



Fuzz Buzz

Summer 2026

President's Letter

Dear Friends of Animal House Shelter,

As summer begins, we're celebrating something incredibly special, 24 years of Animal House Shelter. Thanks to supporters like you, over 80,000 dogs and cats have been given a second chance and found loving homes. This past year marked a huge milestone with the completion of Phase One of our expansion. Our new building has already improved the way we care for animals by creating a safer, less stressful environment and allowing us to help more pets in need. But our mission is not complete. To fully meet the growing need for rescue, we must complete Phase Two. Every week, we receive hundreds of requests for help, and without additional space, we are still forced to make heartbreaking decisions simply because we do not have the room. As we celebrate 24 years of rescue, we ask you to help us build the future of Animal House Shelter. Whether through donating, fostering, volunteering, or sharing our mission, every act of support helps save lives and brings us closer to a day where no animal is left behind. From all of us at Animal House Shelter, thank you for believing in second chances and for being part of this life-saving journey. Wishing you a joyful and compassionate summer.

With gratitude,

Lesley Arwin
Animal House Shelter

Operation Winter Storm

This winter, our rescue partner Animal Rescue Corps responded to a heartbreaking call in Tennessee. In January, 42 dogs—Pomskies and other “designer mixes”—were found caged outdoors on a backyard breeder's property, left to endure frigid temperatures, snow, and ice. Used for profit with little regard for their well-being, these dogs suffered in silence. Even with their thick coats, they were at serious risk of frostbite and hypothermia. Thanks to this rescue effort, they are now safe—and Animal House Shelter has welcomed 9 of these dogs to begin their journey of healing. But their recovery is just beginning. These dogs need ongoing medical care, proper nutrition, warmth, and time to learn what love truly feels like. We are asking for your help to give them that second chance. The good news—some of our survivors are now ready to find their forever homes. After everything they endured, they deserve families who will keep them safe, warm, and loved for the rest of their lives. Please consider making a donation today to support their care. Every dollar makes a difference in helping them heal. Together, we can turn their story into one of hope. [Click here to donate.](#)

GOOD NEWS FOR You & THE ANIMALS!

Thanks to a new tax law for 2026, your generosity may go even further. More people may now qualify for a charitable deduction—no itemizing required!

2026 CHARITABLE DEDUCTION UPDATE

For 2026, taxpayers taking the standard deduction may be able to deduct **cash contributions** to qualified organizations like ours:

INDIVIDUALS

May deduct up to
\$1,000
in cash contributions.
(\$2,000 for couples)

MARRIED COUPLES

Filing jointly may deduct up to
\$2,000
in cash contributions.

Instead of listing the charitable deduction on Schedule A, you can deduct the contribution on the **1040**, thereby reducing your income and tax bill.

YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES.

Thank you for being a hero for animals!

**ANIMAL HOUSE
SHELTER**
Rescue. Shelter. Love.

Consult your tax advisor for details about your individual situation.

Thank you!



WE'RE HIRING

Animal House Shelter is seeking a veterinarian and vet techs for our new fully equipped, state-of-the-art clinic. Be part of our mission to provide spay/neuter services and care for animals in need.



Email your resume to: ahshelter@gmail.com

Contact Us
Phone: 847-961-5541
Email: info@animalhouseshelter.com

Follow Us On Social Media





From Loss to Love:

Moose's Journey to Relief

MOOSE'S STORY

Moose didn't come to us the way most cats do. At 15 years old, his world changed in an instant when his elderly owner suffered a fall and could no longer return home. Moose was left behind—confused and alone—without the person he had known his entire life, until a kind neighbor brought him to Animal House Shelter. During his exam, we discovered a heart murmur, kidney concerns, and severe dental disease that left him in constant pain and struggling to eat. Further testing confirmed kidney disease and Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, making treatment more complex—but leaving him in pain wasn't an option. With a carefully tailored plan, Moose underwent dental surgery to remove multiple diseased teeth, finally giving him relief. Moose's care totaled \$3,587. At 15, Moose deserves comfort, dignity, and relief. If you're able, please consider donating to help give him the care he so desperately needed. Every dollar makes a difference for Moose and so many others. **Donate here**

Available for Adoption or Fostering Spotlight on Merrygold



Meet Merrygold! This beautiful American Staffordshire Terrier/Boxer mix is ready to sprinkle a little sunshine into her forever home! Merrygold joined us at Animal House Shelter after making her way from a shelter in Southern Illinois, and now she's patiently waiting for her happily-ever-after. She's a sweet, gentle girl with a calm and easygoing vibe. If energy levels were on a dial, Merrygold would happily sit in that

low-to-medium sweet spot—up for some toy time but equally excited about cozy cuddle sessions. She gets along well other dogs, making her a lovely addition to a household. Merrygold enjoys playtime, but she truly shines when she's relaxing by your side, soaking up love and giving it right back. Looking for a loyal, calm companion who will love you to the moon and back? Merrygold just might be your perfect match.

Volunteers & Fosters Needed

Animal House Shelter



VOLUNTEERS - TO SEE THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES
VISIT: WWW.ANIMALHOUSESHelter.COM/VOLUNTEER-2



FOSTERS - INFORMATION VISIT:
WWW.ANIMALHOUSESHelter.COM/FOSTER

Thank you to our Sponsors

A heartfelt thank you to all the incredible sponsors, participants, and dedicated volunteers who make our fundraising events possible. Your support makes a real difference in the lives of the animals at Animal House Shelter, and we are deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment!

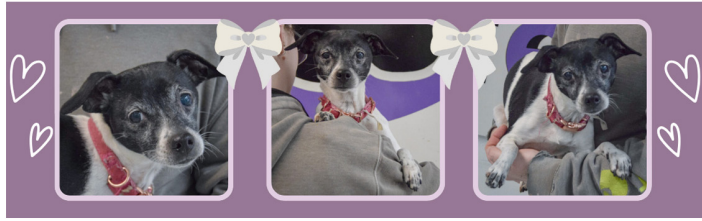


ANIMAL
HOUSE
SHELTER

Want to sponsor or be a vendor at any of our events?
Or donate items for raffle baskets?
Email: events@animalhouseshelter.com



Healing Lottie, One Step at a Time



Lottie is a 9-year-old sweetheart who came to us from Southern Illinois after suffering years of neglect. When she arrived, she had large, painful mammary tumors, severe dental disease, and tested positive for heartworm. Despite everything she has endured, Lottie remains gentle, loving, and eager for affection. She has already received extensive medical care and will need major surgery in 6–8 weeks to remove the entire right chain of mammary tumors. Cases like Lottie's are why Animal House Shelter exists—but they also place a significant strain on our resources. As a no-kill shelter that receives no government funding, we rely on the kindness of supporters like you to give dogs like Lottie a second chance.

Please consider making a donation to help Lottie and other animals in need. Every gift makes a difference.

Total medical expenses to date: \$3,450 **Click here to donate**

Tradesmen needed!



Animal House Shelter is looking for skilled professionals to help keep our shelter safe, functional, and welcoming for our animals and community. If you can donate time, offer discounted services, or lend a hand, we'd be so grateful! As thanks, we'll promote your business on our social media, website, and newsletter.

Email us at ahshelter@gmail.com to get involved!

We're currently looking for:

Electricians, Painters, Plumbers, Window Cleaners,
Black Toppers (asphalt/paving professionals),
Sidewalk Specialists (concrete or masonry work), and Fence Installers



Make a lasting impact and honor your loved ones with a tribute through Animal House Shelter. You can purchase a ****Brick****, ****Bench****, or ****Tree**** as a heartfelt dedication to a family member, friend, or pet. Bricks are available in two sizes: 4" x 8" and 8" x 8"

Purchase a Brick, Bench, or Tree and leave a lasting legacy today! Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/4y4udr4m>

Phase 2: Building More Than a Shelter Creating Second Chances

Thanks to your incredible support, our expansion is already making a difference—but we're not done yet. Phase 2 is here, and it's all about creating more space, more comfort, and more lifesaving opportunities for the animals who need us most. This next phase will bring new large kennels for our dogs, giving them a safer, more comfortable environment while they wait for their forever homes. It also includes the completion of spaces designed to help animals heal, connect, and thrive:

- Naming Rights to the building with signage: Please contact us
- Adoption Center/Lobby: Please contact us
- Low Cost Veterinary Clinic: \$500,000
- Children's Education Center: \$300,000
- Retail Store: \$300,000
- Free Roam Cat Colony Habitat: \$200,000
- Memorial Tribute Garden: \$175,000
- Legacy Building: \$250,000
- Training Center: \$150,000 – SPONSORED
- Feline, Bird and Butterfly Garden: \$125,000 –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)
- Kennels (50 per room x2 rooms; Phase 2): \$150,000 per room or \$3,000 per kennel
- Tribute Bricks: 4x8 – \$150 each or 8x8- \$300 each
- Tribute Bench: \$1,500 each
- Tribute Tree with plaque: \$1,000 each
- Tribute Tree without plaque: \$750 each

Every addition to this expansion directly impacts the lives we can save. With your help, we'll be able to rescue, care for, and rehome over 5,000 animals each year. Be a part of something truly life-changing. Help us build a future where every animal has a safe place, a second chance, and a path to a loving home.

Interested in Donating Materials?

Let us know at ahshelter@gmail.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 • Fencing • Industrial Washers and Dryers • Bath Tubs for Grooming Dogs • Computers

Events That Save Lives

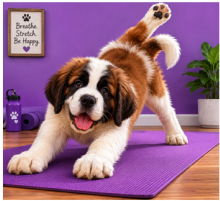
Every event helps support our mission, with proceeds and participation going directly toward caring for homeless pets and helping us save more lives. From fun community gatherings to special fundraisers, there's something for everyone. Check out our upcoming events and help us continue giving animals the second chances they deserve.

Happy Birthday, AHS! Let's Pack the Van



When: Sat., June 20, 2026
Time: 10am - 5pm
Where: Walmart
 12300 Rt. 14 * Huntley
Wishlist: <https://tinyurl.com/5a38v82r>

Puppy Yoga



When: Sun., June 28, 2026
Time: 1pm - 2pm
Where: Animal House Shelter * Bldg. A
 13005 Ernesti Rd., Huntley
Cost: \$40 per Person
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/yrnfyupt>

Change for Change

When: Now thru June 30th
Where: AHS, 13005 Ernesti Rd., Bldg. A
 Huntley
Time: 11am-7pm; daily



Coffee for a Cause



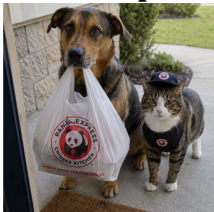
When: Now thru June 30th
Where: Online
 Click below to see the catalog and to place and order
<https://tinyurl.com/yhmat9a2>

Pampered Chef

When: Now thru June 30th
Where: Online
 Click below to see the catalog and place an order
<https://tinyurl.com/5ymj3yp4>



Panda Express: Dine to Donate



When: July 17th * All-Day
Where: Online - Nationwide
 Click here for their website, promo code and to order
<https://tinyurl.com/ykvp9t2f>

Little Caesars Raising Dough

When: Now thru June 30th
Where: Online
 Click below to see the catalog and to place and order
<https://tinyurl.com/3a7e6925>



2027 Calendar Contest



Enter a photo of your pet for a chance to be on the 25th Anniversary Edition Cover!

When: Aug. 1st - Nov. 1st
Register & Vote
<https://tinyurl.com/mr86kt8t>

AHS Low Cost Vaccine Clinic

When: August 16, 2026
Time: 1pm - 3pm
Where: Animal House Shelter
 13005 Ernesti Rd.
 Building A/Vet Clinic
 Huntley, IL

To Register: <https://tinyurl.com/3h3nwrnk>



Putt for Paws



When: Fri., Sept. 11, 2026
Time: 12pm Shotgun start - 5:30pm Dinner
Where: Makray Memorial Golf Club
 1010 S. Northwest Hwy., Barrington
Cost: Single Golfer \$200
 Foursomes \$700
 Not a golfer? Join us for the dinner and raffles! Dinner Only Guest \$65
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/bde5xpf6>

AHS PawFest 2026 - Free Admission

When: Sat., Oct. 3, 2026
Times: 11am-4pm
Where: Deicke Park, Huntley
For More Info:
<https://tinyurl.com/masf4w6s>



AHS Pictures with Santa



When: Sat. Dec. 5 & 12 * Sun. Dec. 6 & 13
Times: Sat. 10am-2pm * Sun. 12pm-4pm
Where: Bentley's Pet Stuff
 1492 S. Randall Rd., Algonquin
Cost: \$30/one digital family photo for a 15 min. session
 \$5/each additional digital photo
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/4t9yk6ta>

AHS Board of Directors:

Lesley Irwin, Jerry Aurigemma, Shane Adams, Ryan Hill, Tara Gagliano, Henry Ospina, Diann Prange, Christy Weed, and JB Rader