

PAWSCHICAGO®

2021 IMPACT REPORT

YEAR IN REVIEW

Highlights and Statistics
2021 Honor Roll of Donors

THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Walter Jacobson on his legendary career,
love of pets, and his late wife Susie's legacy

pawschicago.org



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ON THE COVER: Walter Jacobson and PAWS pups Churro and Maple

PHOTO CREDIT: Maria Ponce



Andy



Milton



Heather



Genesis



Romney

Thank You!

Thank you, Supporters!
Your generosity and commitment
to homeless and at-risk animals
has saved the pets in these pages,
and thousands more. The progress
and accomplishments outlined here
are only possible because of you.



Sache



Oakley



Charlie



Nikita



Georgie



Agatha



Twinkle



4,046

Adoptions



12,272

Animals spayed/
neutered



1,602

TNR spay/neuter
surgeries for feral cats



26,946

Free and low-cost
vaccinations



23,856

Pounds of food and
supplies distributed by
the Pet Food Pantry



96,035

Volunteer hours =
46 full-time employees

97.71%

Save Rate

100%

of surgeries free
or low-cost

8,646

medical conditions
treated in homeless pets

4 Stars

Charity Navigator score achieved
for the 19th consecutive year





Dear Supporters,

Each and every day, we see the extraordinary happen at PAWS Chicago. Every day, homeless pets who are grasping at life with everything they can muster come through our doors; every day, animals who have healed in body and heart walk (or are carried) out our doors with new loving families who will cherish them for a lifetime. I only wish I could share each of these touching moments with you—the overcoming of challenges and the triumphs of our PAWS Circle of Life. This Impact Report is our annual effort at giving you a glimpse into how much your support means to the animals.

As you review these pages, know that your support is both focusing on the individual life of each pet that comes to us, and doing it at a massive scale. And, as you know, our critical work is not only focused on the animals in need today, but also on preventing tomorrow’s suffering. Because of you, we are able to bring real solutions to the issues that homeless pets face. This is our No Kill Model in action.

Last year, our brightest moment was the grand opening of our Medical Center, the most state-of-the-art hospital for homeless pets in the nation (page 8). We have tripled our isolation

and quarantine space to 90 suites, enabling us to take in more animals at risk than ever before. This will mean more homeless animals saved and more unwanted pets prevented through our high-volume spay/neuter program.

And none of this work would be possible without you, our core supporters who have joined us on the mission to build No Kill communities. Together, we are working toward the day when every single homeless pet not only survives, but thrives. We are working to not only reach No Kill, but to sustain it into the future.

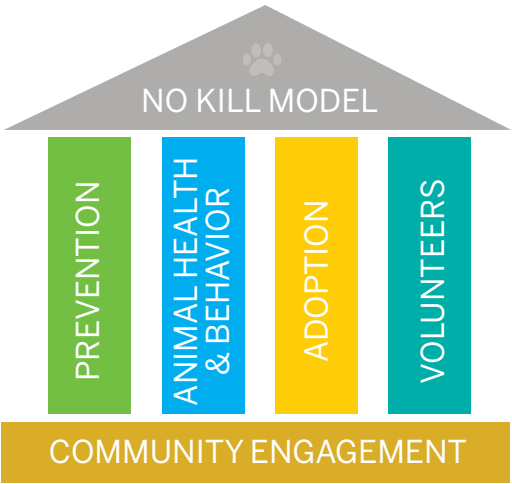
It is people like Walter Jacobson, and his late wife, Susie, who are ensuring that our important work on behalf of animals continues now and forever into the future. Walter and Susie were two of our earliest supporters, even hosting one of our founding events at their home. Susie’s passion was her animals—dogs and horses—and she made sure that the animals were taken care of in her estate planning. On page 18, you can read about this iconic Chicago couple and how they have contributed to our community and to the cause of homeless pets.

Thank you so much for making all of our important work possible, and for all you do to help homeless pets.

Warmest regards,

Paula Fasseas

Paula Fasseas,
Founder & Executive Chair



THE PAWS CHICAGO NO KILL MODEL

Our goal is a No Kill Equilibrium, where the number of homeless and unwanted animals in Chicago is in balance with our community’s capacity to save, heal, and care for them. Everything we do is with that mission in mind.

The foundation of our No Kill Model is Community Engagement. We know that it is people who solve the problems pets face. Our role is working hand-in-hand with the community, keeping our finger on the pulse of what’s happening with homeless pets and inspiring animal lovers to take lifesaving action.

PAWS Chicago’s No Kill pillars sit atop this foundation as ways to directly impact animals: Robust Prevention, Animal Health & Behavior, Adoption and Volunteer programs are necessary ingredients to reach and then sustain a No Kill Equilibrium, where every healthy and treatable pet not only survives but thrives!





PREVENTION

ADDRESSING THE OVERSUPPLY OF PETS

The No. 1 cause of euthanasia is overpopulation. Preventing overpopulation before it happens is the cure. Since our founding in 1997, citywide euthanasia has dropped 91.85%. PAWS Chicago's high-quality, high-volume, free and low-cost spay/neuter and Community Outreach programs have been the driving force in that transformation. The PAWS Chicago Lurie Clinic provides free and low-cost spay/neuter year-round, making these vital services affordable for all. Additionally, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs and free Spay Days continue to be critical paths to preventing volumes of kittens from overwhelming the shelter system.

The majority of stray, feral, and unwanted pets are found in low-income, underserved communities. Our PAWS for Life program works to address pet resource inequities in these areas—staff and volunteers are on the ground five days a week, going door to door and removing barriers to spay/neuter, like transportation. 95% of pets are unaltered when we meet them, and 83% end up getting spayed or neutered. If we stop prevention efforts at any time, the killing will return. Only with consistent, widespread spay/neuter can we achieve a No Kill Chicago.

Above: Our director of spay/neuter surgery, Dr. Alycia Eisenstein (left), leads our high-volume spay/neuter clinic.



12,272
total spay/neuter
surgeries

26,946
for free or at a very minimal
cost, depending on need

23,856
pounds of food and supplies
distributed by the Mobile Pet Food
Pantry serving 5,879 pets

1,602
Spay/Neuter surgeries
provided for feral cats
through Community
Cats program

10,272
miles driven by
PAWS for Life

At left: Our generous supporters believe so strongly in our spay/neuter program that we are able to offer spay/neuter for free or at a very minimal cost, depending on need.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



JOHN NORTHEN JR.

John Northen Jr., a former police sergeant and forever dog lover, passed away in 2021. John truly believed in PAWS Chicago's No Kill mission, rooted in creating lasting change through prevention. John's good friend Peter McCabe spoke with us and fondly recounted John's passion for PAWS. "John could be a very un-serious person. We laughed a lot. But whenever he talked about PAWS, he would always get serious. He'd say, 'They're a No Kill shelter and they're doing the kind of work I really support.' And I could tell he felt, deep down, that PAWS was making society better," said Peter, speaking of John's belief that prevention in the form of spay/neuter was a key to ending pet euthanasia and homelessness. John was a PAWS Chicago Guardian Angel and left an extremely generous gift to homeless pets in his will. Planned gifts protect our longevity and are crucial to sustaining all we've accomplished. Curbing overpopulation takes constant effort, and gifts like John's help us every single day. John loved spending time with his two dogs, Bailey and Boomer, and would often sit with them on his patio overlooking Lincoln Park. "I think police officers really like dogs because they are friends that you never have to worry about not being friends," said Peter. John was exactly the same—loyal through and through. "I really enjoyed John's company. As most people did. We became lifelong friends. Whenever he had problems, he could call me and vice versa. You had John as a friend, you had a friend for life." Today, John's love of animals lives on with his gift to PAWS and a special space at our Medical Center is named in his honor. Thank you, John.



ANIMAL HEALTH & BEHAVIOR

HEALING THE MOST VULNERABLE

Welcome to a dream six years in the making—our newly expanded PAWS Chicago Medical Center, the most advanced shelter hospital in the country, which opened in the fall of 2021.

We tripled our square footage, added state-of-the-art kennels, a new surgical suite, additional exam rooms, more sophisticated medical and lab equipment, enhanced lighting, new HVAC equipment with 100% outside air, and much more. Now with the most advanced shelter hospital in the country, PAWS is able to give new life to even the sickest and most injured animals.

This transformative, 30,000-square-foot facility is central to our mission and at the heart of everything we do for animals in need.

The Medical Center is the first stop for rescued pets, those that will eventually make their way to our Adoption Center to find their new loving families. Each pet is examined here to determine their next step, whether that be quarantine to overcome a contagious illness, spay/neuter surgery, specialty surgery, or a foster home for recovery, before finally traveling to the Adoption Center.

The Medical Center serves a local population of pets as well through our Lurie Spay/Neuter Clinic and Vaccine clinics. Each year we serve more than

20,000 pets who have loving homes, but may lack the resources for spay/neuter, vaccinations or other basic care. Altogether, the Medical Center serves a population of more than 25,000 pets annually.

A State-of-the-Art Facility

Designed with a medical-grade ventilation system and 90 isolation suites to treat pets with contagious illnesses, a new surgical suite for special procedures including tumor removal and advanced dental care, and a dedicated medical team nearly 40 strong, the PAWS Chicago Medical Center is truly the next frontier in addressing pet homelessness and euthanasia.

Surgical and recovery suites, critical care rooms, additional exam rooms, and more sophisticated medical and lab equipment allow us to offer full-service hospitalization.

Medical care now includes in-house bloodwork, ultrasound, X-rays, oxygen therapy and IV care, soft tissue and orthopedic surgeries, radiography, tumor removal, eye procedures, and advanced dental care.

The expansion takes animals' emotional needs into account as well. There is a recovery pavilion, maternity suites for nursing mothers, play spaces for socialization,

Continued on page 10 >



A 30,000-square-foot facility suited for complex surgeries as well as isolating and quarantining contagious animals, and staffed by an expert medical team, has been more than six years in the making.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



NANCY TIMMERS

Nancy Timmers' first experience with PAWS Chicago was volunteering at an Angels with Tails in 1998.

"It was groundbreaking. Paula said, 'Let's bring the animals out and put them in an environment that showcases them.' It brought awareness to how many great animals there are in shelters."

Since then, Nancy has seen firsthand how PAWS has changed the perception of shelters.

"People used to brag about their pedigree animals. Now, you'll hear people brag, 'I rescued this animal missing a foot.' It's a total flip and it's fantastic. I feel like PAWS is responsible for making it super cool to rescue."

Helping sick and injured animals is a particular passion for Nancy. The new Cat Exam Room at our Medical Center is named in honor of her and her husband, Michael.

"The biggest cost, more so than food, is illness. Most shelters can't afford their own Medical Center. So, PAWS really hit a need that's never going away. It's probably the biggest asset we have."

In addition to her support of the Medical Center, Nancy is an active member of our Development Board and attends all our events. This year, she's also chairing the Fur Ball.

"I worked in shelters for 20 years. I basically can't do that anymore, but you know what I can do is help raise money and help raise awareness."

The reason Nancy has been a part of the PAWS community for so long is simple.

"I give because I see PAWS use the money wisely and what they do with it makes a difference. I see what No Kill has done for the city. I mean, everyone can. I see where my donations go and they're doing good."



ANIMAL HEALTH & BEHAVIOR

and a community engagement center. There is also a place for pets who are anxious or distressed to recuperate away from other animals, so they are better able to cope with the shelter environment.

Advanced Medical Care for Serious Illness and Injury

The Medical Center is much more than a building. It is the essential next step in our No Kill mission. As we get closer to achieving our goal of saving every treatable pet, the dogs and cats we save are sicker or have more serious injuries. Animals who come to us with highly contagious illnesses can be quarantined to prevent often deadly illnesses from spreading throughout the patient population. While many shelters continue to practice herd management, euthanizing sick animals as well as all the animals to which they’ve been exposed, PAWS Chicago practices case management, providing individualized care and a commitment to life for each animal.

Individualized care goes beyond the physical. Our training team works one-on-one with animals to assess their needs and regular programs are offered to help animals overcome shyness, improve socialization, and build confidence. With our help they learn the skills they need to thrive when adopted by loving families. The PAWS Chicago Medical Center allows us to treat these animals with love, patience and expert personalized care.

A Caring and Talented Medical Team

PAWS Chicago’s Animal Health & Behavior programs consistently save more than 97% of the vulnerable dogs and cats who walk through our doors. This level of work requires an army of veterinarians, medical specialists, trainers, animal care staff, volunteers, and fosters to ensure each pet receives the individual treatment and rehabilitation he or she requires.

Our Training Center behavior team works one-on-one with animals to assess their needs and determine a training plan. They also facilitate special training sessions. In 2021, we hosted Cat Pawsitive Pro, a lifesaving initiative that introduced advanced, positive reinforcement-based behavior training and enrichment.

But rehabilitation of our more challenging pets takes an extra level of dedication that wouldn’t be possible without our incredible foster network. In a home environment, these animals are given the chance to trust humans again, work through specific issues, and live their best lives. Behavior can be one of the biggest barriers to a successful adoption, and we’re working every day to remove that barrier for our pets.

Above: With a medical team of nearly 40 veterinarians, veterinary technicians and assistants, PAWS Chicago Medical Center can help almost any pet in need.



13 States

from which animals
are rescued

97.71

percent save rate

19,455

exams performed on
our homeless pets

13,826

hours worked by
PAWS veterinarians

1,165

dogs trained in PAWS
public obedience classes

MEDICAL CONDITIONS TREATED

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

CONDITION	TOTAL
Abnormal Ear	406
Abnormal Eye(s)	405
Abnormal Heart Condition	154
Abnormal Hydration	395
Abnormal Musculoskeletal Condition	443
Abnormal Oral/Dental Condition	953
Abnormal Temperature	29
Abnormal Urinary	72
Gastrointestinal Conditions	969
Coccidia, Giardia, Hookworm,Parasites, Roundworm, Tapeworm, Whipworm.	
Genitourinary Conditions	226
Heartworm Positive	78
Neurologic Condition	29
Panleukopenia Exposed	53
Panleukopenia Positive	14
Parvovirus Exposed	121
Parvovirus Positive	26
Puppy/Kitten Quarantine	1,246
Rabies Observation	119
Respiratory Illness	1,098
Calici, Infectious Tracheobronchitis Pneumonia, Upper Respiratory Infection.	
Retrovirus Illness	59
Feline Leukemia Virus, Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).	
Skin Condition	1,294
Mange, Ringworm Positive, Ringworm Suspect.	
Other Diagnosis	457
TOTAL CONDITIONS TREATED	8,646



ADOPTION

MATCHING PETS WITH THEIR PEOPLE

Anyone who’s spent time at our Lincoln Park Adoption Center knows the animal chooses the person. There’s something truly magical about it. But a lot of work goes into arranging that first meeting and setting up a new family for lasting success.

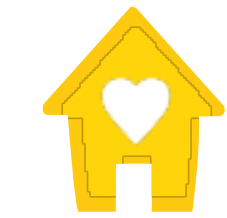
In summer 2021, we happily returned to in-person adoptions and introduced a new, appointment-based model. Plus, our ComPETibility matchmaking system helped adopters and volunteers make better pet matches, taking into account each animal’s activity level, comfort being left alone, and friendliness with kids and other pets.

PAWS also launched our Help Me Heal program, designed to get our most vulnerable pets into lasting homes more quickly. Animals in this program have longer-term illnesses or injuries that require extended

medical care. Interested adopters can foster the animal until it is medically cleared for adoption. This approach provides greater stability for pets, as they avoid bonding with other families and experiencing a revolving door of families and environments, which can lead to stress and anxiety.

In addition to regular adoptions, we hosted virtual and in-person adoption events, including Big Love, Don’t Forget Me, and North Shore New Friends. Not only did these events put hundreds of pets in loving homes, but they also raised awareness for our No Kill mission and the importance of adopting from shelters.

Above: Looking at just a few of the 4,046 pets matched with their happy new families is enough to make anyone smile.



4,046
adoptions

536
fosters who chose
to adopt

2,641
pets placed in
foster care

1,121
animals rescued from
Chicago Animal Care &
Control; PAWS is the city’s
largest transfer partner



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



LAURA SACHS

Laura Sachs is an active member of our Development Board and co-chaired this summer’s Beach Party. She is the proud owner of a puggle named Presley, and she recently adopted a PAWS pet whom she named Pickles. “I have wanted to adopt a dog from PAWS since I was just out of college. I used to keep a PAWS adoption form filled out in my glove compartment,” says Laura.

Laura has attended countless PAWS adoption events over the years. She never tires of seeing that magical moment when homeless pets meet their people.

“It is the greatest joy to see the immediate connection between an animal and their new family. They lock eyes and it’s just like, ‘Yep. We’re in this together.’”

But Laura also appreciates how much work goes into our matchmaking process.

“PAWS is the most dedicated institution in advocating for animals. They make sure the animal is going to a loving home—a home that knows the responsibilities that come with having a dog or a cat and really understands the animal’s needs, their personality, and what they’ve gone through.”

Laura sees shelter adoptions as part of a larger picture of change.

“There are so many animals in need of a loving home, and adoption is the safest and best place to get a dog or a cat. You’re taking them off the street, and the generational impact you have by supporting a shelter is far greater than you will ever know.”

That’s because adoption is an essential pillar in building No Kill communities.

“What’s so incredibly special about PAWS is their commitment to education and spay/neuter in underserved areas. PAWS is so much greater than adoption. It’s the entire institution and the encompassing impact it’s having,” says Laura.



VOLUNTEERS

LIFESAVERS IN ACTION

The time volunteers dedicate to PAWS enables us to continue saving lives and expanding services. With animal care and adoptions being so resource-intensive, it would be impossible to fulfill the mission of a No Kill Chicago without them.

Medical Center volunteers assist with everything from checking in new pets to providing their first socialization and walks. For animals being treated for illnesses and injuries, our specially trained team of TLC Volunteers provides enrichment and socialization. In 2021, Medical Center volunteers spent over 22,000 hours providing vital care and attention to our pets.

Lincoln Park Adoption Center volunteers love and help care for our pets. There’s even a Fun Run club where volunteers take out exercise-loving pups for longer runs. Volunteers also support the Welcome and Adoption Desks, clean animals’ suites, participate in live media segments, support PAWS operations and administration, and work with potential adopters to help find their perfect pet match. In 2021, Lincoln Park volunteers helped PAWS seamlessly transition back to an in-person model and spent over 52,000 hours supporting the Adoption Center.

Transport volunteers shuttle adoptable animals from the Medical Center to the Adoption Center every day and distribute lifesaving medicine, supplies, and community donations. They also routinely meet long-distance shelter partners and make special trips after natural disasters. In 2021, transport volunteers responded to the devastation of Hurricane Ida by driving down with a van full of supplies and returning with 38 homeless pets.

Fosters volunteer their time and their homes to animals who need help outside the shelter environment. This includes infant puppies and kittens, pets healing from illnesses and injuries, and animals in need of training. At any given time, fosters double or even triple our capacity for homeless pets.

Last but certainly not least, members of our Professional and Development Boards volunteer their expertise and act as advocates in the community. They leverage their networks to raise awareness and funds for pets in need and also represent corporate, philanthropic, and civic organizations fighting for homeless pets.

Above: Volunteers at our Lincoln Park Adoption Center, Rescue mission, and Angels with Tails adoption event



96,035
total volunteer hours,
equivalent to 46
full-time employees

2,098
new volunteers

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

- Briana Allen
- Erik Czarnik
- Maryellen Friedman
- Sam Goodman
- Mary Harte
- Claudia Langman
- Judy Myers
- Kimberly Smith
- Shari Wolf
- Joe Zanon



Volunteers at the PAWS 5K

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



MICHELE MISTOVICH

Michele Mistovich first heard about PAWS through our pet-friendly fundraising events. She attended with her pup and instantly connected with the crowd of fellow animal lovers. Then, she learned about our mission. I thought, ‘What a wonderful organization dedicated to No Kill.’ That’s a high bar to set. And they will always take a pet back—I thought that was such a wonderful idea,” said Michele.

Michele was so inspired, she decided to volunteer at our Adoption Center. She started as a Level 1 dog handler and then advanced to Level 2, helping fearful and stronger pups.

“I started to put these Fun Runs together to give energetic, often larger dogs a little more exercise. On that run, dogs interact with street traffic and people walking by, and it really helps them become more normalized to the everyday.”

This is one of Michele’s true passion projects. “What really charges me up is to walk my little ‘dog of the day’ back after that Fun Run. I give them a cookie and they take a big drink of water, and the lights are dim, and you can just tell they’re going to have a great night’s rest. That makes me feel so good.”

Michele is also an active volunteer on our Development Board. “As a board member, first and foremost, I see myself as an ambassador for PAWS. So, at every opportunity, I’m able to speak about the rescue work PAWS does and the effect it has on the city of Chicago. And I’m always looking for other people to become involved.”

“It’s so important. It fills your heart. And there’s nothing like it—just seeing the smiles on the faces of people who are adopting and saying to that dog or cat, ‘Have a nice life,’ and knowing they really will have a great life.”



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

INVITING ALL TO JOIN THE MISSION

Community engagement is the foundation of everything we do.

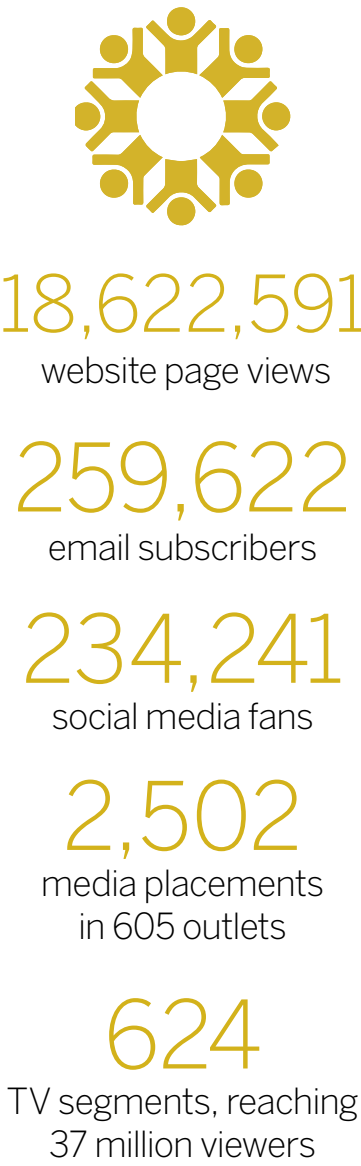
We raise awareness about the plight of homeless animals and arm people with the information and tools to make lifesaving choices, like adoption and spay/neuter. When people find out what pets are facing in a community's sheltering system, they respond. They are mobilized to donate, to volunteer, to adopt and to spread the word. It's through that mobilization that we will achieve a No Kill community.

Community engagement has energized Chicago's 25-year transformation from a city euthanizing more than 40,000 pets each year. The PAWS Chicago

community has helped reduce pet euthanasia in Chicago by 91% since 1997.

Community engagement drives effective programming in each of our pillars. By building personal relationships across the city, we're able to keep our pulse on what's happening with homeless pets and respond to those needs. And this, in turn, generates the measurable improvements that further energizes animal lovers and broadens support for our No Kill mission.

Above: Jake Hamilton, PAWS Chicago super supporter and entertainment reporter for FOX 32 Chicago, emcees the PAWS Chicago 5K, and several other of our fundraising events.



CM PUNK PARTNERS WITH PAWS TO FIGHT FOR THE UNDERDOG

MMA fighter and former WWE champion CM Punk adopted Larry from PAWS Chicago in 2015. This pup, a classic underdog, had trust issues, and a scruffy exterior and required a special adopter willing to work through his challenges. He found a kindred spirit in CM Punk (real name Phillip Brooks), who appreciated his quirks, understood his personality, and knew how to provide the patience, care and understanding he needed. Now, Larry is officially a Wonderdog.

The pair were featured in a highly successful PAWS campaign to find homes for animals who need special adopters.

"I'm thankful PAWS is able to save dogs like Larry when so many shelters wouldn't. Go find your best friend at PAWS and take a chance on getting to know the ones that have been there the longest," says CM Punk.



LEGACY OF LOVE WALTER AND SUSIE JACOBSON'S GIFT HELPS ANIMALS FOR GENERATIONS

After six decades in Chicago newspapers and on television screens, Walter Jacobson is well known for his storytelling prowess as an Emmy-winning journalist. He's covered the people who run the world, and define the times: from queens to gangsters, powerful politicians to change-making activists. He's never shy with an opinion, and his "Perspectives," which started as nightly television commentary, continue to impact the city through his weekly radio segments on WGN-AM 720.

But the promise to PAWS Chicago will leave the most lasting impact of all. When his wife, Susan Graham Jacobson, passed away unexpectedly in 2019, she left a substantial estate gift to PAWS.

That gift funded the Susan and Walter Jacobson Isolation Pavilion at PAWS Chicago Medical Center—36 private suites, an examination room, and three play spaces reserved for PAWS's most severely ill pets.

The pavilion provides PAWS veterinarians and shelter medicine team the tools they need to combat, control and cure infectious diseases that many shelters address with mass euthanasia.

"Susie would be overjoyed to see all these animals being saved today and into the future," says Walter.

During their 24-year marriage, Susie cultivated Walter's love of shelter pets when they adopted a golden retriever they named Lucky from PAWS in 2011. "Lucky for us, lucky for him," Walter quips. The dog was a loving friend to them both. "When anywhere in the house, I would shout 'shower time,' and wherever Lucky was and whatever he was doing, he would stop, race to the shower, get in and wait for me," says Walter.

Walter's former co-anchor Bill Kurtis remembers this time fondly. "Whenever we would ring the bell at Walter and Susie's door, the first greeting was the

barking of a dog, followed by a scuffle of tangled legs, arms and paws all going for a hug," he says. "Their dog was inseparable from them and every bit a guest at the dinners we enjoyed around their table."

Imparting her love of animals to Walter and their friends and family is a big part of Susie's enduring legacy.

"One of the many things she gave to me, and left with me, is an almost obsessive love of animals," says Walter. "It's to a degree that when walking the streets, I choke up and sometimes cry at the sight of a happy dog with a sensitive owner. I stand at my third-floor window for a minute or two in the morning to see people on my street walking their dogs. I love to see them watching out for each other."

The Loves of His Life

Walter's children from his first two marriages, Wendy, Peter, Julia, and Genevieve, live and work in New York, Oakland, California and Washington D.C. His 1995 marriage to Susie is what drew him into the world of animal welfare.

"Susie was a loving, interesting, and exciting wife," says Walter. Susie's career reached notable heights in the advertising world. A graduate of Yale University where she was the captain of the women's tennis team, she became a successful and respected advertising executive working in New York and Chicago for top-tier agencies including DDB Needham and J. Walter Thompson.

"We had a lot in common. That's what got us together. We shared interests in politics, sports and art," Walter says. "Though she would deny it, she was competitive with me professionally. I loved that about her".

Susie volunteered and raised money for a variety of Chicago charities, including La Rabida Children's Hospital, the Service Club of Chicago, and PAWS, where she was a devoted member of the Development Board. In the early days when PAWS was grassroots and spreading awareness through word of mouth, Susie and Walter hosted an event at their home to bring more people into the mission of helping Chicago's homeless pets. Susie went on to use her marketing experience to expand the PAWS Angels, a cultivation and fundraising initiative that raised awareness about the City of Chicago's high euthanasia rate.

"Susie wanted to rescue every homeless animal she saw," recalls PAWS founder and executive chair Paula Fasseas. "She was such a wonderful woman. She had energy and spirit. And of course, she had a passion for animals."

Continued >



HER MEMORY LIVES ON

Estate gifts left to PAWS Chicago are placed in a protected fund that ensures PAWS's lifesaving efforts for generations to come. Not only does each gift save sick, injured, abandoned, and abused animals, it helps build a future where no homeless pet is killed or forgotten again.

"Susie and I both believed in the work PAWS Chicago is doing, and in their Guardian Angel program. We wanted to be a voice for voiceless animals, today and long after we're both gone. I know Susie would be happy that the work is ongoing. I am, too," Walter says.

INTERESTED IN THE GUARDIAN ANGEL PROGRAM?

Please call 773-475-4242 or email GuardianAngel@pawschicago.org

Above: Walter and Susie Jacobson with Lucky.



When she unexpectedly passed at 62, it was a too-sudden end to a meaningful life that stunned her friends and family. She was in Wellington, Florida, competing in the Winter Equestrian Festival. Their 80-pound dog, Lucky, was along for the trip. On a walk with Lucky one evening, the big dog lurched suddenly, throwing Susie off balance. She fell and hit her head. She was fine, she insisted to Walter on the phone that night. She said she felt better during the next morning's phone conversation. Walter never talked to her again. Officers found her unconscious on the floor later that day. She passed away from complications from a head injury.

"I talked with Paula about what to do about Lucky," says Walter. "PAWS found him a family in Florida that has a bunch of dogs, a big back yard, a dog swimming pool, and dog buddies to play with in warm weather. I can't bring him here to ice and snow and 84-year-old me. I think about going there to see him. But I don't want to make him, or me, too sad to part."

Walter appreciates the role that PAWS has played in his life with Susie and in her legacy to Chicago's homeless pets. "Susie was passionate about her connection to animals, wanting to protect them," says Walter.

"I'm happy thinking about
Susie's commitment to
animal welfare, and proud of
her gift to PAWS, along with
gifts from other people
who care."

Walter Jacobson

A Storied Career

Long before Walter and Susie became PAWS Guardian Angels, he spent a lifetime as a respected and renowned journalist.

"I hope people remember me as an honest and fair-minded reporter," he says. "I think that's been a guiding principle my whole life in this business."

Walter is well-educated—a bachelor's from Grinnell College in Iowa and a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, in New York.

After a couple of years in print journalism at UPI, Walter transitioned to the new and exploding medium of television news. He spent nearly a decade at WBBM-TV (Channel 2), moved to WMAQ (Channel 5), and returned to WBBM-TV in 1973 for a 20-year run as an investigative reporter and news anchor, co-anchoring the 10 p.m. news for millions of watchers with Kurtis for nearly 16 years.

Walter generated interest—and controversy—from his "Walter Jacobson's Perspective" commentaries delivered live during the newscast. He criticized government waste, challenged elected officials, and generally made his viewers think just a bit harder about the world around them.

Through it all, Walter beat journalistic giants to the story, fought with mayors, and enjoyed a life like few others. He covered England's Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Chicago in 1959, captured Chicagoans' raw and emotional reaction to President John F. Kennedy's assassination, and brought Muhammad Ali home to meet his mother. Perhaps his most famous story, and the one he mentions first, is his exclusive interview in 1992 with convicted serial killer John Wayne Gacy.

"It was the biggest story of my career." Two years later he watched Gacy's execution with 11 other journalists and witnesses.

There may not be enough paper to list all the interviews, and exclusives. There is one story he dropped. "I missed the Pope."

Walter is in Poland. It's the fall of 1978, when Lech Walesa is guiding the anti-communist Solidarity workers' movement there. "He's an international symbol of freedom, a superstar hero in Chicago's Polish neighborhoods. I'm scheduled for an interview with him on the same day I'm to meet with Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, the archbishop of Krakow," Walter said.

Schedules collide and suddenly there's no time for meeting with both men. Walter chose Walesa.

Just days later back in Chicago, "I walk into the newsroom and see commotion around the monitors. White smoke is puffing out of the chimney on the Sistine Chapel. The first non-Italian in more than 400 years, the first Polish pope in history, Karol Wojtyla, is now Pope John Paul II. "I could have been the only reporter in the world to have known what Pope John Paul II was thinking on the eve of his coronation. I blew it," he said.

Like he's learned from a lifetime watching his beloved Chicago Cubs: You can't win 'em all.

But to the ailing homeless pets receiving advanced care in the Susan and Walter Jacobson Isolation Pavilion each day, winning means saving lives in perpetuity. And by that definition, the Jacobsons are at the very top.

INTERVIEWS.SCOOPS. EXCLUSIVES

Interest and controversy from the "Walter Jacobson Perspective"

1. Scooping journalistic giants took hard work and good typing skills
2. Interviewing Martin Luther King Jr. in 1966. He was living at 1550 South Hamlin Avenue at the time
3. Walter's all-time favorite picture: his son, Peter, and Muhammad Ali
4. Ambushing President Richard Nixon at O'Hare International Airport

Photos courtesy of Walter Jacobson

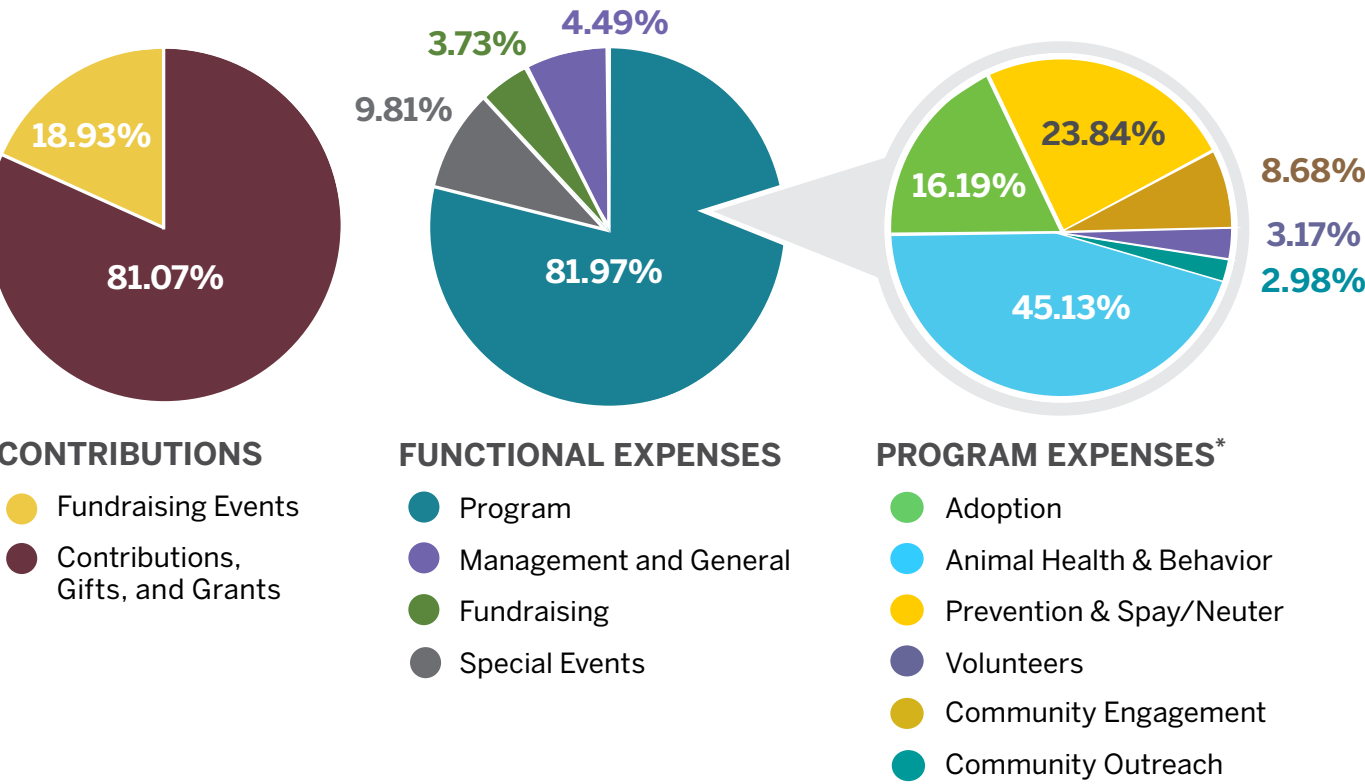


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- Supporting a culture of continuous improvement, always considering how we can do more with less



*Estimates pending final submission of Form 990 to IRS



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Charity Navigator, the nation's largest independent evaluator, has rated PAWS Chicago at its highest 4-star ranking for 19 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.

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