

### LETTER FROM NANETTE

Adaptability, flexibility, patience and planning were a big part of our world in 2022. After thinking for several years that we were going to need to move in 2024, we extended our lease to 2031. Adoption appointments for a specific dog or cat moved to appointments to visit all the dogs and cats. A mid-year meeting between the HPAC board and management teams solidified our goals to continue to improve care for the animals, provide veterinary support outside of our walls and further expanding our behavior program in the community. Goals were created to keep animals out of our shelter with pet retention services a high priority.

After a year and a half of talk and planning, 2023 starts with our dog room remodel to create a more Fear Free environment for our canine guests.

Process management and program developments will increase adoptions year over year as well as keep more animals out of the shelter. And with your help we'll continue to strengthen our financial base while we prepare to build the funds for our future home.

If there is anything that is a constant in this world, it is change. And people, business and organizations that can be adaptable to that change are the ones that will be successful. Luckily for Homeward Pet, we are supported by donors, volunteers and leadership that realize this and help us continue to be successful.

Thank you for your continued support of Homeward Pet Adoption Center. Thank you for your continued support of the animals.

Best,

Executive Director Homeward Pet Adoption Center

# 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

#### **BEHAVIOR**

Every animal that comes to Homeward Pet is assessed and provided with a high-level of behavioral support to ensure their stay is as enriching and stress-free as possible.

Because of an expanded need for behavioral support in the shelter, in 2022, two new staff positions were added to the Behavior Program, increasing our ability to provide this highly specialized care. The Behavior Program also continued to expand our community outreach, helping over 400 families by providing free behavior consultations to community members and adopters post-adoption.



#### **FOSTER**

One of the biggest lessons we learned during the pandemic was how vital our foster care program is for our animals. They learn to live in a home, are more relaxed, and we learn more about their personalities.

This past year our foster program debuted a new digital Foster Board. Any foster or volunteer can look on the site anytime to see who is in need of foster placement. The site also houses our foster manuals, emergency contact information, behavior resources, medical resources, and information on our adoption process.



#### **ADOPTION & ANIMAL CARE**

Our primary goal is to find new homes for every animal we take in. Our staff matches adopters and pets based on lifestyle, experience, the needs of the animal and other important factors. Our process provides adopters with all the information and assistance they need to make each adoption successful.

Understanding that a connection is made in the moment, in 2022 we began having adopters make an appointment to come in and meet all the available kittens, instead of pre-selecting



one or two online. This gave the adopters a smoother adoption process and provided the kittens more opportunities to find their perfect match.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

In 2022, our volunteer base was back to our pre-pandemic numbers. We added 450+ new volunteers to our ranks this past year. Along with this new mix of volunteers, we also celebrated our longest tenured volunteer, who has been with us for 29.5 years and currently walks dogs every Friday afternoon! Volunteers commit to serving for 90 days, but the average HPAC volunteer stays on for 3 years and 35 days!



#### CLINIC

Every animal that comes to Homeward Pet receives a full veterinary exam and every animal adopted from Homeward Pet is spayed or neutered, dewormed, vaccinated, microchipped and medicated for fleas. For animals with more complex needs, our Whoopi's Fund for Animals with Special Needs fund covers difficult and life-altering surgeries to further improve an animal's quality of life.

In 2022, of the 1,155 animals housed in our facility, 25% of them benefited from our Whoopi's Fund for Extraordinary Care; receiving surgery, medication, or

therapy to improve their quality of life. Every week our clinic provided low or nocost spay & neuter surgeries for low-income households.

One of our biggest challenges in 2022, due to the National Vet Shortage, was replacing our full-time vet. After a lengthy search, we were able welcome Dr. Katie Ann Mangan to our team in November.

#### **PET RETENTION**

Keeping families together is one of our highest priorities. The Homeward Pet Adoption Center Pet Retention Program supports families during difficult times, where rehoming a pet may seem the only option. Instead, families can reach out and request different forms of assistance and resources.

that need help has nearly doubled over the last 2 years. When families reach out for help, our team works to connect them with resources that might allow them to keep their pet. This can include

The number of requests we receive from families things like a referral to our behavior staff for a consultation, or connecting them with another program or organization in our community. If the challenge can't be resolved, the pet may still need to be rehomed, in which case, we're able to

help families rehome their pet privately through our Home To Home program.

## INSIDE THE NUMBERS 2022 IMPACT \*\*



## SEEING LIFE THROUGH A NEW LENS-CHARGER'S STORY

Just a year-and-a-half old, friendly, talkative...Charger was desperately in need of help. He kept his eyes shut tight, trying to fend off the pain of an untreated medical issue. His eyelids curled into his eyes - a genetic condition called entropion - which can cause irritation, infection and even scratches or ulcers on the eye. As you can imagine, this condition is incredibly painful.

Charger needed surgery to help him open his eyes, to see again, and to live pain-free. With your support, Homeward Pet was able to give him that extraordinary care.



**Pre Surgery** 

He was found on the streets, with his eyes clenched

shut. Charger was transferred to Homeward Pet to receive surgery and follow-up care from our veterinary team. Unfortunately, he also had a nasty, rattling, upper respiratory infection that needed to be treated first. However, as soon as he was breathing easier, Charger was scheduled for entropion surgery in the Homeward Pet Veterinary Clinic.

The loving foster home, where Charger went to recover, showcased Charger's outgoing, people-loving personality. Living up to his name - and making full use of his restored vision,



**Post Surgery** 

Charger sprinted around the house, climbed his cat tree or chased a feather on the end of a string. Stories about his miraculous recovery and his spunky new personality soon netted him the perfect opportunity to find his adoptive home.



Recovery

Now named Nandor, Charger is thriving in his new home:

"Nandor has slept in our bed since his first day home, but last night he figured out how to optimize his sleeping position. He climbs up onto our pillows and stretches out so he can touch both of us all night long. It makes us so happy!", writes Jasmine, "We are so grateful to Homeward Pet for rescuing him and getting him healthy. I know the work you do is so difficult, and we are so thankful that you helped us complete our family and our home."

Charger was just one of the more than a thousand animals you helped in 2022. From basic care to major surgeries, making sure each cat or dog is able to live healthy and pain-free. With your support, we'll continue to impact the lives of cats and dogs in 2023.



Adopted

### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**Facebook** (@homewardpet) - 21,864 Followers **Instagram** (@homeward\_pet) - 5,956 Followers

Twitter (@HomewardPet) - 1,252 Followers

Linked In (linkedin.com/company/homeward-pet-adoption-center) - 709 Followers

You Tube (@homewardpet) - 88 Followers

TikTok (@homewardpet) - 103 Followers

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