



Executive Director Impact Report

January 2025

A Message from the Executive Director

January was marked with several events, bringing more community members into the Adoption Center. Through girl scouts, expanding our visitor hours to include Friday and Sundays, and a special private yoga event, we had many new ways to engage with individuals of all ages.

Julia Bozza started as our Adoption Center Operations Coordinator allowing us to expand public facing programs and streamline administrative activities. Despite challenging medical cases and a full isolation ward we had a wonderful month with many adoptions.

Best,

Ashlynn Boyce

Ashlynn Boyce, Executive Director

Rescue Statistics

We took in 70 new cats in the month of January (3 unweaned kittens, 24 kittens, 43 cats). We achieved a 98% live save rate in January setting us up for 2025 with a 98% save rate.

We performed 25 on-site surgeries in January. 14 were spays and 11 were neuters.

Meet Lake and Drive, The Kittens Who Beat Pneumonia

Lake and Drive, two 4-week-old kittens, came to us on January 4 with an upper respiratory infection that quickly progressed into pneumonia. They were in critical condition, and their tiny bodies struggled to breathe, requiring oxygen therapy to help them recover. During the most challenging week of their treatment, we monitored them closely and provided the medical care they desperately needed.

As the days passed, their strength began to return. After the most critical period had passed, they were able to go back into foster care to continue their recovery in a quiet, comfortable environment. Slowly but surely, their health improved, and today, they're both thriving.

Lake and Drive are healthy, eating, full of energy, and scheduled for their neuter surgeries—one step closer to finding their forever homes.

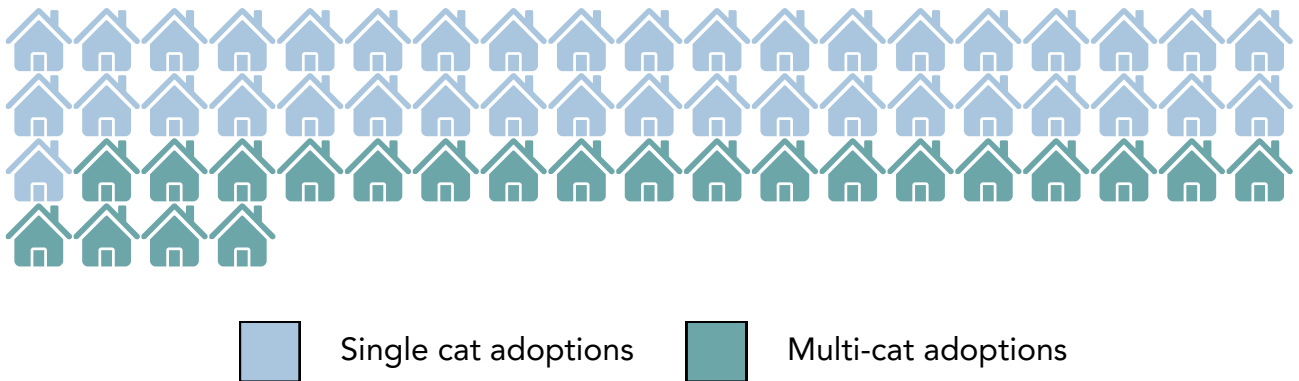


Lake and Drive cuddling.

Adoption Statistics

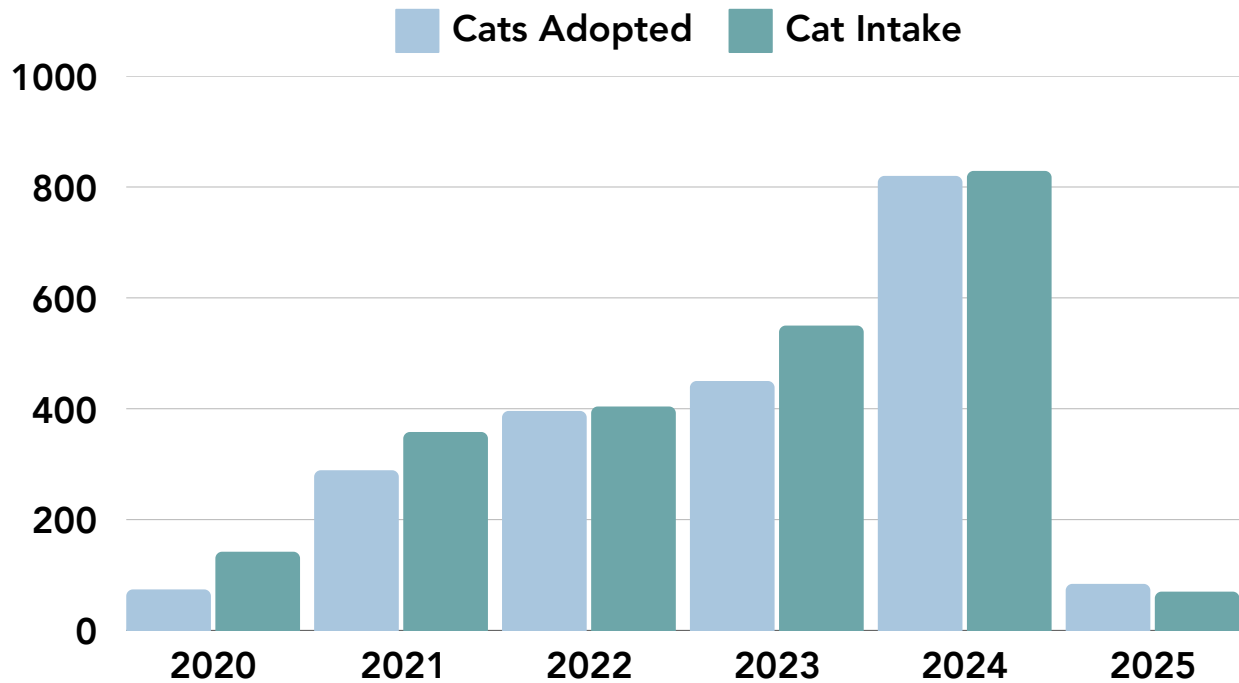
During the month of January, we had 147 cats live at the Adoption Center.

84 cats were adopted this month, which is up 20% over last January. That's 61 forever homes!



We've saved a total of 70 cats in 2025 so far. We're 6% towards our goal of saving 1,160 cats this year.

Yearly Adoptions & Intakes



Our average length of stay for the month of January was 17 days.
 *Q1 LOS data is skewed due to sample and cutoff of beginning of year.

Average Length of Stay

Metric	LOS (days)
Pre-adoptable	9
Adoptable	8

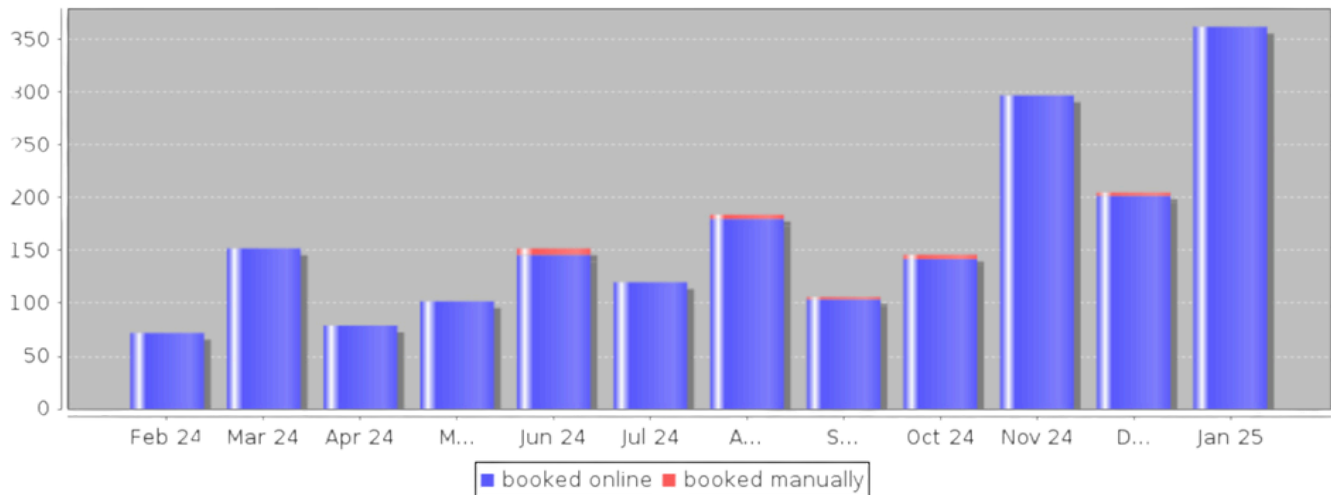
Adoption Center Statistics

We were open to the public 19 times for visiting hours. A total of 370 visitors came to the Adoption Center during these times.

Open hours:

Tuesday 4-5:30 p.m. Friday 6-7:30pm Sunday 12:30-2:45 p.m.
Thursday 12:15-3 p.m. Saturday 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Visitors



Paw Print Club

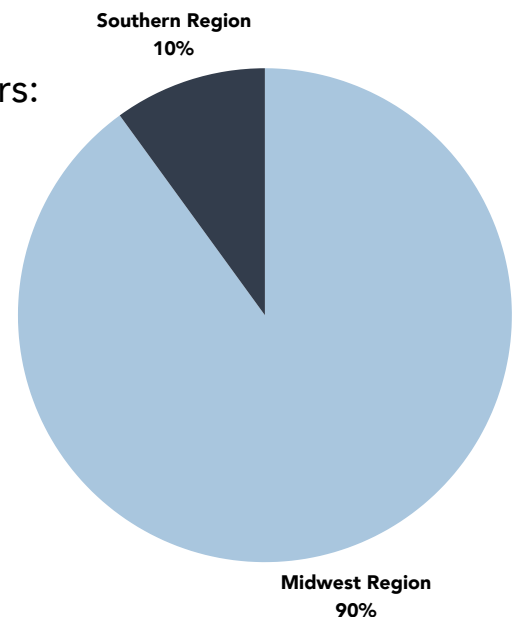
Our monthly donation membership, Paw Print Club, allows supporters to sign up for automatic monthly donations that go towards the shelter, rehabilitation, food, supplies, and medical care of homeless cats who have been abandoned and neglected.

This month, we welcomed 6 new members to the Paw Print Club, bringing our total number of dedicated donors to 250. 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.

Transports

We received 6 transports from our partner shelters:

- South Bend Animal Resource Center
- HS of Elkhart County
- West Monroe, LA



Meet Nikon, One of Our Intakes This Month

When Nikon arrived, we quickly noticed signs of stress-induced over-grooming, a behavior common in cats overwhelmed by their environment. At just 3 years old, Nikon had never known a stable home, which contributed to her stress. This kind of grooming can lead to severe hair loss and skin irritation, and it was clear she needed a calm, nurturing space to help alleviate as much stress as possible.

We immediately placed Nikon into foster care, where she could heal both physically and emotionally. As a shy black cat, Nikon’s journey reflects our commitment to supporting those often overlooked, particularly black cats, who can be passed over due to superstitions or biases. By offering Nikon the time and space she needed, without the pressure of a ticking clock, we’ve been able to help her move closer to the loving, forever home she deserves—one step at a time.



Nikon when she arrived on January 18.

Volunteer Statistics

Volunteer Stats for January

Metric	#
Total Volunteers Who Logged Hours	149
New Volunteers Attending Orientation	34
New Volunteers Who Logged Hours	26
Total Volunteer Hours	1,300

We held 5 volunteer orientations in January, welcoming 34 new volunteers to our team. Some of our current volunteer opportunities include:

Adoption Center Aviator (Shelter upkeep)
Birthday Baron (Supervising kid’s parties)
Cat Care Crew (Cleaning, Feeding, and Socializing resident felines)

Visitor Valet (Interact with public visitors)
Weight Warden (Weigh all resident cats and document data)

Foster Statistics

Foster Stats for January

Metric	#
Cats in Foster Care	143
Total Fosters	75
New Fosters	6
Total Days Cats Were Fostered	1,868

Meet Stevie, Our Longest Resident

Stevie’s journey to us began in Louisiana, where she found herself in a dog shelter—an overwhelming and unfit place for a cat. At some point in her life, she was exposed to a toxin, and by the time she arrived at Paws and Claws on November 24, she had lost her sight completely.

Despite this, Stevie’s sweetness shines through in her own unique way. She’s cautious yet curious, taking in the world around her as she learns to navigate without sight. Slowly, she’s discovering how to rely on her other senses to understand her surroundings.

Since coming into our care, Stevie has been placed in a foster home with someone experienced in caring for blind cats. With patience and compassion, her foster is helping her adjust, providing a safe space where she can build confidence and adapt to her new reality.

Stevie’s journey is still unfolding, but one thing is certain—she’s not facing it alone. And when the time is right, we know there’s a loving home out there, waiting to welcome her with open arms.



Stevie recovering from her spay in Ashlynn’s office.

January 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.

Reading to Cats with Robert Crown

Last year, we started a partnership with the Robert Crown Community Center to invite elementary school students to read to our cats. This initiative is 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. We deeply value our partnership with the Robert Crown Community Center and are grateful for the opportunity to bring this initiative to life once again.

Yoga Classes: 1/25

We hosted 1 yoga class this month, a forty-five-minute session led by an experienced instructor. These all-level classes were designed for small groups, where members of our community can come together, unwind, and play with our rescue cats.

Birthday Parties

We hosted 1 birthday party this month at the adoption center.



Students reading to our rescue cats.



Cullen enjoying the attention at a birthday party.

Parks: A Memoir

Parks was rescued from a shelter overwhelmed by overcrowding, where many cats, like her, were at risk of being euthanized. She arrived at Paws and Claws alongside her brother, Rec, marking a milestone as one of the 829 cats we've saved closing out 2024. Immediately, we knew something was wrong. Parks was emaciated, lethargic, and her heart rate was dangerously high. Despite her condition, she found some comfort in her brother's presence, and we began emergency care right away. Over the next two days, we closely monitored her as she rested in a safe, warm space.

When her bloodwork came back, it revealed that Parks was critically ill. Her levels were dangerously abnormal, and she was severely anemic. Despite multiple blood transfusions and round-the-clock care, she was eventually diagnosed with Feline Leukemia Virus, a disease that weakens the immune system, which meant her body wasn't able to fight this sickness. Sadly, despite our best efforts, it became clear that all we were doing was slowing the inevitable.

On her last good day, we made the difficult decision to let her go peacefully. We stressed every medical option, spending thousands of dollars to try and save her. Although her time with us was short, we are grateful for the weeks she spent knowing comfort, safety, and love.

In the world of rescue, grief and gratitude live side by side. Parks' spirit and the love we had for her will always be a part of our mission to make a difference for every cat in need. Her story will live on not only through the countless cats we rescue but also through her brother, who has found a foster home and is now one step closer to his own happy ending.



Parks (left) with her brother Rec before her first blood transfusion.



Parks in her foster home.