

BOW-WOW, THAT'S NEWS!

NOVEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER



Makoons

WE ACCEPT VENMO!

Donations are down this year, so we now offer VENMO as a new and easy way to donate! Although Venmo is a popular tool for splitting the bill with friends at restaurants or sending the rent money to roommates, it can also be a powerful tool for charitable giving.

Instead of driving all the way to the shelter or paying for stamps to send a check, all you need to do is search for us on Venmo and send us a “payment”. You can even set up recurring donations to support our fur-babies on an ongoing basis.

Your donation helps with animals’ medical bills, building maintenance, feeding the fur-babies, and much more.

When you donate through Venmo, you can rest assured that your payment information is secure.

Venmo uses encryption to protect your data, and you can enable two-factor authentication for an extra layer of security. Plus, since donations are processed through the app, you won’t need to share your credit card information with us directly.

Venmo allows you to share your donations with your social network, which can help raise awareness for the animals and encourage others to give as well. You can also see who else in your network has donated to us, which can create a sense of community around your giving.

Search for us on Venmo **@HawkCreek-AnimalShelter**



QR Code

BEING HUMAN IN TODAY’S WORLD

Watching the sunrise in the morning is one of my favorite things to do. I’m up before everyone else and I have the amazing opportunity to watch the world come to life before my eyes. This simple act evokes emotions that I perceive as distant and exotic in today’s world.

“I feel human today” is a phrase I’ve begun telling myself when I have these emotions and there is a weight that is lifted off my chest when I allow myself to have fervor. Having human emotions feels like a foreign concept these days. Being human means a lot of different things to a lot of different people. To me, it’s that electric surge felt during a first kiss, that deep stirring of the soul when listening to Ludovico Einaudi’s *Nuvole Bianche*, the joy of laughing at a joke with some best friends knowing they hold no judgments toward me.

Being human is a beautiful gift.

We’ve come to live in a world of fear, stress, and anxiety. It’s considered “normal” to feel this way now, but should it?

At the end of the day, we’re all human. And at the end of the day, we’re all doing our best to navigate life. We’re all in this cruel, crazy, beautiful world together.

We are so thankful for the community we have. You continue to support us through thick and thin and we are so grateful to have people like you by our side.

If you’re not feeling human today, do something you haven’t done in a while that used to bring you joy. Come into the shelter and hang out in our three cat rooms and just pet cats; there’s no pressure to adopt. Are you more of a dog person? Ask staff if you can have a dog brought into one of our rooms or in a play pen outside and play with them.

It’s okay to not feel so human today. We’re here for you.

STAFF WHY'S

"Hi, I'm Miranda. I started working at the shelter because they're all about second chances. Thirteen years later I'm still here and I wouldn't trade a minute with the animals for anything else."

- Miranda, Vet Tech.

"I've always wanted to work with animals ever since I was a teen. Now I've been given that opportunity to care for animals every day and help them find their forever home."

- Arica, Kennel Attendant

"I work here to show these animals unconditional love and finding their second (or third) chance at life; whether I sit with them in their kennels, give them pets, or take them out on field trips. I also love being able to educate the community and show the true drive and passion all of the Hawk Creek staff have."

- Lacey, Community Outreach Coordinator

"I worked here while I went to Ridgewater College for my Veterinary Technician degree. I helped adopt animals to their forever homes. After graduation I did my internship at a clinic and realized I wanted to work in shelter medicine. I love the animals and the people; helping make them feel better makes me happy."

- Becca, Vet Tech/Adoption Facilitator

"Working here is a feel-good thing to me and no two days are ever the same. The animals need all of us who work here to be their voice and deserve the right thing to do for them. Everyday has something new to learn and I enjoy being here, it doesn't even feel like work. Helping each animal find their forever home is a very rewarding experience."

- Rebecca J., Adoption Facilitator & Kennel Attendant

"I enjoy working at Hawk Creek because I get to match animals to their new families. It's fun to see when the animal realizes it's finally their turn to leave."

- Michelle A., Bookkeeper; Adoption Facilitator

"I've been here for six years; those years have actually flown right by, I'm very thankful for my position here. I started my animal career 25 years ago, went to school to be a vet tech and now here I am. I didn't think that I would be able to be back helping animals and doing what my heart was set to do. Someone gave me a chance and I'm glad that they did. I get to continue helping animals in more than one way. I am privileged in helping the shelter animals find their new home or go into foster care for help until they are ready, scheduling animals to be spayed and neutered, or providing guidance in training; but there's helping the human behind the animal, the one who calls into the shelter. Many are just looking for guidance, people get overwhelmed, and just need an ear to listen and provide a different perspective. We have programs that can help- those are the things that make my day complete. If I can tell all the readers one thing, you have enough time, and you are good enough! Your pets want to stay with you."

- Michele B., Volunteer/Events/Foster Coordinator & Adoption Facilitator



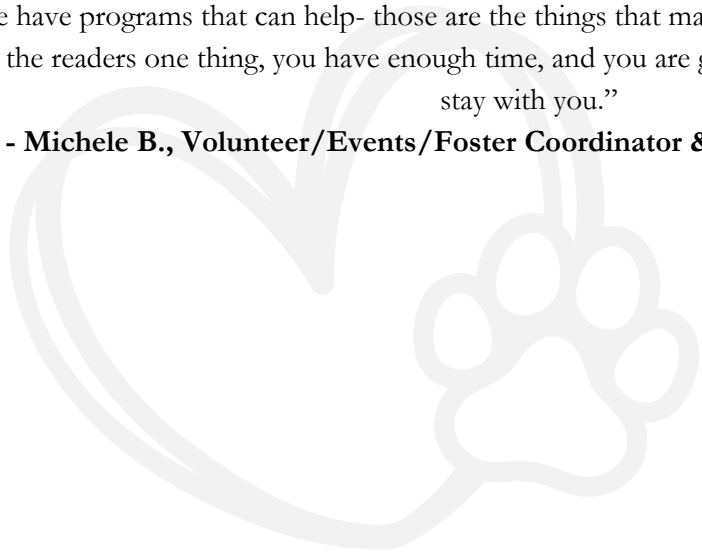
Big E. Before



Big E. After



Pepper



DOGS WITH ANXIETY



Aryia

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, there have been noticeable changes in dog behavior. With more people working from home and spending more time indoors, dogs have been able to spend more time with their owners, leading to increased bonding and attachment.

However, this increased time indoors has also led to some negative behaviors, such as separation anxiety when owners do leave the house. Many shelters have seen an influx of dogs with behavioral issues such as anxiety walk through our doors as surrenders. If you have a dog with anxiety, here are some helpful tips for handling their anxiety.

Firstly, it's essential to provide a safe and secure environment for your dog. Have a quiet and comfortable space for them to retreat to when they feel anxious can help them feel more relaxed. You can create a cozy corner in your home with your dog's bed, toys, and blankets.

Secondly, regular exercise and mental stimulation can also help reduce anxiety in dogs. Going for daily walks, playing fetch, and engaging in interactive games with your dog can help them burn off excess energy and feel more relaxed.

Thirdly, consider using calming aids such as pheromone diffusers or calming treats (consult your veterinarian) and anxiety wraps such as thunder jackets. These can help reduce anxiety and promote relaxation in dogs.

Fourthly, actively socializing your dog by taking them to the dog park or even a doggy daycare to help them learn to be around people and other dogs can really help their self-esteem- when done safely.

Finally, call around to trainers in your area, or as far as you're willing to drive, and ask them about confidence training. Some trainers even have online classes via Zoom if you live too far away; all you have to do is the follow-through.

Remember, dogs with anxiety require patience, understanding, and love. By providing a safe and secure environment, regular exercise, using calming jackets, and having follow-through, you can help your furry friend feel more relaxed and at ease.

SAVE OUR TAILS 2024

Our 18th annual Save Our Tails event is coming up fast!

Our biggest annual fundraiser will once again be held as an online auction through 32auctions, and will be held

February 15-23, 2024.

Pick-up for items won will be held on Saturday, February 24th, 2024, from 8a-12p at Northern States Supply in Willmar.

As always, we appreciate your donations for this major fundraiser but this year we are asking that you schedule a time to come in with your item(s) for pre-approval. The past couple of years we have gotten items that are not being bid on like they should, and like you, we want the best for our animals.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for updates pertaining to SOT, items, drop offs, etc..

We thank you for your understanding and hope to see you soon!

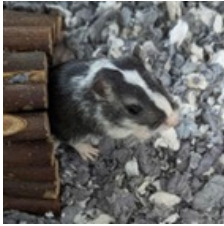
Want to be a sponsor?

Contact us by December 1st and we'll put your logo on our website and invites!



ROADWORK UPDATE

Cookies



Creo

We've missed you!

Our road was under construction, and it was difficult to get here.

Our doors are still open, and we'd love to see you again!

Tues.-Fri. 12p-6p

Sat.-Sun. 12p-5p

STAFF/BOARD MEMBERS/DIRECTORS

Of course, no Newsletter would be complete without acknowledging our wonderful staff and board who, not only keep this place running, but help advocate for the animals on a daily basis.

Staff:

Rachelle Haney- Office Manager
Michelle Anderson- Adoptions/Bookkeeper
Michele Busskohl-Adoptions/Volunteer Coor. **Casey Rajewsky**- Director/CVT
Rebecca Jones- Adoptions/Kennels **Jenny Bork**- Kennels/Membership Coor.
Becca Drohman- Adoptions/Vet Tech **Miranda Douvier**- Kennels/Vet Tech
Lacey Swart- Adoptions/Community Outreach **Arica Anderson**- Kennels
Olivia Naatjers- Adoptions **Danica Gertjeansen**- Kennels
Flor Holguin- Adoptions **Dylan Stiff**- Kennels
Elizabeth Eckman- Kennels
Courtlyn Runck- Kennels
Emma Kallio- Kennels

Board

Members:

Steve Gardner- Appointed by Co.
Danielle Skindelen
Bryan Goltz
Beth Oberg
Tina Holthusen
Jon Thoma
Mark Wood

Board of

Directors:

Scott Watkins- Chair
Stephanie Felt- VC
Amy Nicolas- Treasurer



FEEL GOOD STORY OF THE YEAR

Pablo was brought to us as a stray. The person who brought him in claimed they found him three months prior to bringing him to the shelter and kept him looking for his owners.

After sitting his stray hold, Pablo was put up for adoption. A couple days after posting his photo on Facebook (as an available dog) we received a phone call explaining this was this person's dog that was "taken off their property three months ago." We invited them in to see if this was in fact their dog. They immediately came to the shelter with pictures and sure enough, this was their dog!

This 17-year-old man was stolen from his front yard and presumably passed around until he ended up with us.

Social media can be a helpful tool for shelters and rescues both for adoptions and finding owners. In fact, most of our 'claimed' animals are from posting pictures on social media- Facebook specifically.

Pablo has been back with his rightful family since being with us and we could not be happier to have reunited him with his rightful owners.