



VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 · WINTER 2023-24

# THE PAW PRINT

Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation Newsletter



## NKAWF Awards \$25,000.00 in Grants to Shelters, Rescues, and TNR Groups

Our first grant funding cycle was a major success this year as we were able to provide \$25,000.00 to 10 animal welfare organizations throughout our service area. We were able to provide grants for capital improvements such as a new water line to Doniphan County Pet Rescue and new cat kennels for Leavenworth County Humane Society. We also helped provide technology upgrades like new computers for Lawrence Humane. The bulk of our grant awards went towards spaying and neutering initiatives to help shelter and rescue pets, trap-neuter-release programs, and public clinics.

You can view all of our 2023 grant recipients at [www.nkawf.org/grants](http://www.nkawf.org/grants). We would like to thank our donors for making the funding of these important projects possible.

**Silver  
Transparency  
2023**

**Candid.**

Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation has been awarded the prestigious Silver Transparency award from Candid. This recognition is because of our commitment to transparency, responsible stewardship, and dedication to our vision.

You can donate with confidence knowing that your support will be put to good use helping animal welfare organizations save more lives throughout NE Kansas.



We joined NBC's nationwide Clear The Shelters adoption promotion as a local sponsor this year. NKAWF hosted a dog adoption event with Jeremiah Bullfrogs and Hill's Pet Nutrition and awarded a \$500 grant to Auburn based S.C.A.R.S. The Foundation is committed to helping raise awareness for pet adoption and finding solutions to combat shelter overcrowding.



READ MORE EXCLUSIVE POSTS ON OUR BLOG!  
[WWW.NKAWF.ORG/BLOG](http://WWW.NKAWF.ORG/BLOG)



# The Evidence is Clear: Cruelty Stoppers is Much Needed Program

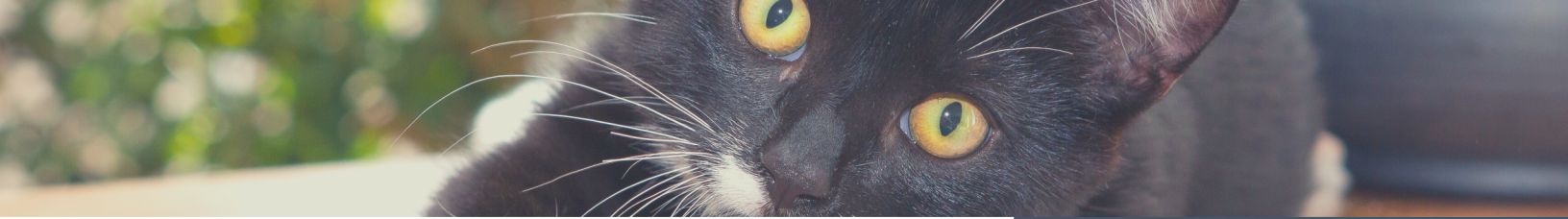
BY JUSTIN BROKAR, PRESIDENT & CEO | NORTHEAST KANSAS ANIMAL WELFARE FOUNDATION

In 2021 we announced the formation of a new initiative to pursue justice on behalf of mistreated pets. With the help of the Shawnee County District Attorney, animal control, and local law enforcement we launched the Cruelty Stoppers fund as a way to provide a cash incentive for individuals to report animal abuse and neglect. Since then, we have continued to meet with crime prevention and law enforcement agencies, shelters, veterinarians, and investigators to get a better understanding of the challenges with these types of cases as well as how we can help.

We currently have a need to increase the size of this fund to expand the initiative to be a greater tool for preventing abuse. With an increase in support, we can expand the program to help train and equip law enforcement, investigators, and prosecutors with the resources they need to actually investigate, apprehend, and prosecute animal abusers. Like everyone else, I was horrified and deeply saddened by the murder of Zoey Felix, a 5-year old in Topeka. It was reported by KSNT that the perpetrator who allegedly committed this violent act has a criminal history which involves animal abuse. **Just 4 years prior to raping and murdering Zoey, the accused offender was arrested by Amarillo police and charged with the inhumane treatment of an animal.** The correlation between animal abuse and future violent acts against people including rape and murder cannot be ignored. If we can stop animal abusers from continuing to torture helpless animals and put them behind bars where they belong, we can prevent crimes against people.

Some studies state that as many as 90% of rapists, murderers, and other dangerous criminals got their start at violent and sick acts by harming animals before eventually moving on to hurt humans. The Cruelty Stoppers fund administered by Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation can be a catalyst for change. We need your help to fully fund this initiative. Additional resources are needed for the following:

- **Cash Rewards:** The incentive to report animal abuse remains an important component. See something. Say something. One report of abuse can lead to the dismantling of an entire dog fighting empire which is often involved with human trafficking and illegal drugs.
- **Training & Resources for Law Enforcement:** Rural communities have far less resources to deal with crimes involving animals. We will use Cruelty Stoppers as a way to help train officers and provide resources for them to carry out thorough and diligent investigations. We are already sponsoring law enforcement trainings provided by the Humane Society of the United States.
- **Sheltering, Rehabilitation, and Transport:** One of the biggest obstacles for stopping abuse, hoarding, and other forms of animal mistreatment is that there is a lack of space and resources for the pets to go during the investigation and subsequent court proceedings.



## Continued from Previous Page: Cruelty Stoppers

Oftentimes the pet victims are housed in vet clinics or animal shelters with no financial support to help get them rehabilitated and adopted to a forever family.

- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** We plan to launch a grassroots campaign to raise awareness about Cruelty Stoppers, partner with local media, and provide downloadable resources to equip others with the tools to raise awareness about the correlation between animal abuse and other crimes.

In order for a program like Cruelty Stoppers to be successful, we need to address the needs of law enforcement, prosecutors, and the shelters. Just reporting the crimes is not enough. Our renewed approach to this program will focus on every level of animal abuse cases from the reporting of the crime throughout the entire process. We do not want to learn that heinous criminals could have been stopped if the early signs involving animals weren't ignored.

Please consider making a donation to Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation today to help us continue expanding programs like Cruelty Stoppers. You can learn more about this initiative and everything else we're doing on our website at [www.nkawf.org](http://www.nkawf.org) or by following us on social media. You can also reach me at (785) 838-5176 or [justin@nkawf.org](mailto:justin@nkawf.org) to discuss our mission and how we can work together to help more pets.



Do not let animal abuse go unreported.

**Spot something?  
Say Something.**

Always contact local law enforcement.

Congratulations to our first employee, Bill Acree, on a well deserved retirement! Bill's career impacted countless lives, both human and pets. He built relationships that resulted in millions of dollars in support for abused, neglected, and homeless pets. His contributions to our movement can be seen and felt in shelters close to home and far away. Bill has helped consult and mentor animal welfare professionals and organizations throughout the U.S. and abroad. In 2019 he helped usher in a new era for the Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation as we expanded to help shelters, rescues, and human-animal support agencies throughout 25 counties. We will continue to grow and succeed thanks to Bill's leadership and passion!





# Memorials



*Marie Hogan*



*Kenny Farrington*



*Beverly Lueers*



*Jake Mackey*



## Leaving a Legacy of Humane Compassion

### MEMORIAL GIFTS & ESTATE PLANNING

Memorial gifts are a kind way to celebrate the life and legacy of loved ones. We consider it a tremendous honor to be the beneficiary of such support. When gifting a donation in memory or honor of someone, NKAWF can notify the family about your contribution. Memorial contributions can be made in memory of a person or a pet that has passed away or in celebration of a special occasion or date.

Your will or trust allows you to distribute your property as you wish for friends, family, and causes that you care about. The following are ways that you can make a bequest to the Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation:

#### Donate a Percentage of your Estate

I give and bequeath \_\_% of my estate or trust to the Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation.

#### Make a Specific Dollar Amount Bequest

I give and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_ to the Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation.

#### Make a Specific Gift of Property

I give and bequeath my home and property located at \_\_\_ to the Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation.

#### Make a Residuary Bequest

I give and bequeath all (or a specific amount or percentage) of the residue of my estate to the Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation.

#### Contingent Gift

If (name of beneficiary) does not survive me, give his/her share of my estate/trust to the Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation

Learn more about memorial giving and estate planning options on our website at [www.nkawf.org](http://www.nkawf.org) or call us at (785) 838-5176. We would be honored to talk to you about giving opportunities.