

PAWSCHICAGO®

2020 IMPACT REPORT



YEAR IN REVIEW

Highlights and Statistics

GIFTING BACK

The Canning family turns birthday celebrations into hugely impactful gifts for homeless cats

2020 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

pawschicago.org

When the world shut down,
we stayed open.



Rescuers Never Rest
PAWSCHICAGO®

2020 When the world collectively paused, homeless animals still needed us. So, we adapted finding new ways to work in a pandemic. Dedication to our mission of saving lives and securing a No Kill Chicago never wavered — in fact, we had more passion and resolve than ever.

So much is conveyed by this one number

4,115 Adoptions

• **42,979 Adoption inquiries**

A new Virtual Adoption Process allowed willing fosters and loving adopters to welcome home pets in need.

84,167 Volunteer hours

Thousands of PAWS Chicago volunteers — equal to 41 full-time employees — logged in or masked up to take on new roles, both in-person and at home.

6,207 Emergency fosters

volunteered in less than a week. COVID-19 Crisis Foster Care provided a safe home for the pets of people feeling firsthand the pandemic's effects.



29,889

Pounds of food and supplies were distributed

The PAWS Chicago Pet Food Pantry provided food and supplies to pet owners living in Chicago's most under-resourced neighborhoods.



9,453 Spay/Neuter Surgeries

- **9,606 diagnoses by our expert shelter medicine team**
- **7,630 Lurie Clinic appointments**
- **21,723 free/low-cost vaccinations**

The Medical Center remained open, welcoming sick, injured, and homeless animals from Chicago and nationwide shelter partners who had nowhere else to turn.

In 2020, our doors never closed. Our rescuing never stopped. Our community continued saving lives.

When the streets were clear. When humanity was in quarantine. When the world stopped...

They still needed us. **We were there.**



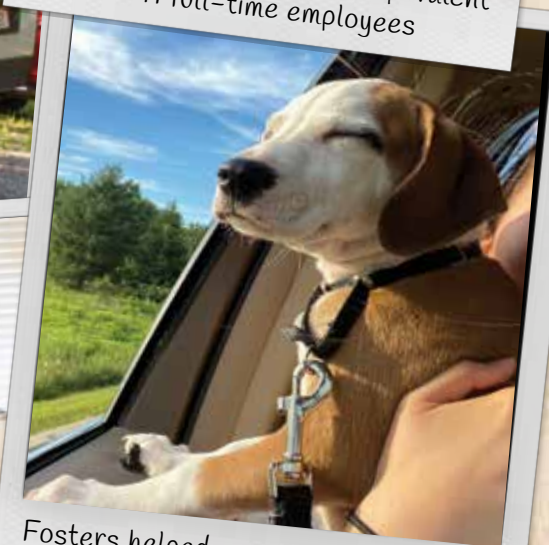
We helped 4,100 pets find homes even during a pandemic



Volunteers received incoming puppies from out-of-state transports



Volunteers donated hours equivalent to 41 full-time employees



Fosters helped over 2,800 pets learn, grow, and heal prior to adoption in 2020



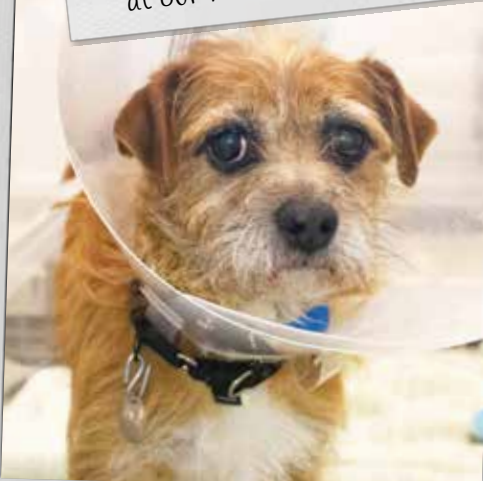
IKEA stores featured PAWS in "Don't Forget About Me" campaign



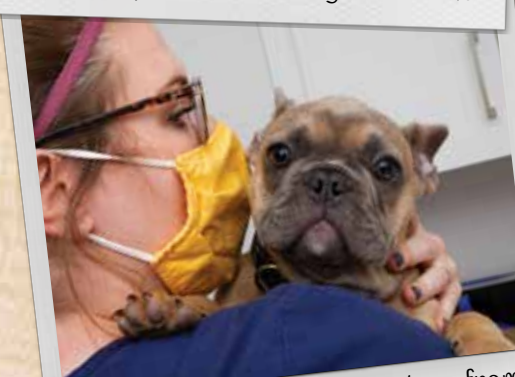
Our new online ComPETibility Quiz made perfect matches



Special surgeries can be done in-house at our remodeled Medical Center



While other rescue organizations were shut down, we were saving thousands



Rescue of 15 French Bulldogs from O'Hare Airport prompted legislation



Our new virtual adoption process allowed adoptions to continue



Rescue missions brought in homeless pets from across the country

When the world changed, so did PAWS Chicago. We developed a virtual adoption process in two days. Offered emergency foster support to people impacted by COVID-19. We went door-to-door with needed pet food and supplies. Created new roles so dedicated volunteers could work off-site. Responded to desperate pleas from animal advocates in high-kill states whose rescue efforts were shut down. We did what we had to do to save animals. It's our mission, our calling, and our only choice. Because lives depend on us.



Rusty, a senior cat with FIV, is now happily adopted

ON THE COVER

Melissa Canning and her beloved PAWS Pet, Leo
Photography: Sebastian Sparenga Photography

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

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2020
PAWS Chicago has received
18 consecutive 4-star ratings
from Charity Navigator

Dear Supporters,

Each year I sit down to write this letter with a feeling of optimism, awe, and deep gratitude at the opportunity to review with you all that our amazing PAWS Chicago Community has accomplished. In a pandemic year that was like no other, it is a relief to tell you today my feelings are the same: optimistic, awestruck, and deeply, deeply grateful.

Last year, our remarkable team showed that rescuers never rest. While so much of the world shut down, the PAWS Community rallied to continue our work saving homeless pets—and supported one another to accomplish that work safely. Even at the height of the pandemic, our staff, volunteers, and fosters worked every day to take in more animals, giving them the medical care, the enrichment, and the training they needed to prepare for new lives with loving families. As one of the few animal welfare organizations that did not close for even one day, we received calls from organizations in high-kill states that had nowhere else to turn. We made it our purpose to say “yes” to those calls and to those homeless, voiceless animals.

We found new ways to work. “Virtual” became the word of the day. Virtual adoption. Virtual training. Virtual events. “Zoom meeting” entered our lexicon. Staff and volunteers alike set up offices at home and dug into their lifesaving work.

While the signature events that raise critical funds were canceled, donors responded in so many other ways. Those who were in a position to give donated generously. Their goodness not only saved lives, it affirmed our community-wide belief in the No Kill mission.

We added services to help pets and their people through these uncharted times. Our Pet Food Pantry went mobile, delivering pet food and supplies to overwhelmed, unemployed, or cloistered families who would otherwise go without. Our Crisis Care Foster Initiative provided temporary foster families for pets whose owners were caring for COVID-19 patients, recovering from the virus, or experiencing financial hardship.

The following pages tell a story of life, health, progress, and evidence of a No Kill future that’s within reach. Thank you again for supporting and participating in the PAWS community. May the years to come be healthy and safe for our entire community.

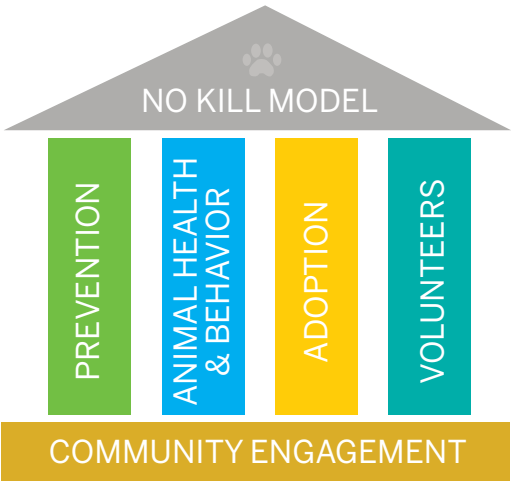


With warm regards,

Paula Fasseas

Paula Fasseas
Founder & Executive Chair

THE PAWS CHICAGO NO KILL MODEL



While Chicago has been on the doorstep of No Kill, our community still has work to do to not only reach No Kill, but sustain it. Our goal is a No Kill Equilibrium, achieved when every healthy and treatable pet not only survives but thrives. PAWS Chicago’s No Kill Model is designed to get us there.

The foundation of our No Kill Model is Community Engagement. By raising awareness about pet homelessness and engaging people in these efforts, we inspire action and make lasting change for animals.

PAWS Chicago’s mission-critical programs—our No Kill pillars—sit atop this foundation.

These pillars are the robust Prevention, Animal Health and Behavior, Adoption, and Volunteer programs necessary to build a No Kill community.

Read more about each pillar on the following pages...

Progress happens one puppy, dog, kitten, and cat at a time



One of the over 9,000 animals to benefit from PAWS Chicago’s robust prevention program

Eliminating pet overpopulation is the key to building a No Kill Chicago. The PAWS Chicago Lurie Spay/Neuter Clinic and Community Outreach programs have been the driving forces in reducing euthanasia in Chicago by 91% since our founding. In 2020, we never stopped providing those essential spay/neuter services. In addition to caring for the homeless animals in our program, we continued our PAWS for Life program providing resources to families in Englewood, West Englewood, and Back of the Yards.

Services included free transportation, spay/neuter surgeries, and a mobile Pet Food Pantry that delivered pet food and supplies to the doorsteps of vulnerable community members. Community Medicine shifted to a telehealth model, treating sick and injured pets who would otherwise not have access to veterinary services. And Trap-Neuter-Return continued to be a critical path to preventing volumes of kittens from overwhelming the shelter system.

Every animal, no matter their circumstance, receives exceptional care



9,453
total spay/neuter
surgeries

21,723
free and low-cost
vaccinations

29,889
pounds of food
and supplies were
distributed

7,630
Lurie Clinic
appointments

20,000
nails trimmed

15,000
miles driven by
PAWS for Life



The Suzanne Smelcer Robinson Foundation

When Wilma Smelcer’s sister, Suzanne, passed away suddenly in 1997, Wilma and the family decided her sister’s memory must never fade. The Suzanne Smelcer Robinson Foundation was introduced that same week. The Foundation’s mission is based on the causes and organizations Suzanne supported: children, education, and pets. Since then, organizations across the Midwest have benefited, including significant donations to PAWS Chicago to support the spay/neuter program and Lurie Clinic. From the start, the foundation valued PAWS Chicago’s solutions-based approach to building No Kill communities, according to Wilma, a retired CEO of Bank of America Illinois. “I track the statistics that back up the improved fate of dogs and cats. I appreciate that PAWS operates in a very businesslike, but heartfelt, way,” she said. The relationship with PAWS doesn’t end with donations, however. Wilma has long been involved personally, including as an adopter—thanks in part to Suzanne. Or more accurately, her cat, Burfur. “I reluctantly babysat Burfur for a couple of weeks while Suzanne was on a business trip. By the end, I didn’t want to give Burfur back. That convinced me I needed a pet in my life,” she said. Today, Wilma has a PAWS dog, Chloe, and PAWS cat, Vincent. What would Suzanne Smelcer Robinson think about the good work the foundation has supported? “She’d have tears in her eyes. She’d be thrilled that we were trying to be honest to what she thought was important,” Wilma said.



Dr. Emily Swiniarski examines a kitten healing from enucleation surgery

PAWS Chicago’s Animal Health & Behavior programs are a national model in animal welfare.

Consistently saving greater than 98% of the vulnerable population of animals who walk through our doors requires an army of medical and behavioral staff, as well as volunteers and fosters, to ensure that each animal receives the individual treatment and rehabilitation he or she requires.

Medical staff treat the physical body, rehabilitating pets suffering from illness and injury. For generations, getting sick in a shelter meant a death sentence. The PAWS Chicago Medical Center—the first stop for homeless animals when they arrive at PAWS—

treats the most serious cases on site. We also use a robust foster network for pets requiring more simple treatments that do not need a hospital stay. This not only improves outcomes for healing animals, it frees up space for additional pets to be saved.

Some of our pets come to us with emotional scars from the past. Others were never socialized in a family and don’t understand basic manners. Our Training Center’s staff behaviorists and team of trainers work with dogs on obedience, manners, and agility, giving them the enrichment and stimulation essential to a quality life while in the shelter, and also helping them find homes.

Even the sickest and most injured animals get a second chance at the newly expanded PAWS Medical Center



13 States
from which animals
are rescued

98.17
percent save rate

25,016
exams performed

11,386
hours worked by
PAWS veterinarians

88
in-person training
classes with volunteers
and shelter dogs

1,000+
dogs trained in PAWS
public obedience classes

The PAWS Chicago Medical Center treats thousands of animals, including the most serious cases, on site at our state-of-the-art Medical Center.

| CONDITION | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Abnormal Ear | 440 |
| Abnormal Eye(s) | 553 |
| Abnormal Heart Condition | 143 |
| Abnormal Hydration | 321 |
| Abnormal Musculoskeletal Condition | 462 |
| Abnormal Oral/Dental Condition | 1,265 |
| Abnormal Temperature | 27 |
| Abnormal Urinary | 87 |
| Distemper Exposed | 4 |
| Gastrointestinal Conditions | 1,163 |
| Coccidia | |
| Giardia | |
| Hookworm | |
| Parasites | |
| Roundworm | |
| Tapeworm | |
| Whipworm | |
| Genitourinary Conditions | 232 |
| Heartworm Positive | 111 |
| Neurologic Condition | 24 |
| Panleukopenia Exposed | 119 |
| Panleukopenia Positive | 13 |
| Parvovirus Exposed | 44 |
| Parvovirus Positive | 28 |
| Puppy/Kitten Quarantine | 1,346 |
| Rabies Observation | 125 |
| Respiratory Illness | 1,299 |
| Calici | |
| Infectious Tracheobronchitis | |
| Pneumonia | |
| Upper Respiratory Infection | |
| Retrovirus Illness | 86 |
| Feline Leukemia Virus | |
| Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) | |
| Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) | |
| Skin Condition | 1,369 |
| Mange | |
| Ringworm Positive | |
| Ringworm Suspect | |
| Other Diagnosis | 345 |
| DOG/CAT TOTAL | 9,606 |



This happy family participated in one of 4,115 virtual adoptions in 2020

Finding a loving family for every PAWS homeless pet is at the forefront of what we do. In early 2020, we launched ComPETibility matchmaking, a personalized adoption program that helps adopters find pets best suited for their household and lifestyle. ComPETibility made a fast and seamless transition to a virtual adoption process possible, enabling adopters to apply

for animals and meet with an adoption counselor, all from the comfort of their home. Thanks to all the people willing to open their hearts and homes when homeless animals needed them the most, we were able to stay true to our commitment and find great matches for thousands of pets.

Our team made sure adoptions never stopped during the pandemic



4,115
pandemic adoptions

534
fosters who chose
to adopt

78,858
ComPETibility
Quizzes completed

42,979
Adoption Inquiry
Forms submitted

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Cathy Ethridge

A love of dogs first brought Cathy Ethridge to PAWS Chicago a few years back when she wanted to get involved and make a difference. Since senior dogs often spend many more days, weeks, or months in the shelter before being adopted, she sponsored a fee-waived adoption event designed to find families for older dogs that are often passed by for their more youthful counterparts.

The adoption event was a huge success, helping seniors and other at-risk animals! A shelter environment can be stressful for senior pets who are used to being home with a loving family, so the faster the adoption, the better. And the longer animals stay, the more resources go to finding them homes, rather than rescuing additional animals in need.

“We were thrilled with how many older dogs found homes,” she said.

Cathy’s support and generosity doesn’t end with the adoption events, however. Over the years she has attended many signature events including the PAWS Chicago 5K, Beach Party and Fur Ball.

As with many supporters, the tie to PAWS is a very personal one, through adoption, foster or volunteering.

“When our son, Benjamin, began his search for a dog, the process at PAWS was so thoughtful,” she said, referring to PAWS Chicago’s ComPETibility Quiz in which adopters answer a few questions to help match them with an animal who fits their lifestyle.

“He inquired about a few dogs before finding the perfect match. This past February PAWS matched him with Otto. We are all now in love. He has been such a wonderful addition to our family,” Cathy said.

It goes without saying, Cathy and family have been a wonderful addition to the PAWS family, too.

NO KILL MODEL

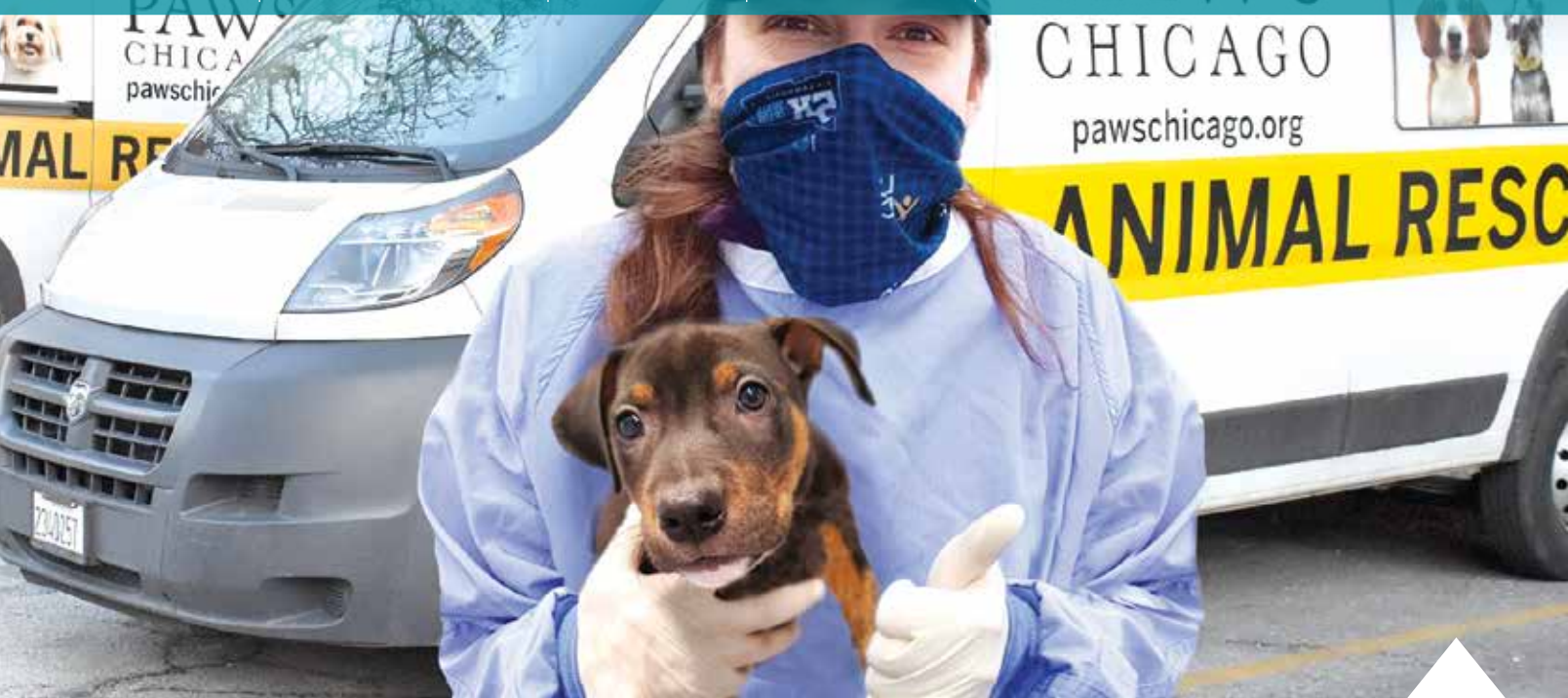
PREVENTION

ANIMAL HEALTH
& BEHAVIOR

ADOPTION

VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT



A volunteer demonstrates her can-do spirit during rescue mission

From the moment homeless animals arrive at the PAWS Chicago Medical Center until their adoption by a loving family, PAWS animals are adored and cared for by our volunteers. The volunteer team's impact throughout every aspect of PAWS Chicago's operation is invaluable and ensures we can expand our reach to save more and more animals each year.

In 2020, PAWS volunteers didn't miss a beat, taking on new responsibilities in new ways to quickly adjust to the unique challenges homeless animals faced in the pandemic. Our volunteers showed up online and onsite by the hundreds to help save thousands of animals in need.

Volunteers help provide medical care, fundraising support, adoption counseling, foster homes and so much more



84,167

total volunteer hours,
equivalent to 41
full-time employees

1,421

new volunteers

20

remote teams formed

12

new volunteer
roles created

2020 VOLUNTEER ALL-STARS

CHRIS SCRANCE
LAUREN ACRE
EILEEN JOHNSON
DONNA BAILEY
ALICE HUNT
BETH FOLEY
MARIE KUKIELKA
LAURA BERGMAN
KENT VAUBEL

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Jack Pickleman

With a smile on his face and just a touch of humor in his voice, PAWS volunteer Dr. Jack Pickleman, a retired surgeon, describes himself as a man with a hole in his heart. A hole only pets can fill.

"These animals are helpless. Without the efforts of hundreds of other volunteers, they would never experience a loving home," he said.

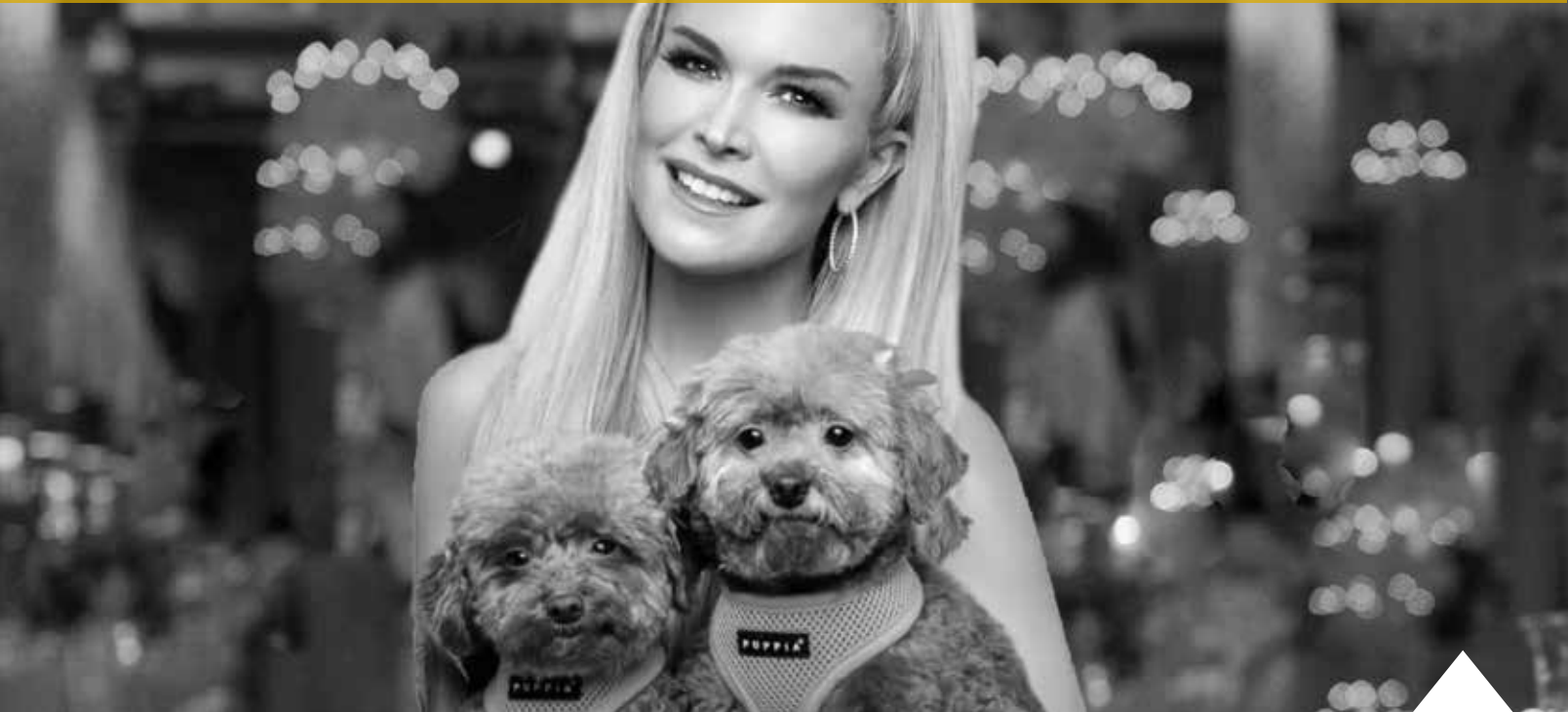
For more than a decade Dr. Pickleman has spent several days a week volunteering at PAWS Chicago, taking care of homeless dogs. He's invested thousands of hours making life better for thousands of pets.

His support extends far beyond that, however. For a decade he and his wife, Brenda, have sponsored events including Fur Ball and Beach Party. They're also Guardian Angels, committed to leaving a legacy of financial support.

"We wanted to help our favorite charity and enjoy peace of mind that our beloved dog would always be cared for and loved by someone who shared our love for animals," he explained.

But volunteering . . . that renews his soul and fills his heart.

"I love spending time with the animals. I love spending time with people who love animals. We all have the same goal—namely to help Chicago become a true No Kill city. What could possibly be more important?" he asked.



Socialite, entrepreneur, and television personality Tinsley Mortimer with dogs Strawberry and Shortcake supported PAWS Chicago at crucial fundraising events

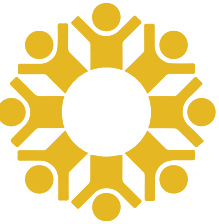
Community engagement is the foundation of everything we do. Shining a light on pet homelessness—and the resultant killing—has mobilized thousands of people to get involved in our cause by adopting, spaying and neutering, volunteering, fostering, advocating for and donating to homeless pets. It’s helped reduce the killing of homeless animals in Chicago by more than 91% since our founding and is paramount in reaching our goal of creating a No Kill Chicago.

In 2020, PAWS Chicago took the initiative and continued innovating for animals, and the media took notice: There were 2,257 broadcast, print, radio, and digital stories in 184 cities and 46 states, reaching a local and national audience of over 31 million. This exposure helps create a collective impact by engaging the public and inspiring action on behalf of homeless pets.

From left to right: William Corgan, Chloe Mendel, and Christopher “Fred” Frederick of 103.5 KISS FM add star power to our Virtual Beach Party;



Jake Hamilton of Fox 32 hosts our Virtual 5K



19,141,374
website page views

259,465
email subscribers

233,297
social media fans

2,257
media placements
in 445 outlets

210
national story placements—
46 states including 23 of
top 25 market areas

COMMUNITY FRIENDS

Oprah Winfrey celebrated 11 years with her PAWS dog, Sadie, in the October issue of O, The Oprah Magazine. Her Facebook posts tagging PAWS registered 74,152 likes and her Instagram post had 250,560 likes.



Oprah with PAWS Alumni Sadie



IKEA in-store point of sale with QR code linked to adoptable pets

PAWS and IKEA partnered during the holiday season to help the Underdogs (and cats!) of Chicago find homes. Beautiful PAWS Chicago pet displays were featured in Schaumburg and Bolingbrook IKEA stores that showcased overlooked homeless animals—and helped find those special adopters who always root for the Underdogs.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTNER WITH PAWS?

Contact Matt LaSota
email: mlasota@pawschicago.org
phone: 773-475-3308



Michael and Melissa Canning with two of their four pets, Amelia and Lila

In 2012, Melissa Canning received a birthday present from her husband, Michael, that changed the face of feline homelessness in Chicago forever.

It stemmed from a conversation that Melissa describes succinctly: “Forget the jewelry. Forget the purses. I just want to help cats,” she said.

I just want to help cats. Those six words sum up so much of the motivation behind Melissa and Michael’s decadelong relationship with PAWS Chicago, and their attitude toward philanthropy. While her love of animals began in childhood, a visit to Chicago Animal Care and Control, the city pound, sparked an idea.

“I saw the magnitude of the cat overpopulation problem and couldn’t stop thinking about how we could make a difference,” Melissa says.

Michael Canning also remembers the day the couple first walked through the Medical Center with their son Mikey, then a year old. “Just to see the people in the waiting room on a Sunday for the spay/neuter clinic, and the reach and trust PAWS has in these communities, I knew I was in the right place,” he says.

He could feel his wife’s passion and commitment. As a businessman and animal lover himself, he also saw that PAWS Chicago’s Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program was a tangible solution.

“I know Melissa would want to adopt every cat she can, but we learned quickly that adoption alone is not the solution,” says Michael. “There simply are not enough homes if you don’t offer spay/neuter to stop cat overpopulation.”

A short time after, they initiated the Melissa Canning Community Cat Prevention Program, funding PAWS Chicago’s efforts at reducing Chicago’s stray cat population and saving tens of thousands of cats and kittens from unnecessary euthanasia. They’ve continued to fund that program every year.

Since 1997, PAWS Chicago’s programs have led the city’s 91% reduction in the pet euthanasia rate. It is PAWS spay/neuter initiatives that have made the biggest difference — two-thirds of the reduction in homeless pet euthanasia is a direct result of fewer pets entering shelters. And PAWS is nearing in on its 300,000th spay/neuter surgery. The Cannings’

gift had a multiplier effect on PAWS Chicago’s TNR programming for feral cats.

“The Cat Prevention Program is set up to tackle a large problem in the city,” said Melissa. “Through these programs, we greatly reduce the number of feral cats and unwanted kittens born in the city of Chicago.”

The majority of stray, feral, and other homeless pets originate in under-resourced neighborhoods because spay/neuter and veterinary care is not an accessible resource. PAWS Community Cats programs worked hand in hand with the PAWS for Life team and focused on providing services directly in the most under-resourced neighborhoods of Chicago — Englewood, West Englewood, and Back of the Yards. The Community Cats team is generally in these targeted communities trapping and releasing cats three times each week.

Additionally, several hundred kittens and friendly adult cats are rescued by Community Cats and admitted into the PAWS adoption program each year. While the goal is to stabilize outdoor cat populations and keep cats where they are, when kittens or at-risk friendly cats are trapped, it is important to provide them with a safe and loving family indoors.

“Funding the Melissa Canning Community Cat Prevention Program has literally prevented tens of thousands of unwanted cats from being euthanized. It is one of the most meaningful steps on our road to a No Kill Chicago,” says Paula Fasseas, PAWS Chicago’s Founder and Executive Chair.

In addition to funding spay/neuter surgeries, the program purchases humane feral cat traps for the PAWS TNR volunteer force, and provides microchips, ear-tipping, and vaccinations for the cats.

Michael and Melissa have not only funded the Community Cats program, but also supported PAWS Chicago’s efforts to build a No Kill Chicago in myriad ways: The couple has twice chaired PAWS Chicago’s largest fundraiser, the annual Fur Ball, and they made a major gift to name the Michael and Melissa Canning Feline Maternity Suite and Feline Healing Room at PAWS Chicago’s state-of-the-art Medical Center. They both serve on the Board of Directors and Melissa is a member of PAWS Development Board. Of course, they also have several PAWS alumni as family members. But homeless cats remain their priority.

Continued on next page

Photos from the top: Canning pets Leo, Lily, Amelia, and Lila were all smiles when we came to take their pictures



One look at Melissa Canning and you know what's important to her: family, animals, and philanthropy that truly makes a difference in the world. She's surrounded by all on this weekday afternoon in her sun-soaked living room. Michael, their son, Mikey, and four pets (dogs Amelia and Lilly, and cats Leo and Lila) orbit her as the family's center of energy and order. Her vitality fills the room, radiating from her quick mind and ceaselessly optimistic attitude. She knows what she values and keeps it all close to her throughout the day. Even her bright dress and giant smile say, "I'm going to make a difference in the world."

In addition to a busy family life, she manages a successful career as a regional sales manager for Handgards, is active in her board duties for PAWS Chicago, and maintains relationships with other local charities.

"I make sure to carve out time for the things that are really important, like PAWS. I have a passion for animals and want to do as much as I can. Animals need a voice. And we're that voice. If we don't help, no one else will," she explains.

Why PAWS? The answer is simple, she says. PAWS provides real-world solutions to reduce euthanasia.

"If you want to solve the problem, learn the numbers, learn the specifics," she says. "Spay/neuter prevents so many unwanted births. And PAWS Chicago has committed so much time, energy and resources to building and maintaining a robust spay/neuter program that makes a real difference in Chicago."

She has special advice for every animal lover: Get involved.

"Whether you're donating your time or your money, both are very much needed. The two pieces are so crucial and important," she says. "And educate your children on how to treat animals. It starts with kids. Kids learn what they see."

Melissa and Michael are inspiring to many up and coming philanthropists and PAWS supporters, according to Fasseas.

"The entire Canning family is an inspiring example of how people can get involved with time, talent, and resources to make a difference in their community. And now Melissa and Michael are such leaders among a younger generation.

"The direction and mindset of PAWS Chicago is exactly the type of organization that we can stand behind. We are 100 percent on the same page."

-Michael Canning

"They are literally showing the way to make a difference with their passion for the plight of homeless pets," she said.

The admiration goes both ways. "The direction and mindset of PAWS Chicago is exactly the type of organization that we can stand behind," says Michael. "We are 100 percent on the same page. I don't think adopting animals is the mission of PAWS Chicago—it's to create a No Kill city and prevent the problem from occurring in the first place."

Likely, the example the Cannings have set will continue into the next generation as well.

"I have always had such a passion for animals, ever since my parents adopted a shelter cat when I was one year old. Now, I see the same interest in our son, Mikey," said Melissa. Their refrigerator is covered in his hand-drawn images of their pets.

It's a passion that has helped thousands and thousands of homeless pets and helped PAWS Chicago and the communities we serve take large steps toward building No Kill Communities.

"I fall asleep with cats. I wake up with cats. I just love cats," she says.

And Chicago is better for it. ■



John and Rita Canning with their "grand pets" Leo and Lily

The Canning family has a long and generous history of philanthropy, led by Rita and John Canning, who taught their six children—including PAWS Chicago Board member Michael—and their 11 grandchildren the importance of giving back.

Not known to seek the spotlight, the Cannings let their actions speak for them. They certainly made a powerful statement on behalf of homeless animals when in 2015 they established the Rita and John Canning Shelter Medicine Fund to sponsor an annual veterinary salary at the Medical Center. Their extraordinary 10-year commitment ensures that thousands of sick and injured pets have access to high-quality care.

In addition, the Cannings support the Lurie Clinic's spay/neuter program, which offers free and low-cost surgeries in the city's most underserved neighborhoods. As a Chicago business giant (Canning is a co-founder and chairman of private equity firm Madison Dearborn Partners), John believes in funding causes with demonstrable outcomes. With a focus on solving pet overpopulation through strategic programs, PAWS Chicago was a perfect fit.

"When we got involved all those years ago, we were happy enough to learn that PAWS is a No Kill shelter," says John. "But they do so much more. The spay/neuter program brings down the kill rate. PAWS is not just a place with cute dogs and cats to adopt—it is a place with great proactivity. PAWS community programs are very forward-thinking."

"Working with PAWS makes us happy," adds Rita. "It is wonderful to be part of seeing something actually change and get better. We like to see, feel, and touch exactly what our donation is being used for. It's all about seeing impact."

A civic-minded couple, John and Rita are also deeply involved in other charities throughout the Chicago area focused on poverty, education, domestic abuse, and health care.



The Canning family's decade-long support has helped transform our industry-leading shelter medicine program.



PAWS Chicago undertook an extensive, multimillion-dollar expansion to its Medical Center, including the nation’s newest and largest homeless pet hospital and setting a new standard in shelter medicine. The facility greatly increases our capacity to treat the sickest and seriously injured animals who otherwise would not receive a second chance.



Tripling our isolation and quarantine suites enables us to save animals others can’t

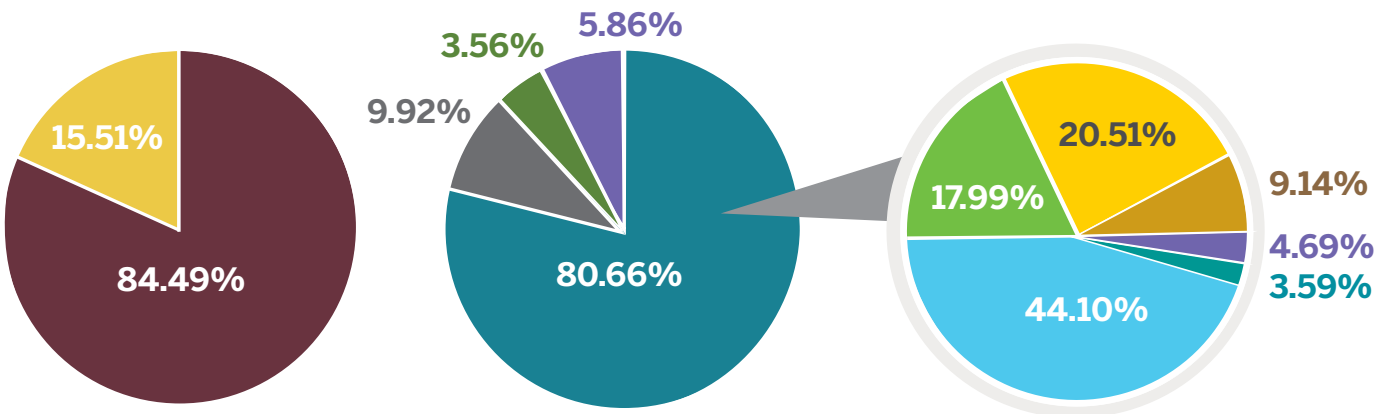
BUILDING &
SUSTAINING
NO KILL

WE COULDN’T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

Strong fiscal management is key to optimizing and leveraging resources. We do this by:

- Recognizing the value of every dollar
- Incorporating trained volunteers into everything we do
- Recruiting talented professionals from a wide range of backgrounds, emphasizing private sector experience in our executive management
- Supporting a culture of continuous improvement, always considering how we can do more with less



CONTRIBUTIONS

- Contributions, Gifts and Grants
- Special Events

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

- Program
- Management and General
- Fundraising
- Special Events

PROGRAM EXPENSES*

- Adoption
- Animal Health & Behavior
- Prevention & Spay/Neuter
- Volunteers
- Community Engagement
- Community Outreach

*Estimates pending final submission of Form 990 to IRS



Wayne and Nan Kocourek

Wayne and Nan Kocourek’s philanthropic influence has supported advancements in healthcare, education, social services, and animal welfare everywhere from small town Iowa to the glittering shores of Hawaii.

Perhaps nowhere has it been felt more than right here in Little Village, at PAWS Chicago’s recently expanded Medical Center.

The Wayne and Nan Kocourek Intake Ward, funded by a generous donation from the Wayne and Nan

Kocourek Foundation, provides the space and advanced technology PAWS Chicago needed to rescue more animals from Chicagoland and 12 high-kill, mostly Southern, states.

“We love animals, believe in PAWS Chicago’s No Kill mission, and felt this is where we could help make an impact. PAWS is focused on solutions. They don’t just talk about the problem. They do something about it,” Nan Kocourek said.

A state-of-the-art pet hospital on Chicago’s Southwest Side is setting a new standard and literally transforming shelter medicine nationwide.

“It’s only possible because of the generosity and commitment from people like Wayne and Nan,” said Paula Fasseas.

The new Medical Center was designed to serve and save more severely sick and injured animals, who years ago would not have been given a second chance. Increased capacity and specially designed quarantine and isolation wards give PAWS Chicago’s veterinarians and shelter medicine team the tools they need to combat and control infectious diseases that many shelters address with mass euthanasia.

“This new Medical Center will help save so many dogs and cats. We’re thrilled to be a part of it,” Nan said.



Recognized for Nonprofit Excellence

Charity Navigator, the nation’s largest independent evaluator, has rated PAWS Chicago at its highest four-star ranking for 18 consecutive years—an accomplishment that less than 1% of the charities in the nation have reached.

PAWS Chicago currently holds a Platinum Seal of Transparency, GuideStar’s highest recognition. By sharing mission-focused metrics, we demonstrate our continued commitment to transparency and give donors and funders meaningful data to evaluate our performance.

PAWS CHICAGO LEADERSHIP

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“I am a voice for these animals. Forever.”

-Wayne Gailis

“I have seen firsthand the lifesaving success that PAWS has achieved with donor gifts, including during times of worldwide economic hardship when so many other organizations were unable to keep their doors open. As a volunteer, I know PAWS Chicago’s commitment to No Kill and making the best decisions for the animals and I have confidence in organization’s longevity. **Sustainability is so important to me—I know that PAWS will always be there for animals in need.”**

Wayne arranged for a planned gift to PAWS Chicago, joining the Guardian Angel Program. His legacy gift will help ensure that PAWS Chicago can continue to save the lives of homeless pets for years to come.

Contact us for more information on including PAWS Chicago in your estate plan.
(773) 475-3320
guardianangel@pawschicago.org
pawschicago.org/guardianangel

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