



Executive Director Impact Report

December 2024

A Message from the Executive Director

We ended 2024 with a bang. From a successful end-of-year campaign that kicked off on November 20th, picking up steam on Giving Tuesday, December 3rd, and that ran to midnight December 31st, raising over \$62,000 to further our mission, to our annual Winter Friendly Social, hitting our milestone of 829 felines saved and more, we had a December that was full of excitement.

Amidst the fast paced nature of the holidays we made time to review our goals and successes from 2024 and to look ahead and plan for 2025.

Best,

Ashlynn Boyce

Ashlynn Boyce, Executive Director

Rescue Statistics

We took in **61** new cats in the month of December (**39 kittens, 22 cats**). We achieved a 95% live save rate in December, maintaining our overall save rate of 99%.

We performed 30 on-site surgeries in August. 14 were spays and 15 were neuters.

Meet Parks, A Medical Miracle

On Saturday, December 28, Parks arrived at Paws and Claws as one of 17 cats rescued from the euthanasia list at an overcrowded shelter. In facilities designed for dogs, cats like Parks are often overlooked, with little chance of survival. That day marked a historic milestone for us, bringing our total lifesaving intake to 829 felines.

Parks was unexpectedly in critical condition when she arrived. Emaciated and lethargic, her pale gums and rapid heartbeat signaled that something was gravely wrong. We began supportive care right away and over the next 48 hours we monitored her very closely, while she rested in a warm, safe space with her brother.

When her bloodwork results came in, they confirmed what we feared: Parks was critically ill. Every level was dangerously abnormal, and she was severely anemic. Her survival to that point was nothing short of a miracle.

We knew that without a blood transfusion, Parks wouldn't make it. So we did what needed to be done. The road to recovery will be long, and her medical care will cost thousands, but Parks is worth every effort.

She's back in our Adoption Center's treatment room with her brother Rec, where our team of staff and volunteers are keeping a close eye on her.



Parks on her way to the emergency vet.



Parks the day after her blood transfusion.

Adoption Statistics

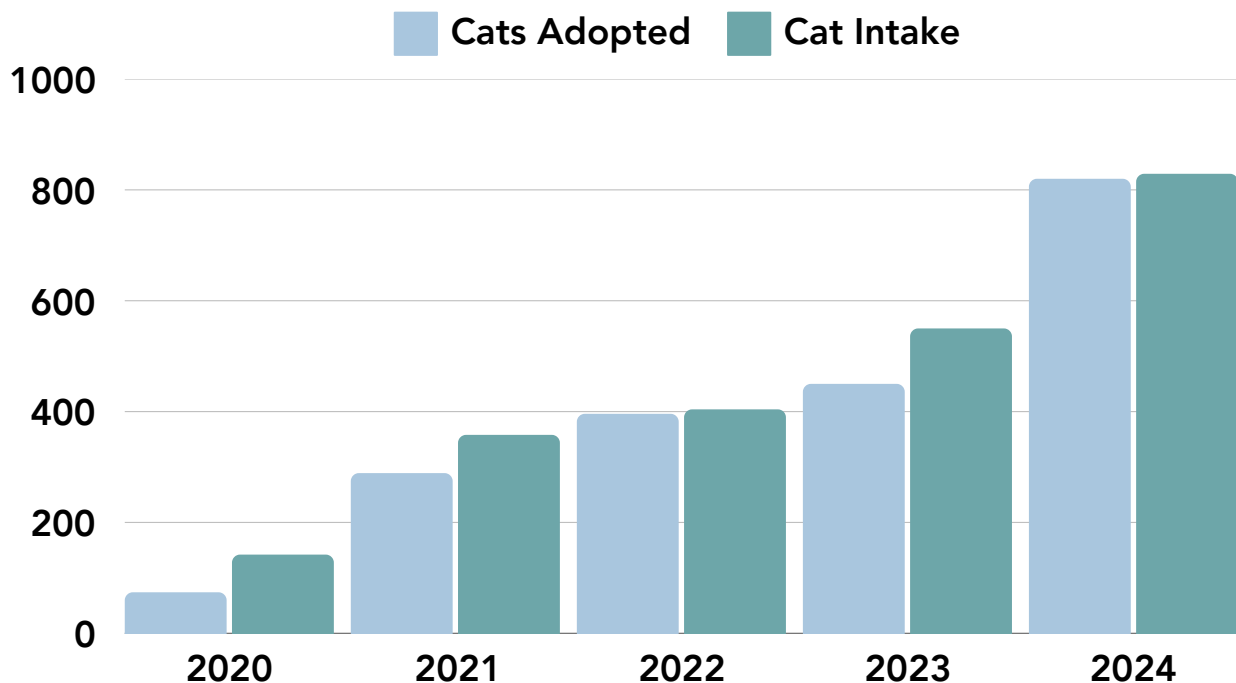
During the month of December, we had 185 cats live at the Adoption Center. Roughly 55 cats lived in-house at a given time.

76 cats were adopted this month, which is up 46% over last December. That's 59 forever homes!



We fulfilled our goal of saving 829 cats this year, in honor of our first full year in our Adoption Center, 829 Chicago Avenue!

Yearly Adoptions & Intakes



Our average length of stay for the month of December was 42 days.

Average Length of Stay

Metric	LOS (days)
Pre-adoptable	19
Adoptable	23

Adoption Center Statistics

We were open to the public 10 times for visiting hours. A total of 148 visitors came to the Adoption Center during these times.

Open hours:

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

Meet Dijon, One of Our Intakes This Month

Three-year-old Dijon had ongoing medical challenges that his previous shelter was unequipped to manage, he was at risk of being euthanized. But at Paws and Claws, we saw beyond his struggles and knew he deserved a chance to heal.

When Dijon arrived, it was clear something was going on with his digestive system. Constant tummy aches left him uncomfortable and in pain. Our team quickly set to work, determined to uncover the root of his issues.

We placed Dijon on a strict, specialized diet to help regulate his digestion. This change is already showing promise, and we're optimistic that it will ease his discomfort and address his medical needs.

Though his journey is just getting started, Dijon is finally on the path to recovery.



Dijon has been staying in our treatment room, where we're monitoring him closely.

Volunteer Statistics

Volunteer Stats for December

<i>Metric</i>	<i>#</i>
Total Volunteers	411
New Volunteers	34
Total Volunteer Hours	1,266

We held 3 volunteer orientations in December, welcoming 34 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 **3** new members to the Paw Print Club, bringing our total number of dedicated donors to **231**. 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 December

Metric	#
Cats in Foster Care	148
Total Fosters	72
New Fosters	8
Total Days Cats Were Fostered	2,381

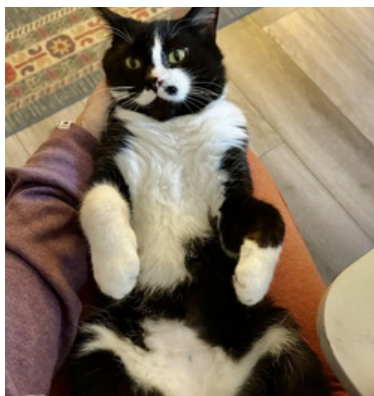
Meet Porkie, One of Our Longest Residents

For the first five years of his life, Porkie roamed the streets of Indiana, surviving as a stray. When he arrived at our Adoption Center, we knew his transition to indoor life would take time and patience.

Porkie has been with us for 75 days now, and despite some initial interest, none of his potential adoptions worked out. Adjusting to life indoors was one hurdle; learning to live peacefully with other cats was another. It can be challenging to find an adopter who has no cats at home, which is what Porkie needed to prevent behavioral issues.

When the time came to introduce him to one of our free-roaming rooms, where he'd share space with multiple feline companions, we weren't sure how he'd adapt. But Porkie surprised us all. Slowly but surely, he began to explore his new environment, learning to play and coexist with his fellow cats.

Porkie's growth remind us of the incredible potential every animal has when given the chance to thrive. We're confident his forever family is just around the corner.



Porkie being a "ham" in his foster home.



Porkie laying on a volunteer's lap at the Adoption Center.

December 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.

Giving Tuesday

The end of year giving season is the most impactful time of the year for Paws and Claws. On Giving Tuesday, our community came together to contribute gifts of every amount that, when combined, create a massive impact. The result was something magical.

This year's Giving Tuesday was our most impactful yet, raising an incredible **\$19,368**. This day marked the kickoff to our end-of-year campaign.



Our staff celebrating Giving Tuesday.

Campaign 829

On Giving Tuesday, we introduced the 829 Campaign—an ambitious initiative aimed at bridging the financial gap between the cost of care and adoption fees to save 829 lives by the end of 2024. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our community, we raised an amazing \$62,243.



The incredible support from our community made it possible for us to save 829 lives by the end of 2024.

December Events (continued)

Winter Friendly Social

Our annual Winter Friendly Social was a heartwarming success, bringing together over 100 volunteers and fosters for a relaxing evening of connection and celebration. It was a wonderful opportunity to unwind, reflect, and enjoy the incredible work we've accomplished together throughout the year. The night was filled with laughter, shared stories, and a deep sense of community, reminding us all of the impact we make together.



Volunteers and fosters catching up at our annual Winter Friendly Social.

Birthday Parties

We hosted two birthday parties this month at the Adoption Center.

Home for the Holidays

The final adoption event of 2024 ended with seven of our cats finding their forever homes. We couldn't have asked for a better way to wrap up the year.

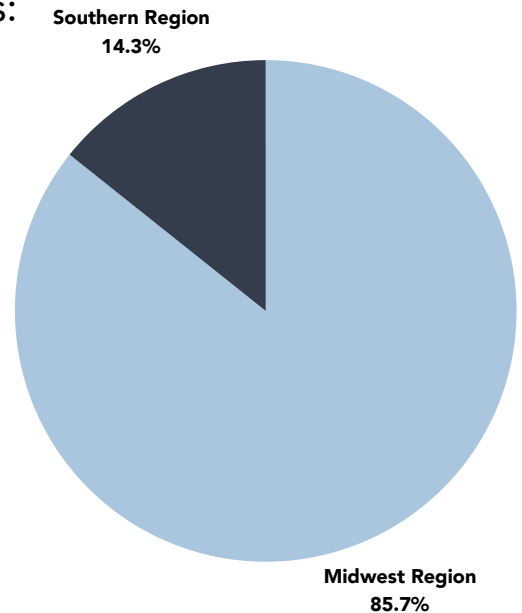


Guests meeting our cats at the Home for the Holidays event.

Transports

We received 8 transports from our partner shelters:

- Berrien County Animal Control
- Border Tails Rescue
- Friends of the Mobile Animal Shelter
- Humane Society of Elkhart County
- Humane Society of St. Joseph County
- Shaver Feline Rescue
- South Bend Animal Resource Center
- Wilson's Way Animal Rescue
- Winnebago County Animal Services



Meet Malibu and Bacardi, This Month's Fan Favorite on Social Media

Malibu and Bacardi were the kind of kittens everyone dreams of—playful, affectionate, and adorable. Every visitor who stepped into their room was greeted by the siblings climbing into their lap.

But as the weeks passed, the bonded pair remained overlooked. Despite their best efforts to win hearts, no one seemed ready to take them home. Determined to find them the family they deserved, we decided to share their story on social media.

One evening, a couple was scrolling through Instagram when Malibu and Bacardi's photo appeared. Instantly, they felt a connection. "It took my breath away," one of them later said. "I had a gut feeling... We really felt these were our babies."

By the very next day, Malibu and Bacardi were on their way to their new home. Sometimes, it just takes the right moment—and the right people—to see what was meant to be all along.



Malibu and Bacardi at the Adoption Center.