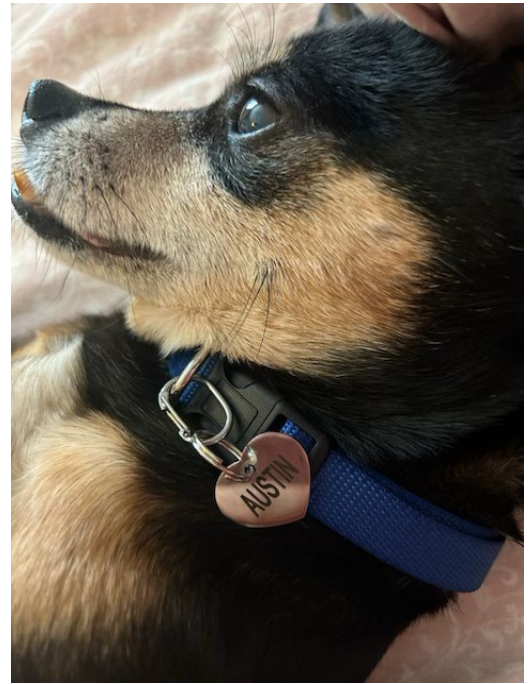




Rescue – as encompassing as it can be, priorities remain with each animal. Each one requires care, some more than others. Medical, emotional, or socialization and behavioral – and there are those that need a combination of all three. Each one.

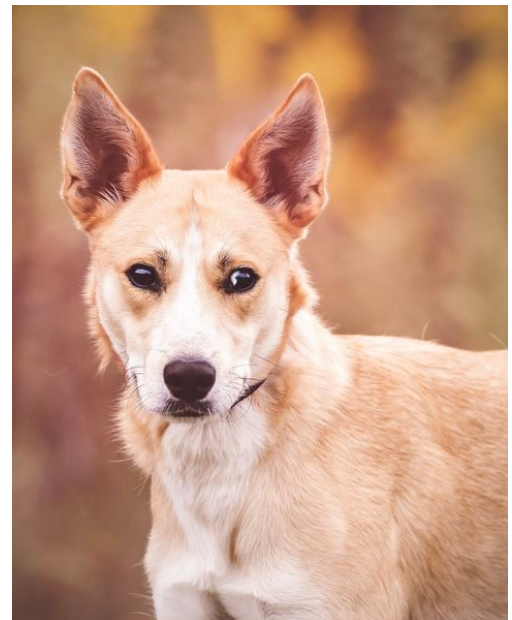
Think of your own animal family members. Now imagine your fur baby being subject to significant neglect. You need to heal the harm. Many of you, indeed, have been part of that process as our adopters.



This past year and a half we supported and had custody of more animals than we have handled in years. We specialize in animals coming out of neglect and cruelty situations, or animals with critical medical needs. In recent months we stepped in to help with large intakes coming in to local animal control. We helped with matters for which the responsible parties refused to engage with animal control and yet their animals were in a state of neglect. We took severe medical cases from animal control to facilitate the animals' care.

We stepped in as we did, not only to help the animals, but to support the reforms underway at local animal control. After three years of time-consuming and difficult advocacy to secure reform, we now stepped up to support it. As new management facing a steep learning curve came onboard, there was an onslaught of intakes. Big intakes that were coming in all at once. Getting a helping hand, day in and day out, from our folks with 20 years of experience doing this work served as physical and emotional support for the new management and staff.

After we achieve a desired level of recovery with an animal, next comes placement of the animal. It is a careful dance to attract appropriate adopters and then work with the adopters as the animal assimilates and acclimates into the home. If the transition goes well, chances are increased, many fold, that the adoption will “stick”.





We take the necessary time with each adoptive household – necessary for the humans bringing this new family member into their daily lives, and necessary for the animals. We stay with the transition. We have been working with a collection of amazing adoptive homes this year. This work, albeit time-consuming, has been a pure pleasure. It is

deeply humbling and so very gratifying to see the homes take special steps to accommodate the animals and come to appreciate the animals for who they are.

Throughout it all this year, we continued to meet with public officials – guiding and supporting the reform work underway. The advocacy for continued improvements will never stop, it is our commitment to local communities. One of our next steps is to provide training: training the police, training animal control officers, supporting the initiation of new assistant state attorneys as they learn the ropes of animal crimes prosecutions. This is something we have done at various times for years in local communities and we are good at it. We are effective and efficient in the delivery of this crucial guidance. We do everything from informal training sessions, to roll call training to formal in-service classes.

Another step to address animal welfare is to dive deep into the data, in partnership with public officials and animal control management, to understand the source of the large intakes and the prevalence of particular breeds coming into animal control. With this research in hand, we will work with the community to slow intakes from specific sources. It can be done, with education, free/affordable services, and time and attention.

The photos you see on these pages are of the animals that we have worked with this year. For those of you who follow us on Facebook, you know their stories.

**Turkey, a Shih Tzu mix** came into local animal control completely blocked with bladder stones right before Thanksgiving. After a year of surgeries, further veterinary diagnostics and fine tuning of diet and medications, Turkey is now stone free. He recently moved into a wonderful forever home in Clayton, MO dedicated to his care.







**Wolfie, a Pomeranian mix**, came into our care from animal control in the fall of 2023 with a hypothyroid condition. That condition was corrected fairly easily. Just as she was assimilating into a foster home, her gall bladder erupted. We supported emergency surgery and she made it. Her foster home decided to adopt and she is now living the good life in that home.



Many of you have followed our work with the **Carolina Dogs**, a large intake at local animal control. We supported the supplemental care and placement of 28 of these dogs through the year. Very skittish, due to breed characteristics and their background coming from a breeder, these dogs required considerable attention and accommodation during their transition into forever homes.

We received a **significant intake of cats** last fall, many older and not well socialized. Through this year all but one of these animals have been placed. The remaining kitty was just diagnosed with cancer, we are undertaking oncology evaluation to determine what might be the best course of treatment for this girl. **Two 14 year old dogs** came to us with this intake. Both suffered maladies of old age that required monitoring and medical interventions – including multiple trips to university clinics.



In the spring, a sizable intake of **Chihuahua and Poodle mixes** came into animal control. Usually many rescues are willing to take small dogs, but due to the very high census all rescue organizations have faced, these animals could not be transferred. They came from a camper trailer. The owner was pulled over for drunk driving in town, the camper she was pulling was full of animals existing in conditions of very poor sanitation. The animals required basic care and each one needed a dental. These little ones were placed in homes all over the state and even out of state – many with seniors, which was fun and gratifying to experience. Each placement required attention, time and transport.



Also in the spring, local animal control received a large intake of **Huskies**; another breeder losing control of her operation. Some of the neglect was severe. Illinois Humane secured the assistance of Adopt-A-Husky to take 7 of the animals quickly, an effort that required intensive work to obtain medical and temperament information on each animal for the rescue so as to facilitate the right mix of animals for their foster program. At this time, Illinois Humane pulled the



Carolina Dogs remaining at animal control and secured their care in commercial kenneling to create kennel space at animal control for the Huskies.

**Rocco, a young bully breed mix**, had an unfortunate meeting with a bus. He suffered a closed compound fracture of the tibia and fibula midshaft of the right hind leg, and, the same leg, the coxofemoral head fractured completely along the growth plate separating it from the greater trochanter of femur. Surgery to repair the leg was successful. He has been fostered by a retired orthopedic nurse! In early August, foster Mom noticed that the injured leg

was now rotating outward a bit and Rocco was not always putting weight on it. The doctors said this was not uncommon in a dog still growing. There was an area of the leg where the hardware was touching the bone, and the muscle mass had not returned. Corrective surgery was undertaken. Rocco has fully recovered. That right hind leg will never be absolutely 100 percent. But for all lifestyle purposes, it is sound. It does not slow him down! He is a wonderful dog, just wants to play and play. Loves everyone, human and canine. Our next challenge is to find this little bully boy a good home, with appropriate canine playmates (bullies play hard, they need playmates their own size).



For those of you who have paid veterinary bills lately, you know the cost of services has risen. Our vet clinics give us a break to the extent they can, but the cost of the medical care these animals require has been very significant this year. We received gracious supplementary support from the local Sally Vaughan Trust mid year, Ms. Vaughan was an adopter. The Trust has been a wonderful source of funding for a number of years now. We may break even at the end of the year, but the outstanding amounts have not yet all been tallied – and the year is not over.



It's been a year that called upon our mission with intensity – to engage our expertise with neglect and cruelty matters, be there for the rehabilitation and recovery of the victims of these cases, and persist in advocacy for the protection of animals in our communities. The role we play in our communities is real and crucial.

Did we get a bit overextended this year? No two ways about it, and we recognize that. First, it is very hard not to be





over extended in this line of work. The need and demands are always extensive and never-ending, and it is very hard to say “no”. Yet to responsibly manage shelters and rescues, capacity ultimately runs out. Nonetheless, there are few, if any, shelters and rescues in this world that operate in anything but a slightly over extended status. Second, the past two years have been remarkable in the number of animals coming into facilities as has been

the length of their stay – adoptions have been slow. Local animal control now strives, very diligently with a great deal of dedication, to have as many live outcomes as possible. Finally, we are wholly committed to supporting the reforms at animal control and we wanted to support and partner with management and staff to the greatest extent possible, in the interest of their well being and that of the animals. All of the animals we have handled in the past year and a half came to us via or associated with local animal control. Since midyear, we have worked very hard to get animals in our care and custody adopted – we have experienced good success in doing so.



We ask your continuing support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Jane McBride".

Jane McBride  
President





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