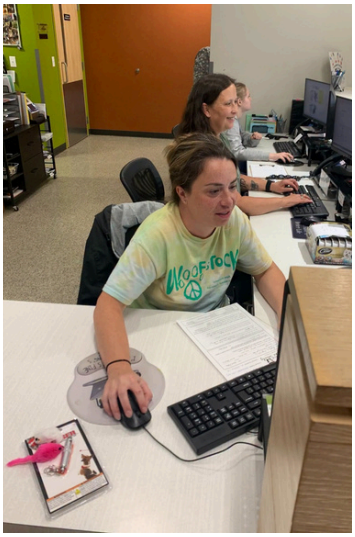
Thank you to all who offered your input during our community survey phase! We were pleased to see that our community, our Board of Directors, and our shelter staff and volunteers all shared many of the same hopes and dreams for the future of TCHS.

With the help of Ruis Consulting Group, we have come up with the following success pictures and priorities to build on operational excellence, increase programming for the public good, and sustain financial growth and stability.



Hannah S., LVT, (left) and Molly K. work with a cat in TCHS' intake room.

2027-30 STRATEGIC PLAN: TCHS will ...



BUILD ON OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

3-Year Vision: TCHS is seen as a premier place of employment, drawing and retaining talented individuals to work and volunteer with us. This includes having the right spaces to do the job well, the right tools, the right number of people, the right support for our staff and volunteers, and competitive wages/benefits. With the balance of appropriate facilities and tools, and high-quality staff and volunteers, TCHS will also be known locally and nationally as a top-notch nonprofit organization for pet adoption, pet reunification, and resources to successfully keep pets with their people.



PRIORITIES

- Facility Improvement & Enhancement
- Staffing and Volunteer Capacity
- Staff and Volunteer Experience

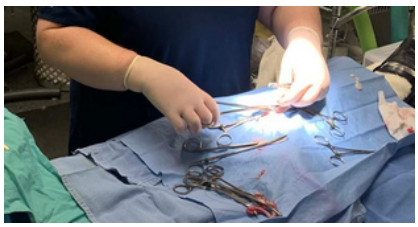
INCREASE PROGRAMMING FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

3-Year Vision: TCHS is recognized as a leading organization in public good, dedicated to the welfare of both pets and people. Deeply connected to the community, TCHS has a strong reputation for compassion, knowledge, and the ability to link people with the resources they need to nurture and protect the human-animal bond. TCHS has developed a proactive approach to addressing pet homelessness with the ultimate goals of 1) reducing the number of unwanted pets through spay/neuter efforts, and 2) increasing accessible resources for pet owners who want to keep their pets.

See Pet Food Pantry update on next page.

PRIORITIES

- Explore Veterinary Care – Preventative/Low-Cost
- Pet Care & Relief Fund Grants
- Foster & Respite Care
- Educational Opportunities



SUSTAIN FINANCIAL GROWTH AND STABILITY

3-Year Vision: TCHS has created a long-term financial stability plan, ensuring sustainability for programs and services and a healthy margin for growth. Accomplishments will be shared and celebrated along the way, creating a sense of trust and security within our community that TCHS is fiscally responsible and healthy.

PRIORITIES

- Increase Annual Giving & Donor Support
- Endowment Growth
- Pet Care & Relief Funding

TCHS Serves Residents, Community Partners with Pet Food Pantry

Tri-County Humane Society is close to the two-year mark of opening our free Pet Food Pantry, part of our continuing efforts to assist pet owners in need. Our data shows it's being frequented often by people from the three-county area and beyond.

TCHS opened the Pet Food Pantry in spring 2025 because, if an animal already has a loving home, we want to do what we can to help them stay there. Our Pet Food Pantry is located in our For Pets' Sake Thrift store next to our shelter. All pet food that is donated to TCHS is earmarked for in-house use first; excess food goes to the pantry.



TCHS Community Resource & Support Counselor Emily Bezdicek said pet food assistance is often one of the first visible signs that a family is experiencing financial strain.

"We believe that financial circumstances should not prevent someone from experiencing the companionship and benefits of having a pet, and we're committed to helping community members keep their beloved animals healthy and at home."

Before she started her role at TCHS, Emily spent decades working in local nonprofits, including Catholic Charities. Emily said it was important to TCHS' leadership team to keep the Pet Food Pantry as low-barrier as possible.

"Coming from a social services background, I know how difficult it can be to access community resources, especially during times of financial hardship," she said. "We collect only basic information, including the date of visit, ZIP code, and number of pets served, which helps us track trends and identify opportunities to connect people with additional resources. We've also built a network of community partners who reach out when they encounter individuals in need of pet food, helping us get support to those who may not be able to visit our shelter."

It's not atypical for TCHS to give away 2,000 pounds of pet food every month through the pantry and community partnerships. Emily says that didn't surprise her.

"What has surprised me is how far people are willing to travel to access the pantry and, perhaps even more, how eager community partners have been to help. Organizations throughout our service area have embraced the opportunity to work together to get pet food into the hands of people who need it most."

Shannon Nolan from Catholic Charities Senior Dining said the partnership with TCHS for pet food makes a big difference.

"The pet food donations have been a tremendous support for many of the people we serve," Shannon said. "We often hear from participants whose pets are like family and provide daily companionship, comfort, and purpose. When finances are tight, purchasing pet food can compete with other household essentials, and we have participants who often share their own food with their pets."

We're glad we can help make a difference!



The Pet Food Pantry is open the same hours as For Pets' Sake Thrift: Wednesday through Friday, 12-6 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, 12-5 p.m. The pantry generally carries dry food for cats and dogs. If people need the pantry during "off" hours, they should contact TCHS.

Pet Food Pantry at a Glance

IN SEPTEMBER 2026 ...

- **2,267 pounds** were provided by the pantry and to community partners
- **154 people** visited the pantry
- **186 cats** were fed with that food
- **167 dogs** were fed

TCHS' PET FOOD PARTNERS

- Catholic Charities Emergency Services Food Shelf
- Catholic Charities Senior Nutrition Program
- St. Cloud School District 742
- Salem Lutheran Church Community Outpost
- Anna Marie's Alliance
- Avivo Village
- Grey Face Rescue & Retirement

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Never miss TCHS news!

Email marketing@tricountyhumanesociety.org to be added to our email list!



Let's Give a Purr and a Wag of the Tail To ...

St. Cloud Subaru and Used Car Outlet and the ASPCA for again supporting our efforts through a Subaru Loves Pets grant that provided for the free microchip clinic at our Paws & Pumpkins event.

Copper Pony for making us the beneficiary of its 12th anniversary birthday celebration.

All the people who volunteered at the North Star Air Show in August on behalf of TCHS animals. Current and one-time volunteers pitched in, and a portion of the sales from the booths staffed by our volunteers went to the shelter animals. They made $3,800 for the animals. We also want to thank San Francisco Puffs and Stuff Concessions for inviting us to assist at the show.

Gate City Bank for bringing TCHS staff and dogs cookies for National Mutt Day.

Tom Becker for donating cat scratchers to our kitties.

Beaver Island Brewing Co. for hosting a Tending for a Cause event for us.

Pet Supplies Plus for asking customers to "round up" to help our animals.





(Clockwise, from top): Four TCHS puppies attend yoga at St. Cloud State University; TCHS volunteers work at the air show; Travis Petermeier with Development Manager Brianna Reinke (and Marin).

St. Cloud State University for partnering with us on a puppy yoga event (above).

Volunteer Taylor Young for bringing in pizza for staff and volunteers.

United Way of Central Minnesota's Days of Caring volunteers for spending time helping out at the shelter.

Menards for hosting a supply drive for us.

The organizers of the 17th Annual Testicle Festival (yes, you read that right) for collecting donations for shelter animals.

Travis Petermeier for organizing the first Fairways and Strays Rock Classic in Sauk Centre and donating the profits to our shelter animals in honor of his 50th birthday.

Lost Times Tavern for hosting an anniversary event featuring Adrian Washington and Michael Shynes at the Clearing Amphitheater in Sauk Rapids that benefited us.

The owners of Danks, a pup who recently passed away, for organizing Danks-Fest in his memory - a neighborhood event - and giving us the profits.



Matthew Thompson of Cash Wise Foods in Waite Park for donating some of the proceeds from a brat sale to us.

Chelsey Meyer for donating a wheelbarrow for our yardwork.

Emma Carlson for donating to us via her bridal shower.

Pineview Park BMX for hosting and inviting us to Dog Days of Summer.



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Donations Made in Memory of Pets

All of my furry, loving companions through the years
Patricia Rosendahl

Barney
Pat and Tom Dosch

Bella - my best friend to hang out with
Patricia Wylie

Billy Bob Beaulieu
Andrew Beaulieu

Bo
Linda A. Stroeing

Buddy
Colette K. Stumpf

Callie & Suzie
Mark and Melinda Ohlenkamp

Clifford
Michele Hartmann

Dogs of friends: Bandit, Lewa, Chicki, Bella, Ollie
Mary Puterbaugh

Eddie
Kathryn and Paul Wirth

George
Steve Walz

Harley
Marijane Miller

Holly, Prince
Charles and Rosemary Jernberg

Ike
Renee Dowsett

Jeffrey
Constance Tarasek

Kobe, Alli, and Bailey
Jeni and Mike Kiley

Kona
Deb Kittridge

Lin and Natalie
Tim and Carol James

Luna
Tim and Liz Stewart

Luna, Kole, Brody
Sue Williams

Matisse
Anthony and Marsha Starcevic

Mau-Mau
Colleen Paul

Max, Toby, Spunky, Ronrico
Bernice Tschida

Meeka
Mike and Georgia Thienes

Mika - a very good girl
Reid Lerum
and Sally Friday

Misty
Wayne and Sue Stevens

Misty - a beautiful cat who taught me all about cats!
Patricia Wylie

Minnie-Ha-Ha
Louis and Sue Heck

Mo
Dick and Judy Pike

Mokie and Lily
Glenn and Marlys Stocker

Murph, Dave, Monique, Abby, Kate, Crosby
Lori and Bob Hastings

Nellie Lou
Kurtz Concrete Inc.

Our herd: Flag, Bentley, and Cooper
Kathleen Lindenberg

Panda, the loved cat
Joanne Clepper and Richard Torrence

Pebbles
Kathy Kirchhoff

Penny, Rusty, Simon, and Mitzi
Audrey Schepper

Pete the cat
Margaret Lewis

Memorials and honorariums are published in the issue nearest to the date received.
To donate, please stop by our shelter, visit ***www.tricountyhumanesociety.org,*** *or scan the above QR code.*
Thank you to all who give, including those who wish to remain anonymous.

Reese and Happy
Kari and Zach Cedergren

Simba
Aaron Marshik

Snixie
Dennis and Laurel Nelson

Tasha, Toddy, Patch, and Callie
Judy Vossen

Teddy
Kris Kaufman

Toby, Brock, Emmitt, and Natti
Dan and Cecilia Rathbun

Topanga
Lacey Solheid

Tuxedo
Deb O'Keefe

Vinny
Chris Conte

Wendy, Kirbee, Lola and Keesha
Stephanie Horvath

Donations Made in Memory of People

Ann Holt
Bruce and Kathleen Ellis
Heidi Dwyer
Mary Davis
Rita and Luba Haniff
Theresa Maas

Beverly Housman
Amy and Pete Hamerlinck

Charles Wheeler
Family of
Charles Wheeler

Dan Thompson
Julie Morgan

David H. Lounsbury
Melanie Kenyon

Dona Miller
Cheryl Ley and Richard Witteman

Floyd Wunstell
Elaine Weismann

Harold Fiala
Shirley Fiala

Holly Diaz
Samantha Zaid

Judi Finneman
Rebecca Benoit

Jeff Hippler
Adam Hochberg
Blair Schrader
Christine Heine
Dick and Perian Stavrum
Hope Hippler
Joni Hahn
Joseph Nadeau
Kris Stewart
Krista Cullen
Lisa Mohs
Melanie Hardy
Michelle Newlander
Rick Hahn
Shani Peichel
Terry and Hillary Vermillion
Tim and Liz Stewart

Jerry Hayenga
David and Vicki Baston

Jim Wicktor
Kurt Hasselfeldt

Joe Walter
Meg Sheehan
Emily Bezdicek
Sue Kilian
Barb Kolbinger

Laurel Yanish
Stephen Yanish

Laurie Kutzera (Russell)
Adeline Hammond

Lola Davis
David Olson

Marsha Recknor
Clearwater American Legion Post 0323

Mary Jo Bowman
Lee Serena

Marylin Flam
Anonymous Donor
Douglas Kunde
Nancy Tighe
Norman Seehusen
Rosaline Flam
Shelby Kohner

Michelle Dunckel
Jim and Lois Tesch

Peggy Thompson
Rev. George Ham Jr. and Kathryn Pratt

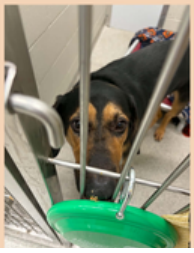
Raghav Shrestha
Sangeeta Jha
Vi Bergquist and Karen Knutson

Rita Adkinson
Judy Jehlicka

Shirley Lees and all her dogs
Diana Burlison

Tim Botz
Hayden Botz

Update: Thank you to all who donated discs for our pups' enrichment - they're very happy!



Book Buddies Program Helps Pets and Kids



Tri-County Humane Society is proud to host Book Buddies, a program geared toward helping children and animals. Book Buddies provides a non-judgmental audience for the young readers; after all, the animals don't care if a word is mispronounced or if the reading is done slowly.

Learn more here →

Missing Kitten Draws Attention, Returns Safely

A little Tri-County Humane Society kitten named Marin inadvertently caused a big stir in mid-September after a visitor put him in their bag and left the shelter with him. The person returned Marin late the next day after we posted pleas for his return on social media, and they apologized profusely. Marin's story captured statewide attention, including coverage by WCCO, KARE 11, and the Star Tribune. TCHS' posts about him collectively drew more than 1 million views.

Marin arrived at TCHS in late August with severe, perforating ulcerations on both of his eyes. He was started on a treatment plan that included pain management, oral antibiotics, antibiotic eye drops, and serum eye drops. Serum is a component of blood that has antibodies and other healing factors. Fun fact: The serum was made using blood from a TCHS dog called Handsome who donated while he was under anesthesia for his neuter surgery. (It's OK it's a different species' blood since it's not a transfusion, but rather a topical treatment).



Marin shortly after he was reunited with his foster, Dani, who works at TCHS.

Marin kept recovering and receiving his drops during his stay in a TCHS foster home. It was shortly after his return in September to TCHS, after he had been cleared for adoption, that the visitor took him from the shelter. We posted on Facebook and Instagram asking for his return, in part because we wanted to make sure that an adopter would understand he had special health considerations. We pledged not to pursue charges as long as he was returned, and they brought him back a little more than 24 hours later. Marin was in great shape, and we appreciated the person ultimately doing the right thing. After we posted about his return, hundreds of people commented to praise the person's courage in correcting their mistake.

Marin was adopted the day after his return by a friend of his foster's. He's now Marvin, and he has two feline siblings and is doing great.



Our second Paws & Pumpkins on Oct. 13 at our shelter was a success! Thanks to St. Cloud Subaru and the ASPCA, we were able to offer free microchips at the event; we chipped 61 pets. We also gave away 35 ID tags and 45 leashes/collars. We are grateful to everyone, including all our vendors and supporters, who were part of Paws & Pumpkins!

Donations Made in Honor of Pets

All pets who bless our lives
Tauna Quimby and Mike Sawin

Bogie
Sandra Markovich

Brutus the dog
Jordy Twingstrom

Bynx
Patricia Fair

Callie
Marijane Miller

Dexter and Mason
Adam and Emily Herron

Foster kittens Juniper and Jasmine
Suzanne Ross

Mama + Baby Kitty
Marcia Amundson

Ruby
Joanne Schultz

Donations Made in Honor of People

Alexis Rieger - Happy Birthday!
Allyson Eischens

Dawn & Ronald Grossinger Wedding Anniversary
Lana and Ron Nornberg
Rebecca Benoit

Dawn Grossinger's Birthday
Rebecca Benoit

Jack Crane
Mary Constance Crane

Lana Nornberg's Birthday
Rebecca Benoit

Mary Olson – Mother
Colleen Paul and Russell Reeve

Michelle the volunteer
Michael Breaux

Samantha Smith
Don Stefanson

The 39th wedding anniversary of Rebecca Benoit and Jack Peterson
Rebecca Benoit

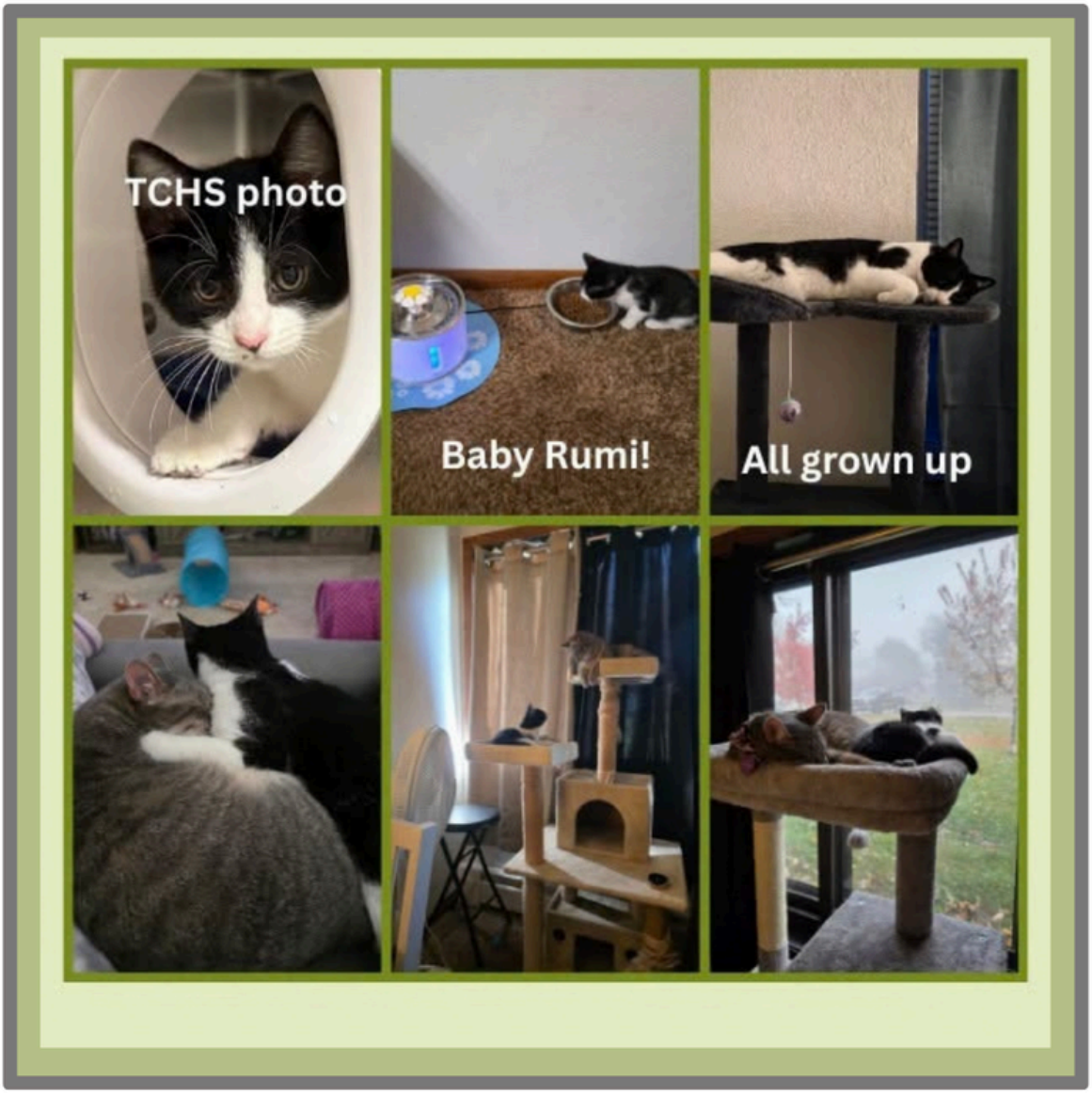






Are you receiving Feel Good Fur-Days?

Every Friday morning, we email a Feel Good Fur-Day out to those who want a bright spot in their week consisting of recent adoption stories like the one below. If you're not on the list and want to be, simply email **marketing@tricountyhumanesociety.org.**



October 2026 marked the one-year anniversary of Rumi's Gotcha Day! The beginning of Rumi's happy new life started when his new human saw a video of the then-kitten Rumi yelling for pets on our social media, two days after one of their cats passed away.

They adopted Rumi, who now has a feline sibling, Chloe, and the two are the best of friends. (They even ride in a stroller together!)

"Two weeks after I adopted Rumi, we moved two hours north. We went from a one-bedroom, one-level apartment to a two-bedroom two-level townhouse! The cats run all over the place and climb on everything, lol. We're a little happy family."

It sounds like Rumi will never need to holler for attention again!

Scan here to read past stories!

Tri-County Humane Society
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Happiness Happens Here!

Share your story with pets@tricountyhumanesociety.org