

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

THANK YOU! Thank you to all of the individuals and businesses that generously gave to the Northwoods Humane Society this holiday season to help us meet the goal of matching a \$25,000 challenge. The challenge was met and exceeded the goal. What a beautiful way to start 2023.

The following has been taken from my 2022 December Board Report. It recaps some of the accomplishments, improvements and functions of the Northwoods Humane Society. This is part of the first half of the report and next week will have the other half.

The Northwoods Humane Society is guided by a Board of Directors that bring a variety of skills and share their time and resources to ensure the care of the animals at the shelter and thru community outreach. Board members include Gil Zych, Michelle Forrester, Linda Graham, Shirley Armstrong, Chuck Newton, Steve Menke, Kim Kral, Barbara Hoeft, Lori Butala, Susan Sams, Cherie Arzola and myself. I am grateful to be able to work with such sincere people. Along with the Board members we are helped by our treasurer Marcia McIntosh, recording secretary Barbara Sealey and corresponding secretary Charmain Metzinger.

The Mission of the Northwoods Humane Society (NHS) is to provide a sheltered environment for unwanted animals. NHS will work to find appropriate homes for animals, provide medical care as needed and work to socialize and train to increase their success in a home situation. The Northwoods Humane Society will actively work to promote responsible pet ownership with an emphasis on the need for spay and neutering of pets. NHS will work with all factions of the community to address the needs of animals in the community.

The Northwoods Humane Society has been true to our stated mission. NHS served 644 animals this year at the shelter. There were 183 dogs, 122 puppies, 103 cats and 135 Kittens adopted. We had one dog euthanized because of aggression, for kidney failure and one with cancer. Two cats passed away. A loss of less than ½ percent. At the time of the report there were 28 dogs and 73 cats waiting for homes at the shelter.

This past fiscal year we met our financial needs through the generosity of members, donors, adoption fees, fundraisers, grants and bequests and the proceeds from the NHS Thrift Shop.

Grants have been more difficult to get recently. Alecia Austin, our shelter manager, was successful with a grant from St. Croix Foundation for micro-chips and from the Kenneth Scott Foundation for new fencing for the shelter exercise area.

NHS continues to be pro-active with spay and neutering of owned animals. We received some designated donations that may only be used for spay and neutering and have pulled from the general fund to cover the others. NHS has made such great progress in the community preventing unwanted litters; it is not an area we want to neglect. Because of the gift of the Purple Cat Van and Dr. Rupel we have been very pro-active with the cat population. The two clinics held this year did over 100 cats – the majority were owned cats, some shelter cats and some feral cats. The clinics have been sponsored by donors, including the rabies vaccinations.

Community outreach provides pet food to area food shelves as well for those that pickup directly from the shelter. Housing for outdoor pets and some medical assistance for owned pet when grant money is available. Lisa Lew, assistant shelter manager, facilitates a TNR program for feral cats.

The Northwoods Humane Society continues to work with rescue groups throughout the United States. Because of our excellent adoption rates, we are able to not only meet the needs of our area animals, but embrace those that

would otherwise be euthanized due to over population. Area shelters also help one another when needed. Currently the Austin, Texas rescue group is the primary source of dogs for – we took in 145 dogs from Austin, Texas.

NHS is one of 350 rescue shelters approved by the Humane Society of the United States. NHS was asked to participate in the rescue of 4,000 beagles that were being bred for research facilities. NHS received 30 beagles. The staff did an outstanding job of organizing the care, assessments, medical needs and foster homes. It was a huge challenge but it went very, very well. All have been placed in successful homes. (To be continued next week)