



# Executive Director Impact Report

November 2024

## A Message from the Executive Director

November was a busy busy month at Paws and Claws. We had many events, from Reading to Cats, Girl Scout tours, a volunteer open house, basement organization day and more!

Best of all, we saved our highest number of cats in one month, crossing into triple digit territory! 106 new cats joined the Paws and Claws family in November.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashlynn Boyce".

Ashlynn Boyce, Executive Director

---

## Rescue Statistics

We took in **106** new cats in the month of November (**63 kittens, 43 cats**). We achieved a 100% live save rate in November, maintaining our overall save rate of 98%.

We performed 52 on-site surgeries in November. 25 were spays and 27 were neuters. Our surgical department has significantly increased efficiency since its inception in March of 2024.

## Mama Tuna's Transformation: Healing Her Skin After Motherhood

Tuna, a devoted mama cat, had nurtured her kittens until they were strong and independent, but the toll it took on her body was clear. Though her kittens no longer nursed, the skin on her stomach remained sensitive and inflamed. She'd lick herself endlessly, trying to soothe her skin, but it only made things worse.

For the past month and a half, Tuna has been living in a peaceful foster home, where every effort has been made to reduce her stress. Tuna was started on a new medication to help her skin, and the results have been amazing.

With her inflammation under control, Tuna has blossomed into a happy, confident cat. She's become a little chatterbox, greeting her foster family with soft meows and always eager to be near them. Tuna's journey proves how a little love and the right treatment can turn a difficult situation around.



*At the shelter, Tuna had to wear a cone and shirt to prevent her from licking her stomach.*



*The fur on Tuna's stomach has started to grow back and she's been feeling much better in her foster home.*

## Adoption Statistics

During the month of November, we had 167 cats live at the Adoption Center.

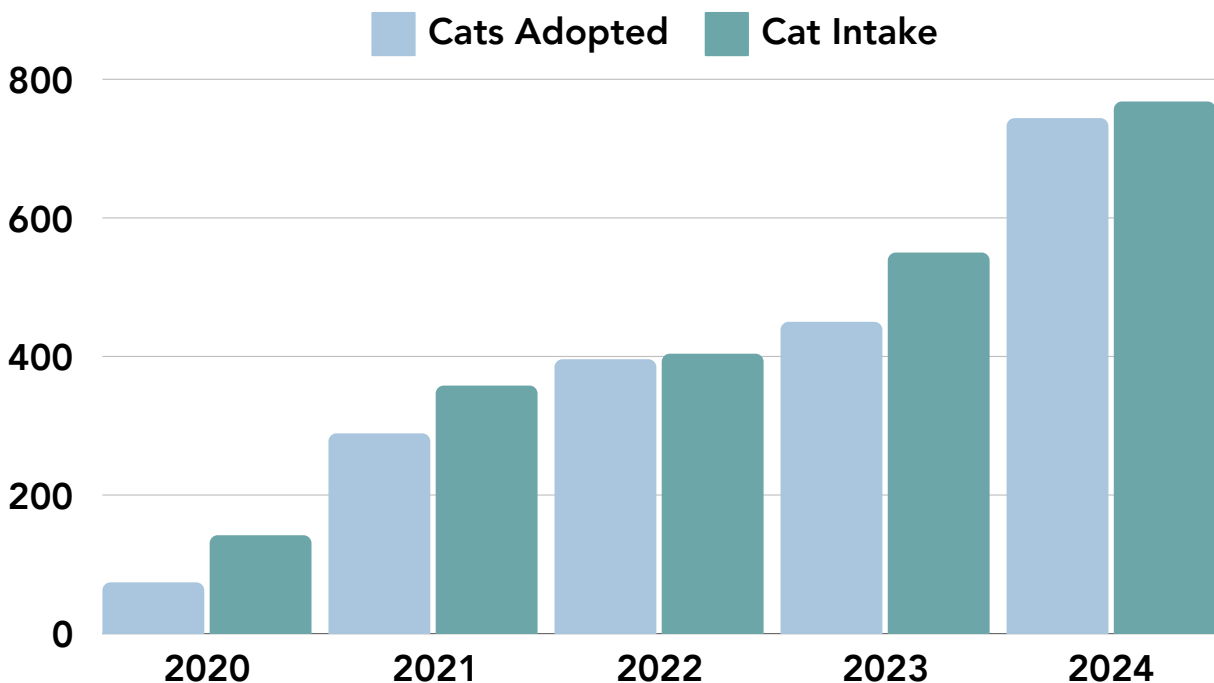
76 cats were adopted this month, which is up 43% over last November. That's 65 forever homes!



Single cat adoptions      Multi-cat adoptions

We've saved a total of 768 cats in 2024 so far. We're 93% towards our goal of saving 829 cats this year.

### Yearly Adoptions & Intakes



Our average length of stay for 2024 dropped down from 41 to 40 days in November.

### Average Length of Stay

Metric	LOS (days)
Pre-adoptable	17
Adoptable	23

### Adoption Center Statistics

We were open to the public 12 times for visiting hours. A total of 245 visitors came to the Adoption Center during these times.

Visiting hours:

**Tuesday 4-5:30 p.m. Thursday 12:15-3 p.m. Saturday 12:30-3:30 p.m.**

### New Intakes Lynx and Bobcat, a Shy but Loving Pair

Lynx and Bobcat, a shy bonded pair, arrived on November 19, and they've already stolen the hearts of many volunteers. Lynx, a 5-year-old, and Bobcat, a 3-year-old, previously lived together in the same home.

We don't know much about their past, but we do know it hasn't been easy. Lynx came to us missing an eye and sadly declawed, which may explain his initial reservations compared to Bobcat. Despite their nervousness, the moment they see an outstretched hand, their walls come down. These sweet boys lean in for pets, nudge for affection, and soak up every ounce of love offered to them.

We're certain their best days are ahead. Life is just beginning to look brighter for these sweet boys!



*Lynx and Bobcat in our treatment room.*



*Lynx melts into pets whenever someone visits him.*

## Volunteer Statistics

### Volunteer Stats for November

<i>Metric</i>	<i>#</i>
Total Volunteers	377
New Volunteers	24
Total Volunteer Hours	1,196

We held 4 volunteer orientations in November, welcoming 24 new volunteers to our team.

Some of our current volunteer opportunities include:

**Admin Aviator** (Data entry and scanning)

**Birthday Baron**

(Supervising kid's parties)

**Weight Warden** (Weigh all resident cats and document data)

**Cat Care Crew** (Cleaning, Feeding, and Socializing resident felines)

**Intake Innovator** (Adding new arrivals to shelter management platform)

**Surgical Savant** (Assist with surgical procedures and recovery)

**Visitor Valet** (Interact with public visitors)

## Paw Print Club

Our monthly donation membership, Paw Print Club, allows supporters to sign up for automatic monthly donations that go towards the shelter, rehabilitation, food, supplies, and medical care of homeless cats who have been abandoned and neglected.

This month, we welcomed 8 new members to the Paw Print Club, bringing our total number of dedicated donors to 235. Thanks to their consistent generosity, we've been able to ensure that every cat in our care receives the love and attention they need to thrive.

## Foster Statistics

### Foster Stats for November

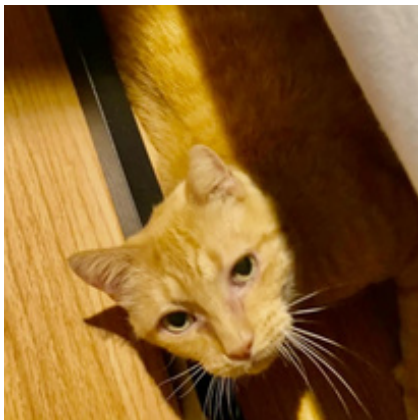
Metric	#
Cats in Foster Care	102
Total Fosters	84
New Fosters	-
Total Days Cats Were Fostered	2,481

### Meet Socrates, One of Our Longest Residents

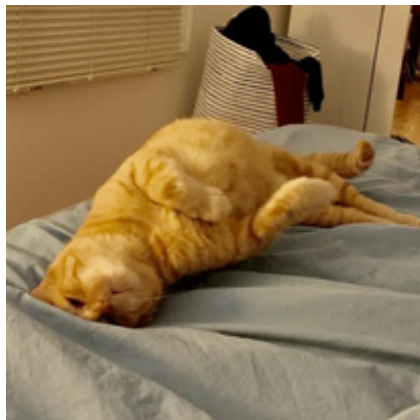
Socrates has been with us since September 7 and we've been working on his confidence since day 1. He's 4.5 years old and as timid as they come.

He spent several weeks in a foster home, where patience was key. For days, he hid under the bed, avoiding interaction. Over the span of many weeks, his curiosity began to peek through. He started venturing into the living room, curling up on the bed, and even playfully showing his belly.

To help him meet his forever family, we moved him to the Adoption Center. While he still spends much of his time nestled inside a cardboard cat house, his gentle side shines through—purring when pet and nudging for affection. We're confident the right person will find him soon and give him the loving home he deserves.



*At first, Socrates only peeked out from under the bed in foster.*



*Socrates being playful in his foster home.*



*Socrates enjoys cuddling up in a bed at the Adoption Center.*

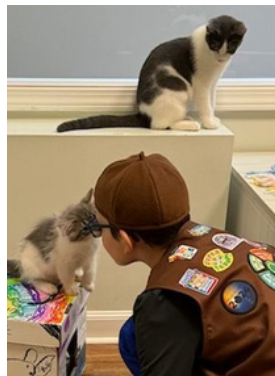


## November Events

Each event we host brings us closer to our community, fostering connections that are essential for our mission. Events provide a unique opportunity to raise awareness about our cause, educate the public on the importance of animal welfare, and showcase the personalities of the cats in our care.

### ***Girl Scout Troop 47273***

Earlier this month, we were delighted to welcome 21 Brownie and Junior Scouts from Girl Scout Troop 47273. They brought thoughtful donations, including paper towels and garbage bags, to support our rescue cats. During their visit, the Scouts toured our shelter, learned about the work we're doing for people and felines, and enjoyed spending time with our onsite cats.



*The Scouts meeting the newest arrivals in our treatment room and spending time with some of our adoptable cats, including Boxelder, Rain, Pocus, and Calico Jack.*

### ***Volunteer Open House***

We held our first ever volunteer open house and welcomed over 60 attendees, all eager to learn more about our work. Guests had the chance to chat with staff, tour the shelter, and ask questions of active volunteers, gaining valuable insight into the impact they could make by joining our team

### ***Reading to Cats, Robert Crown***

We collaborated with the Robert Crown Community Center to invite elementary school students to read to our cats. This initiative was a fun and relaxing experience for both the kids and the cats, helping the cats improve their socialization skills with children while giving the kids an opportunity to practice their reading.



*An elementary student reads to Boxelder, who listens intently.*

## November Events (continued)

### ***Do Good Pop-up Cat Toys, Justin Wynn Foundation***

Last August, the Justin Wynn Foundations hosted a Do Good Pop-up for us at the Main Dempster Mile Block Party, crafting toys for our rescue cats. This organization empowers younger generations by teaching them the value of community service and giving back. Evanston community members of all ages pitched in, creating over 50 toys for our cats. This month, student members stopped by Paws and Claws to deliver the toys directly to our onsite cats.



*On August 23, community members of all ages crafted toys for our rescue cats at the Justin Wynn Do Good Pop-up Booth during the Main Dempster Mile Block Party.*

### ***Birthday Parties***

This month, we hosted three birthday parties at the adoption center. These 90-minute celebrations are a unique experience for children and families to come together, spend time with our rescue cats, enjoy fun activities, and let the birthday honoree name a cat!

### ***Basement Organization***

To provide the best care for all our cats, we stay well-stocked with essential supplies. Our dedicated volunteers recently came together to help organize the basement, including food, litter, toys, cleaning supplies, event materials, medical supplies, and foster essentials. With everything neat, our volunteers can work more efficiently, quickly finding what they need and getting back upstairs to care for our cats.



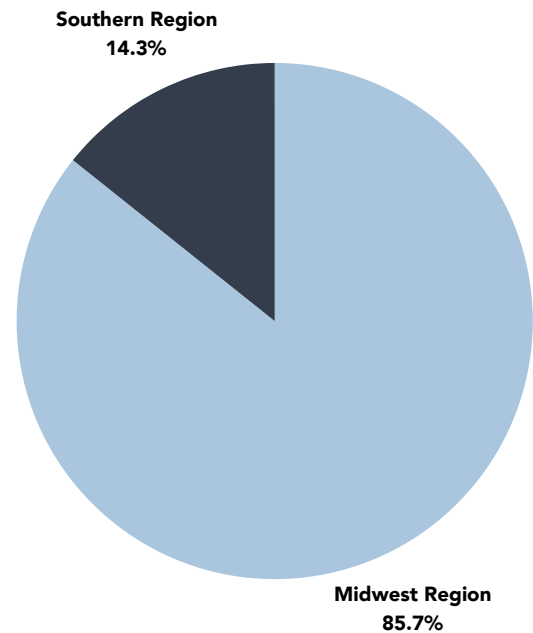
*A stocked and organized basement.*



## Transports

We received 7 transports from our partner shelters:

- Humane Society of St. Joseph County
- Winnebago County Animal Services
- South Bend Animal Resource Center
- Humane Society of Elkhart County
- Berrien County Animal Control
- Shaver Feline Rescue

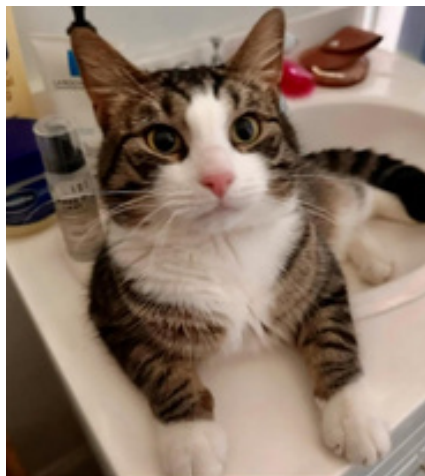


## Pizza's Not Letting FeLV Stop Him From Enjoying Life's Joys

Pizza was found by one of our volunteers munching on—yep, soggy pizza—right in the middle of the street. We were able to locate his owners but sadly they were not in a place to take him back, so we promised we would take good care of him. Upon intake, Pizza tested positive for FeLV, a virus that weakens the immune system, but that hasn't slowed him down one bit.

After just one day in his foster home, he was zooming around the living room after toys. It wasn't long before he discovered the simple joy of playing with tap water, and he's been living his best life ever since.

Pizza is now eagerly awaiting his forever family, ready to share all the love he has to give.



*Pizza playing in a sink.*



*Pizza, as happy as can be, in his foster home.*