



Executive Director Impact Report

May 2025

A Message from the Executive Director

The month of May holds special significance for Paws and Claws. This May 2025 marked two years in our first home, the Paws and Claws Cat Adoption Center, at 829 Chicago Avenue. This May 2025 also signified half a decade of life saving and community building as we reached five years since Paws and Claws was founded.

Commemoration of this milestone culminated at our inaugural gala, The Catalyst Ball, on May 17th when we were joined by 200 people for an evening of celebration and critical funds raised.

You'll learn more about all we achieved together in the pages ahead, in the month of May as an organization and on the evening of May 17th at The Catalyst ball. We are so grateful, honored, and proud to be stepping into this next half decade with a powerful community of compassionate and dedicated individuals behind us. Cheers to the next five years of saving lives and building community!



Ashlynn Boyce, Executive Director

Rescue Statistics

We took in **104** new cats in the month of May (**64 kittens, 40 cats**). We achieved a 100% live save rate in May, maintaining our overall save rate of 99% in 2025.

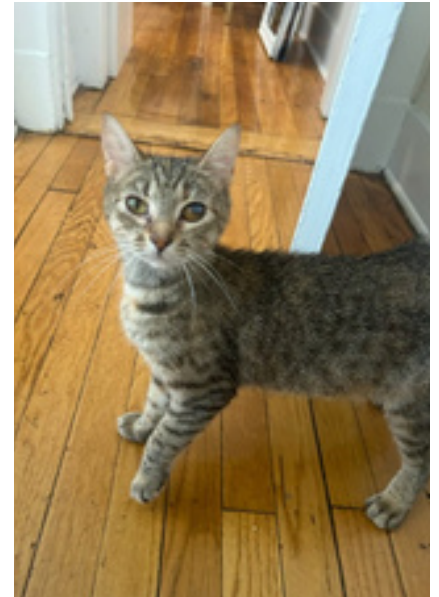
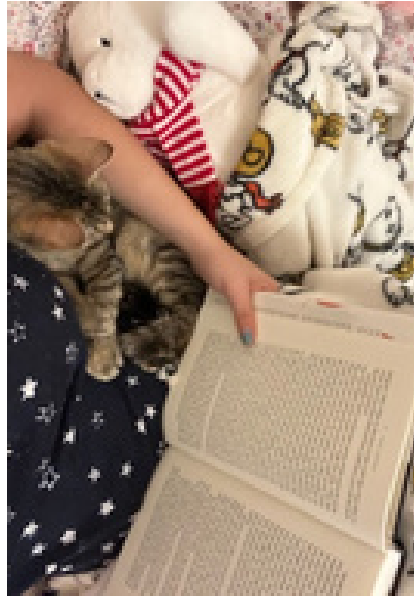
Of the 104 cats we took in, many had characteristics that align with our mission of saving vulnerable cats from euthanasia. We've observed that the most common attributes leading to euthanasia decisions in shelters include black cats, bonded pairs, behaviorally challenged cats (shy or aggressive), and cats with medical needs.

Ella Enchanted Can Breathe Again

Ella Enchanted came to us struggling to breathe comfortably. At first glance, we thought she just had a bad upper respiratory infection. After medicine didn't change her symptoms, Dr. Youn decided to examine her throat under anesthesia. That's when she identified a throat polyp and removed it.

Ella began breathing easily right away. If she hadn't come to us, her condition might have gone unnoticed in a crowded shelter system, and her chance to live a pain-free life could have been lost.

She's been recovering in a foster home and is one step closer to finding her forever home!



Ella Enchanted in her foster home.

Adoption Statistics

We received 129 adoption applications this month, leading to 63 cats getting adopted, which is up 16.7% over last May. That's 51 forever homes!

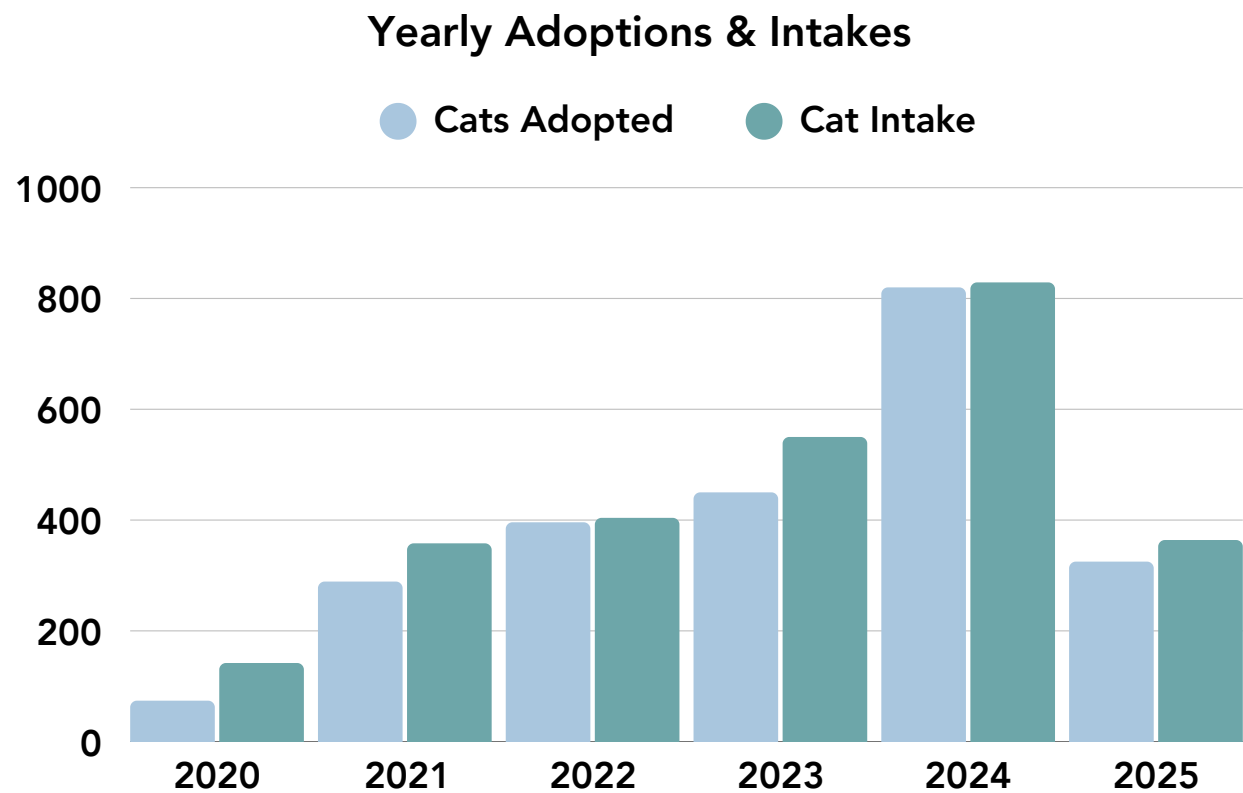


Single cat adoptions



Multi-cat adoptions

We've saved a total of 364 cats in 2025 so far. We're 31% towards our goal of saving 1,160 cats this year.



Our average length of stay for the month of May was 32 days and for 2025, 37 days (days in custody).

Average Length of Stay for ALL Cats

Metric	LOS (days)
Pre-adoptable	17
Adoptable	15

Average Length of Stay for Cats In Foster

Metric	LOS (days)
Pre-adoptable	-
Adoptable	-

Other Outcomes

While adoption is our primary goal, every cat's journey is unique. In some cases, transferring a cat to a partner organization for specialized care is the best option. In rare instances, humane euthanasia is the most compassionate choice. This section offers a transparent look at the various outcomes that ensure each cat receives the care they need.

<i>Metric</i>	<i>#</i>
TNR	0
Return to partner	0
Transfer out	0
Euthanasia	0
Died in care	0

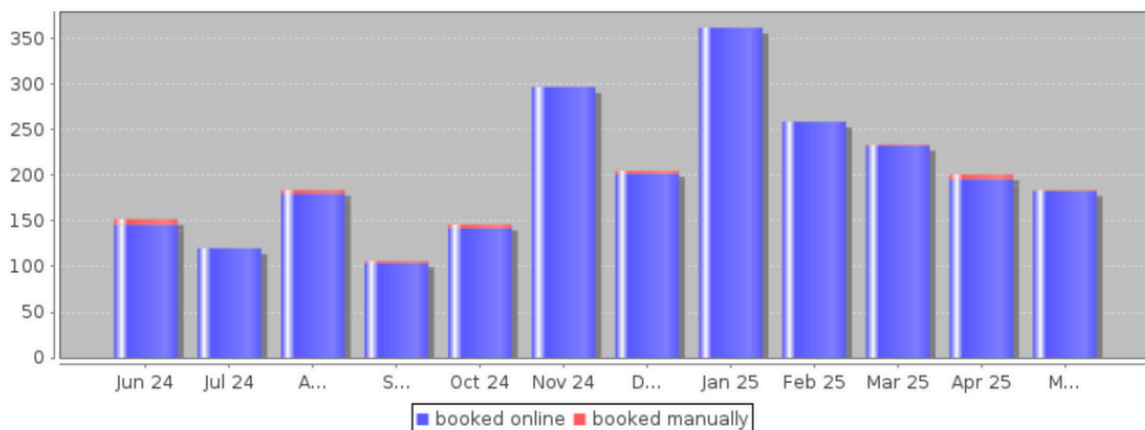
Adoption Center Statistics

We were open to the public 23 times for visiting hours, and a total of 134 visitors came to the Adoption Center.

Open hours:

Tuesday 4-5:30 p.m. Friday 6-7:30pm Sunday 12:30-2:45 p.m.
Thursday 12:15-3 p.m. Saturday 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Visitors



Meet Half Baked, Phish Food and Chunky Monkey

In May, we welcomed 63 kittens, three of which were Half Baked, Chunky Monkey, and Phish Food. At just a month old, they needed special care and support in a foster home.

Kitten season is the time of year when unspayed cats give birth most frequently. A single cat can produce multiple litters during this time, and across the country, thousands of kittens are born daily. The result is a flood of vulnerable, tiny lives in shelters where euthanasia decisions are made.

The 63 kittens we saved is just a glimpse of how intense kitten season can be. Without fosters and community support, they wouldn't stand a chance.

That's why our partnership with Evanston Animal Shelter is so critical. Together, we're working to trap, neuter, and return (TNR) community cats—an essential step in preventing unplanned litters and reducing the cycle of suffering.



Half Baked, Phish Food and Chunky Monkey in foster

Paw Print Club

Our monthly donation membership, Paw Print Club, allows supporters to sign up for automatic monthly donations that go towards the shelter, rehabilitation, food, supplies, and medical care of homeless cats who have been abandoned and neglected.

This month, we welcomed 6 new members to the Paw Print Club, bringing our total number of dedicated donors to 259. Thanks to their consistent generosity, we've been able to ensure that every cat in our care receives the love and attention they need to thrive.

Volunteer Statistics

Volunteer Stats for May

<i>Metric</i>	<i>#</i>
Individuals who submitted applications	48
Volunteers who signed up for orientation	37
New Volunteers Attending Orientation	28
New Volunteers Who Logged Hours	15
Total Volunteers Who Logged Hours	146
Total Volunteer Hours in 2025	4,783

We held 8 volunteer orientations in May, welcoming 28 new volunteers to our team.

Adoption Center Aviator (Shelter upkeep)

Birthday Baron (Supervising kid's parties)

Cat Care Crew (Cleaning, Feeding, and Socializing resident felines)

Visitor Valet (Interact with public visitors)

Weight Warden (Weigh all resident cats and document data)

Our volunteer program is undergoing an overhaul for 2025. Soon to be implemented is a completely re-vitalized onboarding process, including in-depth SOPs and a self-paced new volunteer course with quizzes. These changes should drastically increase the efficiency of each volunteering shift as well as the confidence of new volunteers joining our beloved community.

View the Volunteer SOP/Infographic Hub: [here](#)

Foster Statistics

Foster Stats for May

<i>Metric</i>	<i>#</i>
Cats in Foster Care	165
Total Foster Placements	169
Total Active Fosters	82
New Fosters	7
Total Days Cats Were Fostered	2485

This May we increased our total cats in Foster Care by 44 cats—a **36%** growth over last month! We also increased our number of Active Foster parents by **16** compared to April.

Meet Mrs. Lovett, One of Our Longest Residents

Mrs. Lovett came to us on May 15, and remains one of the longest cats in our care. As a black cat living with feline leukemia virus, she faces multiple layers of bias.

Black cats are often overlooked in shelters due to the misconception that they're less friendly or less photogenic. On top of that, FeLV+ cats are frequently passed over. They can't live with cats who don't have the virus, and many people worry about their health.

But Mrs. Lovett is thriving in one of our loving foster homes. She's a little shy, but incredibly sweet and full of personality. She'll stay safe and cared for in foster until we find the perfect family for her.



Mrs. Lovett in her foster home.

May Events

Each event we host brings us closer to our community, fostering connections that are essential for our mission. Events provide a unique opportunity to raise awareness about our cause, educate the public on the importance of animal welfare, and showcase the personalities of the cats in our care.

Distro Day 5/3

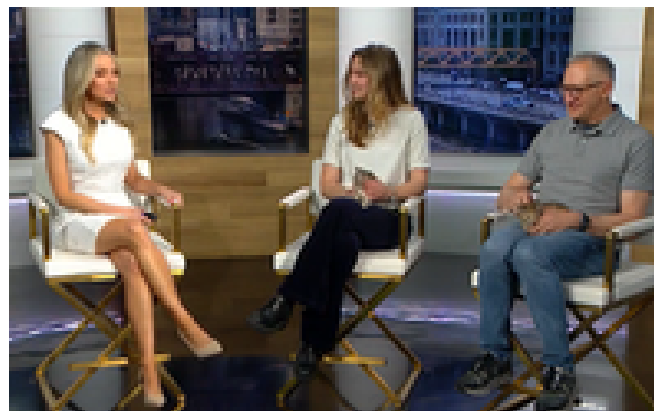
A few times a year, we take on one of our biggest tasks: Distro Day. Thanks to our partnership with Rescue Pack, thousands of pounds of supplies arrive to support our foster homes and the 120 cats in our care. Volunteers help unload and organize everything—it's a big effort that keeps our foster program and operations running.

Reading to Cats 5/7

On May 7, we hosted another Reading to Cats event in partnership with the Robert Crown Community Center, continuing a program that has brought joy to both children and cats since its launch in 2024. This initiative provides a calming and enriching experience, allowing elementary school students to practice their reading skills in a judgment-free environment while helping our cats grow more comfortable with children.

FOX 32 Chicago Segment 5/12

Ashlynn and Peter went on FOX 32 to discuss The Catalyst Ball, the Paws and Claws Inaugural Gala. They spoke about how the gala will raise crucial funds to help Paws and Claws expand its programs, rescue more at-risk cats, and continue building a more compassionate future for animals in need.



Ashlynn and Peter in the FOX studio.

Birthday Parties

We hosted 1 birthday party this month at the adoption center.

Adoption Event

Our Cats and Kittens Adoption Event resulted in three cats finding their forever homes and many more became adoption pending and went home the following week.

May Events Continued

The Catalyst Ball 5/17

Over 180 members of our community came together for an unforgettable evening at The Catalyst Ball, our inaugural gala. The event celebrated everything we've accomplished together—and the future we're building to rescue more cats in need and continue to build an expansive community.

Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception, seated dinner, live music, and heartfelt program. Speeches delivered by our dedicated volunteers, the photo library, and the mission video unveiled that evening can be viewed on our website. Because of the generosity of our in-person and virtual attendees we raised \$115,000, vital funds which will go directly towards The Porchlight Fund.



Dr. Youn (far right) and friends



Volunteer speakers Laura, Luca and Danielle.



Emcee Nicole Kawell during the paddle raise.



The Paws and Claws Board of Directors.



Gala volunteers right before doors opened.

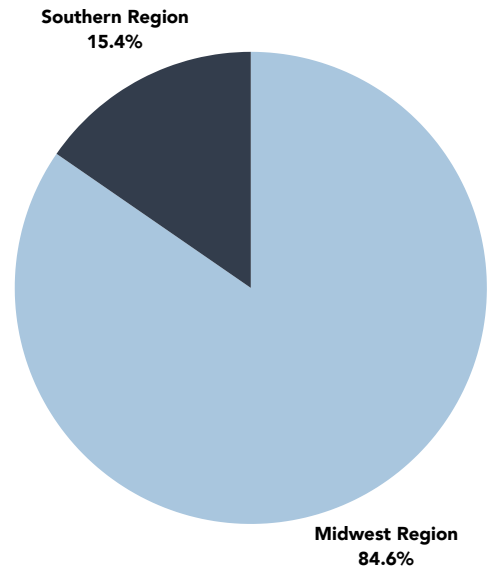


Guests Mary, Scot and Vera.

Transports

We received 8 transports from our partner shelters:

- Berrien County Animal Control
- Healing Paws Animal Rescue
- Humane Society of Elkhart County
- Laporte County Animal Shelter
- Ouachita Parish Animal Shelter
- South Bend Animal Resource Center
- Vermilion County Animal Shelter



Meet Bondi, This Month's Fan Favorite on Social Media

Bondi's spay marked our 500th onsite surgery! She was born in our care as one of Sea Glass's kittens and has been with us since day one.

Just over a year ago, we began performing surgeries onsite, and it's completely changed the way we care for our cats. With a veterinary team and surgical suite in-house, we can now diagnose, treat, and perform surgeries much faster, without the stress of sending animals elsewhere.

What used to take days or even weeks can now happen in just a few hours. That means less stress for the cats and better outcomes overall. After her milestone spay, Bondi found her forever home and was adopted on May 16.



Dr. Youn, Sean and Ashlynn celebrating the 500th on-site spay/neuter procedure with Bondi.

Our surgery day volunteers: Caitrin, Joanne, Ellen and Lynlee.