



## Holiday Newsletter 2023

#### **OUR MISSION**

We serve the citizens and animals of our local communities by providing shelter, medical care, and adoption and transport opportunities for stray, abandoned or surrendered animals.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS November 27th

Celebrate Giving The Center, 4 to 7

*November 28th* Giving Tuesday *Online, in-person, or by mail* 

**December 1st to 17th** Bissell's Empty the Shelter *WCSPCA, Petco, PetSmart* 

**December 2nd** WCSPCA Open House *16620 State Hwy. 123* 

**December 9th** Jingle Paws Market *Washington Park Mall* 

#### **CONNECT WITH US!**



918.336.1577

16620 State Hwy 123 Bartlesville, OK 74006



wcspca.org



@Washington CountySPCA

# PAWS FOR A CAUSE: The Role of Community Cat Programs in Pet Population Control

In the ongoing quest for feline welfare, Washington County SPCA is taking a significant step forward with Community Cat Programs. These initiatives play a pivotal role in addressing the challenges of pet overpopulation, offering humane and effective solutions.

Pet overpopulation is a pressing issue affecting countless cats in our community. Unchecked breeding leads to overcrowded shelters, putting a strain on both our furry friends and local resources.

Enter Community Cat Programs, a beacon of hope in the battle against pet overpopulation. These programs employ a humane and effective approach to manage and care for feral and free-roaming cats within our communities. Rather than resorting to drastic measures like euthanasia, these initiatives emphasize Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) strategies. TNR breaks the cycle of overbreeding, ensuring the well-being of cats while also being a cost-effective and sustainable solution.

In exciting news, Washington County SPCA has been awarded a \$22,000 grant from Best Friends and the Rachel Ray Foundation which includes additional equipment, and ongoing training and support for our staff and volunteers. This generous grant supports our Community Cat Program, allowing us to make an even greater impact on feline welfare in our local community. **Join the cause by:** 

**Spreading Awareness**: Share the benefits of **TNR and Commu**nity Cat Programs with your friends, neighbors, and family.

**Volunteering:** Your time can make a significant difference in the success of these initiatives.

**Donations:** Consider supporting the Washington County SPCA. Every contribution helps provide care for our furry friends.

Let's unite to create a community where every cat receives the care they deserve. Together, we can make a lasting impact on feline well-being.



#### Navigating Change: A Snapshot of Animal Welfare in the Past Year

As the world grappled with the challenges of the pandemic, the landscape of animal welfare underwent a significant transformation over the past few years. Amidst the tumult, the dynamics of owner surrenders, shelter capacities, transportation, and access to essential services like low-cost spay and neuter clinics have seen notable shifts, shaping the way we care for our furry friends.

At first glance, the decrease in owner surrenders might seem like a positive trend. However, the underlying reasons reveal a more complex reality. Shelters are grappling with overcapacity due to increased dog intakes and limited adoptions, leaving pet owners with few options to surrender their animals. This unintended consequence highlights the urgent need for comprehensive solutions.

Lack of animal transport opportunities between shelter and rescue organizations faced unprecedented challenges as intake facilities ran out of space as well. The result? Animals stranded in shelters for prolonged periods, waiting for their forever homes. Navigating these transportation bottlenecks remains a critical challenge for regional and national animal welfare efforts. The prolonged stay of animals in shelters has become a growing concern. Extended periods in confined spaces not only affect the mental and physical health of these animals but also strain the resources of shelters already facing operational challenges.

Access to low-cost spay and neuter services, a cornerstone in controlling pet populations, faced disruptions as veterinary clinics adjusted operations to comply with health guidelines. This has led to an increase in the number of unaltered animals, exacerbating the challenge of overpopulation.

In the face of these changes, collaboration is key. Animal welfare organizations, policymakers, and the public must work together to find innovative solutions. Addressing overcapacity, streamlining transportation, and ensuring access to essential services are crucial steps in building a more resilient and compassionate future for animal welfare.

As we consider these new struggles in animal welfare, let us channel our collective efforts towards creating a world where every paw finds a loving home and where the challenges of today become stepping stones to a brighter tomorrow for our beloved companions.

Outcomes

2022

1,000

800

600

400

200

0

Adoptions

2023

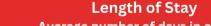
Adoptions ↓ 7%

Transfers ↓46%

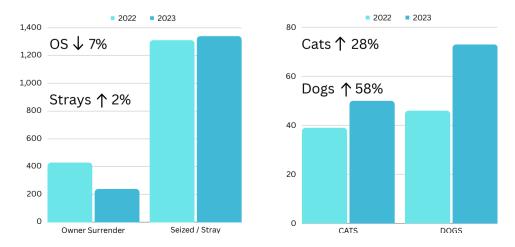
Transfer Out

RTO 👃 30%

Return to Owner







WCSPCA Statistics January 1st to October 31st 2022 vs. January 1st to October 31st 2023

Intakes

### **Adoption Updates**



My family and I recently adopted the sweetest little girl dog named Ruby, we call her Miss Ruby Mae. We weren't looking for another dog but God himself picked her out for us because she completes our family and fits right in. She's rambunctious and keeps us on our toes. She's very well behaved. She already brings us so much joy and she's starting to settle in, not be nervous, and act like this is her home too. We are so thankful your organization exists and that you strive to give animals a chance at good lives. We already don't know what we'd do without Miss Ruby Mae. - The Paradis Family

We adopted Ruby (formerly Remy) in October 2022 at the Pumpkin Town Farms adoption event. She has been a wonderful addition to our family! She loves to play with all her toys and loves attention from her human siblings. She is incredibly smart and listens very well. She is also very spoiled! We are so happy we found her that October day! - The Bosco Family





Leela Bean, AKA Bean or Bean Dip or Beanie, has lived with me for a little over a year and a half. When I saw her on Facebook, I knew I had to have her. I had recently lost a 14 year old dog from the WCSPCA and I know what it means to get a forever pet from there. Bean has been a sweet companion and a feisty mouser (although she brings them IN the house). The staff at WCSPCA is so compassionate and caring for both the animals and those who wish to adopt the pets. Adopt, don't shop! - Casey Williams



#### UNLEASH GENOROSITY ON GIVING TUESDAY

Join us for the largest giving day of the year and double your impact thanks to a challenge match from our Giving Tuesday sponsor, **Sutterfield Financial Group**.

There are several ways to participate:

- Donate online at wcspca.org on November 28th
- Create your own peer to peer fundraising page for WCSPCA and encourage your friends to donate.
- Stop by the shelter and drop off a donation



SCAN TO DONATE TÓ THE GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN



We extend our gratitude to the incredible individuals and organizations whose unwavering support has fueled our mission. To our dedicated volunteers, your selflessness and commitment have brought our vision to life, and we are truly grateful for the time and energy you invest in making a difference. A special thank you to our generous donors, whose contributions have empowered us to reach new heights and expand our impact. We also express deep appreciation to our valued business sponsors for their belief in our cause and their vital role in helping us achieve our goals. Lastly, we extend our thanks to our grantors for their trust and support, enabling us to innovate and create lasting positive change. Together, your collective efforts are transforming lives and building a brighter future for our community.

#### **2023 Business Sponsors**





Bartlesville Animal Hospital & Boarding Kennel

#### 2023 Grantors



















ARVEST









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## Ways to Give

- Mail a Check
- Online at wcspca.org
- Donate Supplies
- Donate Stock
- Volunteer
- Apply for an employer match
- Include us in your estate planning

## SCAN ME

