

2024 IN REVIEW

In 2024 we were fairly successful in fulfilling our objective to find homes for adoptable animals at the shelter via promotion, adoption sponsorship, provision of specialized medical needs, and fostering of animals who needed extra attention. Overall, 93% of healthy, adoptable dogs were adopted (137), rescued (2), or reclaimed (72), in addition to 86% of healthy adoptable cats adopted (129), rescued/became barn cats (4), or reclaimed (3). We were fortunate during 2024 to not have outbreaks of Parvo at the shelter, or have dogs test positive for heartworm, thus cutting specialized medical expenditures. Interestingly, 55 fewer cats entered the shelter during 2024 than in 2023.

We also addressed community animal needs via the low cost spay/neuter program, the Angel Fund, for emergency medical situations, and the Pet Food Pantry to assist individuals in keeping their pets in their homes. While we held only four transports to the Quincy Humane Society Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic, we were able to fix and vaccinate 98 cats. Each county veterinarian clinic was allotted \$1600 of offset costs of emergency medical needs. The WIRC Good Food Pantry and Bushnell food pantry graciously provided space for cat and dog food in their pantries.

INITIATIVES

- **Promoted** the adoption of cats and dogs from the animal shelter via partnership with the shelter staff and the community in caring for and finding homes for the homeless animals. Sponsorship of adoption fees, social media promoting, and provision of needed health care helped 266 cats and dogs to be adopted.
- **Foster care** was expanded this year to include provision of foster homes for animals that are still under the authority of the county animal shelter. This helped offset the number of dogs who needed to be housed at the shelter and allowed them to be in an environment where they could socialize to transition to a forever home. A “foster village” was initiated by Gossel’s Dog House with the HSMC purchasing a large doghouse with porch for Lulu’s use. Other volunteers have stepped up to take dog and cat fosters.
- The HSMC helps keep pets in their homes with Pet Food Pantry supplies at the Macomb Good Food Pantry and the Bushnell Food Pantry, as well as making home deliveries.

2024 EXPENSES

- \$7,742 was spent on **shelter medical care** to treat dogs and cats.
- \$1,104 was spent on **cat vaccines** to help prevent the spread of transmissible disease at the shelter.
- \$6,090 to purchase a shed dog house for the foster dog at Gossel’s Dog House and \$144 for Thunderleashes at the Shelter.
- \$2,940 spent spaying/neutering 98 cats through Quincy Humane Society **Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program**.
- \$7,350 spent on **spay/neuter** of 210 shelter cats and dogs at the McDonough County Animal Shelter mcacil.org
- \$4,024 given to county veterinarians for discretionary use of **Angel Fund**.
- \$1,886 postage, paper and envelopes, other office supplies.
- \$1,766 insurance, foster license, business fees and license.
- \$1,526 storage unit annual rent/insurance for housing HSMC supplies.



AT A GLANCE

CHALLENGES

- How to address the high demand for spay/neuter and lack of the Quincy Humane Society spay/neuter program.
- Reduce the return of adopted animals to the shelter by educating adopters.
- Pulling all the pieces together to get the new animal shelter facility built!

LOOKING AHEAD

- 2025 Proposed working budget is estimated to be \$40,000.
- McDonough County Animal Shelter Campaign
- Launch the Network for Good/Bonterra fundraising platform.

SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAMS

We were notified by the Quincy Humane Society in summer 2024 that the QHS Spay/Neuter program was suspended due to the loss of their veterinarian. We hope to hear they’ve hired a new vet soon.

The other spay/neuter program is in conjunction with the McDonough County Animal Shelter to offset adoption fee costs. In 2023, the HSMC contributed \$35.00 per spay/neuter per animal.

We continue to look for ways to combat cat overpopulation and expand spay/neuter opportunity.