



TAILS *TRIBUNE*

SUMMER 2023



Meet our Board of Directors!

We are grateful for the devoted community members who serve on the Yakima Humane Society Board of Directors. Meet them (and some of their four-legged friends) below:



John Gorman
President



Laurie Morales
Vice President



Amanda Moloney
Secretary



Andrew Sund
Treasurer



Sandy Wasson
DVM



Nikki Prather
Fund Development Chair



MaryAbigail Dills
Advocacy Chair



Mary Jo Pinnell
Fund Development



Paul Shelton
Governance



SaraBecca Martin
Governance



Dolores Gonzalez
Ellensburg

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear YHS Supporters,

I've been immersed in the animal welfare world since 2007. It was then that I adopted a very special pomeranian named Tommy who changed my life forever and in doing so, the course of my career. Since that time, I've spent countless hours volunteering at local shelters, founding and operating an animal rescue organization, and providing consulting services to other entrepreneurs who have ambitions of starting their own nonprofits.

I joined the YHS team in August of 2021 when I was hired on as the Development Director. I've enjoyed my time spreading awareness of our mission, hosting events, and getting to know the incredible network of YHS donors and volunteers. Earlier this year, the Board of Directors asked me to take over as YHS' Executive Director. **I accepted the position with a plan to use my experience to make YHS the best place it can be for the animals in our community.**

Since taking the reins, my team and I have inherited a great deal of challenges - the biggest being related to capacity. Nationwide, animal shelters are facing an overcapacity crisis, the likes of which have not been seen in over a decade. There is no easy solution to overcome an overcrowded shelter, but over time, we can take the necessary steps to counter it. **As a proud, no-kill organization, YHS will continue to give the animals in our care all the time they need to find forever homes of their own.** With a record number of intakes over the past twelve months, we will need to institute creative solutions to increase our adoption rates.

We've already implemented many positive changes that will have a lasting impact on the animals of Yakima County. **In this edition of our Tails Tribune newsletter, you'll learn about the recent projects we've undertaken and leave with a vision of what we want YHS to become.** We'll introduce you to the amazing people behind the scenes who conduct the day-to-day work to provide for our animals. We'll also tell you all about the upcoming Fur Ball Gala, our annual Summer Supply Drive, and the many ways that you can help us bound into a brighter future.

YHS is lucky to have a savvy board of directors, hard-working staff, dedicated volunteers, and most importantly, **we are lucky to have supporters like you.** The YHS community is devoted to solving problems to help our animals. We all know the importance of getting animals off the streets and into forever homes. Every animal deserves to feel like they're part of a family. We have a lot of work ahead to achieve that vision, but we're committed to making it happen.

I hope you'll continue to support our mission. We need you now more than ever before. Let's get to work!

Jeff Boyd
YHS Executive Director



Making YHS a Haven for Animals

One of the biggest challenges we face is finding the space to care for the overwhelming number of pets that come our way. These animals come to us via owner surrenders, strays, and our animal control unit. We are doing our best to promote spay and neuter services (see page 7), but in the meantime, we have prioritized the comfort and quality of life for our shelter animals.

We have increased our staffing and recruited more volunteers to help with the daily needs. This allows us to stay up on all the feeding, medicating, and cleaning that come with housing 150+ animals each day. Most importantly, a larger team allows us to spend more quality time with each animal in our facility. Dogs need walks, cats need socialization, and every animal needs and deserves love and attention. We want to make YHS a factory for canine and feline joy.

Last month, **all our canine residents received brand-new, elevated dog beds**. These beds are much higher quality than our old beds. This increase in quality will mean the beds will last significantly longer and provide a clean, comfortable place for the dogs to lay their heads at night.

Not only are our dogs sleeping better, but soon, they will be having the time of their lives thanks to **our new play yard facility**. This has been a major, multi-month project that will wrap up around the third week of August. The new 7,500 square foot yard will come right off the back of our building, making it easy for staff and volunteers to bring dogs outside individually and eventually introduce them into small playgroups. **The play yard will provide the dogs much more outdoor time and the added socialization will be critical to their adoptability and future lives in their forever homes.** We are incredibly thankful to Lisa Austin and her family for providing a grant for this massive project. We can't wait to get the dogs out in full force when the big day arrives. Stay tuned for pictures and updates when the fencing is installed.



We're prioritizing animal joy through a series of capital investments.



All our dogs have received new, elevated dog beds so they can rest easier in the shelter.



A new play yard is under construction and coming to YHS in August!

Overcoming Overcapacity

Two of the most impactful ways we can deal with shelter overcapacity are to increase our rate of adoptions and grow our foster home network.

To that end, we have **hired Kristine Vatshell to fill an important new role as Event Manager and Foster Coordinator**. Kristine is responsible for hosting 2-3 offsite adoption events each week. We've already seen amazing success from having Kristine and her team out at events. They are excellent at spreading awareness of our cause and showing off adoptable animals in the community. Some of our longest term residents have been adopted thanks to Kristine's community events.

In addition to events, Kristine manages our foster program. A large foster program is critical to any shelter's success. Fostering animals creates more space in the shelter for other dogs and cats. Animals who get to go to foster homes get a break from the shelter and their time in foster can increase their adoptability. **Fostering is an incredibly rewarding experience and we highly recommend giving it a try, even if just for a month or two.**

We have also added a home-to-home program, increased our transfer partner network, and have supported the low-income community with free vaccines, pet food, and supplies. These initiatives are all in an effort to keep more animals out of the shelter so they can stay in the homes they are familiar with and live among families they love and trust.

**Want to help at events or foster
YHS animals?**

Email Kristine at
kristine@yakimahumane.org



Community events increase exposure for our work and our animals.



People shouldn't be the only ones who get to visit Yakima's amazing breweries!



New Event Manager and Foster Coordinator Kristine Vatshell represents us well at events!

Yakima Adoption Center

Every day, our team of staff and volunteers are responsible for feeding, cleaning, walking, and socializing over 150 dogs and cats who reside in YHS' Adoption Center. The Adoption Center is a massive operation that remains open every single day of the year and continuously sees more animals flood our doors. Many times, we simply do not have the space for these new intakes.

To combat this space issue, we have invested in projects like our new play yard and upgraded dog beds (see page 4). These investments have had a significant impact in improving the quality of care we can give our animals. We love seeing our dogs sleep peacefully on the new beds and can't wait to see them fly around the new play yard.

We will continue to invest in ideas like these to help us ensure every single one of our animals will live joyfully and comfortably while they're in our care.



How you can help:

Adopt - Visit the Adoption Center or see which animals are available at YakimaHumane.org.

Volunteer - Help us walk dogs, play with cats, clean dishes, and support YHS. Interested? Email us at volunteer@yakimahumane.org.

Foster - Help us free up shelter space by offering up your home. Email Kristine Vatshell at kristine@yakimahumane.org for more info.

Donate - Visit YakimaHumane.org/Donate or read page 12 to learn how you can support our Summer Supply Drive.

Adoption Center Staff

Kelli Peal

Adoption Center Manager

Monica Aquino-Renderos

Katherine Bishop

Doniven Brown

Jordan Buckley

Jennifer Devoreaux

Tracie Erie

Matthew Lewis

Michaela Miller

Stephanie Reihs

Haley Shipley

Ally Thomas

Rachel Vincent

Sess Williams

YHS Spay & Neuter Clinic

By far, the biggest contributor to pet overpopulation is a low rate of spay and neutered animals in a community. Intact animals lead to puppies and kittens flooding the shelters and making it harder for older animals to be adopted. As we continue to battle capacity challenges at YHS, **one of the most productive things we can do is attack the root of the problem by increasing spay and neuter services in Yakima County.**

Our clinic team performs low-cost surgeries for pets in our community, our shelter animals, and feral cats throughout the county. The team provides more than 10,000 spay/neuter surgeries a year - an amazing number that still falls short of demand. Despite our best efforts, we often have a waitlist of 3-4 months for animals to be spayed or neutered.

We are **fundraising to hire a second full-time veterinarian** to help increase our capacity to provide even more surgeries in the coming years.



How you can help:

Spread awareness of the pet overpopulation problem - Encourage your friends and family to get their pets spayed and neutered, especially if they are about to own a pet for the first time.

Donate to our spay and neuter services - Gifts of any size help us increase our capacity for more spay and neuter surgeries. You can donate **online at YakimaHumane.org/Donate** or by using the return envelope included in this newsletter.

Attend and support our Fur Ball fundraiser - Our big fundraiser in October will help us raise the money to grow our spay and neuter program. Learn more on pages 10 and 11.

Spay & Neuter Staff

Mie Petersen
Clinic Manager

Victoria Dumlao
Growth & Impact Manager

Michelle Beaunax
DVM

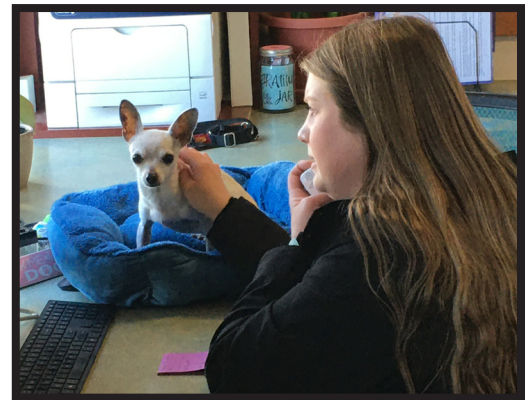
Adam Sifuentes
Anna Swedin
Ari Hernandez
Caitlin Stumpf
Calvin McCabe
Carmen Stugelmayer
Dawn Larson
Deb Nelson
Emely Abarca
Kourtney Girard
Kristin Drye
Macie Woody
Tanaya Anderson

Ellensburg Adoption Center

In August 2022, we began our partnership with the City of Ellensburg and took over operations of the Ellensburg Animal Shelter and Adoption Center at 1007 S. Industrial Way. We recently celebrated our one-year anniversary of running the Ellensburg Center and look forward to continuing to improve animal welfare in Ellensburg and supporting the countless animals in the city who need our help.

Since YHS took over in Ellensburg, we have seen some very positive results. **We've increased adoptions by 50%, added several new transfer rescue partners, and exponentially grown our foster network.**

Running this second center and caring for the many animals there could not be done without the support of our community. It takes a village to provide for the ones who need us most and we are incredibly thankful for our community of supporters.



How you can help:

Adopt - Visit the Adoption Center or see which animals are available at YakimaHumane.org.

Volunteer and/or Foster - Help us clear shelter space and find homes for in-need animals. Email us at yhsellensburg@yakimahumane.org for more information.

Donate - Give directly to the Ellensburg Center by visiting YakimaHumane.org/Donate and denoting "Ellensburg" in the donation note or by sending a check in the return envelope included in this newsletter with "Ellensburg" in the check memo.

Ellensburg Staff

Kayla Lewis
Adoption Center Manager

Tanya Davis
Jessica Wells
Alex Wilson

Our Animal Control Officers



From left to right: Eddie Bossert (ACO Operations Manager), Amanda Graham, Megan Goss, George Garcia-Medina

The YHS Animal Control Unit provides localized service for community members in Yakima County. Our team serves the people and animals of five cities: Grandview, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Wapato, and Union Gap. Our officers educate the public about responsible pet ownership, promote spay/neuter services, host mobile vaccine clinics, and enforce animal care regulations.

One of the core responsibilities of the Animal Control Team is attempting to reunite lost pets with their owners through examining pet licenses or microchip data. A pet license is a great way to help keep your pet safe and a microchip is the easiest way to ensure lost pets can be reunited with their owners. The YHS Animal Control unit loves nothing more than to reunite people with their lost pets.

How you can help:

Spread awareness about licensing and microchipping your pet - Help educate the public on the importance of spaying, neutering, and vaccinating your pet against harmful diseases.

Fur Ball Gala 2023

The Fur Ball is our biggest fundraiser of the year and one of the best parties you can attend in Yakima! The event gathers our supporters together for an unforgettable dinner and auction to support our work.

At every Fur Ball, the community's most passionate animal lovers and advocates come together to **taste amazing food, sip incredible local wines, bid on show-stopping auction items, and dance the night away.** But a ticket to the Fur Ball doesn't just guarantee a fun evening - it puts you in a position to help save and transform the lives of the animals in our community.

All proceeds from the Fur Ball Gala go toward providing food, shelter, and medical treatment for the countless animals who come through our doors each year. Your support also helps sustain community engagement programs, which directly curb animal overpopulation and provide resources, support, and education about responsible pet ownership in Yakima County.

We can't wait to raise a glass and have a blast with you at Fur Ball 2023!



When:

Saturday, October 21, 2023
5:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Where:

Modern Living Building
at State Fair Park

Ticket costs:

Individual: \$125
Table for 8: \$1,000

[Click here to get your tickets to Fur Ball 2023](#)

Fur Ball Sponsorship Opportunities

PRESENTING SPONSOR
\$10,000

SOLD

FUND-A-NEED SPONSOR
\$10,000

SOLD

TOP DOG VIP SPONSOR (x4)
\$5,000 each

- One table for eight total guests
- Complimentary drinks for all guests
- One complimentary raffle ticket, ring toss ring, and heads or tails necklace for all guests
- Logo on all social media, website, and printed promos

EVENT ACTIVITY SPONSOR (x4)
\$2,500 each

- One table for eight total guests
- Logo on all social media and printed promos
- Signage and recognition at sponsored game (below)
- Complimentary play for all guests in sponsored game

EVENT GAMES TO SPONSOR



DESSERT DASH



HEADS OR TAILS



RAFFLE DRAWING



RING TOSS

Interested in sponsorship?

Email Jeff Boyd at jeff@yakimahumane.org for more details.

YHS Summer 2023 Supply Drive

Our annual Summer Supply Drive is back! We are calling on our community to **help us reach our goal of raising \$50,000** to help offset rising costs and increased usage of our everyday supplies.

Here is a breakdown of what different gifts to the Summer Supply Drive do for YHS:

\$5,000 - Feed the 150 animals at the shelter for one month

\$2,500 - Feed all the animals at the shelter for two weeks

\$1,000 - Feed all the dogs at the shelter for one week

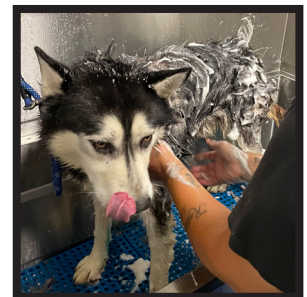
\$500 - Feed all the cats and kittens at the shelter for one week

\$250 - Provide all food, laundry detergent, and dish soap for one day

\$100 - Provide laundry detergent for one week

\$50 - Provide dish soap for one week

You can make your donation at the link below or by placing a check made payable to Yakima Humane Society in the enclosed envelope. All donations from this campaign will go directly to the supplies we need to support our animals.



**Click here to donate
to the Summer Supply Drive**

In addition to monetary donations, you are also welcome to drop donated supplies off at the shelter Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

A full list of needed supplies is available at
yakimahumane.org/donate/#goods