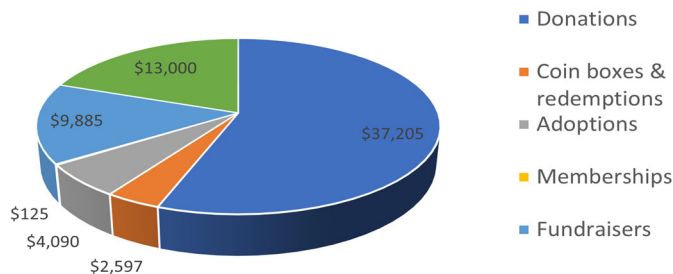
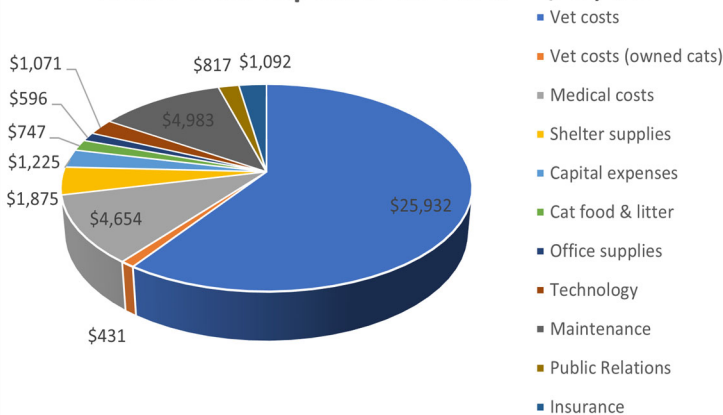


PAWS Total Revenue for 2023 = \$66,902



PAWS Total Expenses for 2023 = \$43,423



FELINE FIX
 by FIVE MONTHS™

it saves lives

Spay/neuter clinics available to low income households. Call (207) 231-4527 for more information.

Fascinating Cat Teeth Facts

- Cats have canine teeth, too.
- Kittens have more teeth than humans.
- Cats don't get cavities but their teeth accumulate tartar and can become absessed.
- 90% of cats over the age of 6 suffer from dental problems which can cause other health issues.
- Cats need to have a dental check-up every year or two after the age of 5.

DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS WELCOMED!!!

Each year PAWS spends approximately \$40,000 to maintain its current service. Through fundraising and donations, we are able to continue helping homeless and owned cats. Please help us out by using the following coupon or donating through PayPal on our website: <http://www.ourvalleypaws.org>

Complete this form to make a donation or to become a member of PAWS. Members will have the right to vote at our annual meetings in May. Also, members will receive a membership card via regular mail.

Any donations are tax deductible.

☐ Donation and/or
 ☐ Membership
 [☐ Lifetime \$150
 ☐ Family \$25
 ☐ Student/Senior \$10
 ☐ Single \$15
]

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ DONATION AMOUNT: _____

Make check out to PAWS and mail to:
 PAWS Animal Welfare Society, Inc.. PO Box 94, Fort Kent Mills, ME 04744
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

ISSUE

13
2023



PAWS
Animal Welfare Society, Inc.



PAWS helped the following homeless cats in 2023:

SHELTER ACTIVITY:

At shelter as of Jan.1, 2023 - 13

In foster care - 3

Cats taken into shelter - 105

Spayed/neutered - 46

Extra medical care (x-rays, dentistry, etc.) - 22

Adopted - 76

Transferred to other shelters - 14

Returned to owner - 4

Euthanized - 1

Died - 1

At shelter as of Dec.31, 2022 - 21

In foster care - 4

CATS CAME FROM:

Allagash- 4	Presque Isle - 1
Eagle Lake - 6	St. Agatha - 3
Fort Kent - 23	St. David - 5
Frenchville - 14	St. Francis - 4
Grand Isle - 6	Sinclair - 1
Hodgkin - 2	Van Buren - 13
Madawaska - 20	Wallagrass - 1

SUPPORT OF OWNED CATS:

of cats s/n through PAWS S/N program - 124

of cats s/n directly from PAWS - 0

of cat owners that received financial assistance from PAWS for emergency medical care – 4

Total of owned cats helped by PAWS - 128



2023 in review...

2023 has been another successful year for Paws Animal Welfare Society, Inc. We were able to take 105 cats into our shelter, Valley Cat Haven, and provide spay/neuter and/or medical assistance to an additional 128 owned cats. As a result 233 cats now have healthier and happier lives and hundreds of kittens will not be born.

2023 was the year of our 15th anniversary which we celebrated in August. Since our founding, PAWS has helped approximately 3000 cats either directly by taking homeless cats into our care or by helping owned cats by providing spay/neuter services and/or medical care. In 2008 when the late Pris Daigle and a few volunteers decided to do something about the overpopulation of cats in Fort Kent and surrounding communities the situation was dire. In addition to the cats and kittens that suffered and died on a daily basis, the police department in Fort Kent had to resort to killing scores of cats every month. Since then, the situation has changed dramatically. Responsible pet ownership is now becoming the norm in most homes and the number of homeless cats has decreased significantly and is manageable in most communities.

In addition to fulfilling our ongoing mission this past year, we have made improvements at the shelter and in our operation. We have been fortunate to gain a few more volunteers and to improve our working environment. We have provided better protection for our technical equipment, created an intake room for our new arrivals, constructed a sturdier base for our sign, added a storm door to our main entrance and had our walls repainted. Also, we now have internet service at the shelter which allows us to view what is happening at the shelter from our homes. And, we have established a relationship with the veterinary clinic in Florenceville, N.B., Canada.

We have done very well again this year with re. to support from the communities in the St. John Valley and beyond and we are very grateful. Monetary donations and donations of supplies have increased and several people with carpentry, electrical and painting skills have donated their time and effort to improve our facility this year (see Many Thanks to our Donors). And, the Elmina Sewall Foundation unexpectedly awarded us additional grant money for our spay/neuter clinics.

In summary, we have been working hard for the cats and the people of the St. John Valley for over 15 years and we are striving to continue to do so. But, in addition to the material resources needed, we must have volunteers who are able and willing to carry on when the current volunteers can no longer do so. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining us, please let us know.

In Memory



Idle



Kibbles



Budding volunteers Gracie, Simon and Rosie took part in our facepainting festivity at our 15th Anniversary Celebration.



Casen Raymond, a dedicated socializer doing what he loves best with Mickey.

Board Members

Garry Bouchard
President
Connie Ouellette
Vice-President
Jean Cobb
Co-Treasurer
Diane Castonguay
Co-Treasurer
Connie Michaud
Secretary
Cathy Clark
Vickie Gagnon

Happy Endings

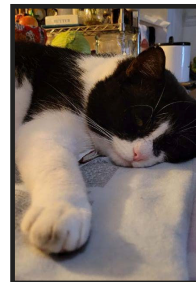
An average of nine cats come into our shelter each month. The majority of them are found outside and are homeless. Others are facing homelessness because their owners have died or moved into a facility or the owner can no longer keep the cat for some other reason. The cats range in age from kittens to senior cats, in temperament from feral to friendly. They may have been loved and well cared for or neglected and abused. They all need our help and are usually frightened and apprehensive when they arrive. We give them whatever they need to heal physically and emotionally and they stay with us until we find a loving and suitable home for each of them.

Although most of our cats are adopted within a few weeks or months, some can be with us a year or more. The following three cats are examples of those who had to wait for their happy endings:

1. **Heathcliff** was living in a wooded area of Van Buren when he was found in January of 2021. Heathcliff was only a few years old but he had obviously had not been treated well. He was quite feral; he would hiss, growl and lash out at anyone who came near his kennel which made it difficult for us to work with him. Heathcliff was tested for any feline diseases, treated for any parasites, neutered and given rabies and distemper vaccinations. As the months went by and he was allowed the freedom to roam in the building, he began to trust us more and he became less aggressive. We have several volunteers who are "cat whisperers". Finally, in November of 2022 a family adopted him. They continued to work with him and after several months he became the affectionate cat that he was meant to be. Heathcliff's new name is Teddy.



2. **Panda Bear** was found in February of 2023 and brought to us. He had been roaming the streets of Madawaska for three years. Unlike Heathcliff, Panda Bear was friendly but the years had taken a toll on him physically. He received the same medical treatments as Heathcliff plus he needed dentistry which was done. Also, his ears were infected and packed with debris. As a result he had to have ear medications and ear cleanings for months. He was adopted in June but returned to us in July. He was adopted again in October and he is now happy and safe in his permanent home. Panda Bear has a new name, Harlan J. Peabody and goes by P-Bar.



3. **Cherish** was found in Madawaska in April of 2022 and brought to us. She had been outside all winter and was taking shelter in someone's garage and under a neighboring person's porch. Cherish was pregnant and two days after arriving at our shelter she gave birth to four kittens. Cherish was not feral but she had been traumatized by being abandoned and was, understandably, afraid of people. In spite of her fear, she let us care for her and her kittens. However, she remained cautious and shy for many months. As a result, she kept a low profile and was not apt to be seen by potential adopters. Finally, she responded to our kindness and loved to be petted. Still, no one adopted her so one of our board members decided to adopt her and this sweet little girl is now in a loving home.



Unfortunately, too many cats are homeless that would not be if every pet owner had their cats spayed or neutered by the age of 4-6 months old. Failing to do so, is not fair to the owned cat or the other cats and people in the community. To make it affordable for everyone to do so, we offer a low-cost spay/neuter program on a regular basis. To take advantage of this program, please call Connie at 231-4527.

Facts About Maine Coon Cats

Did you know that Maine Coon cats are not as common as it appears? They are distinctly different from the regular Domestic Short Hair (DSH) cats. One common misconception is that an "M" on the cat's forehead means it is a Maine Coon. It does not; many DSH cats have the "M" on their foreheads. A Maine Coon is larger and weighs more than a DSH, its head is slightly longer than it is wide, the ears are wide at the base tapering to tips with tufts. The coat is heavy and shaggy; there are two coats, a soft under coat with a top coat of longer guard hairs. They have a prominent ruff on their chests. If a cat does not have these characteristics it is not a Maine Coon.

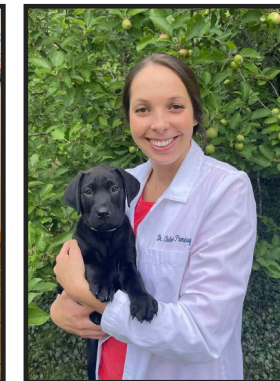


Breaking News

Dr. Christiana Yule retired from her veterinary practice at Fort Kent Animal Hospital on March 1, 2024. She plans to relocate to South Carolina to be near her family. She has provided excellent veterinary care to countless pets in the St. John Valley during her 23 year career here. And she has been essential to our success for the past 15 years. We are very grateful for her years of service and we wish her a long and enjoyable retirement. She will be missed.



Dr. Christiana Yule



Dr. Chelsea Pomeroy

Dr. Chelsea Pomeroy is now the owner of FKAH and the veterinarian. We are happy to welcome her to this area. Dr. Pomeroy graduated from Tufts University in Boston and she has been a practicing veterinarian for eleven years, most recently in Skowhegan. She and her husband, Zack, are not strangers to this area; they have been visiting us for the past five winters to participate in winter sports.

Many Thanks to our Donors

We have had the good fortune to have had another year of outstanding support from within and outside the St. John Valley. Many businesses and individuals continue to support us each year and we are extremely grateful. We want to take this opportunity to thank as many of them as possible in this newsletter.

- Thank you to all the individuals who have made monetary or in-kind donations via mail, online, coin boxes, redeemable bottles and cans and donation jars at our fundraisers.
- Thank you to Dr. Chris Yule and her staff at Fort Kent Animal Hospital and Dr. Victoria Swanson for excellent veterinary support.
- Thank you to all the businesses who held fundraisers or made donations. Special mention goes to Gas n' Go, John's Shurfine, China Garden, Red Devil Roast Coffee Co., Central Building Supply, Bob's Neighborhood and Fort Kent Animal Hospital for the coin boxes they put out for us every year. Thanks, also, to Caron's Redemption Center, Dave's Redemption Center, Kajais Redemption Center, Paradis Shop'n Save in Madawaska, MBIA Foundation and the Towns of Fort Kent, Madawaska and Eagle Lake. Thank you to Brenda Levesque and the Girl Scout Troop #1112 for the fundraisers.
- Thank you to these individuals who deserve special mention for outstanding support - Hana Strnad, Rick Daigle, Robert Bourgoin, Susan Hall, Sandi Coburn, Sue & Sam Greenlaw, Pamela Slattery Thomas, Laura Nickerson, Jeanne Nadeau, Celeste Cobb & Oliver North, Chester and Rachel Bates, Jennifer Klauer, Colleen Yavarow, Alice Mason, Eileen Michaud, Verna Charette, Kathleen Hafford, Connie Ouellette, Susan Voisine, and Manon Raymond.
- A special thank you to our dedicated volunteers who give excellent care to our cats 24/7.
- Thank you to the families who have lost loved ones and designated PAWS for donations in lieu of flowers.
- Finally, a special thank you to the many adopters and foster parents who gave loving homes to our cats and kittens.

We have had so much support again this year that we may have missed someone. We hope not, but if so, please know that we are equally grateful for your support. *The PAWS Board*

We were able to spay/neuter 124 owned cats in 2023 through our low cost clinic due to a generous grant to PAWS from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation.

PAWS Volunteers

Bouchard Family
Gina & Nicolette Martin
Samantha Williams
Kim Ouellette
Lisa Bernier
David Butler
Kevin Ouellette
Pauline Jandreau
Roy Laframboise
Jeannine Ayotte
Kara Nadeau
Karen Boucher & Mark Pellegrini
Jonathan Doyle & Teresa Thibeault
Brian & Lisa Dubois
Shert & Kearston Albert
Makayla Stevens
Wendy Stevens
Abby Levesque
Elaine Hutchins
Lexi Gagnon
Kara Bourgoin
Morgan Bourgoin
Julie Clavette & Therese Walls
Meghan Dumont
Brenna Jandreau
Stephanie Nadeau
Jennifer Jellison
Aupperle Family
Malmberg Family
Joe Becker
Sophie Ouellette
Liza Pelletier
Sonia Dubay
Casen Raymond
Cassandra Henry
Keary Johnston
Pat Sherman
Debbie Bossie
Bobbi Martin
Andrew Dube
Sonia Dube
Tina Bouchard
Scarlett Granatowski
Madison Granatowski
Kenzie Waltz
Caitlyn Litalian
Hannah Zetterman