



COMPASSION IN ACTION:

HOW YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2024

NEBRASKA HUMANE SOCIETY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



NEBRASKA
HUMANE
SOCIETY



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

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This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Nebraska Humane Society's founding. As we move through 2025, we have many chances to look back and celebrate our century-and-a-half of animal welfare work, while looking forward to the next century of providing for our community's pets and the people who love them.

Oh, the progress we've made with the support of our community! From early roots working with livestock and horses, through the transition to help domesticated pets, and even investigating child neglect and abuse, this agency has a rich history of championing the underdog.

As the world has changed and the needs of pets and their owners have grown more complex, the supporters of NHS have been responsive, enabling our agency to continue offering top of the line care to pets in the shelter, while working to keep pets out of the shelter and in homes whenever possible.

In 2024, NHS averaged 492 animals in shelter care each day! We adopted out more than 7,500 pets, all of whom were spayed or neutered, microchipped and had essential vaccinations. Newly implemented immersive playgroups allowed staff and volunteers to let dogs be dogs, and play in large groups. The result has been less frustration and reactivity in the kennels, and quieter nap times. Our Pet Food Pantry offered a whopping 115,000 pounds of food to owners of 6,386 pets; some at mobile pantries that

help serve pet owners in areas without transportation. We helped 105 people and 149 pets with inclusive, low-cost wellness and vaccination clinics. And our Forever Home Fund provided 140 people and 146 pets with medical funds, training classes, and other services which allowed those pets to stay in their homes.

As we celebrate our 150th anniversary, I am humbled by the care and caregiving of this community.

That is just a peek at what NHS accomplished, and we know that impact will continue to grow. We could not have done it without your support. We are so grateful and energized to continue serving the pets and people of our community. 2024 was a transformational year and we are proud of the successes we had offering hope, providing care and saving lives.

We hope you journey with us as we celebrate this 150th year, showcasing where we have been, where we are going and applauding everyone who has helped along the way.

Best regards,

Pam Wiese
President and CEO



IN 2024:

13,053
domestic animals

2,243
wildlife

15,296
total animals
aided in 2024

Average of
492 animals
in NHS care
each day.



TATE

In late January 2022, an urgent call came from a Sheriff's Department in central Nebraska. They needed help with an animal cruelty court case and, more importantly, with keeping Tate—a young yellow colt—safe from the horrid environment he had endured.

Tate was transported to the Nebraska Humane Society (NHS), and his condition was heartbreaking. He was severely emaciated, his muscles weak, and his front legs bowed from malnutrition and lack of proper hoof care. His joints resembled paddles, a devastating sign of prolonged neglect. But most haunting was the look in his eyes—empty, lifeless, as if all hope was lost.

Tate had been removed from a property that offered no water or food. The animals there had resorted to eating tree bark, wood from fences and barns, and worse just to survive. He had endured unimaginable suffering, but his rescue marked the beginning of a new chapter.

The Long Road to Recovery

Months of intensive care by NHS staff and volunteers were required, treating Tate for parasites, intestinal infections, and the effects of prolonged starvation. Some weeks necessitated visits and treatments up to four times a day. Close collaboration with veterinarians ensured he received specialized feeds and countless medications to aid his

recovery. Throughout the process, continuous updates and photographic evidence were provided to the Sheriff's Department, the county attorney, and the prosecutor to support the case against his former owner.

Finally, in April 2022, the long-awaited news arrived—the owner had agreed to relinquish Tate marking a crucial milestone in his journey to freedom.

Although the legal battle was over, Tate's medical struggles continued. Despite treatment for internal parasites, he suffered from chronic diarrhea, weight loss, and failure to thrive. After numerous tests and ultrasounds, a rare and difficult-to-treat Lawsonia infection was diagnosed, a bacterial disease caused by neglect and poor animal husbandry.

For 60 days, antibiotics were administered twice daily to combat the infection. Frequent bathing was necessary to keep him clean and comfortable, and questions arose about whether he had ever known true health. Gradually, improvements became evident. His eyes brightened, weight increased, and resilience shone through. Therapeutic shoes were fitted by the farrier to support his weak muscles and tendons, allowing him to build strength.

A Bright Future

After many more months of dedicated care at NHS, Tate's

transformation was nothing short of remarkable. By September 2023, his Lawsonia infection had cleared, his body had developed much-needed muscle, and for the first time, he had normal stools.

In March 2024, **after two years of NHS care**, the moment long anticipated arrived—Tate found his forever home. Following extensive rehabilitation and training, he was placed with a loving owner committed to ensuring his well-being.

He was severely emaciated, his muscles weak, and his front legs bowed from malnutrition and lack of proper hoof care.

Tate's journey from starvation and neglect to health and happiness is a testament to the power of dedication, advocacy, and second chances. His life began in unimaginable circumstances, but thanks to your dedication and support, he now has the future he always deserved.

Your constant support makes stories like Tate's possible. Thank you for being part of the mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome animals in need. Because of this support, Tate—and so many others—get to live the lives they were meant to have.

BABUSHKA

When Babushka arrived at the Nebraska Humane Society, she was a stray in desperate need of care. Her tiny frame bore the signs of hardship—her eyes clouded by an upper respiratory infection and conjunctivitis. It was clear she had been struggling for some time. But Babushka’s gentle spirit shone through despite her pain, and NHS veterinarians quickly stepped in to help.

Upon examination, the team determined that Babushka’s infected eye could not be saved. She would need surgery to remove it in order to relieve her discomfort and give her a chance at a pain-free life. Thanks to your generosity, Babushka received the urgent care she needed, including a life-changing surgery to restore her comfort and health.

The procedure didn’t dampen Babushka’s spirits. She remained her sweet, affectionate self throughout her recovery, becoming a staff favorite with her signature biscuit-making. Her resilience and loving personality were in full display.



In early May, Babushka found her forever home—a family that saw the beauty in her strength and gave her the love she had been waiting for.

Babushka’s gentle spirit shone through despite her pain, and NHS veterinarians quickly stepped in to help.

Because of you, Babushka’s suffering didn’t endure. Your support gave her not just the medical care she needed but also the love and second chance she deserved. Babushka’s story is a testament to the power of compassion and the difference donors like you make every day.

Thank you for being the hero Babushka—and so many other animals—needed.



IN 2024:

7,503
animals found
adoptive homes

2,148
lost pets
were reunited
with owners

1,182
community cats’
lives saved

25,482
calls dispatched
to Animal Control
Officers

Petting a dog

releases dopamine, which can improve your mood. Petting a dog also releases serotonin and oxytocin, which are also associated with feelings of happiness and bonding. It can also help your dog feel soothed and calm.



BEAN



With your support, Bean received the advanced medical care, warmth, and love he needed to heal.

As the new year began, a tiny life hung in the balance. Bean, a seven-month-old Labrador mix, arrived at the Nebraska Humane Society in desperate need of help. Emaciated, bleeding from a prolapsed rectum, and so cold that his body temperature didn't even register on the thermometer, Bean's situation was critical.

The NHS medical team sprang into action, working tirelessly to stabilize Bean and give him a chance at survival. Over the course of his care, NHS veterinarians performed three life-saving procedures, including a colopexy, to resolve his medical issues. But Bean's challenges didn't end there—he developed kennel cough during his recovery, a final hurdle in his rocky start to the new year.

Despite everything he endured, Bean's spirit remained strong. With your support, Bean received the advanced medical care, warmth, and love he needed to heal. After surgery, he spent time in a loving foster home, where he gained his strength, added much needed weight, and discovered the simple joys of being a puppy.

Thanks to your generosity, Bean made a remarkable recovery. Once he was medically cleared, Bean found his forever home with a family who saw the fighter in him and wanted to give him the life he deserved.

Bean's story is a powerful reminder of what your support makes possible. You gave him a second chance—a chance to heal, grow, and thrive. Thank you for being the lifeline for Bean and so many others like him. Together, we are saving lives and giving hope to those who need it most.



IN 2024:

5,887
spays/neuters
performed

5,495
animals
microchipped

6,631
diagnostic tests
conducted

354
specialized
surgeries and
dental procedures
performed



IN 2024:

103

dogs' lives saved through the Molly Project (behavior support for unruly/fearful dogs)

785

calls responded to by the NHS Behavior Helpline

554

people and their dogs attended training classes

MIDNIGHT



hen Midnight arrived at the Nebraska Humane Society, this lively stray was brimming with energy but lacked the training and guidance he needed to shine.

As an active pup, he required time, patience, and specialized care to help him develop his best doggie manners and skills.

Thanks to your support, Midnight found exactly what he needed at NHS. Our incredible team of staff and volunteers dedicated their hearts and talents to this spirited pup, determined to give him the best chance at success. They spent many hours working with Midnight, providing behavior support training, dog play groups, and enrichment outings. These efforts not only kept him mentally and physically engaged but also taught him essential basic manners.

Midnight thrived under their care, and his favorite activity quickly became running free in one of our large, fenced yards—his happy place. Over time, this exuberant dog became a beloved favorite among the NHS family, winning the hearts of everyone who worked with him.



As an active pup, he required time, patience, and specialized care to help him develop his best doggie manners and skills.

After a year of hard work, love, and dedication, Midnight's day finally came: he found his forever home with a family committed to giving him the love and structure he needed. Midnight's success story was made possible because of you! Your generosity ensured that Midnight received the care, training, and enrichment that transformed him from a stray pup into a cherished companion.

You never gave up on Midnight, and neither did we. Together, we gave him the second chance he deserved, and now he's in a home where he's loved beyond measure. Thank you for making stories like Midnight's possible.



Having a cat

as a pet can be good for mental health. Cats can help reduce stress and anxiety, and can provide companionship and unconditional love.

Because of you, pets like Luna received the urgent care they needed to recover and reunite with their loved ones.

LUNA



In April, a devastating tornado swept through part of our Omaha community, leaving destruction in its wake. Among those impacted were Luna and her owner. Their terrifying ordeal began when their car was flipped off the road by the storm's powerful winds. While Luna's owner received immediate medical attention, Luna was brought to the Nebraska Humane Society for urgent care.

Thanks to your incredible support, Luna had a lifeline. Our medical team quickly assessed her condition, treating her for bruises, scratches, and shock. After being stabilized, Luna was transferred to her personal veterinarian for further monitoring, ensuring her full recovery. Today, Luna and her owner are both healed, their bond stronger than ever as they look forward to a brighter future together.

Luna's story is just one of many made possible by your generosity during this challenging time. When the tornado struck, the Nebraska Humane Society sprang into action to help animals in need, and you were right there with us. Together, we were able to provide immediate animal care, collect critical supplies such as food and litter, and provide ongoing support.

Your compassion and quick actions during this crisis have made a profound difference in the lives of so many animals and their families. Because of you, pets like Luna received the urgent care they needed to recover and be reunited with their loved ones.

Thank you for standing with us during such a critical time. Your generosity was a beacon of hope for animals and their families. Together, we proved that, even in the face of disaster, compassion and kindness prevail.



IN 2024:

2,910
people and
6,772
pets received free
food and care

3,402
children and adults
attended school/
community
presentations or
shelter tours

297
youth participated
in Camp Kindness
or Humane
Hands programs

775
community members
volunteered

125,079
hours to NHS animals

247
foster homes
cared for

1,531
fragile animals
until adoption

BARKS AND RECREATION

In 2024, the Nebraska Humane Society launched a new and innovative program, Barks and Recreation, designed to enrich the lives of shelter dogs while increasing their chances of finding loving homes. This exciting initiative represents a significant step forward in our mission to not only shelter animals, but ensure they thrive during their stay.



Why Barks and Recreation Matters

Shelter life can be stressful for animals, particularly for dogs who thrive on interaction, exercise, and mental stimulation. Barks and Recreation addresses this critical need by providing dogs with a much-needed break from the shelter environment. Whether it's a few hours out and about in the community or a multi-day "Staycation," this program gives dogs the opportunity to relax, have fun, and connect with potential adopters.

By keeping stays shorter and promoting mental well-being, this program helps ensure that more animals can transition successfully into their forever homes. Barks and Recreation is more than just a program—it's a lifeline for shelter dogs.



How It Works

Community members and volunteers participate by completing a matchmaking form, which helps pair them with a dog whose personality and needs align with their lifestyle. Once matched, participants embark on an outing or Staycation with their furry companion. Each outing is guided by a "PAWSport," which provides resources, tips, and activities to make the experience safe, enjoyable, and enriching for both the dog and the participant.

This exciting initiative represents a significant step forward in our mission to not only shelter animals, but ensure they thrive during their stay.

The program not only benefits the dogs but also builds community involvement and fosters connections between people and animals. Each outing becomes a story, provides an opportunity to record their behaviors and personality to share with potential adopters.

Your Role in This Journey

The success of programs like Barks and Recreation is only possible because of the generosity of supporters. Donor contributions provide the resources necessary to expand and sustain these innovative initiatives, ensuring that more dogs receive the care, enrichment, and attention they need while they wait for their forever families.

With your help, Barks and Recreation is keeping tails wagging, spirits high, and pathways to adoption open for shelter dogs. Together, we are not only changing lives but also building a future where every animal knows the love and care they deserve.

Thank you for making programs like this possible and for being an essential part of our work. Your support is making a difference, one tail wag at a time.

INCLUSIVE CLINICS

At the Nebraska Humane Society, the belief that every pet deserves access to essential care drives everything we do. In 2024, that mission expanded with the launch of Inclusive Clinics, a community outreach initiative designed to remove barriers to veterinary care, such as cost and transportation. These clinics make it easier for pet owners to access vital services like vaccinations, wellness exams, and microchipping, ensuring pets stay healthy, safe, and connected to their families.

Breaking Barriers Through Collaboration

This program is made possible through a partnership with Kansas State University. In a collaborative effort, veterinary students, guided by experienced professionals, provide services, while the Nebraska Humane Society supplies the necessary medications and equipment. Together, this partnership brings essential care directly to those who need it most.

The First Clinic: A Success Story

The first Inclusive Clinic, held on October 12th at the Urban League of Omaha, offered a drive-through format designed for maximum convenience and accessibility. During this three-hour event, the team served approximately 154 dogs and cats, providing wellness exams, vaccinations to protect against life-threatening illnesses, and microchipping to help ensure lost pets could be quickly reunited with their owners.

This program is made possible through a partnership with Kansas State University. It brings essential care directly to those who need it most.

The clinic was more than an event—it was a lifeline for pets and their families. By addressing challenges like financial constraints and lack of transportation, this effort demonstrated how targeted solutions can make a real difference in the community.



Looking Ahead: A Sustainable Solution

This first clinic marks the beginning of a long-term commitment to community outreach. Starting in 2025, we'll continue to hold these Inclusive Clinics, creating a sustainable program that improves pet health, supports public safety, and strengthens the bond between pets and their owners. To ensure these services reach the neighborhoods that need them most, outreach efforts include door hangers, flyers, and social media campaigns.

The Role of Donor Support

Programs like Inclusive Clinics are made possible through the generosity of donors. Your contributions help fund the medications, equipment, and logistics required to deliver these critical services to underserved communities. By supporting initiatives like this, you're not only improving the lives of pets but also fostering a healthier, safer community for everyone.

Together, we are removing barriers, offering solutions, and ensuring that more pets receive the care they deserve. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of animals and the people who love them. Your support is the foundation of progress, and it's changing lives—one clinic at a time.



TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

At the Nebraska Humane Society, every life saved, every second chance given, and every wagging tail or purring friend is made possible because of you—our incredible donors, volunteers, and community partners. Your unwavering support, generosity, and dedication are the heartbeat of our mission, ensuring that thousands of animals receive the love, care, and shelter they need.

You provide comfort to the frightened, healing to the injured, and hope to those who have known hardship.

Because of you, animals in need find safety, medical attention, and ultimately, loving homes. You provide comfort to the frightened, healing to the injured, and hope to those who have known hardship. Whether through a

financial gift, the gift of time, or partnerships that expand our reach, your compassion is changing lives every day.

But the need never stops. Every year, more animals come through our doors in need of urgent medical care, behavioral support, and the chance to find a family to call their own. Your continued support—whether through donations, volunteering, fostering, or advocacy—ensures that NHS can keep providing the lifesaving care and critical programs that make our community stronger.

Together, we are more than a shelter. We are a movement of kindness, a force for change, and a source of hope for pets and the people who love them. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. With your continued support, we can create an even brighter future for the animals who need us most.

Join us. Give. Volunteer. Advocate. Because together, we save lives.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



TOTAL REVENUE: \$17,116,242

- CONTRIBUTED INCOME: **44%** (\$7,428,472)
- EARNED INCOME: **12%** (\$2,084,905)
- FUNDRAISING EVENTS: **6%** (\$1,110,010)
- PET PROGRAMS & SERVICES: **38%** (\$6,492,855)



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$16,734,412

- PET PROGRAMS & SERVICES: **85%** (\$14,195,385)
- ADMINISTRATIVE: **8%** (\$1,428,525)
- FUNDRAISING: **7%** (\$1,110,502)



WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: NEHumaneSociety.org
Facebook.com/[NebraskaHumaneSociety](https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaHumaneSociety)
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