



Paws-itive Partners

Fall 2024 – Winter 2025

Hello friends,

Paws-itive Partners hopes you and your family, both human and fur, are healthy and staying safe. As 2024 is winding down, we are reflecting on the past and planning for the future. There are new things coming.

We say it in every newsletter, but we truly mean it that with you by our side we can push forward. We will save lives and impact animals. Your financial gifts, notes sent to our mailbox and words of encouragement when we pass through stores – those are what keep us going in a *pawsitive* direction.

Thank you for making time to read about Paws-itive Partners and thank you for being friends with cats and dogs. With high postage rates for us and too much unsolicited mail for you, if you no longer wish to receive our newsletters, please text 308-530-1516 and we will remove you from the list.

All the best for the holidays,

Paws-itive Partners

GIVING DAY & YEAR END GIVING 2024

Paws-itive Partners is fortunate to be in Mid Nebraska Community Foundation's Giving Day. We used proceeds from May 2024's Giving Day to help finance spaying and neutering for lower income pet owners pets.

North Platte Giving Year End 2024 begins November 26 and ends December 31, 2024. If you choose Paws-itive Partners as an organization to donate to you can do so using a credit card or debit card or you can drop off or mail donations to Mid Nebraska Community Foundation. It is an honor to receive your gift and thank you for any amount you donate to help animals.

We plan to use these Year End Giving donations to help with our Urgent Short-term Pet Care (USPC) program. Urgent Short-term Pet Care helps pets belonging to pet owners displaced by hospitalization, placement in a nursing home, entering hospice and more. Oftentimes, the pets belonging to people in these situations need extra veterinary care. Your Year End Giving donation will help animals in USPC.

URGENT SHORT-TERM PET CARE

We told you about implementing our new program to help people suddenly unable to provide for their pets. People that became hospitalized, entered hospice, were temporarily uprooted from their home or going into an assisted living facility to rehabilitate. The referrals for Urgent Short-term Pet Care (USPC) come to Paws-itive Partners by medical professionals or agencies working with the pet owner.

Since January 20, 2024, Urgent Short-term Pet Care has placed six dogs in foster homes, cared for two cats staying in their home, referred three dogs to boarding facilities and placed one dog in a kennel. We have kept up with the needs so far, but we need more foster homes. Foster placement in our short-term program has varied from 48 hours to 45 days. When a pet is in foster care, Paws-itive Partners provides food, medical care and pet supplies and the foster home provides time, nurturing and patience. The biggest challenge of fostering is saying goodbye when the pet is reunited with the owner. Foster parents experience joy and heartache but knowing they played a big role in helping a pet through a difficult time is so rewarding. In Urgent Short-term Pet Care, we don't require that foster homes be perfect, but compassion and understanding are absolute.

When we started USPC, we hadn't anticipated how many of the dogs and cats would need veterinary care. Perhaps the need is so great because the pet's medical needs had to be postponed or were unnoticed as the pet owner was dealing with their own medical concerns. A few of the USPC needs we have met include updating vaccinations, spaying two dogs, neutering one dog, providing treatment for mammary cancer, board/kennel fees and treating for respiratory infection.

If you have the slightest interest in Urgent Short-term Pet Care fostering or donating, please call 308-530-1516 so we can visit.

NORTH PLATTE PET FOOD PANTRY

The North Platte Pet Food Pantry is open every Monday evening at 3502 South Willow #104 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. In that hour, we serve an average of 45 pet owners. This is a large increase from 2020, when a total of 806 individuals utilized the pantry the whole year. In four years, we have more than doubled the total.

Summarizing 2024, from January 1 to November, 1,960 individual pet owners have received pet food assistance. During this same time, we will surpass 34,000 pounds of dry dog food and 19,000 pounds of dry cat food, as well as hundreds of canned foods and more than fifty bags of litter.

The pantry serves all age groups, the young and the older, and people going through rough financial times, perhaps due to serious health issues prohibiting them from working, on fixed incomes or underemployed. Our pantry is a hand up, not a handout.

The North Platte Pet Food Pantry's main source of pet food comes from our local Walmart Distribution Center that donates bags of pet food which are torn and cannot be resold. Without WMDC as our main support, we would be unable to offer this pet program at the capacity we do and feel blessed to the recipient from the Wal Mart Distribution Center. In addition to the DC, we have received pet food from Menard's, Tractor Supply and generous donors from the community. We are grateful to each and every one.

LOWER INCOME LOVE MY CAT PROGRAM

In the 13 years we have sponsored Love My Cat, nearly 8,000 cats and kittens have benefited from the program. Love My Cat months have been March and October, typically, and are months local veterinarians spay and neuter as many felines for us as they can schedule. The 8,000 LMC cats do not include the cats and dogs we help with our other year-round sterilization programs.

Despite everyone's effort, cats are reproducing more quickly than we are able to keep up with. Hoping for a bigger impact, this fall we tried a new approach. Paws-itive Partners and veterinary clinics in Sutherland and North Platte extended Love My Cat to four months! Clinics started spaying/neutering LMC cats September 1 and are continuing to help lower income pet owners through December 31, 2024.

At this writing, we have 257 cats and kittens signed up for surgery! Love My Cat is Paws-itive Partners' most costly program, typically coming in at \$25,000 during the single months. That's an awful lot of money but each time it prevents thousands and thousands of unwanted births resulting in homelessness and suffering.

PAWS ON THE PLATTE 2024

We brought Paws on the Platte to North Platte for the third time, the first time in 2018, then 2021 and then 2024. The community art event is made up of life-size dog statues, each sponsored by a business or individual and painted by a local artist. Artists create their unique, amazing one-of-a-kind masterpieces. The 2024 dog pack of 24 statues debuted in May and were displayed throughout North Platte through most of July when they were rounded up for auctioning at Pals Brewing Company.

Auction attendees enjoyed food, beverages, socializing and competitive bidding all evening long. Auctioneer Jeff White entertained us with his chant and brought out a lot of bidding. The highest bidders got to take their dog statues home that evening.

Thanks to our dog statue sponsors, artists and bidders that were so very generous. Paws on the Platte has been a fun, exciting, one-of-a-kind fundraiser that we thoroughly enjoy doing. New ideas are in the works for Paws on the Platte 2027 already. Thank you!

WHAT YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT

We enjoy telling Paws-itive Partners friends about dogs and cats on Facebook that we become involved with. But, in addition to animals on Facebook, there are more animals that cross our paths and hearts, some for quite a while and others just a short time. Here are a few dog and cat situations we helped with the past months:

- We sought emergency veterinary care for a community cat that ingested rat poisoning. The cat made a good recovery.
- Provided transportation for a cat and its owner to a veterinary appointment. The woman did not drive.
- Found a new home for an 11-year-old dog whose owner died.
- Paid the cost of wellness checks and vaccinations for a litter of kittens in foster care.
- An elderly man's dog passed away at home. We delivered the body to the veterinary clinic and returned its cremains to the man who didn't drive.
- Received anonymous information about neglected dogs and cats. Made a referral to the local law enforcement agency.
- A homeless couple's 10-year-old Chihuahua needed treatment for severe eye infection.
- A cat delivered two stillborn kittens and needed emergency caesarean surgery. Paws-itive Partners paid for her care.
- Took two housecats to their veterinary appointment for their disabled owner.
- Delivered two cats to Lincoln to reunite with their elderly owner who entered assisted living.
- Helped rehome a dog belonging to an Ogallala veteran unable to care for her dog.
- A passerby called about a cat hit by a car. We took the cat to the veterinarian for treatment of eye injuries, a broken jaw and broken canine tooth. We were able to get the cat adopted as an inside pet.
- Transported a cat to be neutered and returned the cat home to the owner.
- Paws-itive Partners paid half the cost of emergency surgery for a cat with pyometra. Two months later, we helped with a dog's surgery for pyometra. Attention: Pyometra is life-threatening and is preventable by spaying!

4-H THEDFORD ACHIEVERS

In March 2024, Paws-itive Partners members were invited to the 4-H Thedford Achievers' meeting. The 4-H group had completed lessons about responsible pet care, animal rescuing, fostering pets and agility training for dogs. The girls presented Paws-itive Partners with six baskets filled with pet items they shopped for. They asked to have the baskets given to animals entering foster or adoptive homes, so each pet had its own blanket, toys, brushes, food dish, treats and more. Every basket also contained a heartfelt note written to the foster/adoptive

parent. These wonderful 4-Hers are the next generation of animal lovers and humane volunteers. Thank you, girls! Thank you too, Jacey, for your leadership and commitment to helping youth and pets. 4-H leader Jacey Andersen and her husband Dylan previously fostered Skipper for us and went on to adopt the handsome tripod mini-Aussie.

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

In August, we received a call about an old mangy dog on the highway in Sutherland. The finders would keep the dog overnight until we arrived the following morning. The veterinary clinic treated the elderly dog for several ailments. He was very old, malnourished, had difficulty breathing and all but one tooth was rotted out. Our youngest Paws-itive Partners member jumped in to provide foster care – a soft bed, all the food he would eat and a lot of holding. For the next six days, Little Dog was nurtured and loved like never before. (We know this because veterinary clinics told us Little Dog's health problems were all caused by neglect. He endured years of pain.) The sweetie was loved until he crossed the Rainbow Bridge. A lot happened during the time Little Dog was with us and unfortunately it involved law enforcement. Just know, we will always be strong for the animals.

In September, a momma cat took her five newborn kittens to a porch at a house in Wallace. The Wallace woman called Paws-itive Partners asking for help and we were able to find a foster home for the feline family in North Platte. They had fleas and ringworms, and everyone was severely underweight. The kittens we thought were newborns were 5-6 weeks old. Everyone received special attention, prescription food, medication and frequent trips to the veterinarian. We were hopeful.

Over a six-week period, one by one, each kitten passed away. It wasn't because of not trying but they were too tiny and sick. Momma cat survived and she is finally thriving. Now named Ruby, she was adopted by the person that only intended to foster. Ruby has learned to be a cat, she is gaining weight and romps, snuggles and tears through the house at night playing hide and seek with the other cats in the home.

October brought out the worst in someone when they abandoned their rabbit and dog at Hershey Interstate Lake. The rabbit was in a carrier and the dog was lying right next to it. The people that found the animals called Paws-itive Partners and the rabbit and dog went to a foster home overnight. The following morning, the pair were at the veterinary clinic for thorough checkups. The rabbit was in good condition, but the dog was thin, dirty and very matted. After their veterinary appointment, the rabbit went to his new home with the people that found him and the dog went for a spa day. Bathing and grooming revealed all the handsomeness under all the grime. It was only a few days and we had a "foster

failure" and the dog was adopted. No matter how often it happens, we can't imagine the callousness in a person that will dump an animal.

A November call was about an injured cat by the one-ways. Two hours later, in the dark and rain, we found the cat, wrapped it in a blanket and took it home to check for injuries. Come to find out the cat wasn't injured but she was a tripod with a limp. We put her on Facebook, called the animal shelter, called veterinary clinics and had her checked for a microchip but we couldn't find the owner. The shelter was full so Jade went to a Paws-itive Partners foster home and we continued posting her picture. After thirteen days, we received a call and at 11:00 pm, Jade, whose real name is Baby, was reunited with her owner. All happy! (Another good example of why cats should be indoor pets.)

*Animal rescue is not about people.
It's all about the animals.*

PLEASE DON'T LITTER

If you know someone needing financial assistance to spay and neuter their pet, please suggest they call Paws-itive Partners. Of all the programs Paws-itive Partners has, spaying and neutering cats and dogs is still our primary goal. We prevent unwanted, abandoned, uncared for litters. Our goal is to stop the problem before it starts – prevention is the most effective solution to the problem.

In the first 10 months of 2024, we have provided financial assistance to spay 79 animals and neuter 58 animals through our Get 'Em Fixed program. This number is in addition to our special cat programs and pit bull programs. 137 more dogs and cats that don't have to contribute to pet overpopulation!

THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN INDOOR CAT

Cat: "I want to go outdoors. I want to chase birds, climb trees, poop in flower beds and sniff grass. Poor me, I'm trapped in this house. I'm deprived of fresh air and my natural instincts. I claw at the door and yowl, but no one lets me out."

Person: "You will never be attacked by other animals or catch fleas outdoors. I will never let you go hungry or let you become lost. You will never be shot by a pellet gun or killed by a car or truck."

Cat: "Hmmm, maybe being indoors isn't so bad. I can climb the bookcase, scratch carpet, nap all day, drink fresh toilet water and never worry about anything. I will be catered to by humans creatures who grant my every demand. Being an indoor cat is a great life."

*True animal lover: A person who never
discriminates between a purebred and a stray.
~Tales4All*

WOOFSTOCK 2025

Look forward to a day with your dog at Memorial Park. Woofstock is sunshine, BBQ, dog treats, vendors with pet items, 70s-80s music and visiting with two- and four-legged friends. We will announce the date for Woofstock soon so you can mark it on your calendar.

FUR FUNNIES AND QUOTES

"I really don't think I could consent to go to Heaven if I thought there were no animals there."

~George Bernard Shaw

"Never trust a man who hates cats."

~Jane Pauley

If you're uncomfortable around my dog, I'm happy to lock you in the other room when you come over.

~Unknown

You can trust your dog to guard your house but never trust your dog to guard your sandwich."

~Unknown

"I named my dog "5 Miles" so I can tell people I walk 5 miles every day."

~Anonymous

Q. Why can't cats work on the computer?

A. They get too distracted chasing the mouse around.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY!

Christmas will be here with the flip of the calendar. Are you wondering if you will have baking, decorating and Christmas cards written on time? How about shopping for gifts? We can help if you are looking for a meaningful gift for those who have everything or animal lovers on your shopping list.

Please consider a donation to Paws-itive Partners. A donation can spay/neuter a pet. It can purchase food for a hungry dog or cat. A donation can help with veterinary care in an emergency.

If you make a Christmas donation in someone's name, Paws-itive Partners sends a personal note to the person you honor. It could be a neighbor, a hairdresser, family or friend. Some donors give gifts memorializing a past family member, friend or pet. We are a 501 (c) (3) and tax deductible. We appreciate your kindness and the animals do too.

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH PAWS-ITIVE PARTNERS

- To spay/neuter – 308-660-5561, 308-650-PAWS or 308-530-1516
- North Platte Pet Food Pantry – 308-530-6954
- Current Paws-itive Partners activities – Facebook
- Mailing address – P.O. Box 1145, North Platte, NE 69103

The Perfect Animal-Lover Christmas Gift

Make a donation to Paws-itive Partners to celebrate your friend, family member or special pet and we will send a Christmas card to them telling them of your gift in their honor.

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Your Address _____ Amount _____

Honoree's Name _____

Honoree's Mailing Address _____

Please mail this to Paws-itive Partners, PO Box 1145, North Platte, NE 69103-1145

Paws-itive Partners Humane Society is a 501c3 organization. Our mission is to help make the lives of cats and dogs better.

We are an independent organization and are not affiliated with any other organizations.