

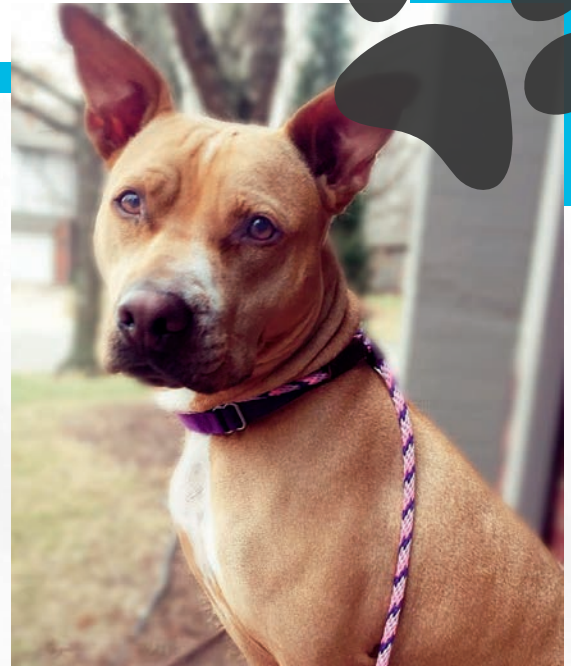


# WARRIOR

SPRING 2024 INAUGURAL EDITION

## A MISSION BEYOND RESCUE

WAAL's mission extends far beyond the conventional realms of animal rescue. At its core, WAAL is committed to preventing and mitigating crises for animals, pet owners, and the broader community. How? By proactively addressing overpopulation, providing education on responsible pet ownership, facilitating fostering and adoption programs, and keeping animals with their families whenever possible. WAAL fills a crucial gap, leveraging its resources to complement the efforts of local governments and institutions.



## WILL YOU JOIN THE FIGHT?

Together, we can create a world where every animal is cherished, protected, and given the chance to thrive. WAAL can't do it alone. We are 100% reliant on donations to provide these life-saving services. Whether it's volunteering, fostering, adopting, donating or sponsoring events, every contribution makes a tangible difference in the lives of animals and our community at large.



## IT'S EASY TO GET INVOLVED!

For more information on how you can support WAAL or get involved, visit our website or follow us on social media. Because when it comes to compassion, there is no limit to what we can achieve--TOGETHER!

[WAALRESCUE.ORG](http://WAALRESCUE.ORG)

# A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

What is WAAL all about? We are so glad you asked! We have four main goals for our organization:

***Proactively working to address overpopulation, Providing education and support for responsible pet ownership, Fostering and adoption of at-risk animals, and Keeping animals with their families and out of shelters and rescues.***

As the Director of WAAL for the past three years, I have had the distinct honor to see our organization grow and adapt to meet the needs of the populations we serve. Our mission has broadened and some of our focus has shifted post-COVID to address the overwhelming pet overpopulation issues that are paralyzing our shelters and rescues. I strongly believe that proactivity is the way that we are going to make the biggest positive impact in our community, but it is going to be a long, painful road to walk.

We are honored that you have chosen to walk shoulder-to-shoulder with us in our fight against animal neglect, cruelty, overpopulation, and a lack of resources for struggling and loving pet owners. We all have the power to reduce suffering and give hope to those members of our community- both two and four-legged, who need it the most. I implore you to continue supporting our mission in whatever way you can. Whether you donate, volunteer, foster, or are simply cheering from the sidelines, we need you to help us change our community for the better and give a voice to the voiceless. We invite you to become an even bigger part of the WAAL family!

*With utmost gratitude,*  
**Christy Fischer**  
Executive Director

## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**CHRISTY FRIESEN**

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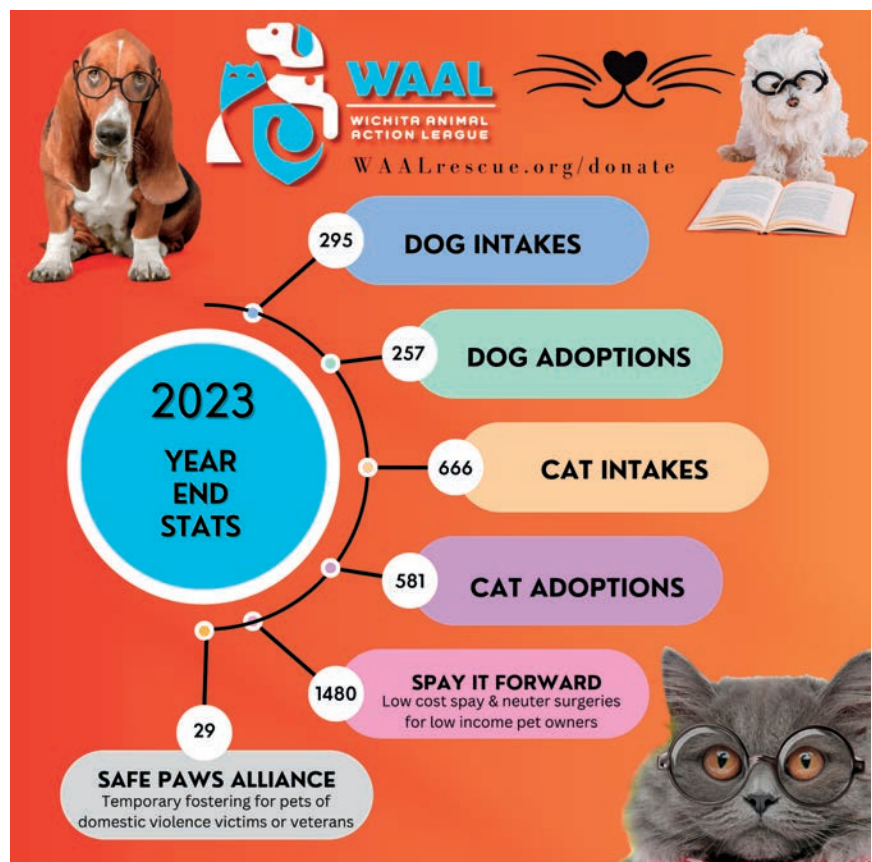
BOARD MEMBER AND FORMER CHAIR

**DR. JESSICA HODES, DVM**

ADVISOR TO THE BOARD

**CHRISTY FISCHER**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





## ADDRESS OVERPOPULATION

Overpopulation is a pervasive issue. On average, 6.3 million companion animals enter shelters every year. Only 3.2 million of those are adopted, and 1.5 million are euthanized because animal shelters can no longer sustain them. There are an estimated 70 million stray cats and dogs living in the US.

*Source: worldanimalfoundation.org*

## PROVIDE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

Education and support contribute to sustainable solutions for animal welfare. By teaching pet owners and future generations about compassion, empathy, and responsible stewardship of pet care, we lay the foundation for a society that values and protects animals for years to come.

## FOSTERING AND ADOPTION

Fostering pets in high-risk situations, such as neglect, abuse, or abandonment provides a safe haven and necessary care to pets in crisis. Foster care gives pets a second chance at life and saves them from euthanasia in overcrowded shelters.

## KEEPING ANIMALS WITH FAMILIES

Families often struggle to provide adequate care for their pets, leading to multiple generations of cats and dogs without access to essential services and healthcare. This is not due to a lack of love, but because of insufficient resources and understanding of preventative care.

By providing wrap around services, it is our belief that we can keep animals with their families and out of shelters and rescues.



Meet Chico, a one-year-old Pomeranian mix whose journey was marked by terrible cruelty. Chico was victim to a shocking act of violence – his front legs were intentionally broken by a teenager.

The breaks caused Chico immense pain and left his future uncertain. Despite this awful crime, Chico's story is not one of despair but of resilience and hope.

Due to financial struggles, Chico's owners couldn't afford the extensive medical treatment needed to help him. While his legs were initially splinted and he received some veterinary care, surgery was necessary for him to have a better quality of life. Without intervention from the team at Hodes Veterinary Health Center, Chico risked losing both front legs, a fate we couldn't let him face. The WAAL Warrior community rallied together, offering support and giving Chico a second chance. Chico received the vital surgery he needed, and together, we made a difference. Today, Chico is thriving. Thanks to caring individuals, the teenager faced legal consequences.



**ACTIONS  
NOT WORDS  
DEFINE IMPACT.  
CHANGE LIVES WITH  
WICHITA ANIMAL ACTION LEAGUE!**



## ADOPTION

WAAL proudly operates a foster-home-based model, providing a nurturing environment for animals at risk of euthanasia in local shelters. Our dedicated network of foster families ensures every animal receives the love, care, and attention they deserve until their forever families are found. Additionally, our rehoming services work to match animals with suitable adopters, effectively preventing pets from entering the shelter system. WAAL ensures that each animal's journey from rescue to adoption is filled with compassion, support, and the promise of a brighter future.

RESCUE  
DOES NOT  
MEAN  
DAMAGED.  
IT MEANS  
THEY HAVE  
BEEN LET  
DOWN BY  
HUMANS.

## SPAY IT FORWARD

Every day, countless puppies and kittens are brought into this world across the US. Whether it's the result of profit-driven breeding or owners simply wanting their pets to experience parenthood, the outcome often leads to a surplus of animals without enough loving homes to go around.

At WAAL, we recognize that one of the most effective ways to address the heartbreaking issue of overpopulation is by prioritizing spaying and neutering in our community. It's not just about preventing unwanted litters; it's about preventing neglect and cruelty before it happens. When families lack the financial means or preparation for unexpected litters, animals can suffer greatly. That is why our Spay It Forward program is so vital. By offering affordable spay and neuter services, we are tackling the root cause of unnecessary pet euthanasia and promoting responsible pet ownership. Several times a month, we host Spay/Neuter clinics. These clinics are staffed by licensed veterinarians and fully equipped, allowing us to reach low income communities. By bringing these services directly to the community, we make it easier for pet owners to do their part in controlling overpopulation while also alleviating the burden on shelters and reducing the likelihood of animals facing mistreatment or abandonment. At the time of surgery, we also vaccinate, and provide basic grooming like clipping the nails, and cleaning ears.

### WHY IS SPAYING & NEUTERING SO IMPORTANT?

**CATS** can get pregnant when they are 4 months old and have **3 LITTERS A YEAR!**



**DOGS** can get pregnant when they are 5 months old and have **2 LITTERS A YEAR!**



**90% of pets entering shelters are not fixed!**

According to the ASPCA, approximately 7.6 million companion animals enter shelters nationwide every year. Each year approximately 2.7 million animals are euthanized.

**Spaying and Neutering pets is the number one way we can combat this!**

*"Thank you for being able to help me and the community with your Spay it Forward program. By getting him fixed, it's helped reduce his aggression towards my other male dog and keep the peace within the home. Meaning, I can keep all my babies and not have to worry about finding anyone a new home and having the horrible guilt in doing so. I wouldn't have been able to do it without you guys."*

Niki Walling - pet owner

*"WAAL is beyond--WAY BEYOND--the best at supporting animals and their owners!"*

Debra Sullivan - Donor



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

WAAL's impact extends far beyond just rescuing and rehoming animals. We are committed to being on the front lines, actively engaging in the welfare of animals in our community. This means that when reports of neglect or cruelty are made, we respond.

During the summer months, our efforts may involve ensuring that animals have access to shade and water to keep them safe and comfortable in the heat. Similarly, on the coldest and windiest days, our dedicated team is out in the field, providing homes, straw, and educating pet owners on appropriate animal care practices to ensure that no pet suffers due to harsh weather conditions.

Beyond the basic needs, we investigate cruelty and neglect concerns. We also provide emergency rescue, assist with vet bills, and empower the community with vaccination and supply clinics. We are always respectful and do not judge. Our goal is to help pets in crisis.

Tess Goodman, our Welfare Team Manager, says, "Don't mind your own business. Neglected animals depend on it." If you see something, please say something. You can reach us at [WAALrescue.org](http://WAALrescue.org)



## COMMUNITY FOOD BANKS

*"Everyone deserves the love and companionship of a pet. Often times, however, even though they care deeply about their pet's well-being, some people simply cannot afford to consistently provide quality nutritional care for their pets. This is where WAAL comes in. We deliver name-brand pet food to our food bank partners, who in turn distribute it to those in need."* Kent Thomas - Volunteer



As part of our commitment to ensuring no pet goes hungry, the Wichita Animal Action League collaborates with five local food banks to offer complimentary pet food. Our devoted team distributes roughly 200,000 pounds of dog and cat food annually. Often, a simple bag of food is all that stands between a struggling family and the ability to care for their beloved pet.



# PETS FOR LIFE

## PETS FOR LIFE PROGRAM 2023 SUCCESSES



PFL takes a comprehensive, long-term approach to addressing the lack of access to pet resources people experience in underserved communities through door-to-door community outreach and pet owner support services.

Providing free veterinary care, supplies, services and information to pet owners, the program builds trust and positive relationships within the communities that are served.



**332**  
**SPAY/NEUTER  
SURGERIES**



**557**  
**PETS  
ASSISTED**



**212**  
**FAMILIES  
ASSISTED**



**349**  
**VETERINARY  
ASSISTANCE  
REQUESTS**

PFL is a program designed to keep the animals from low income areas in their homes, out of the shelters, and give their owners access to FREE pets resources, when available!

We believe that by offering these resources and spreading knowledge about responsible pet ownership, we can help bridge the gap between systemic inequality for all pet related areas. PFL focuses on building trust and a relationship with pet owners and is currently operating in the Planeview community only and WAAL is the only rescue in the State of Kansas to offer the PFL program.

## SHARON & MILO

Our Pets for Life team member met Sharon and her dog Mojo last year. Mojo had a grapefruit size tumor hanging from his chest.

Mojo had lived with the tumor for several years because Sharon did not have the means to seek medical treatment. She tried to get help through several other organizations, but no one followed through. When our representative knocked on Sharon's door to introduce WAAL and our Pets for Life program, Sharon broke down in tears.

Several weeks later, Mojo had his tumor removed. He is now fully healed and back to his happy and healthy self... minus a one pound tumor on his chest.



**WAAL would like to thank the Humane Society of the United States and Chewy for their generous assistance and support with our Pets for Life program!**

**We would also like to extend our thanks and gratitude to our PFL local vet partnerships: Dr. Braun DVM, Bruce Veterinary Services, Southside Veterinary Clinic, Vetco in Derby, Wichita Pet Wellness, and Gupton's House Vet.**

# A.L.P.H.A.

This clinic stands apart from our vaccine, spay/neuter, and routine check-up clinics. Its focus is squarely on addressing health issues requiring immediate medical attention, such as ear infections, lacerations, eye infections, skin conditions, and more. Here, not only are treatments administered, but medications are also provided as part of the service.

ALPHA's commitment to addressing these urgent health concerns significantly enhances the well-being of our cherished pets. The gratitude expressed by their owners is profound and heartfelt. Without ALPHA, essential treatments for these conditions would simply not be accessible.



## SAFE PAWS ALLIANCE PROGRAM

The Wichita Animal Action League Safe Paws Alliance (SPA) Program provides safe housing to pets of owners who are facing domestic violence or veterans who need to enter inpatient treatment. This ensures everyone's safety and wellbeing, at no cost to the owner.

This program is a partnership with Harbor House, Wichita Family Crisis Center, Midwest Battle Buddies and the Robert J. Dole VA Hospital.

This program is available to any person receiving services from the above mentioned partners. If you need boarding for your pet while you are receiving services, please ask your program representative and they will contact us. For safety and anonymity reasons we do not have direct contact with owners.



- Identities are always anonymous.
- Participants do not pay anything for their pet while they are receiving services including medical care for their pets if needed.
- They will always be reunited with their pet.

*"I enjoy watching the transformations of scared or confused pups to getting confidence. Their personalities just explode! I also enjoy meeting families that most truly have the best intentions of saving animals by searching for a rescue pet. Making new friendships and keeping in contact with them and knowing that I helped help their family complete."*

Tonya Saum - Pet Foster



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

*"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."*

**Mother Theresa**

We extend our deepest appreciation to our volunteers, fosters, supporters, and our community partners whose unwavering support and collaboration have been instrumental in our shared mission of rescuing and caring for pets in need. Together, we continue to make a meaningful difference in the world of animal care.

## 2023 - 2024 PARTNERS TO DATE

Amazon Warehouse  
Animal Health Care Mobile Center  
Banfield Pet Hospital  
Bruce Veterinary Supplies  
Cat Hospital of Wichita  
Chuck and Don's  
Dog Days of Sommer  
Family Dog Training and Behavioral Center  
Gentle Hands K9 Boutique  
Gupton Pet Supply and In House Veterinarian  
Hands Full Dog Training  
Harbor House  
Hilltop Good Neighbor Ministries  
Hodes Veterinary Health Center  
Innovo Vineyard Church  
Lord's Diner

Pet Supplies Plus  
Sam's Club  
Scenthound  
Scheels  
Senior Services  
Southside Veterinary Clinic  
St. Patrick Catholic Church  
The Lord's Pantry  
Sydney's Pet Resort & Spa  
Table of Hope Food Pantry  
The Groom Room  
United Methodist Open Door  
Vetco  
Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Hospital of Wichita  
Wellspring Animal Hospital  
Westside Church of God  
Wichita Foundation

