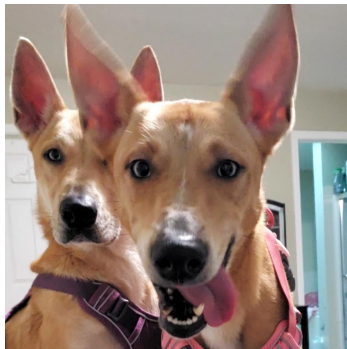




Greetings!!

We are working with a little different format this year. Not by choice but by necessity . . . the work load this fall has been extraordinary. It is frustrating because we have a wealth of stories to share with you, and heartwarming photos, yet right up to the last minute this fall and December the work itself has devoured time. We can include a few, there were many more.



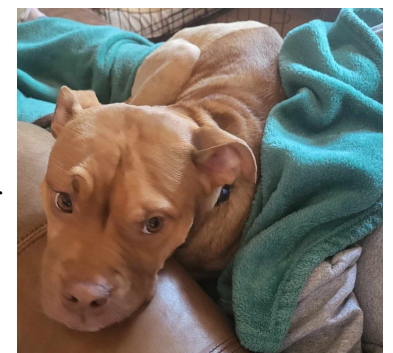
We are proud to share with you that 2024 marks the start of Illinois Humane's third decade. With 20 years of experience conducting cruelty and neglect investigations, engaging in statewide, national and local advocacy and stepping in to help local animal control units with animals needing critical care, we find the need as great as ever and our services in demand. The organization is still all volunteer. Every year we are rather amazed ourselves at how much gets done with our incredibly dedicated crew of volunteers.



So what happened this year. Briefly. These guys on the left happened this fall. It was our joy to support the adoption of 20 Carolina Dogs and counting, by screening, transport, and supporting continued rehabilitative care in the homes. On Oct. 1, Sangamon County received a large intake from a breeder/hoarder situation. Pictured here is Rabbit, the youngest, in her new home, with her mom Laveau behind her. We were able to place them together. Next is Bunny snuggled with her new dad. At 15, she was the oldest. She is a purebred registered "wild caught" Carolina Dog. Finally is Bondye, the most recently placed.



Also this fall, a call that came into animal control concerned a young dog hit by a school bus. Illinois Humane responded. Rocco could not be a more adorable little dog. The tibia and the top of the femur were broken. One of our very experienced foster homes graciously agreed to see him through recovery. Miss Tammy of the household is a retired orthopedic nurse. We could not be more grateful to Tammy and Tom for taking this little guy on. He is recovering beautifully.



Through the summer and fall, Illinois Humane wrestled with a rather difficult neglect case that was finally resolved in November. A local business owner, whose enterprise suffered greatly during Covid, had a personal "rescue" of animals. Conditions deteriorated, badly. Illinois



Humane gradually was able to remove the animals under the auspices of needed care, but the voluntary relinquishment came down to the engagement of legal professionals. The feline contingent of this group of animals joined the ranks of “adoptable” by the holiday season.



The most tragic of this year’s cases was the stabbing of three animals, the first of which perished from her wounds. Four weeks later, the pups, out in the neighborhood again, were stabbed by the same neighbor. Illinois Humane prepared the case for prosecution. Sangamon County charged the case this fall. This is what a stab wound to the mouth looks like. BJ has healed completely. Illinois Humane retains custody to keep the dogs safe as the case pends.



On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving 2023, Illinois Humane received a Shih Tzu from local animal control that was completely blocked with bladder stones. Named “Turkey” and stabilized over the holiday weekend by the Animal Emergency Clinic, Illinois Humane took Turkey to the urology specialists at Purdue’s Small Animal Hospital that Monday. If the stones could not be moved out of the urethra, little Turkey’s only hope was whole new plumbing. Miraculously, even the doctors didn’t quite know how they did it, they got the stones moved back out of the urethra into the bladder and a much simpler surgery was possible. Little Turkey has recovered all his functions and is on the mend.



One more story of the miracles of medicine. Chunk was a community cat who was cared for by multiple households for more than two years. He had a horrible wound on his front left paw. With wound management and ultimately skin grafting, the paw healed to the extent possible and Chunk has use of it. In fact, it is his “go to” playing with toys. He is assimilating into a household. He is now a very, very lucky indoor kitty with all four legs.



We leave you with photos of two great little dogs that needed minimal care coming into our custody from animal control, one needed to be neutered, the other needs a dental. Small dogs, particularly chihuahuas, do not do well in shelters. We have a very special small dog foster home, always willing to offer safe haven.

We are grateful to our donors, who make this all possible! We ask your continuing support.

