



Executive Director Impact Report

March 2025

A Message from the Executive Director

In March we had many events from birthday parties, two cat yoga classes, our third Reading to Cats partnership with Robert Crown that made headlines in the Daily Northwestern and the Roundtable! We also received over 2,000 lbs of supplies from Rescue Pack and deep cleaned the shelter in preparation for kitten season.

March had two major milestones. The first, Scout Harris joining the team as our first fulltime Foster Coordinator, a moment almost five years in the making. The second, Paws and Claws being recognized as the Feature Partner by Best Friends Animal Society at their Chicago Summit.

Best,

Ashlynn Boyce, Executive Director

Rescue Statistics

We took in **54** new cats in the month of March (**17 kittens, 37 cats**). We achieved a 100% live save rate in March, maintaining our overall save rate of 99%.

We performed 23 on-site surgeries in March. Nine were spays and 14 were neuters. Five of these neuters were performed for Evanston Animal Shelter.

Wowza's Road to Recovery

We don't know what Wowza went through before he came to us, but the deep scratch across his side tells a story of hardship. Despite it all, he's been nothing but sweet, as if he knows he's finally safe.

Now, Wowza is healing in a loving foster home, where he's getting the care and comfort he needs. With every day that passes, his wound is looking better, his fur is growing back, and his playful spirit is shining through. He won't ever have to fend for himself again—his days of danger are behind him, and his future is full of love.



Wowza when he first came to us.



Wowza in foster.

Adoption Statistics

We received 140 adoption applications this month, leading to 78 cats getting adopted, which is up 41.8% over last March. That's 48 forever homes!

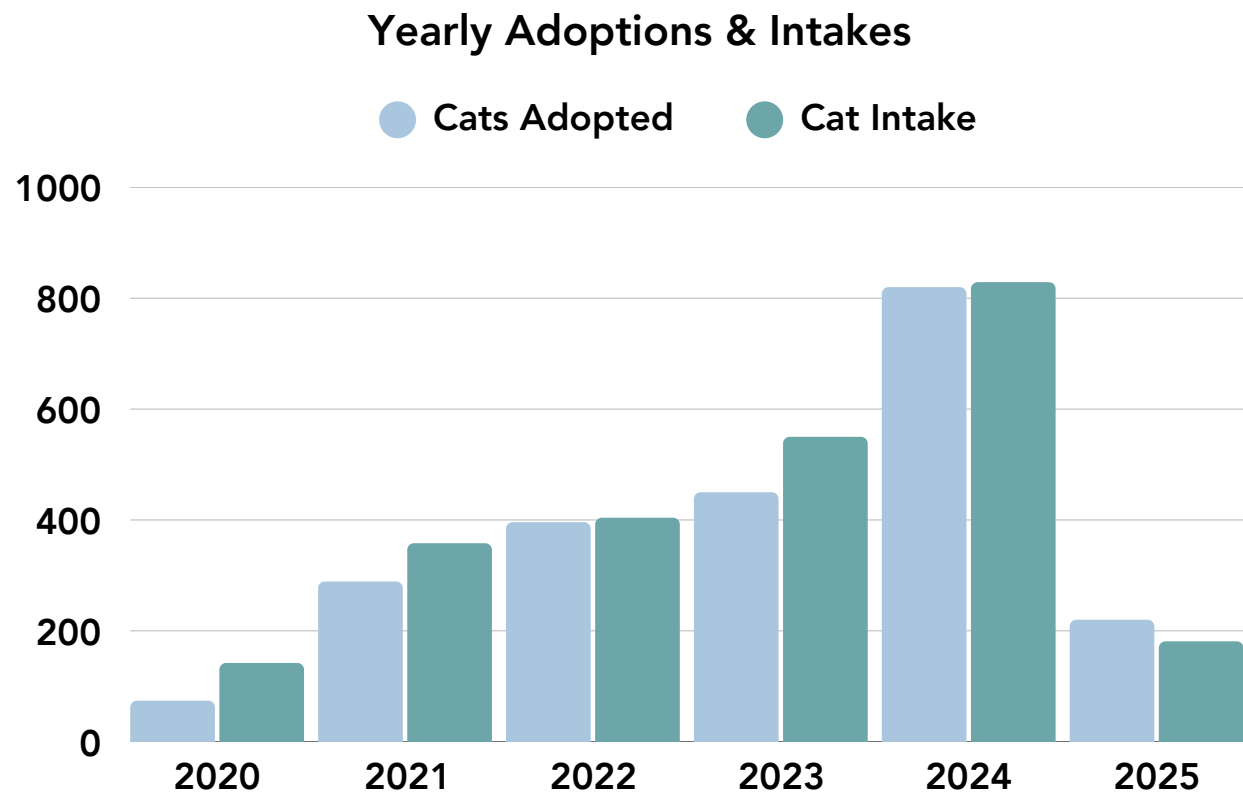


Single cat adoptions



Multi-cat adoptions

We've saved a total of 181 cats in 2025 so far. We're 15% towards our goal of saving 1,160 cats this year.



Our average length of stay for the month of March was 40 days.

Average Length of Stay for ALL Cats

Metric	LOS (days)
Pre-adoptable	23
Adoptable	17

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	1
Return to partner	4
Transfer out	0
Euthanasia	0
Died in care	0

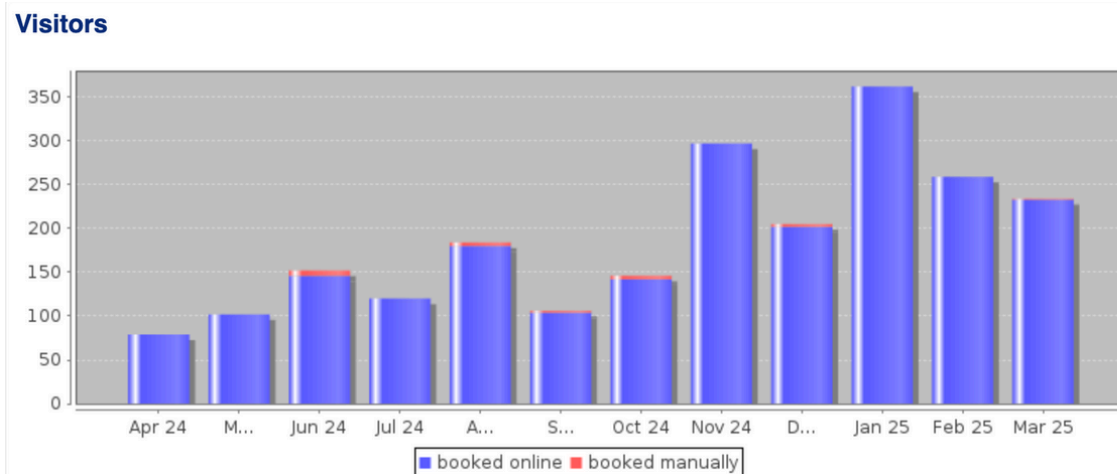
Adoption Center Statistics

We were open to the public 20 times for visiting hours, with a total of 179 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.



Meet Milner, One of Our Intakes This Month

Twelve-year-old Milner arrived at Paws and Claws Cat Rescue from Paris, IL, a little unsure of what was happening. As a senior cat in good shape, it was clear he had known love before, but the sudden change left him feeling scared and uncertain.

But even in just a few days, Milner started to remember what it felt like to be loved. With gentle care and patience, he's been opening up more and more—leaning into pets and reaching out to grab onto volunteers' clothes for pets.

We're making sure he gets the care he needs, and soon, he'll be ready to find a home where he can spend his golden years surrounded by love once again. Milner's journey isn't over yet, but we're honored to help him take the next steps toward his perfect forever home.



Milner in his foster home.

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 4 new members to the Paw Print Club, bringing our total number of dedicated donors to 250. 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 March

<i>Metric</i>	<i>#</i>
Individuals who submitted applications	43
Volunteers who signed up for orientation	35
New Volunteers Attending Orientation	32
New Volunteers Who Logged Hours	16
Total Volunteers Who Logged Hours	157
Total Volunteer Hours in 2025	3,329

We held 5 volunteer orientations in March, welcoming 32 new volunteers to our team. Some of our current volunteer opportunities include:

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 slideshow 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.

Foster Statistics

Foster Stats for March

<i>Metric</i>	<i>#</i>
Cats in Foster Care	116
Total Fosters	63
New Fosters	2
Total Days Cats Were Fostered	1595

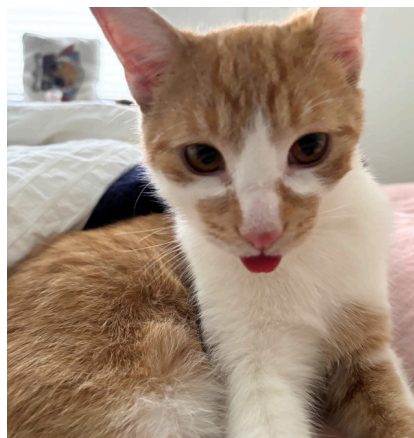
With Scout stepping in as our new Foster Coordinator, we're excited to expand our outreach efforts to garner more interest in our foster program.

Meet Rec, One of Our Longest Residents

Rec came to us with his sister, Parks, and the two were inseparable. But when we lost Parks, Rec grieved deeply. He kept waiting for her to come back and when she didn't, he had to adjust to his new normal. For three months, he remained one of our longest residents—an incredibly sweet boy who, for reasons we couldn't quite understand, kept getting overlooked.

While he waited, Rec made the most of his time. He lived in an amazing foster home before moving into the Adoption Center, where he had free run of Room 3, greeting visitors and showing us all just how special he was. And then, on March 27th, his moment finally came. Rec found his forever home.

Though we wish Parks could be with him on this next chapter of his life, we take comfort in knowing Rec's story has a happy ending. He's found happiness again and is loved and cherished, just as he always deserved.



Rec in foster.



Rec with his new family.

March 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.

Reading to Cats 3/5

On March 5, 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.

Each session reinforces the positive impact of this partnership, strengthening our commitment to both literacy and animal socialization.



Photos by Joerg Metzner, Evanston Roundtable

Shelter Deep Clean 3/8

Every few months, volunteers get together and do a deep clean of the shelter. This time we had 15 dedicated volunteers work to clean hard-to-reach places that we can't get to on a regular basis, ensuring that every nook and cranny is sanitized and safe for the cats in our care.

Distro Day 3/15

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 60 cats in our care. Volunteers help unload and organize everything—it's a big effort that keeps our foster program and operations running.



Nick Fury, one of many feline residents at the Adoption Center

March Events (continued)

Bring No-Kill Home Summit 3/30

This past weekend, Paws and Claws attended the Best Friends Animal Society Chicago Advocacy Summit—a one-day gathering of industry experts and champions of animal welfare in the midwest. We are honored to be chosen by BFAS as the Network Partner Feature for this Illinois Bring No-Kill Home Summit. This alone was an incredible honor for Paws and Claws, as we were recognized for the incredible impact we're making in animal welfare and life saving!



Staff, board members, fosters and volunteers at the Summit.

Yoga Classes: 3/15 & 3/22

We hosted two yoga classes this month, each being a forty-five-minute session led by an experienced instructor. These all-level classes were designed for small groups, where members of our community can come together, unwind, and play with our rescue cats.

Birthday Parties

We hosted 3 birthday parties this month at the adoption center.



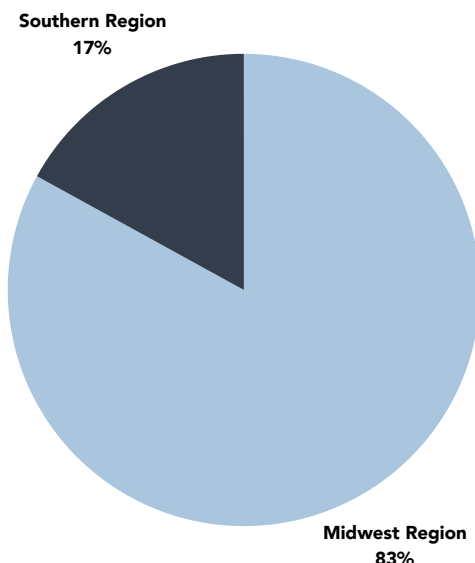
Our cats love to join the yoga classes!

One of our birthday parties this month.

Transports

We received 7 transports from our partner shelters:

- Humane Society of Elkhart County
- Berrien County Animal Control
- LaPorte County Animal Shelter
- South Bend Animal Resource Center
- Edgar County Humane Association
- Bastrop Animal Shelter/Morehouse Humane Society



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

At our Reading to Cats events, a partnership with Robert Crown, kids came in and practiced their reading by having our cats as their audience. KFC became a star. Wrapped in a soft donut collar—her special accessory to prevent overgrooming—she settled into laps, ready to hear a bedtime story.

She came to us from one of our Michigan partner shelters, already missing all her top incisors. Because of this, her tongue always sticks out. It only made her more endearing.

Photos from those reading sessions tell the story best: KFC, nestled comfortably, her little pink tongue peeking out, embodying everything we want our rescue cats to find—a place to feel safe, loved, and cherished.



*Photo by Ben Shapiro,
The Daily Northwestern*



KFC charmed every visitor with her tongue sticking out and her adorable donut collar.