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MISSION

The Anti-Cruelty Society builds a healthy and happy community where pets and people thrive together.

Foster Love

Imagine a mama cat with six new kittens found abandoned on the streets. This happens more than we would like, but as Chicago's premier animal welfare organization, The Anti-Cruelty Society lives up to its vision to build a humane Chicago for pets and people.

“We love dogs and welcoming wonderful pets from ACS into our home and seeing them decompress, learn and find their forever families is always so special!”

– Bennett and Gina

As we care for these animals in need, we know that they would flourish in a loving home environment where they can grow and thrive before continuing

their journey to their forever homes. The Anti-Cruelty Society's foster program is a vital lifeline to help provide special accommodation for some of the animals in our care. Whether they need support for a few weeks or a few months, the love and care from a foster family is essential to their well-being.

Becoming a foster parent is a decision that is both overwhelming and exhilarating, but The Anti-Cruelty Society provides support, resources and a connection to a foster community that is always available to help each other. This is what Bennett and Gina found when they began fostering for The Anti-Cruelty Society at the beginning of the pandemic. Over the past few years, they have taken in our longest length-of-stay dogs, including those who were under-socialized, or seniors who could use a break from shelter life. While in Gina and Bennett's mutt paradise, their guests get the ultimate treatment: quiet time, long walks, snuggles and even basic training sessions.

Helping animals by becoming a foster is one way to help animals thrive. For more information about our foster program, visit anticruelty.org/fosters.

Big Dogs = Big Love



A big dog deserves big love! Princess, now Tallulah, was found by her rescuer when she was put up for sale on Facebook. She was abused and seriously neglected, living in a cramped and filthy crate. She had little to no interaction with the outside world until she was saved. Her rescuer brought her directly to The Anti-Cruelty Society where she was loved and cared for until she found her forever family.

Now, Tallulah lives a life filled with a full belly, lots of cuddles and all the love she can handle. She adores puzzle toys and wearing clothes and has even learned how to sleep in a hammock while camping. It is a good life for this energetic pup.

In the past few months, adoption rates have declined across the country — leading to a higher number of animals like Tallulah looking for their forever homes. In fact, across the country, there has been a nearly 30% decline in adoptions for big dogs. “We continue to keep a close watch on our intake and adoption numbers, as well as our lengths-of-stay data for the dogs in our care,” says Darlene Duggan, chief operations officer. “We also watch national



trends so we can make adjustments to the care we are providing these big dogs to keep them healthy and engaged.”

To help raise the profile of these animals, we use social media to help spread the word about these amazing pups. “Meet Your Match” is a weekly Facebook Live video segment to introduce some of our longest resident animals. These efforts, along with periodic adoption events like the Big Dog=Big Love promotion, help many of these wonderful animals find their happily ever after.

“Our goal is to help animals find their forever home and sometimes this takes longer than we want. For our big dogs, it often takes more time to find the right match which leads to more time in the shelter — and that is not always the best for these pups,” says Duggan. “We work hard to keep our animals engaged with a variety of enrichment activities from pack walks, to shelter dog classes, to individual training sessions to help them be the best dog they can be.”



Thelma and Louise: Compassion in Action

Love for your animal is a special thing. A longtime friend of The Anti-Cruelty Society, Carol Overman, has put her love for her pets and her compassion for the work we do into action. Carol was mom to Thelma and Louise, a mother/daughter pair of calico cats.

These two kitties lived up to their names and provided unconditional love and lived a lively and rambunctious life. As Carol's cats aged into their senior years, Carol began to recognize the advanced and specialized care that aging cats require. In 2019, she founded the "Thelma and Louise Fund" in memory of her cats with a purpose to provide comfort for senior cats in our shelter as they wait to be adopted.

"Through the Thelma and Louise Fund, I want to secure resources for senior cats, giving them better chances at adoption and finding their next home," says Carol. "The fund allows me to combine my passion for animals with impact every day."

The fund began with a focus on cats 8 years and older and covers the adoption fees for any cat in that age range. The fund also provides for an extensive baseline blood screening to identify and address health risks, along with additional benefits to felines and their adoptive

families. This year, the fund was extended to support humans as well, as it covers the adoption fees for any senior who adopts a pet over 5 months old. This addition to the original fund is in keeping with The Anti-Cruelty Society's mission to build healthy and happy communities where pets and people thrive together.

Thanks to Carol's generosity, we are helping both pets and people. To support the Thelma and Louise Fund, visit anticruelty.org/donate and make a gift in memory of Thelma and Louise.



Ways to Get Involved



Animals deserve the best and thanks to our generous supporters and donors, The Anti-Cruelty Society can provide a safe place for animals on their journey to find their forever homes. Some people support The Anti-Cruelty Society by adopting, volunteering or fostering animals. Some send a check or participate in one of our memorable events and experiences. Supporting our work to care for and protect animals comes in many ways, and there is something for everyone!

VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE!

Yes, we are online with some of the most creative swag you'd be proud to own. Think about a new sweatshirt, coffee mug or water bottle. Try on a new hat or a tie-dyed T-shirt. Every online store purchase helps provide medical care, food and shelter for The Anti-Cruelty Society animals. Visit anticrueltyshop.org and let the shopping begin.

RENT A CONDO.

Your gift of \$750 provides annual care for the residents of a kitty or canine condo located in The Anti-Cruelty Society River North Adoption Center. We place a small plaque on the kennel with your own quote or tribute. For more information about sponsoring a condo, visit anticruelty.org/tributes or call 312-645-8200. This is a perfect way to help us care for our animals all year long.

DO-IT-YOURSELF!

Before you throw out those old T-shirts, turn them into a tug toy or gather your friends to make some no-sew blankets to keep our shelter animals warm and cozy. And if you need some directions, visit anticruelty.org/DIY for instructions and videos. All you need to do is gather your friends, your supplies and have some fun!

For more ideas on how you can help, visit anticruelty.org/other-giving.

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THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER



**4,828
ANIMALS
PLACED**

in safe and loving
homes in 2021



**1,354
PETS
FOSTERED**

in 2021, providing a
loving home while
they wait for adoption



**730,000
FREE PET
MEALS**

provided from our
Pop-Up Pet
Food Pantries
across Chicago

To learn more about
how you can help homeless
animals in the Chicago
area, please visit
www.anticruelty.org

