



WINNIPEG
HUMANE SOCIETY

The Printed Paw

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025

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(and a bonus one about her dogs)



Meet the New CEO

5 QUESTIONS FOR CHRISTINA VON SCHINDLER

(and a bonus one about her dogs)

Welcome to the Winnipeg Humane Society (WHS). Can you tell us a little about yourself?

I come to the WHS with a professional history in frontline mental health and large-scale health system leadership and administration, and a personal history of animal rescue and welfare advocacy since my teens.

I am a collaborative systems builder, firmly believing that we are only as effective as our teams and only as successful as the communities we serve.

I am a proud rescue dog mama and devoted to the care and welfare of all animals.

What excites you the most about joining the WHS?

I'm very excited to have an opportunity to contribute in such a meaningful way to the very valuable work of the WHS. The WHS, one of the first social services agencies for the welfare of animals in Canada, has a respected history and plays a critically important role for Manitobans in need of help, both humans and animals. I think that detail is often overlooked. When we help animals, we help entire communities.

What initiatives do you hope to introduce to improve animal welfare in the shelter and community?

I think that we are at an exciting time in social services where, more than ever before, we are understanding the important interplays between animal health and community health. My hope and goal is to continue to work with our team, partners, and funders to break down the silos in thinking that have historically seen animal health and rescue as a secular service and instead recognize it as an integral component of community health care and support that deserve to be funded and supported accordingly.

What is your vision for the WHS' future?

We have a large team of partners and supporters who care a great deal about animals, underserved and isolated communities, and access to care and support. My hope and goal is to ensure that WHS has a voice at any table planning and delivering community health care from the animal care lens.

I am also very excited to action some of the critically important cultural safety and trauma support programs for the team at WHS. Animal rescue is important, but often difficult and heartbreaking work. Our team needs and deserves the same levels of support as frontline staff in human health services.

Is there a message you'd like to share with WHS supporters, staff, and volunteers?

Having spent over a year on the WHS Board of Directors, I have so much appreciation for the work that you do. I'm so thrilled to join such a dedicated team for the animals. Your work is very important, and I know that it is also often difficult. I will do all that I can to ensure that you are supported in that work and come to work daily to an environment in which you feel seen, supported, and valued.



Bonus: Tell us about your dogs.

I am the proud mama of three rescue pups. My husband, Kurt, and I have always made it a point to adopt the ones who are not likely to be adopted otherwise. We have a 90-pound Great Pyrenees, Farley, who is our very own gentle giant, and two adorably maniacal purebred Montenegro street mutts. That's what happens when a rescuer decides to take a vacation somewhere with a heartbreaking stray problem.



Bottle Babies 101: How We Care for Them + How You Can Help

Spring through fall, our shelter sees hundreds of orphaned kittens, many just days old. Last year alone, we took in over 229 bottle babies. This year, we expect even more.

These bottle babies require round-the-clock care, and our new nursery is ready to welcome them... but we need your help!

In-Shelter + On-Call Roles

We're looking for bottle baby heroes to join our Orphan Army. Whether that's as an in-shelter volunteer feeder during the day or as an on-call emergency overnight foster parent. Every support makes a huge difference! Training for volunteer positions will be provided.

Brand New Nursery

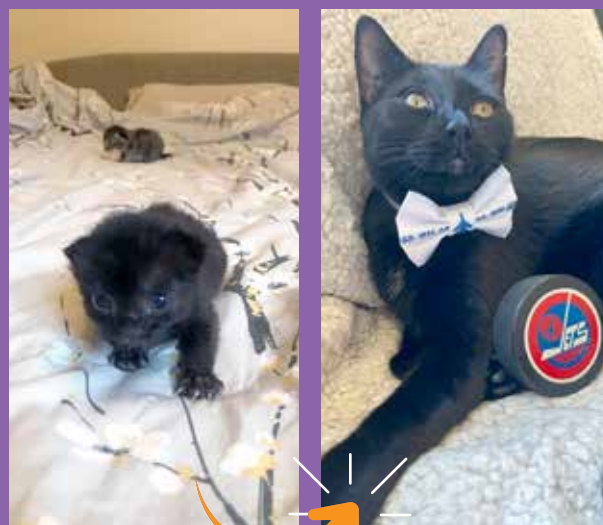
Thanks to amazing community support, we now have a cozy, safe space designed specifically for our tiniest intakes. Warmers, formula, feeding stations—even an incubator! It's a mini kitten ICU, and it's already saving lives. The only addition we need is you.



Want to help?

Scan the QR code to apply to become a BB foster today!

Let's give every baby the chance to grow up safe, strong, and snuggly.



GROW UP

"I had Sven since he was a week old. **He was my very first bottle baby!** I nervously brought him home, and right from the start, it was evident he loved people. He took as long as he possibly could drinking from the bottle, which wasn't great when you needed to be up again in a couple of hours! He has blossomed into a very loving, quirky, and chill guy. He is very smart, good with my foster kittens, and he is super friendly to everyone. I wasn't planning to foster fail, but sure happy he is now part of our family!"

– Linda, current bottle baby foster and in-shelter bottle baby feeder.

Our Thanks, Doubled

We are so incredibly grateful for all the support during this year's March Match campaign. Together, we raised more than \$180,000 for the animals in our care and community.



An extra special thanks to our presenting sponsor of eight years, Vickar Automotive Group.

We'd also like to acknowledge our thermometer sponsor, Green Blade Lawn Care, digital sponsor Petsecure Pet Insurance, and all our story and telethon partners.

Real Time Help: Your March Match donation helped save Wrecker

While on the road in March, one of our Animal Protection Officers was flagged down by a group of kids gathered around a shopping cart. Shivering inside was six-month-old Wrecker.

Despite being scared, he purred as our clinic team examined his severely infected right eye, which also showed signs of glaucoma. To relieve his pain, they made the compassionate decision to remove it.

With a warm kennel, good food, and lots of gentle pets, his surgery site healed quickly. It was this little sutured wink that captured the attention of his forever family.

Thanks to you, Wrecker's journey from hurt to home took only weeks, proving that your support can change a life in an instant.



Make Manitoba More Pet-Inclusive



The companionship that a pet provides has far-reaching positive impacts on health, well-being, and quality of life by reducing stress, depression, and loneliness.

Yet if pet owners are renters, it can be difficult to locate pet-inclusive housing. We know that 60% of Canadian households include cats and dogs as furry family members, but according to a March 2025 *Winnipeg Free Press* article, only 20-40% of rental units in Manitoba are pet-inclusive.

This shortage of pet-inclusive housing options disproportionately affects young people and vulnerable populations, including seniors and people with disabilities. This systemic barrier needs to be addressed to put both homeowners and renters on an even playing field when it comes to pet ownership.

The WHS advocacy team is hard at work meeting with the Government of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg to discuss options for increasing the number of pet-inclusive rental units in Manitoba, but we need your help.

We want to hear about your experiences in finding pet-inclusive housing in Manitoba. You can participate in changing government policy and making Manitoba more pet-friendly by completing our online *Pet-Inclusive Housing Survey* **on or before August 31, 2025.**



**Scan to take the WHS
*Pet-Inclusive Housing
Survey***

WHS PET SHOP Pick



MINI CAMPSITE HUGSMART SNUFFLE MAT

This cute summer-inspired snuffle mat is designed to keep your pet entertained and mentally stimulated. Encourage your best friend to sniff, search, and dig out their favourite treats from the multiple hiding spots this colourful mat has. To extend the fun and engagement during playtime, this snuffle mat features different fabric textures.

This product can also be used as a slow feeder, which will force your pet to slow down and prevent digestion issues while keeping them engaged and reducing stress.

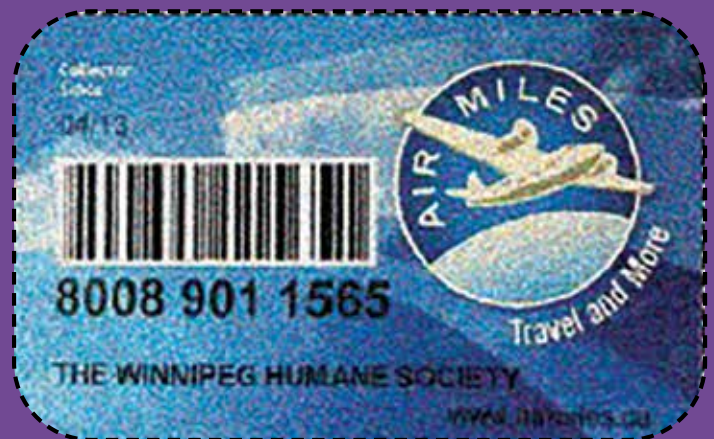
100% of the proceeds from the WHS Pet Shop and online store (whspetshop.com) go back into the shelter to support the animals in our care.



WHS PET SHOP
15% OFF IN-STORE ONLY.

Expires August 31, 2025

*Some exclusions apply, including food, kennels/crates, and sale/thrift items.



AIR MILES HELP ANIMALS

You can help our One Health vet team get to the remote communities we serve by either using our card wherever you collect points (cut this one out!) or by transferring your accrued miles to us.

You can donate your Air Miles Cash Miles by calling **1-888-247-6453** and transferring to our account: **8008 901 1565**.

Final Tails



“Henderson was found attempting to run across Henderson Highway at about 6 weeks old. A kind woman stopped and grabbed him off the road and took him to WHS. I happened to see him on a lost and found pet page on Facebook...I was looking to adopt a tabby cat... Coincidentally, my sister, a WHS foster, called me [about her] fostering a single kitten. When she went to get him, she sent me a picture and said, “It’s him!” So I guess it was meant to be! I went to visit and bond with him often at my sister’s house. When the time came, we brought him home, and from day one, he fit right in. That’s why fosters are such

an integral part of rescue. Besides easing the burden on the rescue, they help socialize the animals... The reward you get in the end is totally worth it!”

— Tracy



“I wanted to share an update about Leo (formerly Johnny), one of your incredible alumni. In just seven months, he has completely transformed my life. He’s the most adorable, gentle, loving dog I’ve ever known, and has his own goofy personality.

Since the day I brought him home, Leo has been the ultimate cuddler, he’s truly happiest when he’s either right next to me or literally on top of me (personal space isn’t his strong suit!). While he can be a bit shy at first, he quickly warms up to people and loves playing with other dogs. He was incredibly easy to train, smart, and so in tune with my emotions. No matter what,

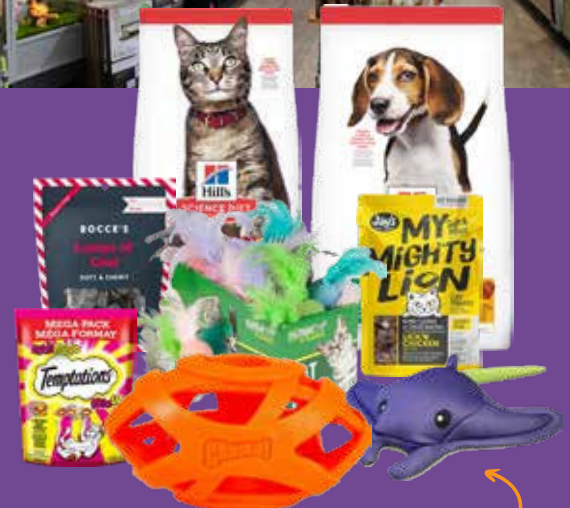
he’s always there for me when I need him. Truly the definition of a soul dog.

I can’t thank you enough for bringing Leo into my life. He’s been the best addition to our family and watching him grow has been an absolute joy. I couldn’t imagine a more perfect dog, and I’m so excited for all the adventures ahead with him. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!”

— Hailey

WHS WISH LIST

Looking to make a difference for the animals in our care? Our Wish List makes it easy to help. Scan the QR code to see what’s on it.



You can purchase items (e.g., food, treats, toys, leashes, etc.) from our WHS Pet Shop where all proceeds go back into the shelter—doubling the impact of your donation.