



Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter

2026 Fall/Winter Newsletter

THE PAWGRESS REPORT



A Message of Gratitude FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANTHONY ANDERBERG

As we approach the end of our first year with the dogs at our new location, I feel enormous gratitude for what we've accomplished together. This past year, our focus has been on getting the dogs settled into their new kennels and seeing how our carefully laid plans and construction work in practice. For the most part, it appears we made the right choices and prioritized the right elements to balance cost with effective care. Just as importantly, having our volunteers together in one place again has given us the opportunity to create new connections and rekindle old friendships.

Much work remains, of course. The dog kennels need better sound abatement and outdoor enrichment, and our aging cat housing presents another significant need. Many of our cat kennels are too small by today's standards, with limited separation between litter, food and resting areas, and the space does not provide the enrichment opportunities we need for cats who may spend several months in our care. Looking ahead, improving the environment in which we care for our cats will be an important priority for HMAS.

Additionally, expanding our in-house surgery program would also allow us to help prevent even more unwanted litters. Rising costs continue to affect the shelter, but through careful stewardship and continued fundraising, we are on track to break even again this year—helping us build a strong foundation for the future.

Since we started this journey in 1999 more than 10,000 animals have found new homes. What makes those numbers truly meaningful is the community behind them: donors who give from their hearts, staff who go the extra mile, and volunteers who generously share their time.

You'll also notice a refreshed HMAS logo and a new look for this newsletter, designed to bring you closer to the animals, people and impact behind our mission. More than an update on what has happened, we hope it is a celebration of what we've accomplished together.

Thank you for standing with us and helping give every animal a brighter future.

Your Impact at a Glance

359

Animals Found
Loving Homes
So Far This Year

373

Animals Welcomed
Into Care YTD

268

Cats Welcomed
Into Care YTD

105

Dogs Welcomed
Into Care YTD

257

Spay/Neuter
Procedures

43 days

Average Length of Stay
Cats

17 days

Average Length of Stay
Dogs

WHY THIS MATTERS

Behind every number is an animal who needed a safe place to land—and a community that stepped up to help. Together, we're providing the care, time and second chances that help Heart of Minnesota animals move from shelter to home.



Loofah



Atlas



Brynn

OUR MISSION

The Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter is passionately devoted to the care of animals in need, by providing rescue, shelter, adoption, and veterinary services in central Minnesota.

HMAS OFFICERS

Anthony Anderberg, President
Sarah Young, Vice President
Scott Lang, Treasurer
Linda Anderberg, Secretary

HMAS BOARD

Wendy Abdel-Aziz | Marsha Anderson | Brian Block
Melissa Erlandson | Larry Karg | Kathy Lennes
Andrea Rubischko | Connie Schmoll | Amy Solinger
Lisa Weckman

STAY CONNECTED

Facebook: heartofminnesota
Instagram: @heartofmnanimalshelter
TikTok: @heart.of.minnesot

ADOPTION HOURS

Tuesday + Thursday 5-7PM
Saturday 1-5PM



LOVE YOUR DOG. SKIP THE SCOOPING.
Serving McLeod & Carver County

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2026 PAWS ON PARADE

NO CONTRACT REQUIRED

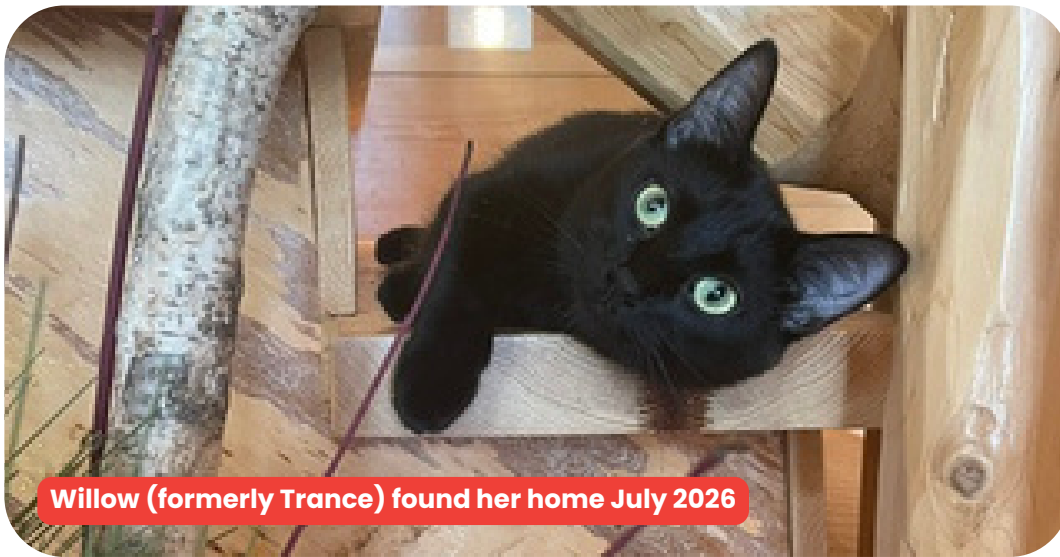
THE STERLING SAFETY STANDARD

Locally operated and woman-owned, Sterling Scoops goes beyond scooping to protect your lawn and peace of mind. We sanitize tools and boots between every yard and send a photo confirming your gate is secure after every visit.

SIGN UP TODAY

Sterling@sterlingscoops.com
320-300-0150

Willow's Story: From Hiding to Home



When Willow arrived at Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter at just two months old, the world was a frightening place.

She spent much of her time tucked behind her litter box, trying to disappear. Her fear made her difficult to know and easy to misunderstand. For eight months, Willow waited at the shelter while other cats went home.

At 10 months old, she entered foster care. There were no dramatic breakthroughs. Instead, Willow's transformation happened through patience, routine and dozens of very small victories.

At first, Willow simply hid, frozen in fear. She made herself as small and invisible as possible, unsure whether the people around her could be trusted. By Day 11, she voluntarily emerged from hiding for gentle pets. Around Day 20, she was comfortable enough to eat in the open.

Then her world slowly began to grow. She accepted treats. Explored beyond her safe room. Met the family dogs, Frankie and Olive. Soon, curiosity began winning over fear. She ventured farther from her safe room, sought out her new companions and started showing glimpses of the playful cat underneath. There were setbacks along the way, but each time Willow was given the space to move forward at her own pace.

Her foster family renamed her Willow because a willow tree bends in the wind without breaking—a fitting name for a little cat quietly proving just how resilient she could be.

Forty-nine days after entering foster care, Willow didn't need to search for a forever family. She had already found one. Her foster home became her permanent home.

Today, the cat who once tried so hard not to be seen is playful, curious and very much part of the family. Frankie and Olive are now her canine BFFs, and Willow has discovered that people (and dogs) can be pretty wonderful company.



"Willow taught me that trust can't be rushed. You give a frightened animal time, consistency and the freedom to choose—and one day you realize they're no longer simply learning to trust you. They've become part of your family."

- Jennie

Hutch's Third Chapter



Hutch a-Roo Trinity "Hutch" (formerly Fudge) found his forever home August 2026

Fudge had already experienced the loss of two families who loved him. Somehow, he never lost his ability to love again.

The gentle 11-year-old first came to HMAS in March 2024 after his owner passed away. He was given another chance at a loving home, only to experience the same heartbreaking loss when his second owner also passed away. In April 2026, Fudge returned to HMAS once more.

Yet despite everything he had been through, Fudge remained the same affectionate, trusting cat—always ready with a purr, a snuggle and a spot on someone's lap.

Then Brad came across his photo while searching online for adoptable cats. Fudge's story immediately touched Brad and Melissa. Having loved their previous cat to age 21, they weren't deterred by his age or manageable health condition. They felt drawn to the senior cat who still had so much love to give.

And when they met him, Fudge made his choice, too. He climbed directly into Brad's lap. Then Melissa's. "It was love at first sight."

Today, Fudge has a new name: Hutch a-Roo Trinity. Hutch honors Hutchinson, the community that cared for him. Roo reflects the cuddly companion who loves to curl up close. And Trinity honors the two families who loved him before, while celebrating the third family who will carry that love forward for the rest of his life.

Now Hutch sleeps alongside Brad, Melissa and their Golden Retriever, Opal, and his sweet personality is revealing a little more 'sass' every day. For Brad and Melissa, that emerging spunk is the best possible sign: Hutch feels safe enough to simply be himself.

His third chapter has begun. And this time, it's forever.



"You never know just by a number how much joy an animal can bring your family. Hutch has so much love to give. So many older animals could bring that same love and happiness into your home."

—Brad and Melissa

Open Your Home. Change a Life.



WHY FOSTERING MATTERS

A foster home gives an animal a break from shelter stress while opening space at HMAS to help another animal in need.

HMAS PROVIDES

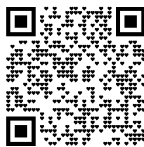
We provide the food, supplies and veterinary care. You provide a safe, loving place to land.

FLEXIBLE COMMITMENT

Fostering can fit your schedule—from a short stay to a long-term placement. Every foster home makes a difference.

READY TO FOSTER?

Scan to complete the volunteer application and select Animal Foster Care.



Yes, I want to help give animals a second chance.

Name

Address

City State ZIP

Email

My gift:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \$

☐ I'd like to make this a monthly gift.

☐ My check is enclosed.

Please make checks payable to Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter.

Mail To:

Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter
P.O. Box 175
Hutchinson, MN 55350



COMING UP AT HMAS

Save The Date

A full list of our events can be found on our website or on Facebook.

OCT. 1 **ADOPT-A-STORY**
Blind Date with a Book Fundraiser

Starts October 1st: books sold during adoption hours and during Rummage Sale Events

OCT. 16-17 **OCTOBER RUMMAGE SALE**

OCT. 21 **CULVER'S OF HUTCHINSON SUPPORTER NIGHTS**
NOV. 18 Hutchinson Culver's | 5PM - 8PM
DEC. 16

NOV. 6-7 **NOVEMBER RUMMAGE SALE**

NOV. 24- **GIVING TREE**
DEC. 22 PICK A TREE - GIVE A GIFT | TREE LOCATIONS TBD

JAN. 16- **CRAPPY EX-LITTER BOX FUNDRAISER**
FEB. 13 DURING ADOPTION HOURS AT HMAS CAMPUS



HUTCHINSON ELKS LODGE

#2427

Over \$100K

donated to the community in 2025

Proudly supporting local organizations that strengthen our community, including Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter.

PROUD PLATINUM SPONSOR
2026 PAWS ON PARADE

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Meat Raffle @ 6pm
Bike Night - 1st & 3rd Tuesday

WEDNESDAY

Burger Night | 5-9pm

THURSDAY

Queen of Hearts Drawing & Horse Races
Get tickets by 6pm | Drawing @ 7pm

FRIDAY

Bingo @ 6:30pm
Jackpots @ Games 10 & 20

SATURDAY

Meat Raffle / Horse Races @ 4pm

Monday-Saturday

Club Opens @ 3pm | Kitchen Opens @ 5pm

320-587-3116

720 Hwy 7 East | Hutchinson, MN 55350

2026 PAWS ON PARADE

Thank you to our generous sponsors and prize donors for helping make the 2026 Paws on Parade Walk possible.

PET WALK SPONSORS

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CAR Shop Inc
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Hutchinson Elks

GOLD

CareVet (Hutchinson Pet Hospital)
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Heintz Floor Covering

SILVER

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Carpets Plus Color Tile
McKimm Transit
Gold Tree Apparel
Moonbeam's Custom Animal Care
Back Forty Kennel

BRONZE

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Great River Children's Museum

Hillyard
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iHeartDogs
Lake Superior Zoo
Liani Kotcher (aka Rektok Ross)-Author
Luna Gift Company
MC Pub's
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota State Fair
Minnesota Transportation Museum

Minnesota Twins
Muddy Tails Salon
Mystic Lake Casino/Hotel
Oakdale Golf Club
Paramount
Paramount Center for the Arts
Prairie's Edge Casino Resort
Renaissance Festival
Sever's Fall Festival
Stages Theatre
Wild Cat Sanctuary



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2026 PAWS ON PARADE



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2026 PAWS ON PARADE

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Thank You for Making Second Chances Possible

Because of you, second chances become new beginnings. Thank you for helping Heart of Minnesota animals find the care, love and homes they deserve.

IN MEMORY OF

Cheryl Beilke — Henry “Lanny” Sanken & Lyle Wendorff
Rebecca Benoit — Jack Peterson
Donna Betker — Diane Betker
Brandon Tire — Robin Kashuba
Candice, John, Monty & Oliver — Leo
Gary & Eileen Carter — Charmaine Picha
Mary Christensen — Dirk Gaspar
Marilyn Denler — Lenard and Mary Christensen & Lyle Christensen
Roger & Charlene Dostal — Diane Dostal
Family & Friends — Gary Lee Laffen
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Lois Froehlich — Beverly Sletten
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Missy Graner — Sherrie Witte
Daryl & Sheila Gruenwaldt — Andi Jones
Jody & Glenn Hoff — Lyle Wendorff
Jerome & Judy Ide — Charmaine Picha
Mary Jenneke — Charmaine Picha

Susan Fairbanks Johnson & family — Charmaine Picha
Luanne Kroeger — Alan Kock & Marion Koebnick
Steven Larson — Shannon Martin
Joel & Elynn Lepel, along with family & friends — In memory of Taylor Lepel and her dog Kensington
Janet McClure — Richard Zuehlke
Cassandra Mesik — Golden Boy
Jane Orvis — June Kaye Winter, Elroy Tupa & Charles Henry Ulrich
Bruce Petterson — Robin Kashuba
Jackie & Dale Runke — Brad Birkholz
Dan & Kathy Scheer — Frisky, Bandito, Dean & Cally
Virgene Shellenbarger — Polly Bipes, Gene Kaping & Wayne Rusch
Jessy Thomas — Ozzy
Julie & Travis Uecker — Charmaine Picha
Donna Wendorff — Lyle Wendorff
Trudy & Terry Wendorff — Lyle Wendorff
Lucinda Woller — Brad Birkholz
Kim Yost — Roxy

IN HONOR OF

Catherine Blackburn — Molly’s 6th birthday
Jill & Ken Boersma — Kay and Rory Rohloff
Cretex Medical — Employees of Cretex Medical
Rebecca Delacruz — Elvi
David Lies — Niko’s sixth birthday

Lana Nornberg — Rebecca Benoit
Denise Rose — Mary (Bach) & Gene Floren’s 50th Wedding Anniversary
Dan and Kathy Scheer — Animal Medical Center Doctors and Staff
Susan and Ben Strothman — Butter

SUSTAINING DONORS

Our Sustaining Donors provide dependable support through recurring monthly gifts.

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HEART OF MINNESOTA ANIMAL SHELTER
21918 180th Street
PO Box 175
Hutchinson, MN 55350
(320) 234-9699
www.heartofminnesota.org

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

ADOPTION HOURS

Tuesday + Thursday 5-7PM
Saturday 1-5PM

contact@heartofminnesota.org



MN Licensed Kennel #154054

WAYS TO GIVE

Every Gift Makes a Difference

Your generosity provides food, shelter, veterinary care and second chances for animals who need them. However you choose to give, you're helping make their next chapter possible.

Give Today

Make a one-time gift online or through Venmo.

Become a Sustaining Donor

Monthly gifts provide reliable support all year.

heartofminnesota.org/donate-funds

Give in Honor or Memory

Celebrate a pet, someone special or remember a loved one with a meaningful gift.

Other Ways to Help

Donate needed supplies, volunteer your time, or support HMAS through your business or community group.

YOUR GIFTS MAKE THEIR CARE POSSIBLE



Give With
Venmo or
PayPal. Scan
to Donate.



venmo



Shop our
Chewy or
Amazon
Wish Lists.

