

## President's Letter

### Hello Everyone!

I am so excited to be able to finally share the news with you that we are set to break ground on phase one of our building expansion in just a few weeks! We couldn't have done it without all of you and your support.

We had to make the difficult decision to put phase two on hold until we are able to raise the funds for the second half of our much-needed expansion. With your help, we have saved over 63,000 lives and I am so proud of the impact we have had together. We will soon have the ability to save twice as many lives each year, which has never felt more important and time sensitive.

There are still so many ways to donate towards the expansion to help us raise enough for phase two. From naming rights, purchasing bricks, trees or benches in a loved one's name, in your own name, in honor of a cherished pet, or as a birthday or holiday present, there's no better gift you can give than one that makes a difference and all donations are tax deductible as we are a 501C3 organization.

Together, we can make an even larger impact in the lives of homeless animals in need.

Thank you for all that you have helped us accomplish, I can't wait to see what we can achieve together in this next phase.

Sincerely Yours,

*Lesley Irwin*

Lesley Irwin  
President & Founder  
Animal House Shelter, Inc

## Chance's Second Chance

Chance came to AHS in July from southern Illinois when he was only 3 months old. In August, he was adopted by a loving family. Chance was growing and settling in very well in his new home. He was a happy and playful puppy. Then, on December 4th, out of nowhere, Chance was unable to walk. His family took him to their veterinarian to see what was causing his muscle weakness. The veterinarian ran several tests and recommended Chance see a specialist. Animal House Shelter stepped in and sent Chance to the University of Madison. The veterinarian concluded that Chance has a rare disease called Myasthenia Gravis. This is a neuromuscular disease that causes significant muscle weakness and rapid fatigue. The most serious manifestation of this disease is Megaesophagus. This is when the disease affects the esophagus, making it difficult to swallow. It can also cause excessive drooling and regurgitation of food and water after eating. With the esophagus not functioning normally, Chance was at risk of developing life-threatening aspiration pneumonia. To prevent Chance from aspirating, he needed to be fed in an upright position in a special chair called a Bailey chair. As of April, Chance is in suspected remission. We are weaning him off his medications and trying feedings without the Bailey chair. So far, so good. If all continues well, he can live life like a normal dog again! Please consider donating to Chance's care. His hospital stays totaled \$5,500. Please help with a donation for Chance's care.



## In Need of a Foster Family

Axil is a cuddly and playful 5-year-old tuxedo/domestic shorthair. He is the sweetest kitty you'll ever meet, and he loves to be picked up and carried! His favorite activities include nuzzling his favorite people, birdwatching, and playing with other cats. He does have a chronically congested nose, so keep a Kleenex handy. He adjusts to his surroundings quickly and nothing bothers him (other than dogs.) Our staff can't say enough good things about him, and he is a volunteer favorite! If you would like to adopt or foster this wonderful boy, please contact the shelter.



**BETTER THAN A PICASSO!**

**Our dogs and cats have been busy painting!**

**Their paintings are available to purchase on our website**

[www.animalhouseshelter.com/shop/](http://www.animalhouseshelter.com/shop/)

**Suitable for framing and signed by the "pawtrist"**

**Makes a great gift and you'd be helping the shelter**





## Operation Holiday Heartbreak

On December 26th, our partner Animal Rescue Corps stepped in to rescue 77 dogs/puppies from an abandoned home in Dyer, Tennessee. AHS took 29 of these sweet babies! We will continue to take care of their medical needs and prepare them to find their forever homes where they will get the unconditional love they deserve.

The home was filthy and rotting. The dogs were small to medium-sized and ranged from as young as 3 weeks old to elderly dogs suffering from dementia. ARC's team had to carefully search the furniture, walls, and floors for survivors using thermal imaging. Four dogs were rescued from deep in the floorboards between the cellar and the first floor. The floors were covered in trash, feces, and urine. These animals were left alone to fend for themselves. They faced overcrowding, fighting, and extremely high ammonia levels. Due to severe neglect, these animals are dealing with a wide range of medical issues including numerous bite wounds, emaciation, painful dental disease, fur loss, skin inflammation, ear/eye infections, and parasites.

*Please donate to their ongoing care!*



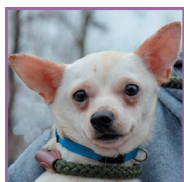
## Brighton has a Brighter future



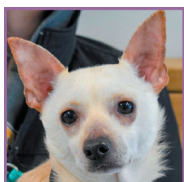
Brighton was one of 77 dogs rescued from Operation Holiday Heartbreak. Upon arrival, staff noticed a large mass in her groin area. She was immediately sent to one of our veterinarians for a complete examination. Brighton was diagnosed with an inguinal hernia, which occurs when a body part or internal organ protrudes through the wall of muscle or tissue meant to contain it. The best course of action was to repair the hernia. If left untreated, she could have suffered from abdominal pain, vomiting, difficulty urinating, bruising, lethargy, or depression. The cost of her surgery totaled \$1,187. Please consider donating to help defray her surgery costs..

## Operation Holiday Heartbreak dogs are still in need of a forever home!

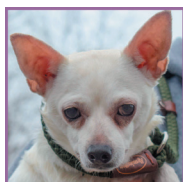
Could you give one of these dogs a chance at a forever-loving home? Please fill out an adoption application, and then give us a call or send an email to make an appointment!



Hayes



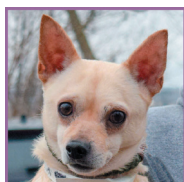
Bogle



Chamblee



Crenshaw



Stallings

## 2023/2024 Can't Miss Events

For each shelter-hosted event you attend, you are saving the life of an animal. Our events allow us to raise the money to keep our doors open 365 days a year.

If you would like to be a vendor or sponsor for any of our upcoming events or have any questions, please contact [Cindy@animalhouseshelter.com](mailto:Cindy@animalhouseshelter.com) or call (630) 669-9651

### Pawfest - August 12, 2023



**Time:** 11am - 4pm

**Location:** Deicke Park, Huntley

**Admission:** Free

**Info:** Low-cost vaccines/microchips, and adoptable dogs will be on-site, food, raffles, live music, games, vendors, and much much more!

### Putt for Paws - September 15, 2023

**Location:** Chalet Hills Golf Club  
943 Rawson Bridge Road • Cary, IL

**Time:** 8am Check-in • 9am Shotgun start  
Scramble format • 2:30pm Luncheon

**Costs:** \$225/golfer or \$850/foursome

**Cost Includes:**

Breakfast and Lunch  
1 Mimosa or Bloody Mary  
1 Round of Golf



Chance for Hole in One Prize: \$10,000  
Cash, \$1,000 FootJoy Package, \$750  
Callaway Package, \$500 Pro Shop Credit

**To register:** <https://app.eventcaddy.com/events/putt-for-paws-86/register>

### Dash for Dogs - May 19, 2024

**Location:** Citizens Park,  
Barrington  
Please watch our website  
for updated details.

[www.animalhouseshelter.com](http://www.animalhouseshelter.com)







# Animal House Shelter Expansion Official Groundbreaking July 2023



**Animal House Shelter is expanding its facility in order to save the lives of over 5,000 dogs and cats each year! Since 2002, AHS has rescued, rehabilitated, and found homes for over 63,000 dogs and cats.**

**We need your help to make this project a reality.**

## Interested in Donating Materials?

Let us know at [expansion@animalhouseshelter.com](mailto:expansion@animalhouseshelter.com)

We will gladly accept donations of building materials to help us expand the shelter. Some materials specifically needed are:

- Artificial turf • Windows and Doors • Stone Bricks • Trees
- Benches • Commercial Kennel Equipment
- Veterinary Equipment • Building Materials • Fencing
- Industrial Washers and Dryers • Bath Tubs for Grooming Dogs
- Flat Screen TVs • Computers

## Naming Rights For Purchase

Naming Rights to the building with signage: Please contact us

- Adoption Center/Lobby: Please contact us
- Low-Cost Veterinary Clinic: Please contact us
- Children's Education Center: \$400,000
- Retail Store: \$300,000
- Free Roam Cat Colony Habitat: \$250,000
- Farmstead Silo Memorial Garden: \$250,000
- Legacy Building: \$250,000
- Training Center: \$150,000 – SPONSORED
- Feline, Bird, and Butterfly Garden: \$175,000 – SPONSORED
- Outdoor off-leash play yard (3): \$25,000 each
- Indoor socialization play space (3): \$25,000 each
- Laundry Room: \$20,000
- Bonding Rooms (10): \$10,000 each – 4 out of 10 SPONSORED (other 6 to be done Phase 2)
- Sanctuary Rooms (8): \$5,000 each – 3 out of 8 SPONSORED (to be done in Phase 2)
- Kitten Play Rooms (9): \$5,000 each – 6 out of 9 SPONSORED (other 3 to be done Phase 2)
- Tribute Bricks: 4x8 – \$150 each or 8x8 – \$300 each
- 6 Foot Wooden Bench: \$1,500 each
- Tribute Tree with plaque: \$1,000 each
- Tribute Tree without plaque: \$750 each

**Please contact us with any questions or interest in getting involved:  
email: [expansion@animalhouseshelter.com](mailto:expansion@animalhouseshelter.com) or call: 815-353-1536**



Starting in Barrington, IL, we moved to Huntley, IL in 2006 and quickly outgrew our current facility. Currently, we are driving to six different veterinary clinics to keep up with our medical needs. With this expansion, we are looking to build a state-of-the-art vet clinic on the shelter property to take care of all the animals coming to our organization from high-kill facilities throughout the year. In addition, this clinic will provide low-cost vaccinations, microchips, and spaying and neutering to all communities in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago.

## Expansion highlights:

- Additional kennel space for animals to allow us to increase the number of animals we can save
- A child education center to host schools, groups, and more for tours and educational programs
- 10 bonding rooms for multiple families to meet with potential pets to adopt
- State-of-the-art veterinary clinic to allow us to treat animals on-site and lower costs to provide them with the best care
- Sanctuary rooms for long-term dogs to make them feel more at home
- Additional indoor and outdoor exercise yards for the dogs
- Added volunteer center to accommodate the many volunteers that we have



## ANIMAL HOUSE SHELTER

13005 Ernesti Rd. Huntley, IL 60142  
847.961.5541

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #126  
ELGIN, IL

Visit us online at [www.AnimalHouseShelter.com](http://www.AnimalHouseShelter.com)

### Figaro's Feeding Tube

Figaro came to AHS when his owner could no longer care for him. He was placed in a loving foster home while he waited to find his new family. The foster soon noticed that Figaro was not eating and had begun to sneeze. He was given antibiotics and offered high-quality foods, but Figaro still refused to eat. We began to syringe feed him, but unfortunately, his condition seemed to worsen and his skin began turning yellow. He was sent to the ER at VCA Aurora, where he was diagnosed with Hepatic Lipidosis (fatty liver syndrome). This syndrome occurs when a cat stops eating due to stress or illness. Without aggressive treatment, his condition would be fatal. Figaro would need a significant amount of calories for the next few weeks to reverse the damage to his body. Figaro had a temporary esophageal tube surgically placed so that he could get the necessary calories. He has taken very well to the treatment and has even begun to eat on his own again. The total cost of Figaro's ER visit and E-tube totaled \$3,255. Please donate to help defer the cost of Figaro's medical care.



### Mindy's Life-Saving Surgery



In March, Mindy arrived with her two newborn babies and was placed into a loving foster home. After raising her babies, they all returned to the shelter to find their forever homes. Mindy was sent to undergo her spay surgery, during which the veterinarians discovered a large, leaking mass. She was then referred to the Veterinary Specialty Center, where she was diagnosed with an abscess caused by an old ectopic pregnancy. The surgical team successfully removed the abscess and performed her spay surgery. They placed a drain to prevent Mindy from becoming septic. She was given IV antibiotics and needed to be monitored until the drain could be removed. Mindy is back from her surgery and is recovering well. The cost of Mindy's life-saving surgery totaled \$6,000.

### Merry and Dickens - A Happy Coincidence

Congratulations to Dickens and Merrie from Operation December Wish! They are two of eight dogs rescued this past December from a rural Tennessee cruelty case. Once provided with urgent care in ARC's Rescue Center, they were both matched with and transported to placement partner Animal House Shelter. Merrie, now Merry, arrived pregnant, gave birth to her puppies, and, stayed with them before being adopted. Both are now in loving homes and their adopters even had a reunion for them! Merry's family told us: "I wanted to report that two dogs that were part of that rescue, Merry (formerly Merrie) who was pregnant, and Dickens (who we believe is the father to the pups) have been reunited in Rochester, MN. I just adopted Merry on February 25th and Dickens was adopted on Dec 31st." Congratulations to Dickens and Merry and their new families!



### Fancy's Surprise

Fancy arrived at AHS on Tuesday evening from southern IL. On Wednesday morning, Fancy was breathing heavily and was extremely restless. She was immediately sent to one of our veterinarians for a full examination. To our surprise, the doctor informed us that Fancy was

actively in labor and struggling to give birth to her puppies! The best course of action would be to send Fancy to the ER for an emergency C-section. Fancy and her precious puppies were in critical condition, and we had to act quickly. Fancy was transferred to VSC, where they performed the c-section. Fancy did wonderfully and is now in foster care with her two beautiful babies. This life-saving surgery totaled \$4,300. Can you help?

**AHS thanks all the foster families & volunteers who work tirelessly to make a better life for homeless animals!**