

# Schuyler Paw Prints

*Newsletter of the Schuyler County Humane Society*



## What a Year 2024 Was!

The year 2024 was an exciting time for SCHS, starting with a donation from **Purina** of almost 35 tons of cat litter in late December 2023. If you visit our garage, you'll see we have enough litter to last for several more years!

Two grants early in the year from the **Tracy Family Foundation** provided funding that allowed us to refine our fundraising capabilities and increase our visibility beyond the Rushville area, including videos produced by **Table Sixteen Productions** of Quincy. Hopefully you noticed our presence on Facebook, TikTok, CassComm Cable, KHQA TV, WRMS Radio, The Rushville Times, the Cass County Star-Gazette, the Astoria South Fulton Argus, and the Princess Theater. We also introduced an email platform through **GiveButter** to keep our supporters more informed.

We received a generous donation from an **anonymous benefactor** that allowed us to complete several maintenance and remodeling projects. These included covering the walls in the

cat rooms with a more durable material; installing new viewing windows in the cat rooms; installing ceiling fans and a new door in the north kennel room; placing much needed electrical outlets in the office and entranceway; and replacing our often-swampy gravel parking area and drive with concrete. We also replaced our outdated sign along the road with a more highly visible one and installed signage in our entranceways.

Adoption promotions at the shelter included a **"Fat Cat"** special during Mardi Gras; a half-price adoption special sponsored by **Petfinder** and **Kia** in July and August; a black/orange cat Halloween special; and a **"BOGO"** promotion during December.

And lastly, we celebrated the **10th anniversary** of the shelter in October. This afternoon-long open house was well attended and included bounce houses for the kids, free hot dogs, snacks, and drinks, and tours of the facility.

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## July–December 2024 Highlights

July began with our popular pet calendar contest and a half-price adoption event sponsored by **Petfinder** and **Kia**. In October we celebrated the shelter's 10th anniversary (see “**A Look Back**” on Page 5) and also held our second black/orange cat Halloween adoption special. In November, we upgraded our gravel parking area with more-durable concrete, and we ended the year by offering a **special promotion** that included waiving the adoption fee of a second furry friend when adopting the first.

Our intakes for the last six months of this year consisted of **65** animals, bringing our total 2024 newcomers to **147**. During this period, **83** cats and dogs were adopted, contributing to the placement of **150** companions in 2024—an increase of 21% compared to 2023. We typically housed around **70** cats and up to **9** dogs at any one time during 2024. We also spayed/neutered **102** of our critters during 2024 and provided other much-needed surgeries and treatments to numerous animals in our care.



### SCHS Alumni Spotlight

Meet Gracie, formerly known as Red Robin, who was found abandoned and very pregnant in a ditch near Scripps Park in 2018. She was transferred to a foster home, where she had nine puppies! Her puppies were soon adopted, leaving mama by herself.

Fortunately, a kind soul heard about her, and upon meeting, it was love at first sight. Gracie helped her new owner through the Covid isolation of 2020, is a faithful “guard” dog, and likes to lay on top of her human parents. Gracie definitely has come a long way from sleeping in a ditch!



### Nova Update

As many of you remember, soon after Nova arrived at the shelter in 2024, it was noticed she was having difficulty breathing and tired easily. She was diagnosed with a heart condition, and we put out a call for donations to help pay for her surgeries. The response was tremendous, with donations fully covering her two heart procedures.

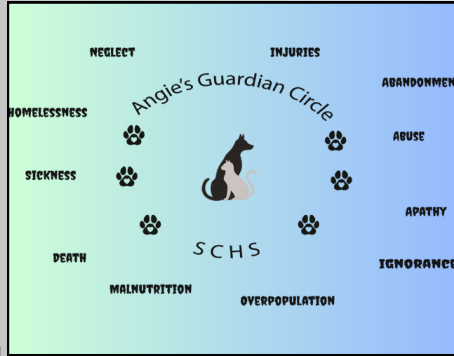
Her foster parents report that Nova is now doing great but is not completely out of the woods yet. She still has more vet appointments scheduled in the coming months, so keep your fingers crossed for her! And thank you to everyone that contributed to her care!



## Memorial Donations

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the individuals who during 2024 gave memorials **to honor the memory of the following loved ones:**

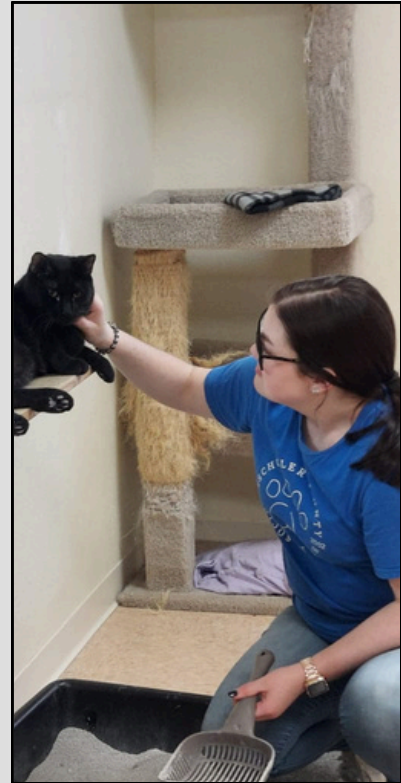
Fran Briney  
 Kathy Chase  
 Dave Coufal  
 Kathy Crum  
 Gary Dupoy  
 Kary Fowler  
 Tracia Kenmore  
 Norm Kloker  
 Angie Langner  
 Jeff Langner  
 Norman McMillen  
 Arlene Hayes Miller  
 Shirley Moore  
 Ruth Phillips  
 Glenna Prather  
 Teresa Rawlins  
 Joe Sipes  
 Linda Smart  
 Valerie Sprinkle  
 Donna Thurman  
 Robert Walker  
 Kate Worthington  
 Richard Yost



## AGC Members

Our monthly donation initiative, **Angie's Guardian Circle**, helps to ensure we have a stable income to cover expenses. **Please contact us to find out how you too can participate.** We would like to thank the following for their membership in this program:

Susan Ashcraft  
 Alberta Billingsley  
 Marcia Breeden  
 Homer & Frances Briney  
 John Carter  
 Pat Clayton  
 Charles Dace  
 Jessica Devitt  
 Bill & Irene Dugger  
 Richard Fishel  
 Debra Large  
 Cathy Leahy  
 MK & Cathy Myers  
 Richard & Karen Spencer  
 Nancy Stephens  
 Janet Trone



## How You Can Help

- **Adopt:** Find your new best friend at the shelter, it will change both your lives.
- **Volunteer:** With two cleaning shifts daily, there's always room for more helping hands. Plus, we're on the lookout for dedicated dog walkers and affectionate cat cuddlers to join our team.
- **Donate:** Support the shelter by monetary or material donations, such as cat and dog toys or cleaning supplies. We have a wish list on Chewy.com, or contact us to find out what items are in short supply.
- **Promote:** Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Petfinder; like and share our stories; wear our t-shirts; tell your friends; **be their voice!**



# A Look Back





## 2025 Pet Calendar

Our annual pet calendar contest was again successful, setting a record for entries at **103**. While most were from the Rushville-Beardstown-Mt. Sterling region, a few were from as far away as the Springfield and Champaign areas.

The pet appearing on the cover is **Mr. Big Stuff**, who is owned by Mary Jo Baughman. The other 12 winning entries appear inside, along with honorable mention pages showcasing all entries.

Calendars are available for purchase at \$10 each at the animal shelter, and also can be found at the following Rushville businesses: M & D Pharmacy; Animal House Pet Grooming; Andrews Antiques; Wilson Vet Clinic; Rushville Vet Clinic; and Pet Supplies Plus in Macomb.



## Spaghetti Dinner

Mark your calendars for our annual Spay-Ghetti fundraising dinner that will be held on Saturday, **February 22nd**, at the First Christian Church in Rushville. This year it will again be drive-through pickup only, and will feature spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and desert. Last year we served **413** meals, and this year we are hoping to top that!

This is one of our major fundraisers of the year, and we are always looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen, bag up meals, and run the delicious food out to the waiting vehicles. If you would like to help, please contact us.

Check our Facebook page and The Rushville Times for more details closer to the date, and we'll also send out a reminder to those on our email list. Hope to see you there!

## Meet the Board of Directors

Janet Mihalovic, Acting President/Vice President

Tammy Thomas, Treasurer

Sharon Mann, Secretary

Richard Teel, Chief Financial Officer

Stacy Adams, DVM, Veterinary Advisor

Wendy Stevens, Director of Media

Richard Fishel, Grants Coordinator

Michelle Carty

Darin Patterson



Shelter Kitty says...

“Fur-ever homes start here!”



### SCHUYLER COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION

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