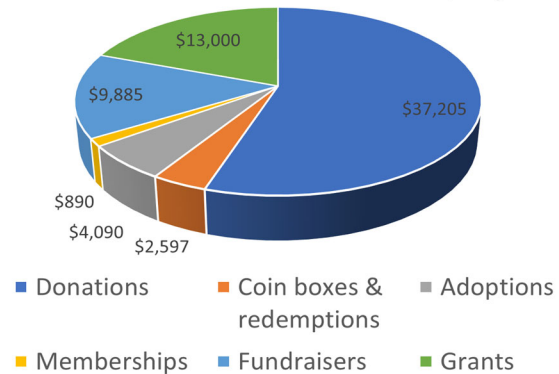
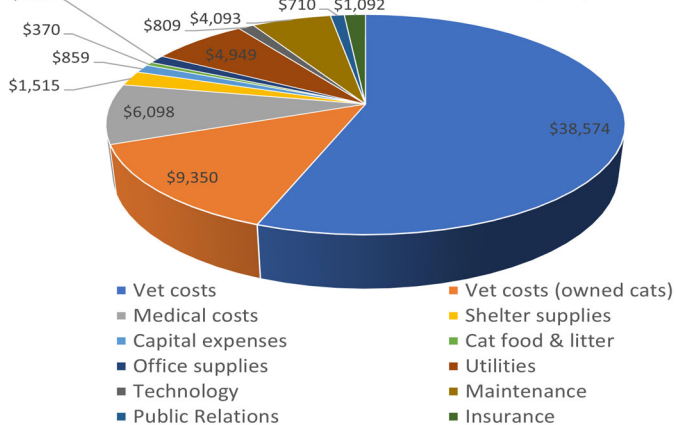


PAWS Total Revenue for 2024= \$67,667



PAWS Total Expenses for 2024 = \$69,258



ISSUE

14
2024



PAWS

Animal Welfare Society, Inc.



PAWS helped the following homeless cats in 2024:

SHELTER ACTIVITY:

At shelter as of Jan.1, 2024– 21

In foster care - 4

Cats taken into shelter - 109

Spayed/neutered - 30

Extra medical care

(x-rays, dentistry, etc.) - 28

Adopted - 70

Transferred to other shelters - 20

Returned to owner - 7

Euthanized - 4

Died - 3

At shelter as of Dec.31, 2024 - 11

In foster care - 5

CATS CAME FROM:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Allagash– 1 | St. Agatha - 5 |
| Caribou - 2 | St. David - 5 |
| Cross Lake - 2 | St. Francis - 8 |
| Fort Kent - 22 | St. John - 3 |
| Frenchville - 3 | Sinclair - 1 |
| Hodgdon - 2 | Van Buren - 3 |
| Madawaska - 34 | |

SUPPORT OF OWNED CATS:

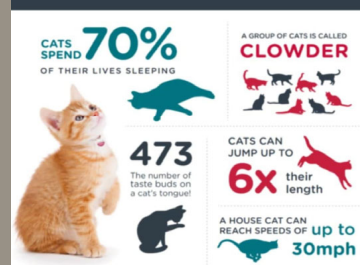
of cats s/n through PAWS S/N program - 119

of cats s/n directly from PAWS - 0

of cat owners that received financial assistance from PAWS for emergency medical care – 10

Total of owned cats helped by PAWS - 129

DID YOU KNOW?



2024 in review...

Our cat adoption program connected 70 cats with loving forever homes. Our adoption screening is designed to connect the right cat with the right owner. This reduces the return rate significantly, by ensuring cats and adopters were thoughtfully paired based on lifestyle compatibility and specific needs. 2024 was a pawesome year for PAWS Animal Welfare Society, which makes it especially heartwarming for us.

At PAWS our commitment extends beyond Fort Kent. We are proud to be a resource for stray, abandoned and surrendered cats from our many surrounding communities including Madawaska, Grand Isle, Van Buren, St. Agatha, Cross Lake, St. John, St. Francis, Allagash, Eagle Lake and Frenchville.

In 2024 we partnered with the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland in Westbrook. The endeavor ensures our cats have a wider reach of adoptions through their website, social media and adoption events in more populated areas. As evidenced by one of our alumni, Felix. He did not present well as a potential adoptable cat and was continually overlooked for adoption. Within a very short time after being transported to ARLGP, Felix found a forever home. We want to shine a spotlight on the vital role fundraising plays in ensuring the well being of the cats in our care. Every purr, head nuzzle and playful pounce you see is made possible by the generous support of our community. We rely on your kindness and generosity to provide food, shelter, medical attention and ultimately loving forever homes for those deserving cats. Now, a glimpse into ongoing and upcoming fundraiser efforts that make our mission possible.

Monthly Giving Program - A recurring donation program where your consistent monthly contribution provides a stable foundation of support for our cats. It also allows us to budget effectively for essentials like food, litter and routine veterinary care.

Chewy or Amazon Wishlist Purr-fect Presents for Our Residents - It's an online list of specific items our cats need. This program directly provides the resources needed to keep our cats comfortable, healthy and happy while they await their forever homes.

"Paws for Thought" donation boxes - Collection boxes placed at various local businesses in our area. In 2024 we collected \$1504 for this program which offers a convenient way for community members to contribute spare change while supporting our cause.

From Empty to Essential - Our bottle redemption might seem like a small effort, but the collective impact of your donated empties is truly significant for our cats. We want to take a moment to show exactly how those nickels and dimes are being transformed into vital resources for the cats in our care. In 2024 we collected \$1093 in bottle redemptions which was impactful for kitten and cat food, litter supplies, cat toys, blankets and medical care.

2024 Wins for our Whiskered Wonders

In 2024 your participation in our monthly raffle collectively raised an astounding \$10,281. The success of this raffle has been truly inspiring. It fuels our commitment to continue this vital fundraising effort in the year to come. As you may know, the cost of veterinary care has unfortunately increased, and in addition to this, the distance required to access specialized vet services has also grown. This puts an added strain on our resources as we strive to provide the best possible care for our feline residents. Your participation in this raffle directly helps us offset these rising costs and ensures that we can continue to provide essential medical attention, food, shelter, and love to cats in need. Every ticket purchased contributes to a healthier and happier future for these deserving cats. A heartfelt thank you from the bottom of our hearts (and the purrs of our grateful cats), for your incredible support.

PAWS **FELINE FIX**
by FIVE MONTHS™



it saves lives

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

Cat declawing Why it's a **bad idea** for your cat



- *Declawing is a major surgical amputation*
- *Significant pain and discomfort*
- *Increased infection*
- *Balance issues*
- *Nerve damage, phantom pain*
- *It can lead to a lower quality of life*
- *Some countries and states in our country ban it*
- *Will cause behavioral issues like biting*
- *Litter box aversion and weakened paws*

DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS WELCOMED!!!

Each year PAWS spends approximately \$50,000 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]

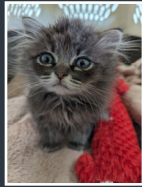
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

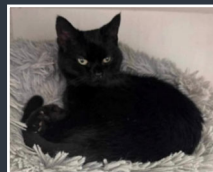
EMAIL: _____ DONATION AMOUNT: _____

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!

In Memory



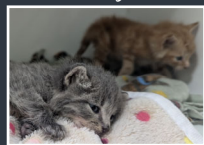
Gizma



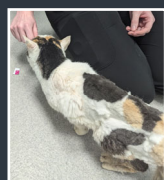
Lexi



Sully



Jasmine, Jade & Jasper



Harmony

Jane

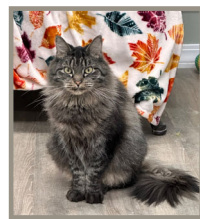
Oscar

Board Members

Cathy Clark
Co-chair
Connie Michaud
Co-chair
Connie Ouellette
Treasurer
Diane Castonguay
Secretary
Jean Cobb
Garry Bouchard
Vickie Gagnon
Autumn Bouchard
Associate Board Member

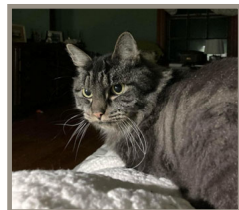
"The Power of Patience, Pisces Story"

Pisces' story began in 2017 when a kind woman who loved cats, and who rescued and fed many in her neighborhood, trapped him as a feral kitten on her porch. He was adopted shortly after, but he hid all the time and would not let the owner pet him. In December of 2023, the owner decided they wanted a friendlier cat, so we at PAWS agreed to take him in. When



Pisces first arrived at the shelter his eyes darted nervously and he spent much of his time hiding under his bed. Every time a volunteer would try to approach, he would shrink back in fear.

As time went on, we could see he was very curious and also food driven. With lots of time, and the patience of our wonderful volunteers, he began to come close enough to take treats, but petting was off limits, he would allow a little pat, but he would swat and quickly put up his walls again. As time went on, we continued to see his softer side begin to poke through his walls, he began coming closer and actually began letting us know he wanted his food with a quiet little meow. One day, a new volunteer came by, not knowing his story, she sat on the floor and began petting him and he allowed it! This was such a breakthrough for him. We felt it was time to advertise him with full disclosure in hopes of finding the perfect family, and that's what exactly happened. In October of 2024, a wonderful family from Massachusetts reached out to see if they could come meet him, they had experience with difficult cats and felt



they could give him a good home. They understood that he wasn't just a 'cat to adopt' but a soul who needed care, compassion, and time to trust again. They put in an application and were immediately approved, they set out on their journey to Fort Kent to meet Pisces. They fell in love with him and they were ready to take him home. The amazing thing was Pisces was ready to be loved, he has been blossoming since he has been in his new home and actually seeks out their attention and love! Pisces story is proof that sometimes the most timid, scared animals have the capacity for love

when given a chance. We miss you sweet boy, but we are happy for you, enjoy your new life Pisces, you certainly deserve it.

Barn Cat Boogie

December 2024 ended with an unusual but highly successful project due to a woman named Amanda. Amanda owns a farm in Madawaska that includes a large and well-kept barn. When she moved there a few years ago there were only a few barn cats and now she had 9 cats. She wanted to get the cats spay/neutered (s/n) and perhaps re-home some of them. None of them were feral and they were all under a year old.

Our first attempt was to get them into our s/n clinics but the number of cats and their ability to come and go into the barn made it difficult to get them done one by one. We needed to finish the project before spring arrived which is kitten season. Nine intact cats living together would be a recipe for disaster.

We were able to get appointments locally for three males fairly readily, one was neutered in December and the other two done in mid-February. This gave us time for Amanda to trap the cats one by one and bring them to our shelter.

Fortunately, Amanda was able to trap all six of the cats by the date of our appointment. On that momentous day in February we transported all six cats to a veterinary hospital in Canada; an effort that started at 5 am and ended at 6 pm. Three males and two females were returned to the barn and two males and two females were surrendered to PAWS. All had been examined by a veterinarian, given vaccinations and spayed or neutered which means they will all be healthier and happier cats plus they will not be bringing more cats into a world that has more cats than good homes to care for them.

Our hats are off to Amanda for being a responsible pet owner!

There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats. ~ Albert Schweitzer

The cat is the only animal which accepts the comforts but rejects the bondage of domesticity.

Georges, Comtes de Buffon



Many Thanks to Our Donors

We 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.

- A special thank you to our dedicated volunteers who give excellent care to our cats every day of the year.
- Thank you to Dr. Victoria Swanson, Florenceville Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Pomeroy of Fort Kent Animal Hospital and Hotham's Veterinary Services.
- 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., Bob's Neighborhood, Bald Eagle, Dave's Redemption Center, Fort Kent Animal Hospital, Roy's Variety and Romeo's 1 Stop for the coin boxes they put out each year. Thanks also to Caron's Redemption Ctr., Dave's Redemption Ctr., Kajais Redemption Ctr., Hannaford Supermarket in Fort Kent and Halfway Home Pet Rescue. And a big thank you to the towns of Fort Kent, Madawaska and Eagle Lake.
- Thank you to the individuals who deserve special mention for outstanding support: Rick Daigle, Hana Strnad, Robert Bourgoin, Susan Hall, Sandi Coburn, Colleen Yavarow, Sue and Sam Greenlaw, Pamela Slattery Thomas, Laura Nickerson, Jeanne Nadeau, Celeste Cobb and Oliver North, Chester and Rachel Bates, Jennifer Klauer, Alice Mason, Cathy Clark and David Butler, Tom Viorikic and Cathie Pelletier, Connie Ouellette, Manon Raymond, Susan Voisine, Brenda Levesque, Penelope Gray, Angela Daigle, David Tourangeau and Marjorie Getz, John Graves, Erik Mlaker and Karel Kenney.
- 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 such great support again this year and we hope we have not missed acknowledging anyone. If so, please know that we are equally grateful for your support. *The PAWS Board*

We were able to spay/neuter 119 owned cats in 2024 through our low cost clinic due to a generous grant to PAWS from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation.

PAWS Volunteers

Garrick Bouchard
Anna Bouchard
Gina Martin
Nicolette Martin
Jack Girard
Kim Ouellette
David Butler
Kevin Ouellette
Pauline Jandreau
Jeannine Ayotte
Kara Nadeau
Karen Boucher
Mark Pellegrini
Brian & Lisa Dubois
The Doyles
Sheri & Kearston Albert
Makayla Stevens
Wendy Stevens
Kara Bourgoin
Morgan Bourgoin
Stephanie Nadeau
Aupperle Family
Sonia Dubay
Casen Raymond
Keary Johnston
Pat Sherman
Debbie Bossie
Pat & Andrew Dube
Gerard Castonguay
Ana Panameno
Angela Demoraville
Jasper Demoraville
Raven Demoraville
Joanne Zafonte
Marc Landry
Eileen Belanger
Connor Roy
Roy Laframboise
Willard Dickenson
Karen Bouchard
Rebecca St. Peter
Finnley Clapp
Sonya Leboeuf
Elizabeth Grant-Parent
Claudia Fournier-Bourgoin
Jesse & Sophie Saunders
Malmberg Family
Glenn Thomas