

PAW STREET JOURNAL

Spring 2026 at Kentucky Humane Society

In this issue:

Initiatives for Eastern Kentucky Horses

Puppy Bowl XXII

Kitten Season



Letter from Alisa

Dear Friends,

Every day at the Kentucky Humane Society, animals arrive in need of a second chance. Every day, because of people like you, they get one! Your generosity fuels everything we do, from life-saving medical care to finding loving forever homes.

This spring, one of our most touching stories was Lilo's. She came to us in need of urgent medical care. Thanks to our dedicated teams, Lilo received the treatment she needed, grew stronger in a loving foster home, and found her ultimate second chance through adoption!

We're also proud to announce our PZP initiative in Magoffin County. Our equine team is using this safe and effective contraceptive vaccine, making a proactive and positive impact on the free-roaming horse population in Eastern Kentucky.

And if you need a smile, earlier this year, two KHS superstars once again took the national stage at Puppy Bowl XXII on Animal Planet! Wynonna, a three-legged Shih Tzu mix, refused to let her physical limitations hold her back—scoring a touchdown on the big day! She even got to join me in walking across the stage at the Mayor's State of the City address, bringing well-deserved attention to shelter pets.

With warmer days ahead, kitten season is here. Through our continued partnership with the Purrfect Day Café, grant funding from national partners, and our incredible group of foster caregivers, we are better equipped than ever to care for the influx of tiny, vulnerable kittens who need us. You can help by fostering, donating or adopting. Every act of kindness makes a difference during this busy time!

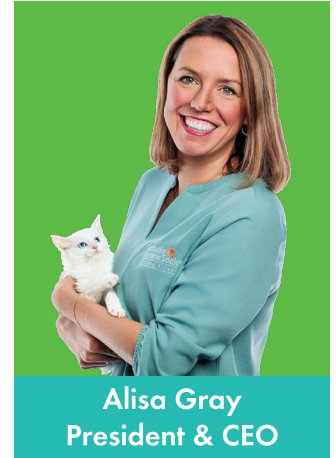
We are grateful for every way you choose to support our mission—whether you join us at our events, adopt one of our amazing pets, or leave a legacy for shelter animals through a planned gift. However you give, your support ensures our life-saving work continues for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of the KHS family.

With Gratitude,



Alisa Gray
President & CEO



Alisa Gray
President & CEO

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Lilo's Transformation

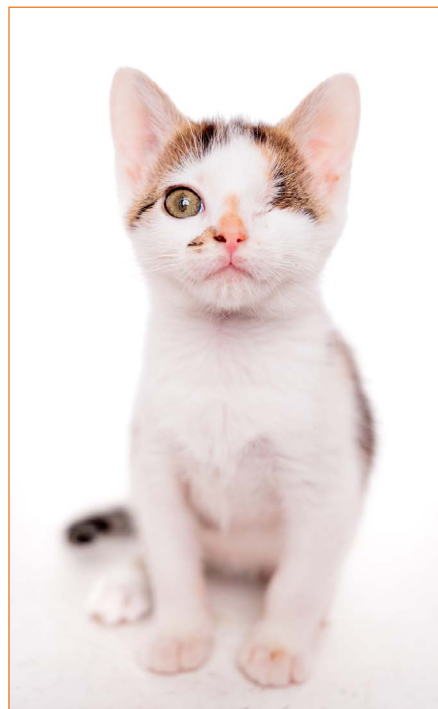
At just a few weeks old, Lilo arrived at the Kentucky Humane Society in heartbreaking condition and fighting to survive. Lilo only weighed about 210 grams and had a severe injury to her left eyeball.

Lilo's prognosis was touch-and-go for a few days, but thanks to a dedicated foster and frequent overnight feedings, Lilo began gaining weight quickly—nearly 100 grams in just a week!

Despite gaining weight, Lilo's eye began to swell uncontrollably. Her small size and fragile condition made sedation a risk, but left untreated, her eye could have ruptured and caused her untold amounts of pain while riddling her tiny body with infection. So, we showered Lilo in kisses and prepped her for emergency surgery.

Our veterinary team removed her nearly ruptured eye and was by her side when she woke up. Then, she was reunited with her foster mom to adjust to her "new normal" from the comfort of her temporary home.

Since her surgery, Lilo blossomed. She's curious, confident and loves people. We're happy to share that she was adopted alongside another kitty named Alastor!





Game-Changing Initiative for Eastern Kentucky Horses

We're thrilled to share a major initiative for free-roaming horses in Eastern Kentucky, led by our incredible Equine C.A.R.E. team. KHS is leading the way in proactive, humane fertility control by using Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP)—a safe, effective contraceptive vaccine that helps stabilize wild horse populations without harming the horses.

For more than two decades, abandoned domestic horses have formed unmanaged herds on former mine sites throughout the Appalachian region. These horses are a beloved part of the landscape, but unchecked reproduction has led to overcrowding, food shortages, roadway hazards and environmental damage. Traditional methods, such as rescue

and rehoming, can't keep up with the growing population. PZP changes that.

For over 20 years, PZP has been successfully used in mustangs, urban deer populations and zoo animals, offering a 90%+ effectiveness rate in preventing pregnancy. It's reversible, non-hormonal and does not cause permanent sterility. By using PZP on free-roaming mares, KHS can help reduce the number of foals born each year and assist in managing herd population.

This is a game-changer for animal welfare. We're shifting from reactive rescues to a proactive, humane solution that perfectly complements our ongoing equine programs in Appalachia. Be sure to follow @khsequine on Facebook for updates.



Team KHS Makes Waves at Puppy Bowl XXII

On February 8, 2026, millions of animal-lovers nationwide once again tuned in to watch the cutest sporting event of the year: Animal Planet's Puppy Bowl! This widely viewed program highlights the hard work of shelters across the country while showcasing adorable, adoptable puppies like our KHS superstars, Wynonna and Showgirl.

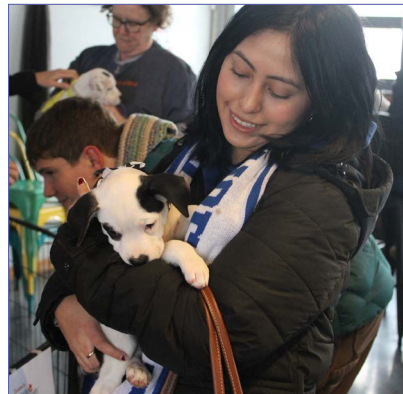
Wynonna, a three-legged Shih Tzu mix, did not let her physical limitations hold her back from stardom. She made an appearance in the "puppy combine" and even scored a touchdown on the big day! She and her counterpart, Showgirl, earned coveted spots on Team Fluff and helped bring home the Lombarky Trophy. It was a wonderful honor to



have our staff member Baylee Phillips interviewed, highlighting our work to such a large audience.

To celebrate this fun day, PG&J's Dog Park Bar hosted a Puppy Bowl Viewing Party, where supporters gathered to cheer on Wynonna and Showgirl as they tackled the competition. We cheered and laughed as cuteness ensued.

The Puppy Bowl is an uplifting way to shine a light on the lifesaving work KHS does every day. Over 15 million people tuned into Animal Planet, making it the most-watched non-sports telecast of the day! Plus local media had a blast featuring our KHS celebrities leading up to the big day. Thank you for being part of Team KHS!



Kitten Season is Approaching – Here’s How You Can Help

As the weather warms, “Kitten Season” begins. This seasonal cycle, driven by longer daylight hours and milder temperatures, brings a surge in kitten litters across Louisville. From March to November, shelter intakes at the Kentucky Humane Society increase dramatically, and the need for community support grows right along with them.

Here in Louisville, we’re fortunate to have an adoption partnership with the Purrfect Day Cat Café (PDC) on Bardstown Road. Since 2018, they have found homes for over 12,600 cats and kittens, placing 1,600–1,800 animals every year. To put that in perspective, PDC is the highest-adopting cat cafe in the country, with the average cafe finding homes for around 200 cats annually!

PDC also made meaningful investments last year to expand their capacity during kitten season. An expanded downstairs cat lounge, paired with a new space upstairs, allows for adoptable adult cats and kittens to be featured simultaneously. This has resulted in a 400% average increase in adult adoptions, month over month, during kitten season.

I hope you find pride in the impact this partnership has made on your community — and more importantly, I hope you find ways this year to support the journey we are taking in 2026 and beyond.

— Chuck Patton, Purrprietor,
Purrfect Day Cat Café



There are three powerful ways you can help during Kitten Season!

Foster: KHS needs a variety of foster caregivers to open their homes to help adult cats and kittens alike. Our staff will provide you with the necessary information and supplies for any type of placement, whether it be bottle babies, weaned kittens, mamas and babies or adult cats. Visit kyhumane.org/foster to learn more and sign up.

Donate: Kitten supplies are always gratefully accepted at our Sam Swope Pet TLC at 241 Steedly Drive in Louisville. Kitten milk replacement (KMR), bottles and feeding syringes, kitchen scales, microwavable heating disks and monetary donations make a big difference for growing little kittens. Visit kyhumane.org/ways-to-give/wishlist for a comprehensive list of needed supplies.

Adopt: Giving a kitten (or two) a happy home is a wonderful way to make a lasting impact during kitten season. In fact, last year nearly 2,000 kittens were adopted from KHS in addition to nearly 1,500 adult cats! The saying “two is better than one” rings true when it comes to adopting kittens. Having a buddy around helps young kitties grow emotionally and behaviorally as they approach adulthood. Plus, there’s nothing better than saving two lives and getting twice as much love in return.



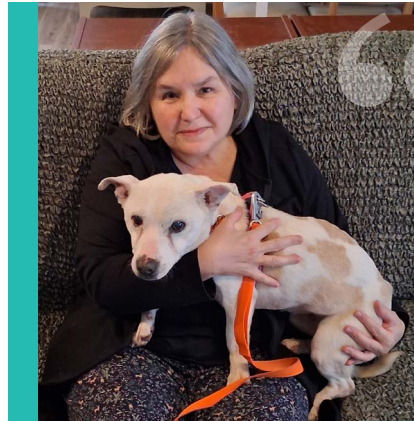
KHS was recently awarded nearly \$10,000 from the Orphan Kitten Club to purchase three specialized kitten incubators for critically ill neonatal kittens, along with formula and other essential supplies for foster caregivers. The Joanie Bernard Foundation also awarded KHS a \$50,000 grant to provide spay/neuter surgeries for 400 cats in rural Kentucky counties via KHS’ CARE-a-van mobile clinic. Thanks to both partners for helping KHS positively impact the lives of cats, kittens and the people who love them!



Donor Feature: Alma Kuhlemann & Tom Stewart

Alma Kuhlemann and Tom Stewart’s commitment to the Kentucky Humane Society is rooted in something every pet guardian desires: wanting their pets to be cared for no matter what. When the couple included KHS in their estate plans, they became members of our Lifelong Friends Society, and enrolled their senior dog Diva in our Pet Guardianship Program, which ensures KHS will be there for your pets when you no longer can. For Alma and Tom, that promise meant everything.

Though Diva crossed the rainbow bridge, Alma knew her story with animals was far from over. She began volunteering and fostering senior dogs. Currently, Alma and Tom are caring for Bell, a sweet 10-year-old mixed breed. “Bell has a sweet disposition, but her virtues don’t stop there,” Alma shared. “It is a source of joy to experience Bell’s curiosity in action. In the great outdoors, this little detective takes to observing and smelling everything that comes her way.”



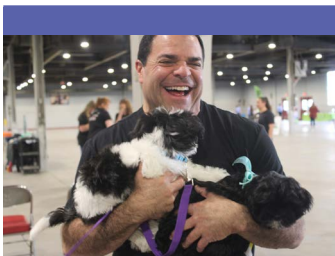
Volunteering with KHS has brought me back to the basics — allowing me to discover what really matters to me: belonging to a community of people centered on the welfare of innocent animals in need.”

— Alma Kuhlemann

Witnessing KHS’s work firsthand only reinforced what Alma and Tom already knew: including KHS in their estate plans was the right decision. If you are interested in learning more, please email development@kyhumane.org or call 502-515-3147.

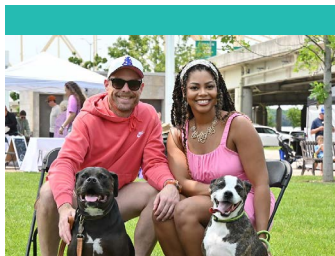


Upcoming Events



Hammer’s Lou Adopts

Hammer’s Lou Adopts returns on Saturday, May 9 from 12-4 p.m. at the Kentucky Exposition Center Pavilion. KHS and Metro Animal Services are teaming up with eight other shelters to match hundreds of canines with their forever families at this mega-adoption event, sponsored by Isaacs & Isaacs Personal Injury Lawyers. For more details, visit kyhumane.org/louadopts.



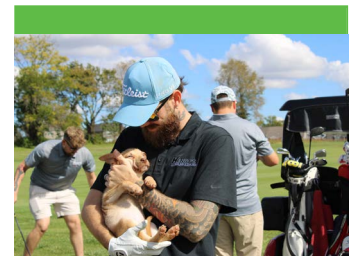
Waggin’ Tail Festival

Join us at Waggin’ Tail Festival on Sunday, June 7 from 12-4 p.m. at Waterfront Park’s Festival Plaza. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under or \$25 for a four pack. This dog-friendly event features fun vendors and activities for the whole family. Visit kyhumane.org/waggintail to get your tickets today!



Tuxes & Tails

Our 2026 Tuxes & Tails Gala, presented by Mister “P” Express and Lifetime Wealth Strategies, is on Saturday, August 8, at the Louisville Marriott Downtown. Guests are in for a fun-filled evening featuring lively entertainment, cocktails, live and silent auctions and of course, special four-legged friends. Visit kyhumane.org/tt to learn more.



Pars for Pets

Mark your calendars for Monday, October 12, and join KHS at our Pars for Pets golf scramble at the University of Louisville Golf Club. Your foursome will enjoy golf, lunch, complimentary beverages, prizes and puppy snuggles, all while supporting our mission. Visit kyhumane.org/pars-for-pets to reserve your spot.



Happy Tails

Congrats to all Adoptees!



After waiting in the shelter for over 150 days, Roscoe found his new home.



Lucy found a happy loving home to grow up in. Yay Lucy!



After enduring eyelid repair surgery, Truffle found his purr-fect match.



Duke was recently adopted from our Willow Hope Farm. Congrats Duke!



Nala found her new besties at the Purrfect Day Cat Café.



Fig found his new home at our Pup Up Adoption Event at Feeders Pet Supply!



Our sweet senior Blackberry was adopted from our East Campus.



Our boy Homer is getting lots of snuggles outside of the shelter. Happy Tails, Homer!

Contact Us

Sam Swope Pet TLC

241 Steedly Drive
Louisville, KY 40214

Adoptions

Monday–Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Admissions by Appointment

East Campus

1000 Lyndon Lane, Suite B
Louisville, KY 40222

Adoptions

Monday–Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

S.N.I.P. Clinic

4918 Preston Highway
Louisville, KY 40213
502-636-3491

Fern Creek Pet Resort

5225 Bardstown Road
Louisville, KY 40291
502-499-1910

Purrfect Day Café

1741 Bardstown Road
Louisville, KY 40205
502-916-5051

Willow Hope Farm

4416 Todds Point Road
Simpsonville, KY 40067
502-272-1068

Adoptions

502-272-1070

Pet Retention Services

502-509-4738

Donations

502-515-3145

Volunteers

502-272-1052

Behavior Training

502-253-2883



#16996



Our lifesaving work is only possible because of compassionate animal lovers like you. KHS is a private non-profit, and we count on donations from our loyal supporters. Thank you for caring! Give now at kyhumane.org/donate.