



Capital Humane Society

# SHELTER SHARING

Summer 2016

*Mission: To fulfill the promise of animals, Capital Humane Society shelters animals, protects animals and teaches compassion and respect.*

Capital Humane Society  
Admissions & Assessment  
Center

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

Capital Humane Society  
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## New Programs Aim to Counter Feline Overpopulation

By Matt Madcharo, Director of Operations – Admissions & Assessment Center

Throughout the country, animal welfare organizations are beginning to see a downward trend in canine intake at their facilities. As with many of our counterparts, we have seen this trend in recent years. This is likely the result of a variety of factors including spay/neuter education, adoption over purchasing unaltered dogs & puppies, and many other factors. While the number of cats coming in has declined slightly; cats and kittens are still the largest type of animal that comes into the shelter every day.

How are we trying to have a greater impact on feline overpopulation in our community? We hope to start with the introduction of two new programs, the Low-Cost Feline Spay/Neuter Program for low-income pet owners and the Working Cat Program!

The Low-Cost Feline Spay/Neuter Program is for low-income Lancaster County citizens who currently own a cat(s). Pet owners qualify for the program if



they are currently the recipient of a government assistance program like Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, Disability, SNAP, Housing Assistance, and Child Care Assistance. After completing the eligibility screening, the pet is scheduled for their spay/neuter appointment. The pet owner is

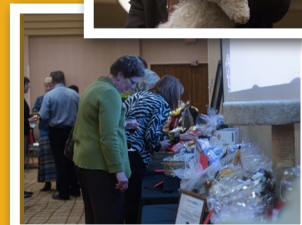
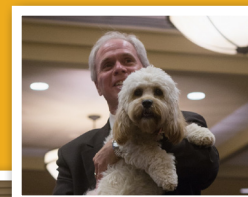
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## The Tail 'N Ties 30th Annual Dinner

By Jennifer Schall, Director of Fundraising and Development

Plans are underway for the Tail 'N Ties 30th Annual Dinner. Mark your calendars and plan to join us Friday, October 28th at the Cornhusker Hotel. Doors open at 5:45 and dinner will be served at 6:30. There will be a live auction, silent auction and always popular story auction. A few of our fuzzy friends will be on hand to greet you. This wonderful evening is filled with over 400 animal supporters, business people and community leaders. We are always very grateful for the auction items that are donated to this event. Some of the most sought after items from last year were golf outings, sporting event tickets and vacation packages. We are hoping to secure items such as these again this year as well and a few other exciting and new items!

Our goal is to raise \$75,000 and we need your help! An individual ticket of \$75 will not only cover the cost to attend but will also vaccinate 4 shelter pets. There are also special sponsor packages available. If you would like to attend or sponsor this event please contact Jennifer Schall at 402.441.4481 or [chsfundraiser@capitalhumanesociety.org](mailto:chsfundraiser@capitalhumanesociety.org)



# New Programs Aim to Counter Feline Overpopulation

By Matt Madcharo, Director of Operations – Admissions & Assessment Center

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responsible for paying \$25.00 and each cat that goes through the program receives the following treatments & procedures: Spay/Neuter Surgery, Microchip, FVRCP vaccination, One-Year Rabies Vaccination, Dewormer, FIV/FelV Combo Test, Flea/tick treatment (if necessary), and any other diagnostics deemed necessary to ensure the cat is suitable for surgery.

The Low-Cost Feline Spay/Neuter Program was introduced at the beginning of March and we have already seen the overwhelming need for this type of spay/neuter assistance in our community. As of mid-July, just four months after the program was introduced, 55 cats & kittens had been spayed/neutered through the program with more scheduled to be performed in the coming weeks. Currently, these surgeries are scheduled around the surgeries being performed on pets heading to the Pieloch Pet Adoption Center.

The second program, the Working Cat Program is intended to provide a placement option for cats with behavior issues or temperaments, which make them better suited for an outdoor lifestyle. The program's purpose is to find appropriate outdoor homes for these cats outside of Lincoln city limits, within Lancaster County. They live in a structure that is a free standing building, safe from the elements, that the cat can get in and out of easily like a barn,

stable, shop, or outbuilding where they have a "job" and a better quality of life.

These cats are given the same veterinary care as our adoption program animals and are spayed/neutered prior to placement to prevent any future litters of kittens. The adopter of a working cat(s) agrees to provide them with daily food/water, protection from the elements and predators, and long-term care including veterinary care. These cats return the gift of a home by working to catch rodents and keep away other unwanted animals.

Working cats range from semi-feral to social cats with behavior issues that make them unsuitable for an indoor home. Semi feral cats are used to some human contact but prefer to keep their distance. Over time, a semi feral cat may become more receptive to human contact and become more social as they settle into their new outdoor home. Cats that are candidates for our Adoption Program or currently in our Adoption Program are not eligible for adoption as working cats.

To learn more about the Low-Cost Feline Spay/Neuter Program and the Working Cat Program, please visit our website and spread the word to those who may benefit from either of these programs.

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Matt Madcharo  
Director of Operations  
Admissions &  
Assessment Center

## Making a Difference

amazon.com  
wish list

### Happy Birthday Izzie & Jayma!

These awesome girls asked for donations rather than presents this year for their birthday, how cool is that?

All of us here at Capital Humane Society are so proud of everyone for thinking of your local community pet! We are so grateful for your kindness and generosity



We would like to say a special thank you to Emme, Cale, and Phoebe! They had a lemonade stand and decided to donate the money to the pets here at Capital Humane Society. We are so grateful for their generosity!

# From the President & CEO

In caring for the pets who become temporary residents of the shelter we have always had several goals. Addressing their health needs, spaying or neutering them so they do not create offspring that come back to the shelter and doing as much as we can medically to those pets so their adopters are receiving a pet that needs minimal follow up care as soon as it leaves the adoption center. Additionally, this year, we began reaching out to low income cat owners in the community to spay or neuter their pets and provide some other basic health care needs at the same time they undergo surgery.

To these ends we will begin an expansion of our veterinary services area at the Admissions and Assessment Center this September. We will be creating a room for dental services, a future digital x-ray room, a larger exam room that can double as a back up or second surgery room and an office for the veterinary staff that is immediately adjacent to the entire veterinary services area.

The larger exam room will also be used by veterinary students from UNL and their professors when they visit the center and have opportunities to do basic health exams of pets as well as procedures such as microchip implants before these cats and dogs head to the adoption program.

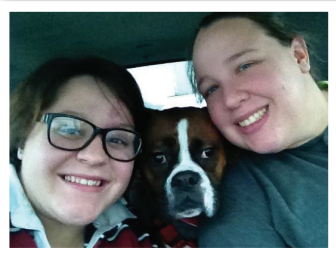
None of this happens without the support and the planned gifts from our donors. My thanks to all of you for making progress like this possible for Capital Humane Society.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Stacy & Sarah Burkhalter

*By Charleen Engberg, Director of Education & Volunteers*

Stacy and Sarah Burkhalter-Sweeney have fostered a variety of pets for Capital Humane Society. They got involved with fostering soon



after moving to Lincoln. "We both have a great love for animals, so volunteering for the Capital Humane Society seemed a natural extension of that," they explained. Their first case was four orphaned kittens. "They were about three weeks old and had been abandoned on the side of the road in a box," Stacy said. "They were separated from their mother so we had to take care of them at all times and feed them every four hours," she explained. "It was a lot of work but was very rewarding. Those kittens were actually featured on TV and we were so excited when they all got adopted right away."

A cat recovering from a broken pelvis and a litter of puppies are among the many pets that have been recipients of their kind care. "One of my favorite fosters was a cat named Jim," Stacy recalled. "He had an inverted eyelid. He would come up to you and just lay on you and

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## Enrichment is not just for Shelter Animals

*By Shelby Backhus, Animal Behaviorist*

Enrichment is enhancing the environment to improve the animal's welfare. Many shelters have implemented enrichment programs for the animals in their care. Enrichment programs aim to reduce stress, which leads to happier and healthier animals. Most programs include a daily toy schedule where each day brings a different toy to play with.

The same ideas can be applied to animals in a home setting. Improving the quality of life for animals should be the goal of all pet owners. The most common type of enrichment programs use toys to get animals up and moving. Treat or food dispensing toys are great for dogs, cats and even critters. The animals need to get moving and playing with the toy so that treats fall out. As a result the animal is physically and mentally stimulated by interacting with the enrichment toy. Animals need physical and mental stimulation daily, just as humans do.

Any toy that gets your animal up and moving can be an enrichment toy. If your cat really likes to play with the newspaper as you are trying to read it, crumble up a page and let him play with a paper ball. If your dog loves to eat ice cubes, freeze some treats in an ice cube so that he works for his treat. If your dog or cat loves to eat his food really fast and gets board easily, feed him by placing his meal in a toy. With food dispensing toys your dog or cat eats slower and may even be a bit worn out after working for his kibble. You may even find that using enrichment toys in your home leads to tired and less destructive cat or dog.

Many enrichment toys can be store bought or even homemade. Talk to your Veterinarian about materials that are safe and appropriate for your animal. Materials need to be non-toxic and able to pass if accidentally swallowed. All enrichment toys should be given to pets under supervision.



**Capital Humane  
Society  
Out & About**

**Critter Corner**

Time Warner Cable, Ch 13  
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

**Lincoln  
Journal Star**

Pet of the Week - Friday

**Neighborhood  
Extra**

1st Saturday of the month

**KOLN-TV 10/11**

Monday, 5:50 a.m.  
Thursday, 12:20 p.m.

**KLKN-TV 8**

Every Wednesday,  
11:50 a.m.

**KZUM 89.3 AM**

Saturday, 10:15 a.m.

**KLIN 1400 AM**

Thursday, 6:55 a.m.

**KFOR 1240 AM**

Monday, 6:50 a.m.  
Thursday, 8:45 a.m.

**KFRX 106.3**

Thursday, 9:00 a.m.

**FROGGY981.com**

Click on Pics/Videos to  
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**Web Site**

capitalhumanesociety.org

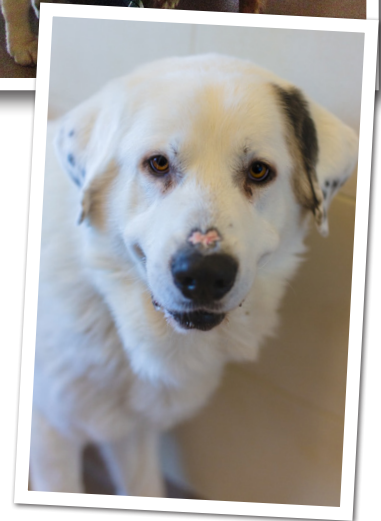
# Thor, the Giant Teddy Bear Finds a Home

*By Jennifer Schall, Director of Fundraising and Development*

In mid January, Thor, a shy Great Pyrenees was brought to us by Animal Control. He had been an outside only dog and when put in a kennel cowered in the back, hiding as people would walk past. During his first month and half, our Animal Behaviorist worked with him. At first, when he was leashed up, he was very hesitant to walk. Another time, when he was outside and off the leash, he tried to climb a brick wall to get away! After time and many dedicated hours of working with him, he was put up for adoption. Thor was a CHS favorite with the staff and volunteers. Nate Medina, one of our Animal Care staff, shared that when he was working at the Admissions and Assessment Center and he had free time he would take Thor outside with his favorite green chew toy and throw it around. "At first Thor was unsure of this game and would whine, but over time he got the hang of it and loved to play."

Sarha, a volunteer for CHS said, "Thor was amazing. I don't know how else to phrase it. My first impression of him was how could this teddy bear sized beauty be scared to leave his kennel? He was frightened by everything and kept to himself but because he was there for awhile, I was blessed with the opportunity of getting to know him and growing closer to him than any of the other pets. Slowly but surely he became one of my best dog friends. I love that dog dearly. I grew close enough to him that I even used my off periods from school to visit sometimes. He is such an awesome dog with such a loving personality and I hope he's happy in his new home. He deserves it!"

Over the course of his journey here at the Capital Humane Society a handful of people came to look at him. Finally, on April 27, 2016, Thor went to his forever home. The dog who had been afraid of his kennel, his toy, cats and his leash went to a home with a Golden Retriever named Sam. They are best friends now. It's because of the support of people like you that we at the Capital Humane Society are able to put so much love and attention into an oversized teddy bear. It's because of your donations of time, love and money that Thor has a home.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Stacy & Sarah Burkhalter

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be perfectly content to stay there as long as you would let him. He really was such a sweet cat and it makes me feel good that we could contribute to his recovery so that he could get adopted into a forever home."

Every pet at the Capital Humane Society has a story that matters. The very young, the injured and the sick animals that arrive at our doors are fortunate that foster volunteers like Stacy and Sarah are willing to open their home to provide the special assistance they need and deserve. "The process of fostering is very rewarding," they remarked. "Animals love you unconditionally in a way that is very unique. Taking care of them is so important especially when they are so vulnerable."