

TAIL'S TALES

News from the Nebraska Humane Society | Spring 2025



From Desperation to Triumph: *Tate's Journey to a New Life*

In January 2022, a Sheriff's Department in central Nebraska urgently called the Nebraska Humane Society (NHS) with an animal cruelty case — Tate, a young yellow colt, was suffering from extreme neglect and needed immediate help.

When Tate arrived at NHS, he was severely emaciated, his front legs bowed from malnutrition and lack of hoof care and his joints resembled paddles — a devastating sign of prolonged neglect.

With no food or water, Tate had resorted to eating tree bark and wood to survive.

Veterinarians developed a specialized feeding and medication plan while evidence was collected for Tate's court case. He was treated for parasites, infections, the effects of starvation and received some treatments up to four times a day.

In April 2022, the legal battle ended and the owner relinquished Tate. After extensive testing, Tate was diagnosed with a rare *Lawsonia* infection, a bacterial disease caused by severe neglect.

For 60 days, he received twice-daily antibiotics and supportive care. Therapeutic shoes helped him rebuild muscle, setting him on a path to a healthier future.

By September 2023, Tate's infection had cleared. Then, in March 2024, after more than two years of rehabilitation, he found his forever home.

Tate's journey from starvation to a second chance at life is a testament to dedication, advocacy and your support. Because of you, Tate — and so many others — now have the lives they were meant to live.

A Message From the CEO

Dear Friends,

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Nebraska Humane Society's founding. As we move through 2025, we celebrate a century and a half of animal welfare work while looking forward to the future of helping pets and the people who love them.

Oh, the progress we've made with our community's support! From early work with livestock and horses, to helping pets and even investigating child neglect, NHS has a rich history of championing the underdog.

As the world has changed, so have the needs of pets and owners. Thanks to our supporters, NHS continues providing top-level care in our shelter while working to keep pets in homes whenever possible.

In 2024, NHS averaged 492 animals in shelter care each day! We adopted out 7,503 pets, all spayed or neutered, microchipped and vaccinated. Our Pet Food Pantry distributed 115,000 pounds of food to 6,386 pets, including at our mobile pantries for those without transportation. We assisted 105 people and 149 pets with low-cost wellness clinics.

Our Forever Home Fund helped 140 people and 146 pets with medical funds, training and temporary boarding to keep pets in their homes.



That's just a glimpse of NHS's impact, which continues to grow — thanks to you. We are grateful and proud to serve our community's pets and people. We hope you'll celebrate our 150th year as we honor our past, embrace the future and recognize those who make this work possible.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Wiese".

Pam Wiese
President & CEO



Save the Date

Paws & Promise

Come Celebrate  Years of Hope

Paws & Promise

Friday, June 6, 2025 | 6 p.m.

A View West Shores | 110 S 243rd St, Waterloo, NE

Come Celebrate 150 Years of Hope. A fundraising event for the Nebraska Humane Society presented by Friends Forever and the Nebraska Humane Society.

Honorary Chairs: Ellen & Stavely Wright

Event Co-Chairs: Rachael Menichetti & Kyrstal Talha



Finnegan's Incredible Transformation

When Finnegan arrived at the Nebraska Humane Society, he was in a heartbreaking state.

His fur was so matted he could barely walk, each step burdened by neglect. Grooming wasn't an option — he had to be sedated just to remove the painful mats restricting his movement. But despite it all, his spirit remained unbroken.

A volunteer who worked with Finnegan shared this powerful experience:

“When I approached him in his kennel, he immediately came to me, just wanting love. His deplorable condition made me so sad, but he didn't hold grudges — he was just a lovely boy. When I got him into the yard, another dog was nearby, and his whole body wiggled with excitement. He was eager to meet the other dog. He's an amazing creature who just wanted to love, be loved and enjoy life. It goes to show how dogs live in the moment and are so forgiving.”

Finnegan's transformation was remarkable. With the care, love and attention he desperately needed, he finally moved freely and experienced the joy he always deserved. His journey is a testament to the resilience of animals and their ability to trust and love unconditionally.

Your support makes stories like Finnegan's possible. Because of generous friends like you, animals in desperate need receive the care they deserve.



Shadow's Path to a Loving Home

When Shadow arrived at the Nebraska Humane Society at the beginning of January, he was fearful and overwhelmed. He needed time, patience and compassionate care to help him feel safe. With dedicated attention from staff and volunteers, he gradually started to trust those around him.

To further help Shadow acclimate, he was office-fostered by an NHS employee, giving him the opportunity to experience a quieter, more comfortable environment before finding his forever home. This extra step allowed him to build confidence and prepare for the next chapter in his life.

His adoption page beautifully captured his personality and needs:

“My name is Shadow, and I am a big bashful boy. I can be shy when meeting new people but enjoy soft whispers and gentle petting. I am learning to trust those who are patient and kind with me. I would do best in a low-traffic home with older children and adults. Once I feel comfortable, I would love to cuddle with my new family on the couch.”



This reminds us that every animal needs their own kind of home. Thanks to the dedication of the Nebraska Humane Society and the generosity of donors, Shadow found a loving home where he can continue to grow and thrive. His journey reminds us of the importance of patience, kindness and second chances.

A Journey Home: Candy's Story

While her owner was out of town, Candy was left in the care of someone they knew. They claimed she was aggressive toward their dogs and abandoned her at another shelter. They never informed her owner where she had been taken — only that she was left at “some rescue.”

Eventually, Candy was transferred to the Nebraska Humane Society with a few other long-term shelter dogs. NHS staff and volunteers spent extra time helping her settle in, and her affectionate personality quickly won them over.

Despite her hardships, Candy remained incredibly sweet and playful. She thrived in playgroups and formed strong bonds with those around her. Then one night, visitors walking through the kennels recognized Candy. They immediately reached out to her original owner with the amazing news.

After six long months of uncertainty in two shelters, Candy (whose real name is Angel) was finally going home. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of rescues, shelter staff and compassionate individuals, she was reunited with the person who had loved her all along.

Stories like Candy's are only possible because of you. Your generosity allows us to provide care and second chances and reunite lost pets with their families. Thank you for making these happy endings possible.



Cilantro's New Beginning

When handsome three-year-old Cilantro arrived at the Nebraska Humane Society, it was clear he was in pain.

Unable to bear weight on his front right leg, he needed urgent medical attention.

Radiographs and a consultation with an orthopedic specialist

revealed a severe, chronic injury to his elbow. Due to the extent of the damage and pronounced muscle wasting, the most practical course of action was amputation.

The skilled veterinarians at NHS performed the surgery, followed by a second procedure to clean and treat the site and ensure proper healing. Through every step of his medical journey, Cilantro's sweet and affectionate nature never wavered.

To make this ending even sweeter, the good Samaritan who first brought Cilantro into NHS was the one who also gave him his forever home.



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