



TAILS** **TRIBUNE

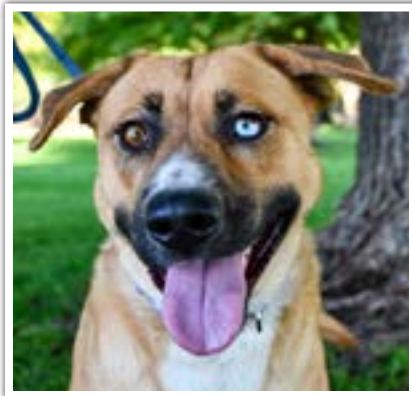


WINTER 2026

MEET SOME OF THE FURRY FRIENDS WHO CALL YAKIMA HUMANE SOCIETY HOME.

Many of these animals have been with us for quite some time and are anxiously awaiting their new homes.

Stop by and get to know them today!



MOLLY arrived JULY 28, 2025

Molly is a friendly, outgoing girl full of energy and affection. She's ready to find a home where she can continue learning, growing, and having fun! Molly gets along great with other dogs and is always up for a game or a romp in the yard. She's a happy, social pup who truly loves people. With her big heart and even bigger personality, Molly has so much love to give!



WANDA is a beautiful 4-year-old Hound/Retriever mix with soulful eyes and an even sweeter spirit. She's a joyful girl who loves long walks, exploring new scents, and discovering little adventures along the way, before happily settling down to relax and unwind.



MARTIN is a friendly, outgoing guy who checks all the boxes for a wonderful family dog! He walks nicely on a leash, knows the command "sit," and is always happy to earn a treat. This well-rounded pup has a sweet, social personality and truly enjoys being around people. He's eager to learn and always aims to please.



TUX is a happy, lovable boy with a personality that's hard to resist. The first thing you'll notice is the way he looks at you, like you're the best person in the world - paired with a big, goofy grin that will instantly win you over! Tux has all the potential to grow into a truly wonderful companion!



ROCKY is an incredibly loving and friendly boy who greets new people with calm curiosity and a gentle heart. A mature and respectful companion, Rocky clearly had a solid foundation in his previous home. He would thrive in a calm, environment where he can feel safe and cherished.



DUTCH is incredibly affectionate and loves following his people around, happily being part of everyday life. He's friendly, social, and has so much love to give. Dutch is ready and excited to begin his next chapter in a forever home!



EMO is a laid-back sweetheart who finds joy in life's simple pleasures - gentle pets, cozy blankets, and staying close to his favorite people. He adjusts well to new surroundings and would flourish in a home where he feels safe, cherished, and truly part of the family.



ROSETTA is a loving cat with a gentle soul and a big heart. She enjoys quiet cuddles, cozy nooks, and a little friendly chatter (yes, she might talk back!). With her sweet personality and calm nature, Rosetta would be a wonderful addition to nearly any home.



SUMMER is female with a striking black & white coat and a gentle, reserved personality. Born a stray, she and her litter were rescued by a caring community member who ensured they received all the medical care they needed. Summer is healthy and ready to find her forever home!

BEHIND EVERY NUMBER IS A HEARTBEAT, A STORY, AND A SECOND CHANCE - and this year, those stories added up to something truly extraordinary.

In 2025, 3,852 animals came through our doors. That's 297 more lives seeking safety, and care than the year before. Each intake represented an animal who needed help and a place to land.

Because of the dedication of our staff, volunteers, fosters, and supporters, those animals found brighter outcomes than ever before. 2,413 pets were adopted, marking 236 more adoptions than last year. That's hundreds of wagging tails, gentle purrs, and families made whole again because love found its way home.

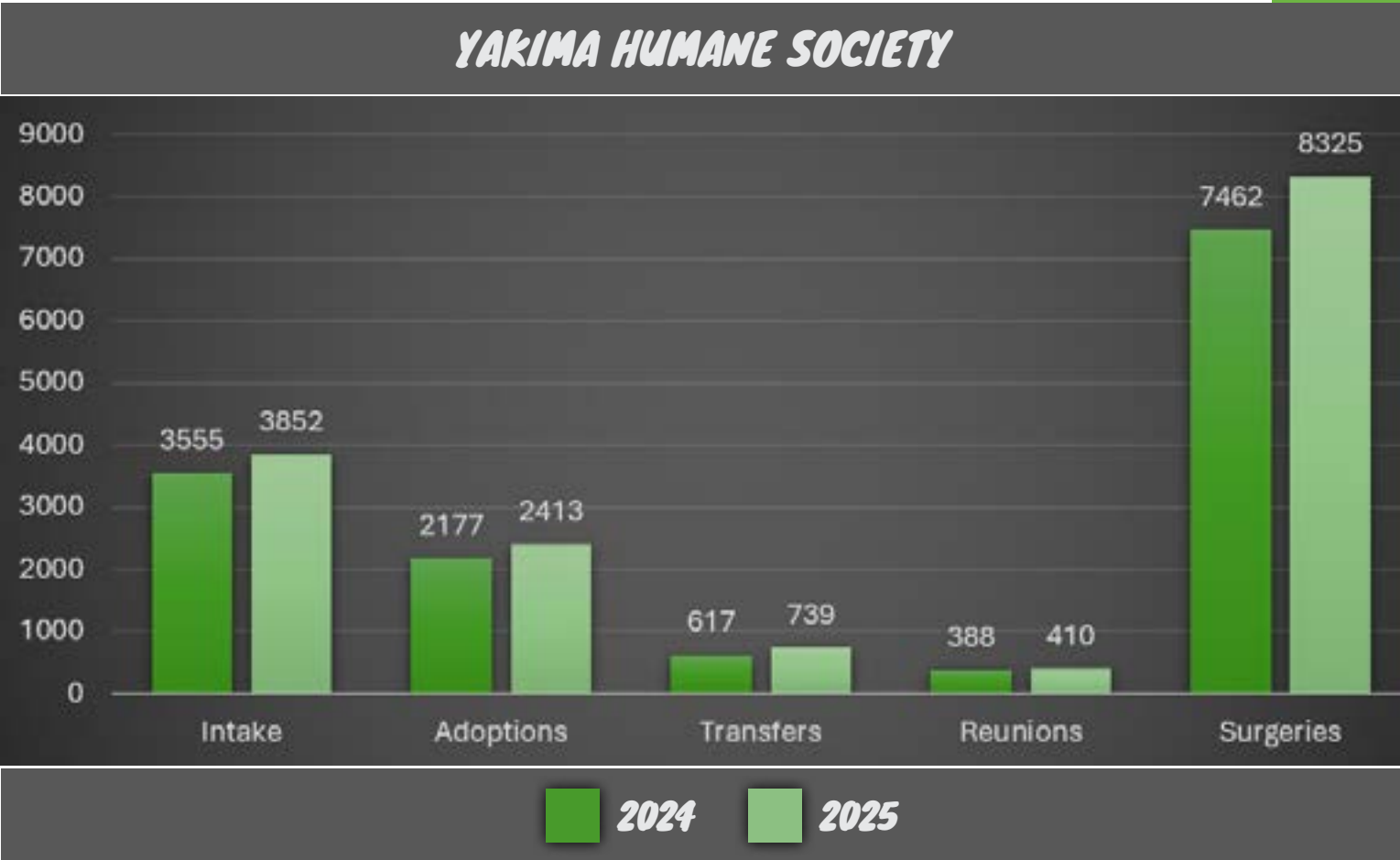
Partnership also played a powerful role in this success. 739 animals were transferred to rescue partners, an increase of 122 lives, proving once again that collaboration saves lives. Together, we expanded possibilities and opened doors far beyond our own walls.

And some of the most joyful moments came from reunions. 410 animals were reunited with their owners - 22 more happy endings than last year. These are the moments that remind us why every effort matters: a leash in familiar hands, a tail wagging with recognition, a family made complete again.

Equally impactful was our commitment to prevention and long-term change. This year, 8,325 spay and neuter surgeries were performed - 863 more than last year! Each surgery represents not just one animal helped, but countless future lives protected, reducing overpopulation and easing the strain on shelters throughout our region.

These numbers tell a story of growth, resilience, and unwavering compassion. They show what happens when a community comes together to say "yes" to more animals, more challenges, and more hope. Because of you, more lives were saved, more futures were rewritten, and more love was shared than ever before.

This is not just progress - it's proof that together, we are making a difference.



FOSTERING RESCUED ANIMALS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPACTFUL WAYS TO SAVE LIVES.

When an animal leaves the shelter for a foster home, it **doesn't just change that animal's future - it creates space for another animal in need.** Each foster placement opens the door for shelters to take in more animals, easing overcrowding and giving more pets a chance at survival.

By opening your home, even temporarily, you become a **vital link in a lifesaving chain** - creating second chances, expanding capacity, and turning uncertainty into hope for animals who need it most.

In a home environment, foster animals are able to decompress, gain confidence, and show their true personalities away from the stress of the shelter. These quiet moments of growth not only help animals heal, but also **make them more likely to find loving forever homes, while creating much-needed space in shelters.**

Our fosters often describe the experience as deeply meaningful, filled with moments of transformation - shy animals learning to trust, playful energy emerging, and routines replacing fear. These changes help animals become healthier, happier, and more adoptable.

Fostering is more than temporary care. It's a partnership rooted in compassion. **Each goodbye carries purpose, because every animal leaves stronger, healthier, and ready for the next chapter.** When you foster, your home becomes a bridge between uncertainty and hope, changing an animal's life - and often your own - forever.

We make fostering easy by providing all the supplies our foster families need. From food and crates to medical care and support, we ensure you're fully equipped every step of the way. You provide the love and a safe place to land - we'll take care of the rest, so you can focus on helping an animal thrive.



DID YOU KNOW THAT YAKIMA HUMANE SOCIETY IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR DOG WALKING?

During regular business hours, community members are welcome to visit our Adoption Center and take one of our dogs for a walk in the nearby park.

Walks are typically 30 minutes and may vary depending on weather conditions. Walkers must be **18 years or older** and present a **valid ID** at check-in.

This program is a fun and rewarding way to enjoy some fresh air, get a little exercise, and give a homeless dog valuable enrichment and social time.

For more information, please call **509.457.6854** or email **adoption@yakimahumane.org**.

"SECOND CHANCES BEGIN WITH COMPASSION -AND COMPASSION BEGINS AT YAKIMA HUMANE SOCIETY."

Volunteering at an animal rescue is more than an act of kindness. **It's a commitment to speak up for lives that have no voice.**

Each animal arrives with a story shaped by loss or uncertainty. When you volunteer, you're part of the next step toward a better life. Simply being there lets them know that they're not forgotten.

The impact of volunteering is felt on both sides. Whether it's walking dogs, socializing cats, cleaning kennels, assisting with enrichment, helping at events, or transporting animals to partner rescues, volunteers create meaningful change. **Every role plays a vital part in helping animals heal and move one step closer to a loving home.** Volunteering also encourages empathy through real connection. Caring for animals who rely entirely on human compassion offers a **new perspective that extends far beyond the shelter walls.** That awareness carries into everyday life, shaping how volunteers connect with others and show up in the world.

Our volunteers are the heart of our organization. They show up with unwavering commitment, transforming the shelter from a temporary stop into a place of healing. Because of them, second chances are possible - and lives are changed every day. Our volunteers agree that this hands-on interaction with animals brings an important and necessary fulfillment. A strong sense of community forms among volunteers and staff who share the same commitment to animal welfare. **You are never alone in the work** - you are part of a compassionate team working toward a common goal.

If you've ever wondered how you could help but weren't sure where to start, this is your sign. Join us and discover how even a small amount of time can create lasting change - for animals, for the community, and for you.

No prior experience is needed, only a willingness to learn and a passion for helping animals. Volunteering is a rewarding way to build confidence, develop new skills, and make a real difference, even in just a few hours a week!

APRIL 19-25 IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK!

We invite you to help us celebrate our amazing volunteers and fosters with heartfelt gratitude and encouragement. It's a special time to thank those who generously give their time, energy, and talents to make a life-changing difference for animals in need.



IF YOU'RE READY TO GET INVOLVED, OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!

Contact Rachel at
Rachel@YakimaHumane.org
or **509.457.6854**

If you are in Kittitas County...

Contact Kristine at
kristine@YakimaHumane.org
or **509.925.7387**

You can also learn more online at
www.YakimaHumane.org



WHAT BEGAN AS A HOPEFUL LEAP OF FAITH TURNED INTO A STORY THAT WOULD ECHO FAR BEYOND YAKIMA.

In March of 2024, the Yakima Humane Society stepped onto a national stage called March Muttiness. A bracket-style, virtual fundraising competition where shelters from across the country rallied their communities for one goal: **to raise the most donations and change the most lives.** For YHS, the mission was clear. We weren't just fundraising; we were fighting for space to grow, for animals waiting for care, and for a future where compassion could stretch further than ever before.

Round by round, our supporters, **YOU, showed up.** Donations poured in, messages of encouragement followed, and our community rallied with a shared belief that together, we could do something extraordinary. By the final days of the competition, the momentum was unstoppable. In a dramatic championship round against Stray Rescue of St. Louis, we surged ahead - **raising more than \$71,000 in the final push alone.**

When the final numbers were tallied, YHS stood victorious as the 2024 National Champion, **raising a total of \$135,000** over the course of the entire tournament.

But the real win wasn't the title.

It was what the victory made possible: funding for critical shelter expansion, resources to meet growing needs, and renewed hope for countless animals who would now have a safer, brighter place to land.

Most stories would end there... This one didn't.

In 2025, YHS returned to March Muttiness with a bold, almost audacious goal: do it again. No shelter had ever claimed back-to-back championships - but we weren't deterred by history. We were inspired by it.

Once more, the journey unfolded through qualifying rounds, nail-biting matchups, and fierce national competition. With every advancement, the purpose grew clearer. This time, the stakes centered on our Spay and Neuter Clinic - a vital resource aimed at increasing surgery days and reducing pet overpopulation across the region.

Our community answered the call again.

As March drew to a close, we powered through the Final Four and into the championship round. When the final buzzer sounded, history was made. **Yakima Humane Society became the first organization ever to win March Muttiness twice in a row,** claiming the 2025 National Championship and cementing their place as one of the top-performing shelters in the nation.

Two years. Two championships. Countless lives changed.

March Muttiness became more than a competition - it became a testament to what's possible when passion meets purpose and a community unites behind animals who cannot speak for themselves. For Yakima Humane Society, the victories weren't about trophies or titles. They were about expansion, prevention, healing, and hope.

And if the past two years proved anything, it's this: when Yakima shows up, they don't just compete - they change the game.

As March approaches once again, the Yakima Humane Society is stepping back onto the March Muttiness court - this time with something even more powerful than momentum. We are entering the competition for a third time, not to defend a title, but to defend a mission that never pauses and a community that never stops caring.

Going for a third run isn't about chasing history - it's about continuing it. It's about the animals still waiting for their second chance, the **families counting on accessible spay and neuter services,** and the growing shelter that must keep pace with the needs of the region.

In December, we launched our first ever \$99 Spay and Neuter Program, and funds raised are critical to continuing this program!

Win or lose, entering March Muttiness again is a declaration. **A declaration that Yakima Humane Society will keep showing up.**

ALL ROUNDS

START: 11:00 AM EST
END: 11:00 PM EST

MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 QUALIFYING	2	3	4	5 ROUND 1 (TOP 32)	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 ROUND 2 (TOP 16)	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 ROUND 3 (TOP 8)	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 ROUND 4 (TOP 4)	27	28
29	30 FINALS	31	1	2	3	4

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST TOURNAMENT UPDATES, MATCHUPS AND WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT YHS AS WE WORK TOWARD MAKING HISTORY!



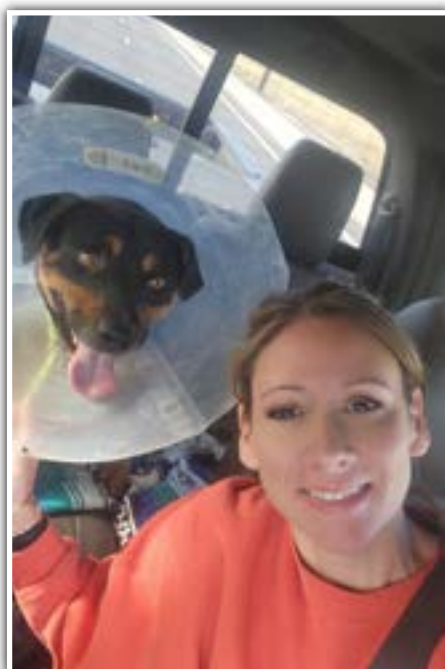
WHY SPAYING AND NEUTERING MATTERS

Spaying and neutering are more than routine procedures. They're a vital step in keeping pets healthy and communities safe. These surgeries can reduce the risk of serious health issues, prevent unwanted behaviors like roaming or aggression, and help pets live longer, happier lives.

On a broader scale, spaying and neutering prevents unplanned litters, reduces shelter overcrowding, and saves countless lives. In 2025, we took in more than 4,000 animals in need of a place to go, and we know we cannot adopt our way out of this crisis. All services are crucial, but spaying and neutering our pets is key to reducing animal overpopulation and ending animal suffering. Every surgery opens the door for healthier pets and fewer animals in need of rescue.

By choosing to spay or neuter your pet, you're not just caring for your furry friend - you're making a lasting impact on animals and families throughout our community.

Yet for many families, the cost of spaying or neutering a pet is simply out of reach. High veterinary costs can prevent pet owners from accessing this care, leaving pets at risk for health problems, unwanted litters, and stress on local shelters. Programs that offer low-cost spay and neuter services provide a lifeline - helping families care for their pets, protect communities, and reduce overpopulation, one surgery at a time.



This inspired our \$99 Spay and Neuter Program, because at Yakima Humane Society, we believe every pet deserves compassionate care and every family should be able to access it.

Thanks to generous donors and a dedicated team, this program is available to income-qualified residents of Yakima and Kittitas Counties.



DONATE TODAY TO SUPPORT THE \$99 SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM.

Together, we are creating a more compassionate community, one pet, one family, one surgery at a time.

EVERY DONATION WILL:

Save Lives: Help control pet overpopulation and prevent more animals from ending up in shelters.

Make Veterinary Care Accessible: Provide essential services to families who might otherwise be unable to afford them.

Improve Pet Health: Prevent reproductive cancers and other medical issues, helping pets live longer, healthier lives.

Support Stronger Human-Animal Bonds: Healthy, well-cared-for pets are happier and easier to live with, strengthening their connection with their families.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE 2026 CLAWS FOR PAWS THE BEST ONE YET!

Your generosity, energy, and unwavering support made this year truly unforgettable. Because of you, Yakima Humane Society can continue providing compassionate care to homeless and abandoned animals throughout the Yakima Valley. The funds raised at Claws for Paws will directly support our newly launched \$99 Spay and Neuter Program, while also helping us provide safe shelter, nutritious meals, and the loving attention animals need as they wait for their forever families.

We are deeply grateful for a community that stands up for vulnerable animals and believes in our mission. **Thank you for helping change lives - one paw at a time.**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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YAKIMA CHIEF HOPS™

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WASHINGTON WINE & SPIRITS



A FEW CENTS MAY NOT FEEL LIKE MUCH, BUT TOGETHER THEY CAN CHANGE LIVES.

With Walmart's **Spark Good Round Up**, you can round up your purchase and donate the change to a charity you believe in. Choosing us means that your everyday walmart.com purchases will help make a real impact.

The animals in our care rely on us for everything. We've put together **registries on both Amazon & Walmart** - choose whichever is easiest for you! Every item makes a difference, and we're grateful for your support.



sparkgood.



Walmart
Registry



amazon
registry

HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW ARTWORK AT OUR YAKIMA ADOPTION CENTER?

Hello! My name is **Sylvia Merczel**, and I'm the artist behind **Sparkle by Sylvia**.

As a child, I vividly remember the magic of waking up during Christmastime to find beautiful scenes painted on windows overnight. I used to wonder who created them - briefly convincing myself it might even be Santa. I remember thinking that if I ever had the chance when I grew up, I'd want to paint those murals myself. More than 50 years later, that childhood wonder - paired with a bit of talent - has grown into a dream come true.

Now in my eighth year as a self-taught professional mural artist, I create large-scale paintings on walls and windows year-round. After moving to Yakima from Surrey, British Columbia three years ago, I've fallen in love with bringing larger-than-life, joyful murals to my new hometown and the surrounding community.

My artistic inspiration comes from nature and warm, cozy environments. **I'm drawn to creating bold, relatable statement pieces that often feature people or animals, with a bright, storybook-style feel.** I choose cheerful, light-filled colors inspired by the flowers, trees, and skies around us - hoping that the happiness I feel while painting translates to those who experience the work.

One of my favorite parts of the process is painting the eyes and adding that final sparkle that brings a piece to life. I primarily work with acrylic paints and markers on exterior walls and windows, though I've recently begun exploring smaller-scale portrait work. No matter the size, I start each piece with loose, colorful strokes to build depth, finishing with playful "scribbles" and flicks of color to add movement and flair.

As a lifelong dog lover, animals have always been part of my family. So when the Yakima Humane Society reached out about an artistic project - a memorial mural honoring a beloved rescue dog named Bear - I eagerly said yes. Bear was adopted from YHS and deeply loved by his family, and it was an honor to paint a colorful, stylized portrait of him in the shelter's visitation room.

While working on the mural, I found myself thinking about future adopters and the powerful bond between humans and animals. **My hope is that the mural helps deepen that connection and reflects the love that comes full circle when a pet is rescued and adopted.** I'm excited to continue my artistic relationship with the Yakima Humane Society this coming spring, including a proposed large-scale mural that will creatively highlight the shelter's mission and impact in Yakima County.

Looking ahead, my upcoming projects include rallying local artists to collaborate on a large exterior community mural representing Yakima, attending local art venues to create live pet portraits and doodles, and continuing to beautify and spotlight local businesses through my mural work.

I invite you to visit the Yakima Humane Society to view my mural of Bear in the visitation room.

While you're there, consider spending time with the animals - or even taking a shelter dog for a walk. You can also find my artwork on display around Yakima at MultiCare Yakima Memorial Hospital and Salon Beyoutiful on Summitview.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL ART AND THE ANIMALS WHO INSPIRE IT.



FURRY FRIEND SLEEPOVERS NEEDED!

Give one of our shelter dogs a well-deserved break with a cozy sleepover! **A night (or two) in a home helps them relax, recharge, and enjoy a change of scenery** while they wait for their forever family. It also gives us valuable insight into how they do in a real-life setting.

Even just one night can make a world of difference. And the notes and feedback you share help us make better matches with future adopters.

Just look at Iggy—freshly bathed, sporting his pajamas, and more than ready for a comfy night away! He's packed up and patiently waiting for his sleepover buddy.

Want to give a dog a night off from the shelter? Reach out or stop by the Yakima Humane Society to learn more!





Humane Society of Central Washington
2405 W. Birchfield Rd - Yakima, WA 98901-8534

NEWS FROM THE ADOPTION CENTER

Starting **February 2**, Yakima Humane Society will be open **one hour later, until 6:00PM**, giving our community more time to meet and adopt our amazing animals.

Long workdays? After-school commitments? No problem - we've got you covered. More hours mean more chances for pets to find loving homes.

Stop by, say hello, and help us create more happy endings!



***THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR VERY FIRST
PAWS OF YAKIMA CALENDAR CONTEST
SUCH AN INCREDIBLE SUCCESS!***

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, WE RAISED OVER \$20,000 to help animals in our care - and the impact is still going strong.

Missed out? There's still time to grab your own calendar! A limited number are still available for purchase at our Adoption Center, so stop by and take home a piece of this pawsome community effort while supplies last.

