

# Warm hearts

for cold noses

## humane society of pulaski county

14600 Colonel Glenn Road, Little Rock, AR 72210  
(501)227-6166 [www.warmhearts.org](http://www.warmhearts.org)



### THE "COSMIC" ISSUE

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

Dear HSPC Supporter:



On April 8 of this year, the Universe treated all of us to a very special event: a total eclipse of the sun! During that amazing phenomenon, another incredible thing was happening at our shelter. Our sweet **Tabitha** gave birth to four beautiful kittens appropriately named **Solar**, **Eclipse**, **Corona** and **Umbra**. They are all doing well and growing in the care of a foster. Soon these terrestrial gifts will be available for great homes!

According to Merriam-Webster, "**Cosmic**" has many meanings including "characterized by greatness especially in extent, intensity or comprehensiveness." In this newsletter, you will see how this organization has been blessed in all these respects.

We credit our donors, fosters, volunteers and HSPC staff for an astronomical season!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we hope you and your pets have an out-of-this-world summer!

Sincerely,  
*Debbie Howell*  
HSPC Board President



### **Tabitha with kittens Solar, Eclipse, Corona and Umbra**



#### INSIDE

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## Cosmic Outcomes For Animals

### Monumental Medical Challenges Are Often Met At Our Shelter

We are so proud of our veterinary staff led by Dr. Teresa Medlock-Pratt who vaccinate, spay/neuter, micro-chip, deal with parasites including heartworm disease, and more. Some of the cases we are faced with require professional surgeries and treatment on another level.

Though we cannot offer veterinary services for the public, sometimes severe cases are surrendered to our organization for help when we can. We use our emergency medical fund which is raised through our fall fundraiser *Reigning Cats & Dogs* and special donor appeals.

**Paige** (3 year old Lab mix) and **Goose** (6 month old Doberman mix) came to us with significant fractures that require surgeries by a specialist. Bloodwork, vaccination records and digital x-rays collected by our staff will be sent to the specialists who will perform the surgeries. Special equipment to gather this data was previously funded by donors and now saves HSPC money while bridging a communication gap between our staff and the specialty surgeons. After recovery, both Paige and Goose will be put up for adoption!

*(Cosmic Outcomes For Animals continues on Page 4.)*



**Paige**



**Goose**

## Our Shelter Wish List

<b>Purina Chow Brand Food:</b>	Leashes - Clip or Slip	Batteries all sizes
Dog Chow - Green Bag	Collars - Dog & Cat all sizes	Plastic Storage Containers
Puppy Chow - Blue Bag	Hand Sanitizer	Cat Grass Seed
Cat Chow - Blue Bag	White Copy Paper	Milk-Bone Original Dog Treats (plain only), sizes mini, puppy, small and medium
Kitten Chow - Yellow Bag	Zipper Bags all sizes	Tractor Supply Company Brand Equine Fresh Pine Pellet Stall Bedding (used in litter boxes)
Kong & Interactive Toys	Bath Towels & Blankets (new or used)	<b>Monetary donations are always welcome!</b>
Chew Toys (No Rope Toys)	Odo Ban from Sam's Club	
Stuffed Toys (No Beads)		

**Amazon Wish List:** Please go to [warmhearts.org/wish-list](https://www.warmhearts.org/wish-list) and click on "Amazon Wish List"

**Special Note:** We are no longer accepting items for resale. We do accept items for pets and other new items in the original packaging for our online auctions.

## Major Grant & Matching Challenge: Windgate Foundation



It's a wonderful thing when the stars align and magical things happen! Recently, our Development Director, Julie Austin hosted the grant team from the Windgate Foundation. After a tour of the facility and a discussion about our needs and goals at HSPC, we were invited to apply for a grant.

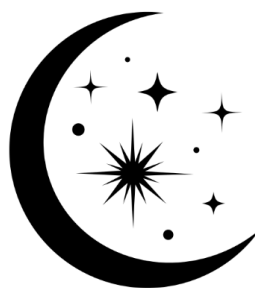
Last week, HSPC learned we were awarded the grant! \$20,000 will be used on medical equipment that will allow our veterinary staff to better treat our animals, while also saving us the expense of outsourcing these needs in the past.

With the funds, we are purchasing 2 pieces of valuable medical equipment. First, a **ProCyte One Hematology Analyzer** which will allow our staff to run better and more accurate blood tests on our pets. It will be integrated with our current system which will streamline our processes and free up valuable time for our vet staff. Second, we will have a **TonoPen Accupen**. This wonderful piece of equipment will enable our staff to test the eye pressure of our pets. In the past, we have had to send pets out for this service. Now we can do it at the shelter. This saves money and allows us to test all our pets!

In addition to the medical equipment, we have been awarded \$20,000 in challenge grant money. This means that we will get the money when we raise matching funds. We have some amazing ideas in mind for improving the quality of life and adoptability of our pets. Stay tuned to learn more and participate!

We are over the moon with the addition of these funds and are so grateful to the Windgate Foundation for seeing the value in our mission! It means the world to us.

### **ProCyte One Hematology Analyzer**



### **TonoPen Accupen**



*This newsletter was created with love by Debbie Howell and Sharon Morris (Board Members) and Julie Austin (Development Director).*

## Cosmic Outcomes For Animals (Continued From Page 2)

### *Long Term Fosters Make A Vast Difference In The Lives Of Animals In Need!*

It is by far not the first time we have had someone step up with an offer of care for life, but it will never get old or be underappreciated. Sometimes we have an animal that needs continued care but for various reasons is not getting adopted. We have seen animals with serious medical issues that we thought would pass at our shelter who actually improve in the homes of fosters committed to making them a part of the family.

About a year and a half ago, **Clarence**, a tiny kitten, came to our shelter with Megaesophagus making it impossible for food to pass into his stomach the normal way. He would need special feeding in an upright position to survive. Amanda, a super medical foster, stepped up, put in the extra time, and decided to keep him and deal with his challenges for life. Clarence doesn't know he is different and Amanda adores him because he is special!

Two years ago, **Patricia**, a senior dog, came to us with a form of Alopecia as her many allergies had killed her hair follicles. She has been on daily medication, weekly shots, medicated baths and special food to help her itchy skin for two years. Besides all that she has been one of the sweetest and most patient girls ever in our care. Finally, Michael, Rhonda and their two dogs welcomed her into their family and committed to keep her as long as she is here.

According to our shelter veterinarian, Dr. Teresa Medlock-Pratt:

*"Medical fosters are an invaluable resource for our shelter. These fosters allow our special needs animals to fully enjoy life in a home while still receiving the necessary treatments for their conditions. By removing the stress of living in a shelter, many of the animals flourish and actually live longer."*



**Clarence and Amanda**



**Patricia with her new family**



**Schooner**

### *HSPC Makes A Substantial Commitment To The Pets We Save!*

**Schooner** was adopted as a puppy in 2016. Then he was passed on to another owner who left him to the streets. Fortunately because of Schooner's microchip and Animal Control, he was brought back to us several years later still a lovable dog. However, he was showing signs of neglect including heartworm disease. We were able to restore his health while miraculously a loving adopter showed up to bring this senior home at last.

This commitment to no-kill and patience is what we are made for. It was rewarding to get a second chance to make things right for Schooner.

## Adorable Arkansas Pets Photo Contest



### ADORABLE ARKANSAS PETS PHOTO CONTEST

MAY 20 - JUNE 30 [GOGOPHOTOCONTEST.COM/HSPC](http://GOGOPHOTOCONTEST.COM/HSPC)

Get ready for our 6th Adorable Arkansas Pets PHOTO CONTEST at [gogophotocontest.com/hspc](http://gogophotocontest.com/hspc)! Beginning May 20th, you can enter your pet and begin voting. The 13 photos with the most votes will be seen on the cover and as monthly featured pets in our 2025 wall calendar. There will also be other options for ensuring your favorite pets are included.

Be sure to follow our Facebook page and [warmhearts.org](http://warmhearts.org) to get updates

Contest runs May 20 - June 30.

### Reigning Cats & Dogs November 9, 2024

#### Next Level Events Historic Union Train Station

We are currently looking for event sponsors and new auction item donations or services.

Please contact:

[Debbie@warmhearts.org](mailto:Debbie@warmhearts.org)

## Save The Date



Mark your calendars for our 33rd Reigning Cats & Dogs! You do not want to miss this out-of-this-world event. The fun will happen on November 9.

Keep an eye on our Facebook Page and [warmhearts.org](http://warmhearts.org) for upcoming details.

## The Cosmic Power Of Dogs: A Sixth Sense

Humans have 5 recognized senses. We taste, touch, smell, see, and hear. Dogs have the same 5 senses, but they aren't all the same as ours. Humans can discern a broader color spectrum and more visual detail than dogs, because we have more color-detecting cells (cones) in the eye. Dogs see better in the dark than humans, because they have larger pupils that let in more light, and more light-sensitive cells (rods) in the center of the retina. Dogs can also detect tiny movements that we may miss, making them good hunters. Dogs have a great sense of smell. Their noses function about 10,000 times better than ours do. Humans have a better sense of taste than dogs. We have about 9,000 taste buds compared to about 1,700 in a dog. Dogs can hear much higher frequencies than humans and can hear at much longer distances.



**MADELINA**  
is available  
for adoption



**WHAT IS A "SIXTH SENSE"?** While dogs have 5 excellent senses, some people think they also have an elusive "sixth sense". People usually think of a sixth sense as intuition or a "gut feeling". Is it an additional sense or an increased sensitivity to the information provided by the other 5 senses? There's no clear answer, but anecdotes involving the sixth sense are quite interesting. Some examples of this increased sensitivity follow below.

**1. HUMAN MOOD.** Many pet owners know that dogs are quite intuitive. When we are happy, our dogs may be equally exuberant. When we are sad, our dogs try to comfort us. Ever sit on the sofa in serious contemplation and have your pooch nestle beside you? Our furry friends seem to know what we need, but how? Humans produce hormones such as oxytocin, serotonin, and dopamine that rise and fall with our moods. Perhaps dogs sense these hormone levels. Or perhaps they notice our facial expressions, voice, body language, or smell. Some might say this increased perception is a sixth sense.

**2. HUMAN ILLNESS.** A dog's keen sense of smell enables them to "sense" some human illnesses. Dogs can be trained to detect specific volatile organic compounds (VOC) in humans that indicate ongoing illness, helping detect lung cancer by smelling a person's breath or bladder cancer by smelling their urine. Dogs can also predict low blood sugar by detecting VOCs emitted through the skin or predict a seizure by recognizing changes in VOCs, pupil size, and demeanor in a patient with epilepsy. When a dog's sense of smell is coupled with their ability to read their owner's mood, they are quite adept at predicting health problems and preventing injury.

**3. WEATHER.** According to an Associated Press poll, two thirds of pet owners think their pets have a sixth sense about weather. In this case, their sixth sense is likely due to their heightened senses. Dogs can hear, smell, and feel weather activity, giving them a predictive edge on humans. Dogs have an acute sense of hearing, which allows them to hear distant thunder before we do. Dogs can smell changes in the atmosphere (ozone) better than we do, so they may sense an oncoming storm. Dogs can detect changes in barometric pressure or electromagnetic fields that may be related to coming storms. Dogs have been known to detect changes in seismic activity and feel small movements before earthquakes occur.

**4. DAILY ACTIVITIES.** Dogs learn the routines of the people who live with them. They know when we are going to wake up, leave for work, and return home. Ever have your dog meet you at the front door when you arrive home from work? Maybe he just knows your schedule. But maybe it's more. In one study, hidden cameras were placed in homes where researchers had owners come home at random times. Despite the change in schedule, the dogs somehow knew when to go to the door to greet them. Did their acute sense of hearing and smell detect their owner's presence or did their sixth sense kick in?

### **YOUR DOG KNOWS YOU! PAY ATTENTION AND YOU MAY BE SURPRISED AT HOW INTUITIVE HE IS!**

We may not be as sensitive as our dogs, but even mere mortals can recognize when a dog's sixth sense is on the job. A dog that detects oncoming bad weather may pace nervously, whine, hide, bark, or seek out their owner. A dog that notices changes in their owner's mood may cuddle up next to them or beg to be petted. Dogs that detect illness may lick the owners incessantly and stay closely by their side. Your own dog can be a service dog that alerts you to things you can't see or perceive. Even though there is no scientific evidence for a dog's "sixth sense", we certainly have sense enough to appreciate our dogs' abilities and how they integrate their other five senses in an amazing fashion!

**Source:** [vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/do-pets-have-a-sixth-sense](https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/do-pets-have-a-sixth-sense)



# ♥ ♥ Spotlight On Warm Hearts ♥ ♥ Shining Stars: Central Arkansas Master Naturalists

No doubt the gargantuan efforts of the **Central Arkansas Master Naturalists (CAMN)** to reform our front landscaping is so worthy of this recognition! Our shelter (soon to turn 24) was showing signs of wear and overgrowth with its original plants. Once they were a welcoming look to a building housing so many wonderful pets. But it was time for a change, and that could be costly.

**Stacey Russell and her son Nate** had visited our shelter several weeks last summer before winning over and eventually adopting an extremely shy dog named Casey. Not only is Stacey a wonderful dog charmer, she has many other talents as well including gardening. She is an active member of the nonprofit gardening group CAMN which works wonders with native plants. Stacey herself spent many hours alone cleaning beds, pulling weeds, removing non-native invasive plants, etc.

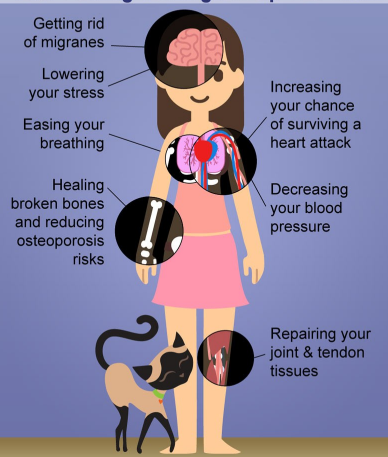


Next Stacey submitted a proposal to the Central Arkansas Master Naturalists to assist in some major lifting and serious tools of the trade. These amazing volunteers, under Stacey's direction, have been out at least five times on this project and have committed to plant and help maintain the gardens moving forward. The only cost to HSPC has been for materials, which has been low considering they are working mainly with what we already have. Sweetening the original offer, CAMN member Frank Olinde built an amazing planter that sits in front of our shelter sign. It was recently filled with beautiful seasonal flowers!

## The Cosmic Power Of Cats: Healing And Health

### HEALING PURRS

Your Purring Cat Might Help You with...



Did you know that the benefits of loving a cat extend to your health? Studies have shown that people are less likely to die of a heart attack if they own a cat.

- 🐾 Purring releases endorphins in cats, and it can do the same thing in humans. Lowered stress hormones are helpful for healing, lowering blood pressure, and helping people cope with illness.
- 🐾 Cat purring has been shown to fall between 25 and 140 Hz. The same frequency has been shown to aid in the healing of broken bones, joint and tendon repair, and wound healing. Cats are well-known for their ability to heal quickly from their own broken bones, and the incidences of joint problems and bone cancer in cats are low. It's possible that cat purrs can help humans heal faster too.
- 🐾 Clinical observations of cats that are suffering from upper respiratory conditions resulting in dyspnea (difficulty in breathing) indicate that purring helps the cat breathe more easily. In fact, respiratory distress related to heart disease isn't

nearly as common in cats as it is in dogs and humans. A person with respiratory problems might also be able to breathe easier if a purring cat is nearby.

- 🐾 There are many stories of people with migraines whose headaches are eased or extinguished when they lie with their heads close to purring cats.

Source: [purrfectpost.com/healing-purrs-how-your-cat-can-help-you-heal](http://purrfectpost.com/healing-purrs-how-your-cat-can-help-you-heal)



**DIZZY**  
is available  
for adoption

# HUMANE SOCIETY of PULASKI COUNTY™



*Warm Hearts for Cold Noses*

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Little Rock, AR 72210  
501-227-6166

**How we are funded:** Our support comes from memberships, donations, fundraisers, and bequests. We receive no city, county or state funds - nor are we affiliated with any national animal organizations.

## *Please Consider Making A Heroic Commitment To A Shelter Rescue*

*Galactic Tremendous Gigantic Colossal Mammoth Immense Grand*

There are a few animals in our care that have faced circumstances that have made trusting humans difficult. We owe it to them and to ourselves to right those wrongs. **Regis** was abandoned and then hit by a car four years ago. He required major medical attention and lost a front leg. Patience is needed when meeting Regis. He is wary of new people, but has made a lot of progress as more are introduced to him. Could you be the one to turn his life around?



**Regis**



*“I believe that animals are on the planet so that we can know love and compassion.”  
~ Louise Hay*

*Staggering Extensive Boundless Enormous Mega Super Mighty*

**The “Cosmic” Issue: Monumental Astronomical Gargantuan Major Heroic Massive Substantial Vast**