

# BECAUSE OF YOU

2022 NEBRASKA HUMANE SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT



# DEAR FRIENDS



The year 2022 was another active year for the Nebraska Humane Society!

BECAUSE OF YOU, thousands of animals, like those you will read about in this report, were rescued, healed and given the chance to live happy, healthy lives. When the odds were against them and there seemed to be no hope in sight, YOU were there. YOUR compassionate and generous giving gave them the joyful futures they deserve, while erasing their most heart-wrenching beginnings.

All of us at the Nebraska Humane Society are so very grateful for your unwavering support and aid in carrying out our life-saving mission. YOU are the reason the lives of many innocent and vulnerable animals are saved.

Thank you for loving them.

Nancy Hintz,  
President and CEO  
Nebraska Humane Society

**13,423**  
domestic animals  
+  
**5,191**  
wildlife  
=  
**18,614**  
animals whose lives  
changed with  
your help in 2022.

On average,  
**663**  
animals were in  
our care each day!

# NALA

## One Ornery Kitten, Two Broken Legs, and a New Family!

**IT WAS DIRE** when tiny Nala arrived at NHS. She had puncture wounds on her neck, and both of her right legs were broken. It is likely this one pound, four-week-old kitten was attacked by another animal.



In no time at all, she was bothering the older resident cat, keeping him on his toes. Moving like a crab, Nala was running and playing as if nothing ever happened! Nothing could stop her – not even two casts (which she removed several times on her own!).

Full of love, this little furball would hug her foster mom's face and cuddle when she finally exhausted herself from playing. Because of you, Nala received everything she needed to heal properly.

Nala is just one of the hundreds of kittens who come through the doors of NHS every year. With your help, Nala and her kitten friends can receive the care they need to grow big and strong. **Thanks to your compassion, their tiny paws are safe in our hands.**



### NALA UPDATE:

Nala was adopted! She found herself a little human who she can curl up with and hug. We are told these two are the purr-fect match! We always love to see the next generation of cat lovers in the making! Thank you for giving Nala her second chance for an amazing life!



In 2022,  
**548**  
specialized  
surgeries and  
dental care  
procedures were  
performed and  
**6,024**  
diagnostic tests  
were run.

The NHS medical team knew she was at a critical growth stage and the breaks were in bad places. For her to be mobile, they would need to save at least one of her legs, but hoped to save both. The breaks in her little legs were set. Now sporting two teensy paw-print casts, Nala went to an experienced foster home to heal in quiet comfort.

Round-the-clock feedings, pain medications and cast changes were her life. But this little warrior kitten was determined to grow.



# MAYA

## Maya Was Starving and Near Death, but You Gave Her Hope

**LOCKED IN A CRATE**, all alone, barely able to move, with no food or water, Maya had been forgotten. She needed help soon, or she wouldn't live. Each rib, hip bone and vertebrae were clearly defined under her skin. Maya was so malnourished that when law enforcement officers found her, they thought she was dead. Then she moved. Somehow, after all she'd been through, her eyes were filled with hope, pleading for help. The officer who found Maya knew saving her was a long shot. But when she looked into those eyes, she had to try.

The frail, starving pup was rushed to the ER where she was stabilized and then turned over to NHS for care. Her prognosis was not good, but she was alive! She was a bag of bones with patchy fur. Her throat muscles were so atrophied she couldn't keep food down. She had sores where her skin had split over her joints, and the medical team was worried about complications from pneumonia. She was given antibiotics, IV nutrition and a host of other medications to help her weak body fight back. It was touch and go, but everyone was pulling for her.

This small, neglected body housed a huge heart. She fought to live with everything she had. Medical staff and

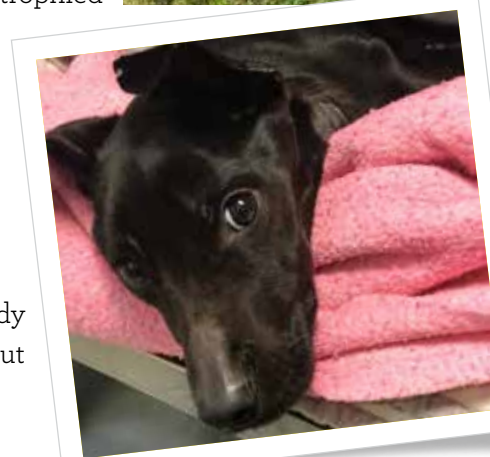
volunteers hand-fed her once she could eat softened solid food and sat with her outside to bask in the sun. After three days, she struggled to her feet, determined to find the sun ... and treats. Though she looked like a walking skeleton, the staff rejoiced because her steps were strides in the right direction. Maybe, just maybe, this little girl would live.



Day by day, Maya continued to get better with the loving care of an NHS foster family. After months of diagnostics, scans, medications and special nutrition, she is out of danger. She still had an uphill battle as she continued to recover, but because of your support, she was on the mend. Her foster family fell in love with her and became her forever family.

Now when you look into her eyes, you see gratitude and her sweet personality. You see a fighter, who is determined to live. **She knows she**

**has been given a second chance because of you. Your help truly provides hope.**



**Now when you look into her eyes, you see gratitude and her sweet personality. You see a fighter, who is determined to live.**

# SHAWNEE

## Rescued and on the Road to Recovery

**THE NEBRASKA HUMANE SOCIETY** received a call about a horse, who appeared to be in poor health, on the side of the road. When Animal Control officers arrived, their hearts dropped. Shawnee could not tell them she needed help, but the look in her eyes said it all. The 20-year-old mare was in the sun, with no access to food, water, shelter or shade. Her foot was tied to a tractor tire to keep her tethered. With a desperate desire to live, she had dragged the heavy tire close to the road, hoping to be noticed and saved.

It was evident Shawnee had been denied even the most basic care for some time. She was extremely malnourished and in pain, with open sores, multiple debilitating abscesses and *Streptococcus equi* infection causing enlarged cervical lymph nodes and upper airway issues. It was clear Shawnee wanted to live, but it was touch and go for a while. Thanks to your help, she would receive the lifesaving care she so desperately needed.

**622**  
community  
members  
volunteered  
**53,762**  
hours to the  
care of NHS  
animals  
last year.

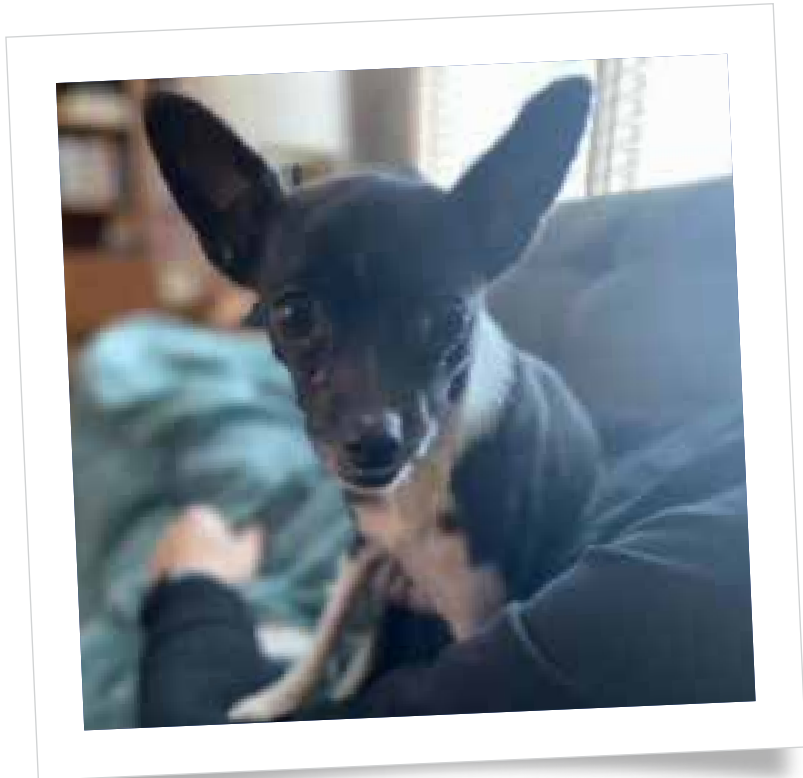
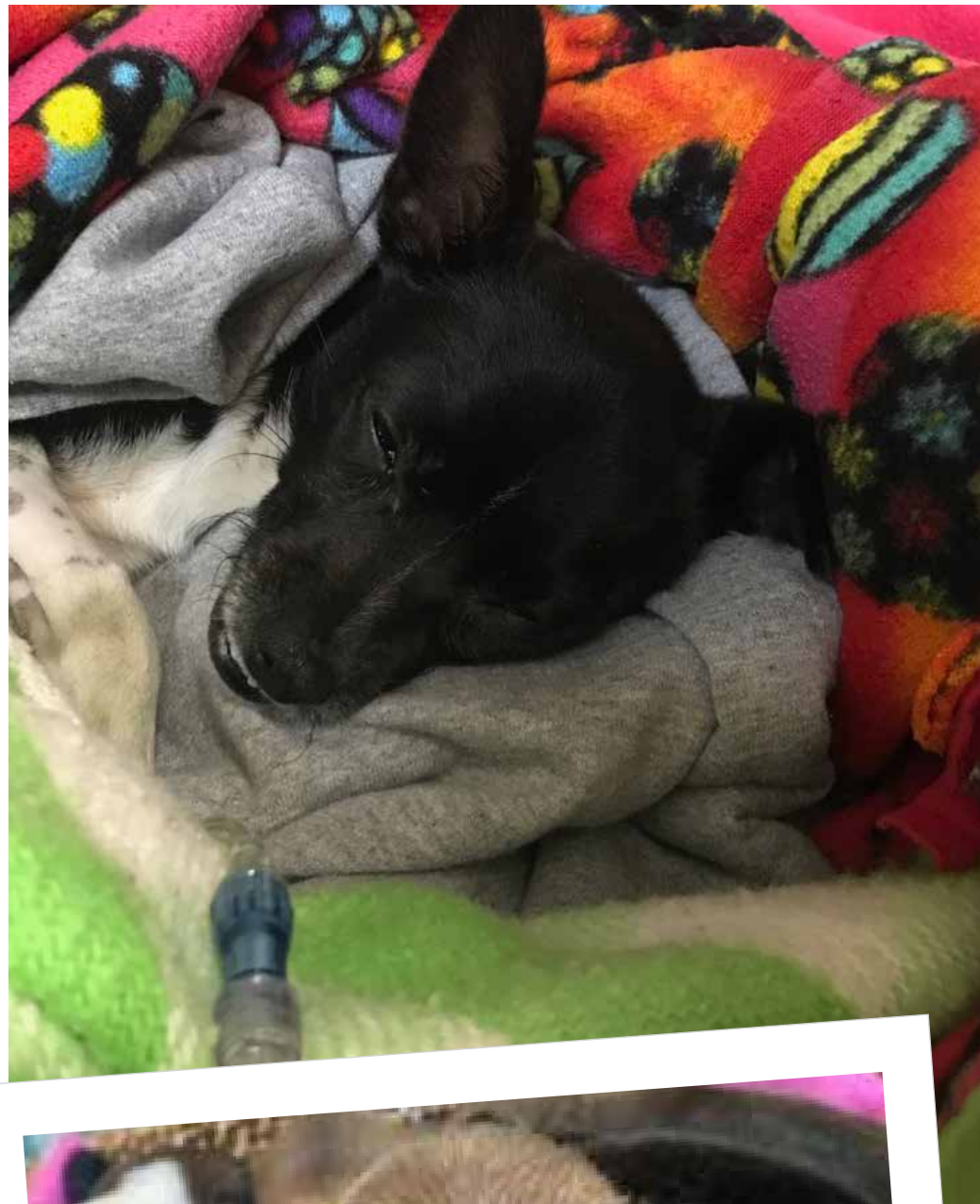
This patient, tolerant mare weathered the discomfort of antibiotic shots, pain-relieving injections, anti-inflammatories, twice-daily wound bathing, fly spray and other procedures with grace, all while nickering to NHS staff. She inhaled her food and gained twenty pounds the first week at NHS!

Shawnee remained on the road to recovery, thanks to you! After months in NHS care,

her infection was successfully treated, her wounds healed and she made daily progress.

She was adopted into her forever home where she is living life to the fullest! **Your generosity ensured a second chance for this magnificent mare. Thank you for loving all animals, big and small!**





# BOO

## Thrown From a Car and Saved by Love

**AS IF BEING PREGNANT** isn't scary enough, imagine being thrown from a moving car. That was reality for little Boo, a young Chihuahua mix. Thankfully, a good Samaritan scooped her up and rushed her to NHS.

Though scared, she was alert and needed love and reassurance, which the NHS team happily provided. After a more thorough examination, it was determined she was battling hook-worms. She would need to be treated and closely monitored to ensure her health and that of her babies.

After a few days, an ultrasound indicated one of the puppies no longer had a heartbeat, and another's heartbeat was concerningly slow. An emergency cesarean section was performed, and five healthy puppies were born!

Boo and her babies grew in strength and size at an NHS foster home. Because of you, Boo and her babies were all adopted into their forever homes. **You gave Boo and her sweet babies all the medical care they needed. They wouldn't be here without you.**

Last year,  
**275**  
foster homes  
cared for  
**1,585**  
fragile animals  
until they were  
adopted

# CHEETO

## Your Help Became Hope for This Shot Kitty

Cheeto's story begins with pain and helplessness but ends with hope and a second chance because of you.

which revealed Cheeto had been shot and there were bullet fragments in his leg. No wonder it hurt so badly!

The NHS medical team tried very hard, but they couldn't save Cheeto's leg. However, with your help, they saved his life! Cheeto has learned to pounce about on three legs and



Cheeto was found injured and all alone by a good Samaritan. He couldn't place any weight on his front leg because it hurt too much. We don't know how long he would have wandered around in pain or if he would have survived. Cheeto may not have survived.

is feeling so much better. Cheeto loves to cuddle and receive chin scratches in his new forever home!

Cheeto is alive today because of you! Your support and generosity helped him get the medical care he needed to survive and find a family who will love him forever. **Thank you for giving Cheeto a second chance.**

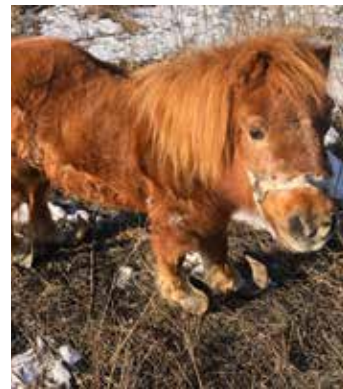
**4,613**  
spays/neuters  
were performed  
on adoptable  
pets and  
**7,789**  
animals found  
adoptive homes  
through NHS  
in 2022.



# VALENTINA

Every Step Hurt, but You Eased Her Pain With Your Generosity

**NHS RECEIVED A CALL** about a pony in desperate need of help. The mini mare could barely walk, due to grossly overgrown hooves that looked like wheels. With no food provided, she had been eating tree bark, wood from fences and barns, as well as her own feces, to stay alive. She had a destitute look in her eyes – just merely existing, no brightness.



Valentina received treatments four times a day for parasites, intestinal infections and starvation. A farrier who tended to her hooves determined they had not been trimmed in at least four years. Typically, hooves are trimmed every six to eight weeks.

After months of care at NHS, Valentina made a full recovery! Her parasites and infections were successfully treated. Her coat grew in shiny and thick. She is running around on her trimmed hooves with pasture mates in her forever home, enjoying a better life, because of you!

**Thank you for helping Valentina get the second chance she desperately needed.**



Last year,  
**579**  
youth/children  
participated  
in Camp  
Kindness or  
Humane Hands  
programs and  
**2,646**  
children/adults  
attended school  
or community  
presentations  
or shelter tours.





# NOODLES

Feisty, With Legs Like Noodles and the Heart of a Survivor

**THIS ADORABLE, FEISTY PUPPY** was found outside all alone. When the NHS medical team assessed her, they immediately noticed her front legs were very bowed and collapsing. Her legs were not developing proper muscles due to a suspected lack of nutrition. Without help, Noodles would have lifelong challenges with walking and running.

In order to give Noodles the life she deserves, the NHS medical team consulted a specialist. It was determined she would need her front legs stabilized with casts to straighten them while being provided supplements and good nutrition to build up muscle.

We were encouraged by her quick improvements. With continued medical support and water therapy to further strengthen her muscles and tendons, and have high hopes for a complete recovery!

Noodles was adopted into a loving forever home where she is now running and playing like a young pup should! **Thank you for giving Noodles, and other vulnerable pets, the second chances they deserve!**



In 2022,  
**28,356**  
calls were  
dispatched to  
Animal Control  
officers.

# HOARDING

You Saved Hundreds of Lives in Our Most Diverse Rescue Mission Yet



Once rescued,  
the number  
of animals  
in NHS's care  
doubled from  
**600**  
to over  
**1,200.**

**IN LATE DECEMBER 2021**, during the bustle of the holiday season, NHS was called to a local house where 600+ animals were in need of immediate help. Without hesitation, the most diverse rescue mission in NHS history began.

Once rescued, the number of animals in NHS's care doubled, from 600 to 1,200+. Stretched thin, NHS veterinarians teamed up with specialists from our community to triage all 600+ animals, with over 100 unique species identified.

These animals, many of them exotic, needed specialize diets and required highly specific and controlled environments to survive. Setting up habitats for over 150 species and feeding, providing medical care and tending to their fragile mental states was a daunting task. But because of you, and other animal lovers, what seemed impossible was possible!

The perpetrator of these atrocious acts of cruelty had his day in court, resulting in a victory for the animals and our community. He was sentenced to three years in prison and once released, will serve another nine months of supervision. In addition, he has been prohibited from owning, possessing, harboring or residing with any animals for 15 years.

**We are grateful to the legal system for sending a strong message that animal cruelty will not be tolerated, and to you for stepping up to help these animals who were in desperate need of lifesaving care.**





# LOKI

## He Needed Extra Care and You Answered the Call

**LOKI**, a three-year-old Boxer/Pit Bull Terrier mix, came to NHS way back in 2021. He was reactive to other dogs and didn't have the best manners.

NHS staff and volunteers worked with him diligently for his entire stay at NHS, all 302 days! It was time-consuming. It took resources and your help.

Loki longed for a family of his own. He didn't give up hope, and neither did we.

On average, it costs \$33 a day to care for each animal in the shelter. Dogs like Loki require thousands of dollars of resources, including staff time, to ensure they are cared for until just the right family comes along. Finally, for Loki, his forever family arrived, and he is now loving life and getting lots of cuddles!

**Thank you for not giving up on those animals, like Loki, who need extra time to find their perfect forever homes! You are saving lives!**



**On average, it costs \$33 a day to care for each animal in the shelter. Dogs like Loki require thousands of dollars of resources to ensure they are cared for until just the right family comes along.**

### IN 2022:

**945**

owners and their dogs attended training classes.

**805**

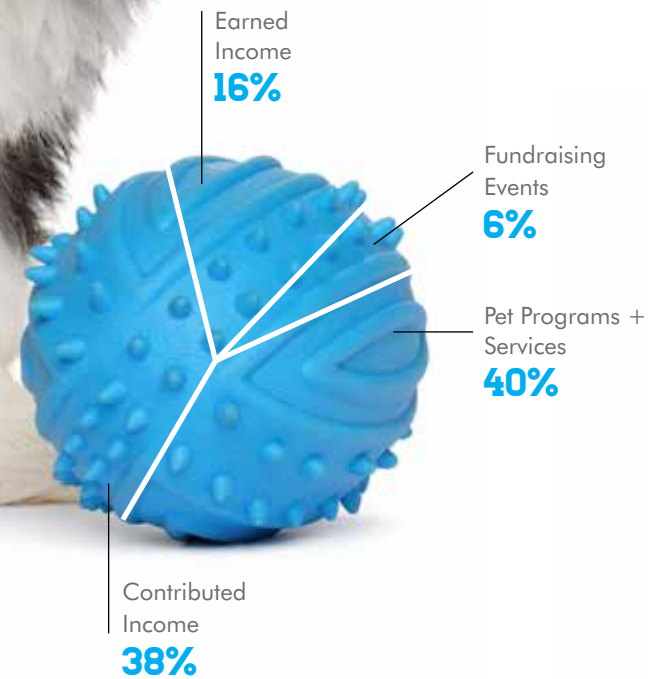
calls were responded to by the NHS Behavior Helpline.

**262**

dogs' lives saved through the Molly Project, a behavior modification program for unruly/fearful dogs.

# REVENUE

\$14,246,103



# EXPENSES

\$13,531,696



In addition, NHS received a Temporarily Restricted Gift in 2023 for use in 2024/2025: \$1,725,314.

Total Revenue including Restricted Gift: \$15,971,417.

# EVERY DOLLAR YOU GIVE MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

The Nebraska Humane Society is a local nonprofit organization, dependent on your generosity to fund day-to-day lifesaving efforts. When you make a gift to NHS, you are supporting homeless animals who need and deserve a second chance. Thank you for saving the lives of pets in our community.

## \$0.14

**a day for life-saving medical care.**

From vaccines to advanced medical treatments, you help save lives.

## \$0.46

**a day for pet intake, sheltering and adoptions.**

You help provide shelter for more than 18,000 of our community's most vulnerable animals.

## \$0.20

**a day for animal rescue and cruelty investigations.**

You help rescue abused, injured and abandoned animals.

## \$0.06

**a day for keeping pets in homes through free programs.**

You help keep pets and people together.

## \$0.06

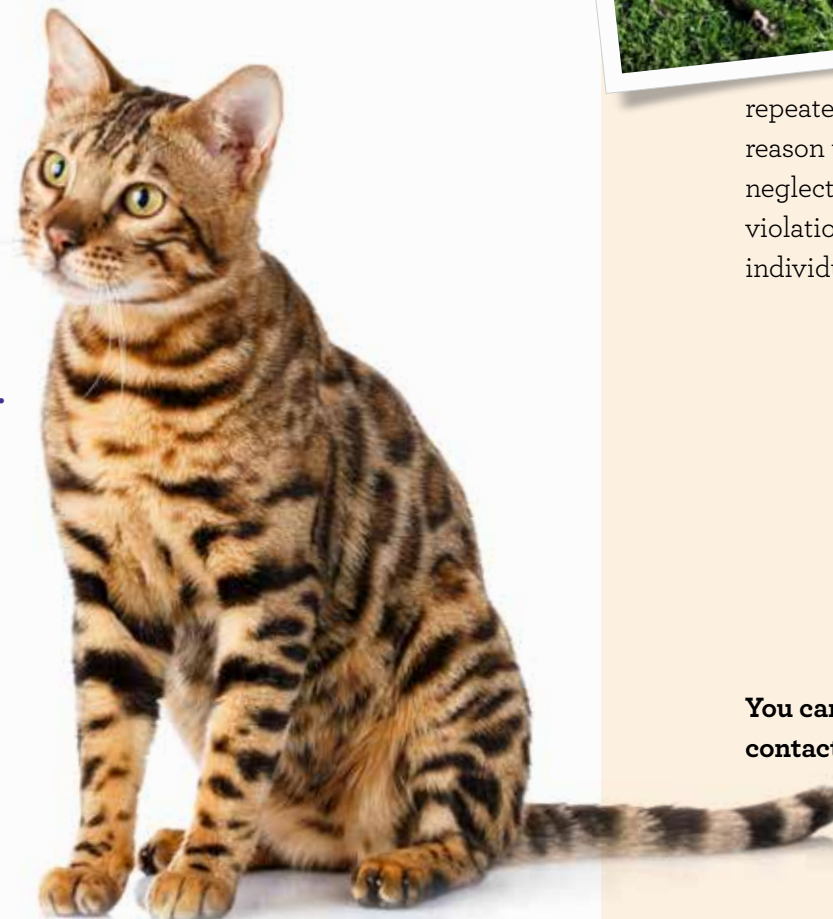
**a day for building relationships.**

Our ability to connect with you about your giving ensures we save more lives.

## \$0.08

**a day for supporting our pets.**

It takes a team to care for homeless pets and save lives.



# LIFESAVING LEGISLATION

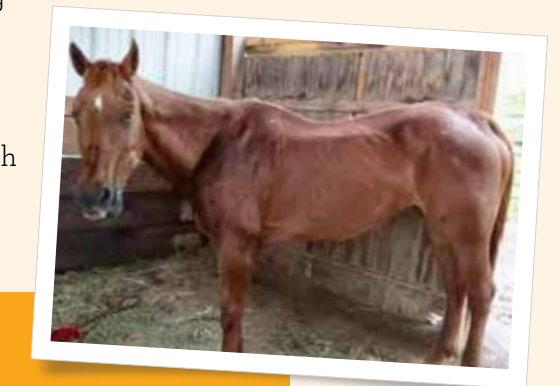
In the past, Judges in Nebraska often had a difficult time when it came to enforcing ownership restrictions for people convicted of animal cruelty, depending on the class of the felony. **Thanks to legislation passed in 2022, it has now become easier to serve justice for the animals.**



**LB 829**, passed in March 2022, now prohibits animal cruelty offenders, convicted of a class 3A felony (including dogfighting and holding cock fights), from owning or possessing an animal for five to a maximum of 15 years. Previously, this penalty only applied to class 4 felonies (typically involving animal starvation). In addition, the bill also allows the prosecutor 10 business days (rather than seven days) to file an application for disposition of the animal.



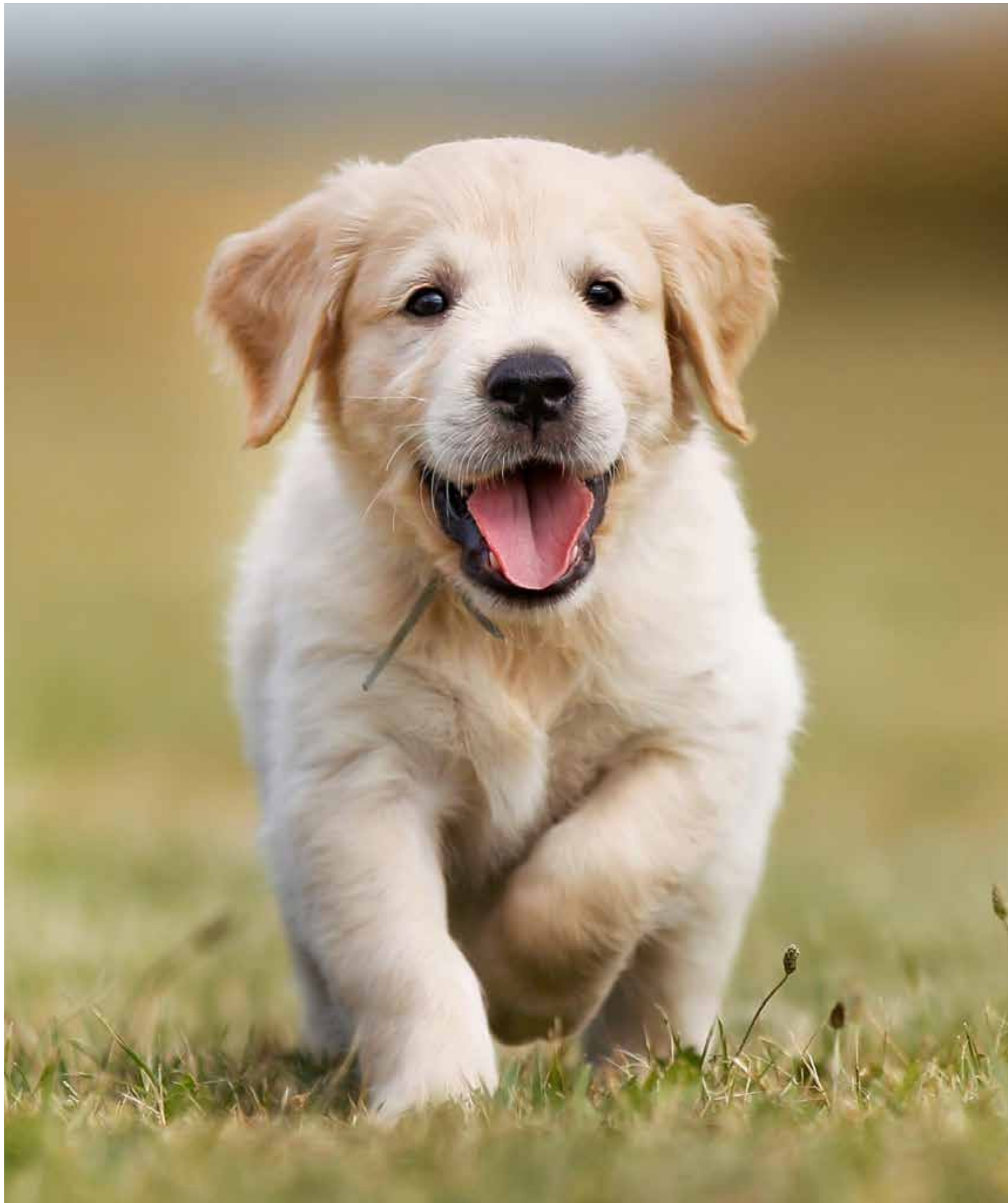
**Further advocating and protecting the animals, LB 851** changes the definition of "cruelly mistreat" to include kick, hit or strike in any manner, but now includes a justifiable purpose defense. The bill adds "intentional successive strikes to an animal by a person resulting in serious illness" to the definition of repeated beatings and requires law enforcement officers who have reason to believe an animal has been abandoned or is being cruelly neglected or cruelly mistreated to make prompt investigation of such violation. Officers are now allowed to issue citations or arrest individuals committing such violations.



**These laws are very important because they advocate for innocent victims – the animals – in our community who can't speak for themselves."**

**– Nancy Hintz, NHS President & CEO**

**You can help! If you have concerns about the safety of an animal or suspect abuse or cruelty, please contact NHS Animal Control at 402.444.7800, extension 1. Your identity will remain confidential. Together, we can ensure animals, like Cheeto, Valentina, Shawnee and Maya are getting the care and love they deserve.**



LAST YEAR, IN 2022:

**1,073**

people and

**4,835**

pets were provided food and care through Pet Food Pantry, Animeals and Project Pet Safe

**2,511**

lost animals were reunited with their owners

**5,944**

wildlife calls were answered and coordinated with wildlife rescue groups



**28,356**

calls dispatched to Animal Control Officers

**158,154**

pets in our community were licensed

**6,020**

pets were lovingly cared for through Rainbow Bridge services

# THANK YOU

Because of your kindness and generosity last year,  
thousands of animals who came through our doors received  
love, shelter, individualized care and all the time they  
needed to heal and find their forever homes.

Thank you for being their hero!



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402.444.7800