

TAIL'S TALES

News from the Nebraska Humane Society | Summer 2020

*Your Help
Became Hope
for Animals
in Need.*



Hoarding Rescue

One late evening in May, the Animal Control Officers at the Nebraska Humane Society received a call from a hospital, stating some animals might be living in a dire situation.

Read inside about Martha's rescue mission on page 3.

A Message From the CEO

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and safe, as we navigate this unprecedented time! Living in a global pandemic has not compromised our resolve in saving the lives of homeless animals, nor has it suppressed your generosity in supporting our mission.

We continue to be strong, facing challenging times together, with forward movement and confidence in our work. In fact, we successfully completed The Judy Varner Adoption and Education Center on May 31, 2020, and are thrilled to observe the animals enjoying their new spaces! We look forward to sharing this incredible, state-of-the-art renovation with you, when the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

From all of us
at the **Nebraska
Humane Society**, we
thank you for your
support and wish
you continued good
health and peace.

Thank you for
loving the animals!



Nancy Hintz
President & CEO
Nebraska Humane Society



A Tangle of Tails

The year 2020 has been one for the books! Referring to it as “unusual” is an understatement. It is no surprise, then, Animal Control Officers (ACOs) have received a few unusual calls. One call reported a nest of five baby squirrels, or ‘kits’ with their tails all in a knot.

Upon arrival, the ACOs found a tangled mass. The kits had their tails literally knotted together;

bound by twigs, long grass and plastic their mother had used as nest material. Sap from the tree was like superglue fusing them all together. Though not common, this can happen when a mother squirrel builds her nest in a sappy tree.

It was nearly impossible to tell whose tail was whose. ACOs carefully removed the twigs, but realized the kits needed additional help, as they all had tail injuries due to lack of blood flow and constriction of muscles. **Luckily, our partners at Nebraska Wildlife Rehab (NWR) arrived to offer their specialized knowledge!**

Once detangled, these little babies received medical care, nutrition and a chance to heal at NWR before being released back into the wild. **Donors like you, and partners like NWR, make it possible for all animals to receive the help they need, no matter how big or small!**

Hoarding Rescue (Continued from cover)

Recently admitted patients gave hospital staff reason to believe their home was in poor condition, and many animals were left inside.

The home was in a rural location surrounded by trees; the full moon and howling coyotes really gave it an eerie feeling. The ACOs discussed with each other who would have the daunting task of checking the basement, which had no light or power. Once inside, what they found made their hearts drop and they quickly jumped into action.

The home itself was completely filled with items stacked floor to ceiling, with only a single path leading through it. The paths still required a bit of climbing to navigate. Sadly, 20-some cats were in the home, and not a single one was allowed to roam free. The innocent cats were all stuffed into small plastic, transport-like carriers, not large spacious cages. The kennels were scattered throughout the mountains of trash collected in the home. They had not been cleaned for so long, pet waste was accumulating upward in the kennels, pressing the animals contained within up against the top, giving them no room to stand or move around in a normal fashion. At the same time, the kennels were stacked on top of each other, and the waste from the top kennels was so heavy, the kennels below were collapsing.

None of the kennels contained food or water. Many of the cats were dehydrated and extremely hungry. ACOs were feeding them canned food during the removal process to alleviate their hunger. When brought out of the kennels, the cats all walked with a hunched posture. They had been crammed in kennels for so long, their bodies did not know how to straighten out properly.

Thankfully, no deceased pets were found in the home. There were 5 ACOs, and a few individuals from another local rescue group, who responded and assisted with saving these animals. The final cat was rescued in the early morning the next day, at nearly 1am. **The cats were all rescued and taken to the Nebraska Humane Society for care.** The filthy environment led to many of the cats suffering from upper respiratory infections, which required veterinary care.

Despite the odds, almost all the cats were successfully treated and given a second chance at another life, because of donors like you. Martha, featured on the front cover, is one of these cats. She is the last cat from this hoarding situation looking for her forever home, where she will roam free, be fed and watered daily and loved like she has never been loved before. Thank you for saving the lives of animals like Martha.



Martha being rescued.



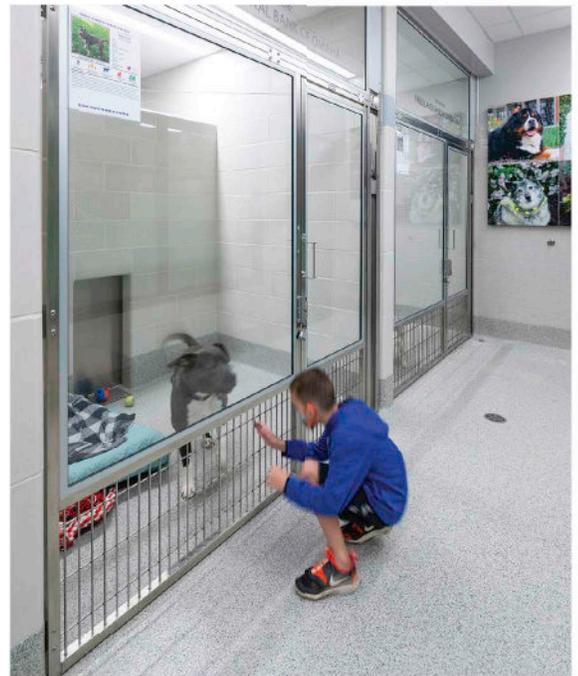
A New Leash on Life ...

The Judy Varner Adoption And Education Center (JVAEC) Renovation Project

With your help, the Nebraska Humane Society's first major renovation in 20 years is complete. It is amazing! With more than 37,000 square feet of newly renovated space, the shelter is spacious and gorgeous. Animals have moved in, and they are loving it!

Dogs

Dogs are feeling more comfortable in less stressful kennels with frosted windows, improved acoustics and lighting. Little dogs have their own space, away from larger dogs, making them feel safe and secure. Molly Project dogs (behavior modification program) now have more opportunities to interact with the public. This allows them to get more comfortable around people, sounds and distractions, which improves their chance of getting adopted.



Cats

With added space and enrichment features, our cats are purring with excitement! They are enjoying different places to relax, hide, and play with the addition of a variety of cubbies and perches. Free roam rooms and larger individual spaces give the cats more room to jump and move about.

Critters

No longer are critters across the aisle from their natural predators. Instead, they are in specialized rooms with natural light. Now, our rabbits, birds and small critters are more at ease and less stressed.



This much-needed renovation will lower the stress of animals, shorten their length of stay, and improve the shelter experience for humans, with more efficient processes and increased education. You helped make all this possible!

Due to COVID-19, the public can't yet fully enjoy the renovation; but, with your help, we are still here, serving the community and saving lives. We look forward to welcoming you, once pandemic restrictions have been lifted.

Renovation Facts

- › \$14.1 million renovation
- › 37,432 square feet renovated
- › 2nd floor Cat Village added
- › Separate areas for large and small dogs
- › Molly project dogs in designated adoption area
- › Canopies, new turf, and fencing in outdoor dog runs
- › Improved sound, lighting, HVAC, and drainage systems

Renovation Impact

- › Reduced stress for the animals
- › Shortened length of stay for the animals
- › Improved experience for the public
 - › Greater access to animals
 - › Increased education
 - › Shortened wait times

New Beginnings

Willow, this tiny kitty, was found by a Good Samaritan and brought to NHS. She was missing the bottom part of her left back leg. The wound had become very infected and she was in pain. She needed to gain weight and get stronger, before the NHS medical team could remove the injured limb.

After a week of pain medication, antibiotics, nourishment, and lots of TLC, she was strong enough for surgery. This little survivor came through like a champ! On Thursday, July 2, 2020, **Willow found her forever home and was the first animal adopted out of the newly renovated shelter!** Here's to new beginnings!



Impact of COVID-19

There is no doubt, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our community and the shelter. At NHS, we knew we had to find a way to keep our staff, volunteers, and guests safe while continuing to save lives. **What inspired us the most, was that we didn't have to do it alone.**

The overwhelming response and support from the community, and friends like you, has helped us navigate these trying times. More than 300 of you have stepped up to foster pets, volunteer from afar and financially support our important work. **We've been there for the animals and the people who love them, because you've been there for us. We simply cannot thank you enough.**

But the truth is, COVID-19 has greatly impacted the shelter and placed a great strain on our important work. Through all the uncertainty, **we know we will be here for every animal who needs us, because you are here for us.**

Challenges

Lost Revenue:

- › Temporary closure of low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic
- › Canceled Camp Kindness sessions and Behavior Training Classes
- › Reduced adoption fees and inability to accommodate as many adoptions, due to social distancing
- › Postponed largest fundraising event — Black Tie & Tails — and held it virtually



Keeping Families Together

Community programs provided with your help:

- › Pet Food Pantry has provided thousands of pounds of free pet food and supplies to families
- › Animeals has ensured low-income seniors keep their pets by providing and delivering food and supplies
- › Project Pet Safe has continued to care for animals of domestic violence victims
- › COVID-19 Sheltering has provided no cost shelter, supplies and care for animals of owners stricken with the virus

Greater Demand:

- › Intake of stray and surrendered pets has continued to rise
- › 50%+ of our volunteer base unable to help due to social distancing, placing greater workload on NHS staff
- › Supply costs have increased
- › Restricted public access to the animals



Make an Impact — #HalfMyDAF

Over \$120 billion sits unused in Donor Advised Funds and community foundations across the country. The #HalfMyDAF challenge aims to put these charitable dollars to work now, when and where it is needed most.

You can learn more about the #HalfMyDAF challenge, or complete your commitment form, at halfmydaf.com. Contact Kathy Roum at 402-905-3435 or kroum@nehumanesociety.org with questions. NHS Tax ID# is 47-0378997.

Tails of Success

Kiya

Kiya, a 7-month-old German Shepherd mix puppy, was brought to NHS in bad shape. This little girl had injuries consistent with being hit by a car. She could not bear weight on her injured hind leg and was in pain.

The NHS medical team sprang into action. X-rays revealed her femur was fractured and she would need specialized orthopedic surgery to repair it. Only surgery would ensure she could maintain mobility and live a full life.

In partnership with Sirius Veterinary Orthopedic Center and private donations from donors like you, Kiya's leg was saved.

She now has 9 screws stabilizing her femur. This sweet puppy is healing in NHS foster care where she is doing physical therapy exercises daily. She is on the mend and will be searching for her forever home soon!

Still waiting for her forever home



Jack

Jack was adopted and returned twice by two different families, before he found his forever home with us in November of 2017. He loves sticking his head out the window on car rides and feeling the breeze. He also lives for long walks and he's a huge cuddle bug. We are so glad to be his third and final family!

- Nathalia S.



Earl

Earl was returned by a family before I had the pleasure of taking him home. He is a sweetie and so regal that I changed his name to Maximus (Max). He's been with me since December 2011 and I wouldn't have it any other way! He's a grump most days, and enjoys his peace and quiet, but lucky for me, he loves taking time out of his day to snuggle up while I work from home.

- Kate M.



Dina

Dina, a little terrier mix, found her way to NHS as a stray. Like most of the stray animals NHS cares for, Dina's history was unknown. What we knew right away, though, was she needed help. She had a serious chemical burn, about an inch-wide, extending the entire length of her spine. It was healing, but had become badly infected and she was in a great deal of pain.

The NHS medical team quickly provided Dina with pain management medicine. They then performed surgery to remove the burned skin and "score" the healthy skin so they could suture her together. This was when Dina received her name, short for dinosaur, as she looked like a stegosaurus!

After Dina's surgery, she was given antibiotics to lower her risk of infection and was placed in foster care where she began healing and waiting for her forever home.

Save the Date



Margre Durham Walk for the Animals October 2020 – All month long!

Join us for the first VIRTUAL Walk for the Animals!

COVID-19 may keep us apart, but we can still walk our dogs (or cats, or critters) to raise money and support homeless animals in our community! Every dollar you raise will make a lifesaving difference for animals in need – and when you raise or donate \$75 or more, you'll receive our 2020 custom Walk for the Animals T-shirt!

Registration is free!

You can still earn great prizes by raising money and receive exclusive offers from our sponsors by visiting our online Vendor Village.



For more information, visit www.nehumanesociety.org/walk or contact Gordon Krentz at gkrentz@nehumanesociety.org.

Get your Licks on Route 66® Saturday, October 10, 2020 | 11am to 3pm



The 12th Annual Cross-Country Pet Adoption Tour, Get Your Licks on Route 66®, presented by Fido Friendly Magazine, will make a stop at NHS. Drop by and spin the prize wheel (for a small donation) to win great pet themed merchandise. NHS will showcase adoptable dogs and cats with special

pricing. Yappy Pack will have boutique treats and toys available for purchase. Included for free: hand sanitizer and social distancing!

Wine Fest November 14, 2020 | 1pm – 4pm

Plan to join us at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse for a tasting of premium wine and other libations, paired with light, savory hors d'oeuvres. Talk "wine" with knowledgeable sommeliers, peruse the unique silent auction and know that your participation will benefit homeless animals.

**Currently, we are planning to proceed with the event. Should COVID-19 require changes to the format or venue, we will adjust accordingly and keep you informed.*



You = Lifesaver

Change the lives of the homeless animals in your own backyard. We work locally in the neighborhoods you care about.



Web & Social

Website: www.nehumanesociety.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/nebraskahumanesociety](https://www.facebook.com/nebraskahumanesociety)
Twitter: twitter.com/nehumanesociety
Twitter: twitter.com/nhscats
Instagram: [nehumanesociety](https://www.instagram.com/nehumanesociety)
Snapchat: [nehumanesociety](https://www.snapchat.com/add/nehumanesociety)

Location & Hours

8929 Fort Street | Omaha, NE 68134
Phone: 402-444-7800

Adoption Application Hours:

Monday - Friday | 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Business Hours:

Monday - Friday | 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday | 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NHS Staff Contacts

Main Line: 402.444.7800
nhs@nehumanesociety.org

Adopt: 402.444.7800 ext. 2206
Yasmine Nuwwarah, Lead Adoption Coordinator
adoptions@nehumanesociety.org

Donate: 402.444.7800 ext. 2235
Kathy Roun, VP, Development
kroum@nehumanesociety.org

Volunteer: 402.444.7800 ext. 2222
Holly Kaffenberger, Volunteer Program Manager
hkaffenberger@nehumanesociety.org

2020 NHS Executive Team

Nancy Hintz, President & CEO
Steven Glandt, VP, Field Operations
Lindy Hess, VP, Finance
Kiley Maddux-Weisbeck, VP & Chief of Shelter Operations
Kathy Roun, VP, Development
Sara Schmidt, VP, Business Operations
Michele Tetreault-Mertes, VP, Human Resources
Pam Wiese, VP, Public Relations and Marketing



NEBRASKA
HUMANE
SOCIETY

Where help becomes hope.

Please note: honor and memorial gifts will be recognized in our online Annual Report which will be published by June of each year. View our 2019 Annual Report here: www.nehumanesociety.org/2019annual.

