



# You Are The Oswego County Humane Society

Spring 2024

*We are approaching our big move...*

Issue 70

As you may have heard or read in our last issue, after decades of renting and leasing, the Oswego County Humane Society has purchased our very own building! This acquisition is a significant achievement, one that will enable us to expand our reach and impact in helping animals in need. In the last 6 months, we have been working diligently with architects and the city, seeking grants, collaborating matched funding opportunities, and creating a perfect plan for this space. There are so many things to consider!

As we embark on this exciting new chapter for the Oswego County Humane Society, we are filled with gratitude for the immense support we have received from our community, donors, and supporters. While there will be adjustments and temporary suspension of SNIP clinic services as we settle into our new space, we remain committed to our mission of providing care and shelter to animals who rely on us for a second chance at a loving home. This journey will take quite some time, so please be patient with staff, volunteers and program operations. Our foster network will continue to work hard caring for animals within the program and our strong relationships with local veterinary offices will help provide medical attention. Your understanding and patience during this transition period means the world to us, and we are incredibly grateful for your continued support. Together, we can continue make a difference in the lives of our furry friends and create a brighter future for all.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to Karen Hammond with HUNT Real Estate who helped us in this process and provided guidance and advice.



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NYS Registered Shelter/Rescue RR239 EIN: 16-1586001

# Why fostering is so important right now and every day!

We don't operate a shelter, but if you've ever been to our building you may have seen many little furry faces peeking at you from the different office spaces. We like keeping adoptable animals on-site because they are easy to introduce to potential adopters, and we know they are healthy and well-socialized.

We don't only help healthy animals though. Some animals come to us in need of medical care. Some need a little time to adjust to luxurious indoor living or learn to trust humans again. We rely on kind volunteers across Oswego County who open their homes and their hearts to unwanted and abandoned animals. We help animals only when we have foster homes to place them. The more foster homes, the more animals we can help.

Foster is a short-term way to make a long-term impact in the life of an animal. They are meant to stay with us a little while, recover from illness, or shake off the worries of their old life and begin life anew. Remember, keeping an animal in foster care also means keeping them out of a stressful shelter environment. Foster care gives us the opportunity to get to know them better as well, so we can find that absolutely perfect adoptive family to take on that lifetime commitment.

In our new building, we (eventually) plan to have a similar (but better) set-up for housing adoptable animals on-site. While we transition from old building to new building, we won't have spaces available for any animal right away. **The time to foster is now!**

OCHS makes fostering easy too! We provide all food, supplies, and equipment. We also pay all medical bills for our foster animals! Visit our website at [oswegohumane.org/foster](http://oswegohumane.org/foster) for more information.



*"Having fostered dogs and cats for more than 15 years, I know that no matter how much I like having my fosters in my home, seeing them matched with their fur-ever homes brings so much more joy to them, to me, and to their new families. Each time a foster finds a home, I know I have another spot open to a dog or cat in need. Sharing the fostering experience with my daughter has taught her the value of unconditional love for animals and has provided her with an opportunity to take part in giving back to our community."* --Laura A.

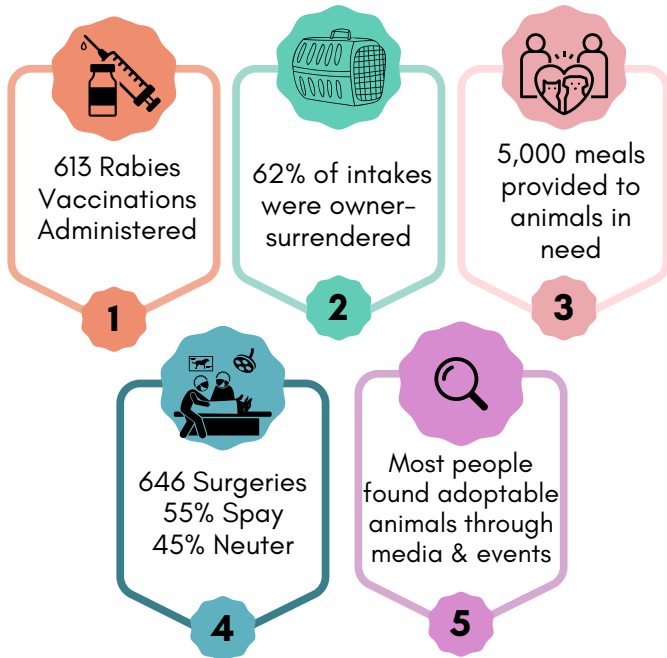
## Do you have a small space on your front counter that can help make a difference?

Before the start of the pandemic, OCHS had nearly 30 canisters placed on countertops and at registers across the county, helping to bring in thousands of dollars in donations each year. Currently, even with the addition of several in 2023, there are only 21 canisters. Last year, the collection of small change added up to \$3,500! If we could surpass that this year, we can help more animals in need. Staff or volunteers will always be available to empty the canister for you. Please contact the office for more information.





Because of **you**, our impact is profound, see our 2023 highlights:



The Oswego County Health Department Rabies Clinics are up and running this spring on Wednesdays from 6-8 PM

**3/27 Scriba DPW Garage**  
**5/1 Fulton Community Center**  
**5/15 Pulaski DPW Garage**

This is by appointment only and you can call 315-349-3564 within one week of the clinic to get scheduled. The suggested donation is \$7.00.

Remember, it's the Law to have all dogs, cats, and ferrets over the age of 4 months vaccinated against rabies!



**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
OSWEGO COUNTY

From a forsaken abode to a sanctuary of boundless affection



On Halloween day last year, our staff joined a Oswego County Sheriffs Deputy to remove 4 cats from an abandoned property. In holiday fashion, they were all named after popular snack brands. Following a wellness check, round of antibiotics, vaccinations, and spay/neuter surgeries, they were cleared for adoption. One by one, Tostitos watched his mates walk away with new families, but wondered why didn't anyone choose to adopt him? He was the whole bag of chips: social, friendly, played well with others, loved snuggles, and while he enjoyed his frequent change of companions in foster care, he yearned for a forever family of his own. Luckily, his patience paid off, and not only was he welcomed into a loving home, but there were other animals too, and he loves them just as much!

*"It has been just a bit more than one week and "Tito" is doing so well! He is a perfect addition to the household, and continues to delight me, every day! The two buddies on the couch took place the next day after Tito arrived! He and Jenkins made "fast" friends. With the birds, he is ultra curious, yet smartly careful! Love him to pieces!!! He is "owning" the household!" -- Deb A.*



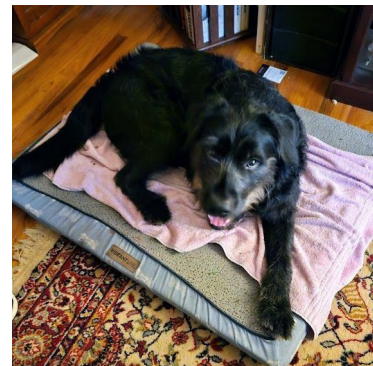
# Zeus is looking for a safe home and a fresh start



Zeus is a mighty dog, worthy of Mount Olympus and all the fanfare. He is a very good boy and knows commands, such as "sit," "shake," and "come." He is a very big dude at 86 lbs, but also very gentle with taking treats and food. He acts more like a lap dog, so be careful if you allow him on the sofa or bed-- there might not be room for you too!

While Zeus came from an unfortunate situation that was unsafe for humans, he's no worse for the wear. In foster care, he still trusts that there are good people in the world that can provide a safe, loving home with a lifetime of companionship. He really is thriving in his foster home and has been working on not jumping on people when he's excited (which is a lot of the time!). He needs some confidence for car rides, but that just may be because he doesn't know how to move his own behemoth body into a vehicle. Zeus is a people-pleaser and looks forward to finding a forever home.

**Could that be with you?**



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## A CONSTANT COMPANION COMES HOME

After nearly twenty years of volunteering for the Oswego County Humane Society, as well as several other local animal welfare groups we joined the Constant Companion program and became a monthly donor to the Humane Society. Here's why?

During the coldest weather of the season yet my husband opened our front door to let a guest out. And in a flash, our cat, Sunshine, ran out the open door. I was so upset because Sunshine had never been outside before and I was afraid he would never find his way home.

My husband went up and down our street to all our neighbors to ask for their help to look for him. I called my friend, Jo Piersma, one of the founders of the Humane Society, and she told me that we were doing exactly the right thing by contacting our neighbors and keeping watch. She told me that cats don't typically run away like dogs. They hide . . . and he was probably nearby. In spite of her reassurances, I was still very upset.

Every day I waited for our phone to ring, but nothing! Then, one week from his escape, Sunshine walked back in the front door that we had been leaving open for him. And thank God he came back!

We called all our neighbors to thank them for their vigilance in keeping a look out for our lost cat and we locked that door for good.

Through our recent traumatic experience with a lost pet, we realized how important the work of the Humane Society is! They provide help to pets and their people and they have the expertise to know what to do about problems like a lost pet. This is why we became monthly donors, to make sure the Oswego County Humane Society is there for everyone when we need them the most.

We hope more of you will join us. -George & Carol Darling

## Upcoming Events

**18** March  
Monday

**Fajita Grill  
Fundraiser**

**2** April  
Tuesday

**Oswego County Health Dept.  
Animal Health Day**

**6** April  
Saturday

**Chicken BBQ  
Fundraiser**

**18-19** May  
Sat-Sun

**Oliver B. Paine  
Spring Plant Fundraiser**