



Executive Director Impact Report

February 2025

A Message from the Executive Director

The big highlight of February was the Best Friends National Conference where members of our team traveled to Palm Springs for three days filled with learning sessions, discussions and networking. We caught up with partners, made new connections, and brought a list of things to implement at Paws and Claws back to Chicago with us.

Beyond the conference, we saved 54 cats and adopted out 54. Our isolation area was filled to capacity almost all month with felines infected with ringworm.

Best,

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

Ashlynn Boyce, Executive Director

Rescue Statistics

We took in 56 new cats in the month of February (9 kittens and 47 cats). We achieved a 100% live save rate in February, maintaining our overall save rate of 99%.

A key part of our mission is rescuing the most overlooked felines, including black cats. This month, 25% of the cats arriving into our care were black cats!

We performed 23 on-site surgeries in February. 11 were spays and 12 were neuters.

Buckwheat is Ready for His Happy Ending

Luck hasn't been on Buckwheat's side—yet. He's been adopted three times from us and returned each time. This last time, he faced an unexpected medical emergency. Buckwheat has always been a cat with a big personality, and in the past, he's had some behavioral challenges. But after his recent diagnosis, we started to wonder—was he acting out because he was in pain and we didn't know?

We acted fast, and he underwent perineal urethrostomy (PU) surgery to prevent future urinary blockages. His surgery went beautifully. After weeks of recovery in our treatment room, Buckwheat was finally medically cleared to continue healing in a volunteer's home. Now, he's cone-free, decompressing in a home environment, and ready to find his forever family—the one that will be his last.



Buckwheat in his foster home

Adoption Statistics

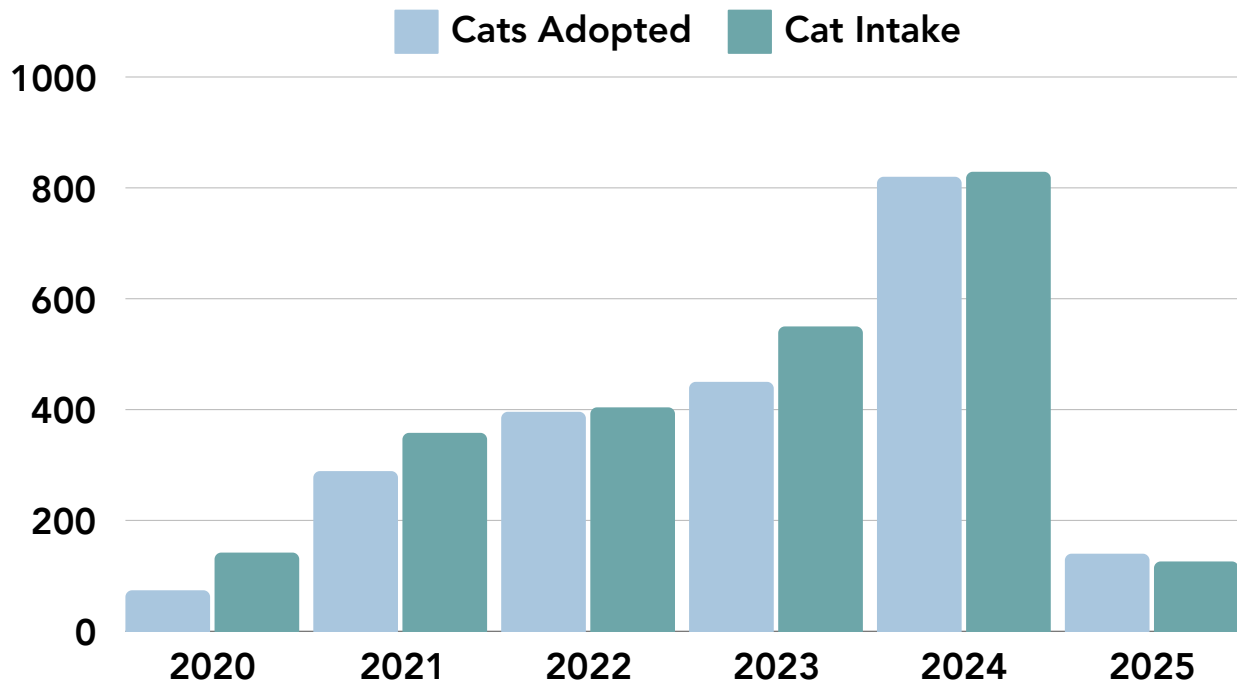
During the month of February, we had 34 cats live at the Adoption Center.

We received 117 adoption applications this month, leading to 55 cats getting adopted, which is up 7.8% over last February. That's 48 forever homes!



We've saved a total of 126 cats in 2025 so far. We're 10% towards our goal of saving 1,160 cats this year.

Yearly Adoptions & Intakes



Our average length of stay for the month of February was 39 days.

Average Length of Stay for ALL Cats

Metric	LOS (days)
Pre-adoptable	19
Adoptable	20

Average Length of Stay for Cats In Foster

Metric	LOS (days)
Pre-adoptable	-
Adoptable	-

Other Outcomes

While adoption is our primary goal, every cat’s journey is unique. In some cases, transferring a cat to a partner organization for specialized care is the best option. In rare instances, humane euthanasia is the most compassionate choice. This section offers a transparent look at the various outcomes that ensure each cat receives the care they need.

<i>Metric</i>	<i>#</i>
Euthanasia	0
Transfer out	1
Died in care	0

We transferred one cat to a feral feline sanctuary after recognizing her inability to transition into a domestic environment. This outcome highlights our efforts to treat and respect each feline as a unique individual and make decisions to offer them the highest quality of life possible, whatever that might be.

Adoption Center Statistics

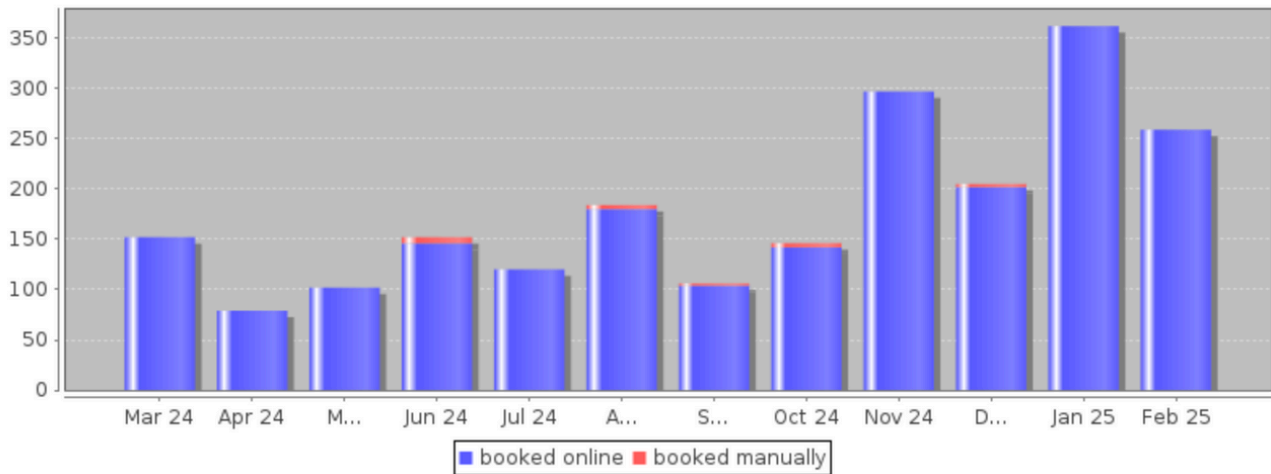
We were open to the public 16 times for visiting hours. A total of 209 visitors came to the Adoption Center during these times.

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



Sea Glass Came Alone... Until She Didn't!

One-year-old Sea Glass arrived from an overwhelmed shelter partner in Louisiana, and little did we know—she had four tiny surprises in store for us! We had no idea she was expecting until the moment we took her out of her carrier for her initial exam. Right away, we could feel she was pregnant. Just 11 days later, before our vet even had a chance to see her, Sea Glass gave birth to four beautiful babies in our treatment room, with a team of volunteers quietly cheering her on.

Newborn kittens are especially vulnerable in a shelter environment because of their nonexistent immune systems, so after a checkup for both mom and babies, we sent the little family to a foster home where they could thrive. Sea Glass's motherly instincts kicked in immediately, and she's been the most devoted mama. Happy birthday to her beachy little crew—Bondi (torbie), Waikiki (torbie), Copacabana (calico), and Clearwater (grey tabby)!



Sea Glass and her babies

Volunteer Statistics

Volunteer Stats for February

Metric	#
Individuals who submitted applications	43
Volunteers who signed up for orientation	34
New Volunteers Attending Orientation	31
New Volunteers Who Logged Hours	16
Total Volunteers Who Logged Hours in 2025	185
Total Volunteer Hours in 2025	2,263

We held 6 volunteer orientations in February, welcoming 31 new volunteers to our team. We are currently in the process of reworking our orientation and onboarding program, which will include a detailed video with a voiceover and quizzes.

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)

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 4 new members to the Paw Print Club, bringing our total number of dedicated donors to 251. 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 February

Metric	#
Cats in Foster Care	122
Total Fosters	68
New Fosters	9
Total Days Cats Were Fostered	1796

Navigating Her New World: Stevie's Next Chapter

Stevie has been with us for just under 100 days. After coming into contact with a toxin in her previous environment, she lost her vision. Her eyes remain constantly dilated, searching for light in an effort to see.

But Stevie is proving that sight isn't the only way to navigate the world. Slowly, she's learning to rely on her other senses to understand her surroundings. She's been in the best possible place to adapt—a foster home with someone experienced in caring for blind cats.

Now, after three months of growth and resilience, we're confident she's ready to take the next step. She's officially adoptable. Adjusting to a new home will take time, but if she's come this far in just a few months, imagine what she'll accomplish in a lifetime.



Stevie in her foster home

February 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.

Storefront Signage

At the beginning of this month, we invited Alec and Ash of Fire Signs Chicago to revamp our storefront signage. Their expertise brought new life to our exterior, making Paws and Claws Cat Rescue more visible and welcoming to adopters, fosters, volunteers, and community members. Now, everyone who passes by knows who we are and the lifesaving work we do.



Paws and Claws Cat Rescue's new and improved storefront.

Fur-ever Yours Adoption Event

We had our second most successful adoption event with 16 cats finding their forever homes! The event was filled with heartwarming moments, as families opened their hearts to new feline companions just in time for Valentine's Day. Every cat who finds a home opens up space for us to rescue another in need, giving them the same chance at finding a loving family.



Adopters meeting with Paws and Claws cats during the Fur-ever Yours Adoption Event.

February Events continued

Volunteer Social

Every few months, we host volunteer socials at the Adoption Center to celebrate our volunteers and their dedication. These gatherings provide a chance for volunteers to connect, meet those they might not cross paths with otherwise, and strengthen the incredible community we've built—one filled with passionate individuals eager to make a difference.



Volunteers mingling at the social and staff member Sean holding Buckwheat in treatment.

Best Friends National Conference 2025

Four staff members traveled to Palm Springs, California for this year's Best Friends National Conference—one of the largest animal welfare gatherings of the year. Hundreds of organizations came together to share innovative lifesaving strategies, network with fellow rescues, and share ideas both big and small. Any idea we can implement to continue our lifesaving, we embrace it. We were especially grateful to reconnect with our shelter partners from Indiana during the event.



Staff members Ashlynn, Julia, Hayley and Jeffrey at the BFNC in Palm Springs.

Yoga Class: 2/15

We hosted 1 yoga class this month, each being 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.

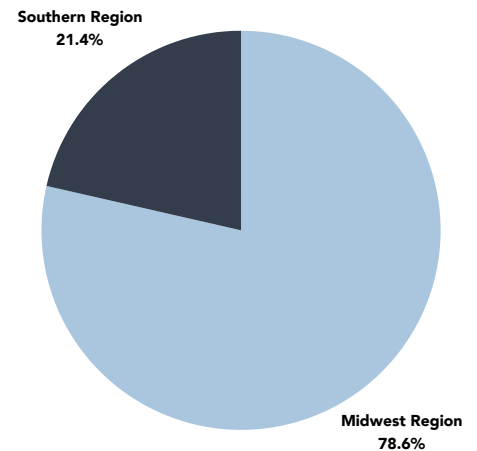
Birthday Parties

We hosted 2 birthday parties this month at the adoption center.

Transports

We received 5 transports from our partner shelters:

- Ouachita Parish Animal Shelter
- Humane Society of Elkhart County
- South Bend Animal Resource Center
- Edgar County Humane Association Inc.
- Humane Society of St. Joseph County
- Shaver Feline Rescue
- 4 Paws Rescue Inc.



Triple the Love: Captain, Pilot and Sailor Stay Together

This trio has officially stolen hearts both online and offline! Captain, Pilot, and Sailor arrived from Rockford, Illinois, and it didn't take long for us to see just how inseparable they were.

Whether in foster care or at the Adoption Center, they were always side by side. We'd often find them all squeezed onto a single shelf in Room 1—meant for just one cat, but they made it work!

Finding a home for three adult cats together is no small feat—it's almost unheard of. But then, the perfect adopter came along, and we never had to break up this trio of soulmates. All three boys went home together, and we couldn't be happier!



Captain (orange), Pilot (orange/white), and Sailor (grey/white) in foster and at the Adoption Center.



The trio with their new family!