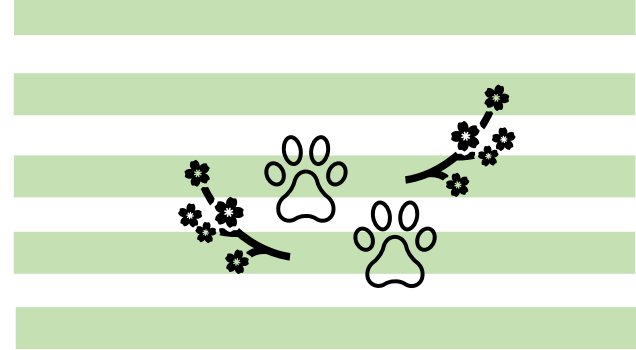


PAW PRINTS

HSOW

ISSUE 1 | November 2021 | VOLUME 1



What is the Humane Society of Wilkes?

The Humane Society of Wilkes is a volunteer organization. We are dedicated to the prevention of cruelty to animals, the relief of suffering among animals, and educating the public regarding humane treatment of animals and the importance of spaying/neutering.

The Humane Society of Wilkes does not have an animal shelter. Our volunteers work closely with Wilkes County Animal Shelter personnel to help get pets adopted. We have a number of foster homes which provide a safe haven for pets until they can find their forever home.

Having a shelter is a long-term goal of our society, but we do not currently have sufficient manpower to provide a shelter. The Wilkes County Animal Shelter is located at 408 Call St. Wilkesboro NC. Their number is 903-7688 and their hours are 10:30 a.m. 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To learn more about our organization, visit humanesocietyofwilkes.org.



Annual Meeting– Page 2

Announcement of the annual meeting and summary of the agenda

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Foster and Adoption report as well as Announcement of Adoption week

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Summary of the budget from the most recent fiscal year

Merch, Merch, Merch – Page 6

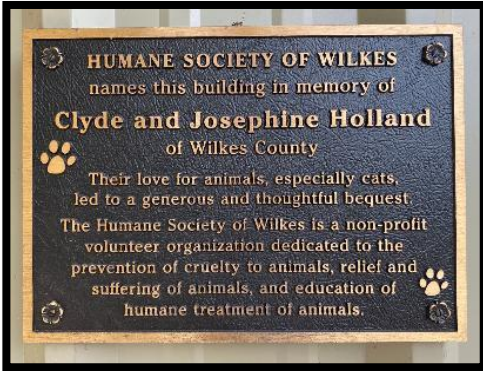
Check out our new and existing merch and stock up while you can

Wabbit Wescue? We're On It! – Page 8

Learn about the recent intake of rabbits that need homes



The Annual HSOW Meeting



From the Board of Directors:

Dear HSOW members,

After careful consideration, we have decided to go ahead with our Annual Membership Meeting, as required in our By-Laws. This is our 25th year as an organization, and we want to celebrate that with our members, who have made it possible!

We'll meet on November 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Wilkes Elks Lodge, which will give us more space than our little building would, so we can spread out more. As we prepare this newsletter, we don't know whether the town of N. Wilkesboro will continue its mask mandate into November, but we'll follow whatever directives are in place on November 11.

We'll have some items for your approval during the meeting: four members of the board are up for reelection, and we have two amendments to our by-laws to present to the membership. One simply allows directors to attend meetings virtually via meeting software like Zoom or Facetime.

The other amendment is a revision of our Mission Statement. In the attached ballot, you will see that our new mission statement focuses more specifically on our rescue, adoption, and spay-neuter programs. We think you'll agree that it more accurately describes our activities and avoids implying that we have the authority to investigate cruelty.

We hope you will attend this special 25th anniversary meeting if you feel it would be safe for you. We will honor some special volunteers, have pizza and other treats, raffle off a beautiful quilt and offer some of our merchandise at a discount price. (Sorry, you have to attend in person to get the discount!) Rumor has it that we may even try a "50/50" donation activity, as well. See you soon!

HSOW Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 11, 6:30 PM

Elks Lodge, 803 Cherry Street, N. Wilkesboro

"This is our 25th year as an organization, and we want to celebrate that with our members who have made it possible!"

-The Board of Directors





Something **BIG** is in the Works!

On Tuesday, Oct. 19, Katie Parsons, HSOW Foster-Adoption Chair, presented the case for a new Humane Society of Wilkes animal shelter to the Wilkes County Commissioners. Building on our long-standing partnership with the county, we requested a parcel of land and assistance with site preparation from the county. In the past, we have partnered with the county to build the Hidden Oaks Dog Park and our building next to the dog park. We have also worked directly with Wilkes County Animal Services (formerly Animal Control) since our inception 25 years ago to help get strays and surrendered dogs adopted.

Katie told the Commissioners about our planning so far: "To achieve our goal of building a new shelter, we have already begun fundraising. . . We have engaged an architect, toured other humane society shelters in the area, and have a preliminary drawing to share with you tonight, proposing a 5,900 square-foot shelter, which could house 14 large dogs, 12 small dogs and 48 cats, with areas for exercise, adoption "meet & greets," offices, and storage. With our foster homes, a shelter like this would allow us to adopt out about 200 more animals a year."



Doug Morris, real estate developer and HSOW member, also spoke in support of our request, explaining that county assistance with site preparation would significantly reduce the time to completion of the project. The commissioners responded that they were open to HSOW use of land near the existing county and would deliberate further on that and the request for help with site preparation.

About 10 other HSOW members attended the meeting to show support for the proposal. The *Wilkes Journal-Patriot* published an article summarizing the HSOW presentation and commissioner comments on Oct. 26, which is available on their website.



"With our foster homes, a shelter like this would allow us to adopt out 200 more animals a year."

-Katie Parsons



Those We've Helped



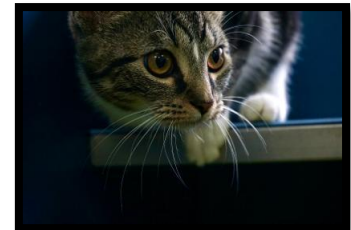
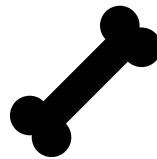
Foster and Adoption Report

Foster-Adoption Report, Oct. 14, 2021

- Cats in foster care** 91
- Dogs in foster care** 22
- Rabbits in foster care** 1 *
- Cats adopted YTD** 329
- Dogs adopted YTD** 184



*Soon after this report was presented to the board on Oct. 14, we helped Iredell County Animal Services rescue 10 abandoned rabbits. So, make that 11! See them on our adoption web page and on Facebook.



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (YTD)
Dogs & Puppies	128	96	173	221	186	133	184
Cats & Kittens	270	298	325	329	351	316	329
Other (Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Pigs, etc.)	3	11	8	11	28	20	3
Total	401	405	506	561	565	469	516





Where's the Money?

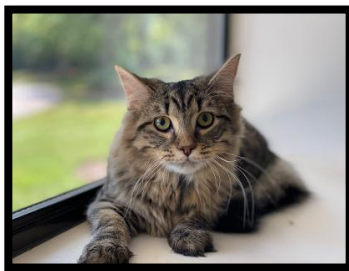
HSOW Budget Summary



HSOW Budget Summary 2021 through Oct. 4.

Category*	1/1/2020-10/04/2020	1/1/2021-10/04/2021	Difference
INCOME	\$100,389.86	\$222,567.03	\$122,177.17
EXPENSES	\$100,660.79	\$129,348.45	-\$28,687.66
OVERALL TOTAL	-\$270.93	\$93,218.58	\$93,489.51

*Questions regarding a specific budget item may be directed to our treasurer at casey.teague@humanesocietyofwilkes.org.



Out With the Old and in With the New (Website that is)



The Humane Society of Wilkes, led by Donna Huffman, is working with Cube Creative Design to update our website. Cube Creative is based in Asheville but employs Wilkes County residents Chad Treadway and Joe Masterson. We were hoping to reveal the new site at our annual meeting, but there's been a delay. We'll let you know as soon as it launches. The URL won't change, so keep visiting us at

www.humanesocietyofwilkes.org!



Shoutout to Our Amazing Volunteers!

It's the time of year to count our blessings. The HSOW is so grateful to our wonderful volunteers who keep things running! Volunteers foster cats, kittens, dogs, puppies, rabbits, pigs, and other critters in their homes to get them adopted. Volunteers feed the foster cats and clean cat cages at our building and at PetSmart. Volunteers create this newsletter, answer our phone, check our email account, help at events, and so much more! The board of directors are all volunteers, too. If you want to volunteer for the first time or remind us that you're still interested, please contact mitzi.combs@humanesocietyofwilkes.org.



Merch, Merch, Merch!



HSOW T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, and More – Oh My!

As most of you know, the Brushy Mountain Apple Festival was canceled this year due to Covid-19 concerns. The Apple Festival has been one of our best fundraising events over the years, so this was a loss for us—as it was for many local not-for-profit organizations. We had prepared for the festival by designing and ordering lots of new t-shirts, jackets, sweatshirts, gym bags, hats, magnets, and pet toys, many with Halloween and Christmas themes.

What to do? Well, our intrepid Fundraising Committee leaped into action and organized a Fall & Holiday Sale on Friday afternoon, October 1 at our building at Hidden Oaks Dog Park. We had a good turnout, selling over \$800 worth of merchandise and collecting some donations.

As we were working on this newsletter, the Fundraising Committee and other volunteers set up a booth at the Northwest Craft & Vendor Fair, held at the N. Wilkesboro Rotary Fairgrounds in hopes of selling even more of our great merchandise. We will also have some items available for sale at the Annual Membership meeting, Nov. 11 at the Elks Lodge, at a members' discount!

If you would like to purchase something but can't make it to the events, send an email to our new address, INFO@humanesocietyofwilkes.org, and we'll try to work something out.



Wabbit Wescue? We're On it!

Iredell County Animal Services found over 20 pet rabbits that were abandoned at Lake Norman State Park and appealed for help. The Humane Society of Wilkes is fostering ten of these pet rabbits--all of them already spayed or neutered--in hopes that we can find them homes here in Wilkes.

If you're interested in adopting a pair of bunnies, please contact Katie Parsons (katie.parsons@humanesocietyofwilkes.org). If you would like to donate some supplies or cash, it would help us care for them until they are adopted.

We need...

Rabbit food (pellets)

Timothy hay

Rabbit-safe litter

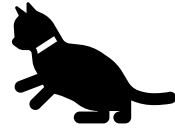
Roomy cage/hutch/bunny houses and litter boxes

These supplies are available from most pet supply stores and can be dropped off at our building at Hidden Oaks Dog Park. You can donate online or just send a donation designated for the rabbits to HSOW, P.O. Box 306, N. Wilkesboro, NC 28659. Photos of the bunnies are posted





Happy Tails Updates!



Rummy

"I adopted Rummy at 7 weeks old. She has been the light of my life! Not only is she funny, sassy, and sweet, but she's ever so smart. She has now completed obedience class, scent work, and is registered to begin her search and rescue classes. She is truly part of the family. We all love her to death!"



Rummy (Butters) - Adopted February 2021

Yoda

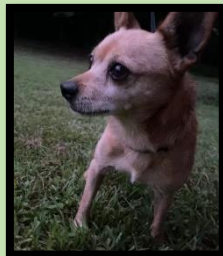
"Yoda was a foster failure for sure! I bottle fed her and her two sisters, but she found her way into my Mom and Dad's hearts. She plays fetch with bottle caps and small cat toys. Her favorite thing is to sit in a chair and wait for someone to walk by. She jumps up as you walk by and it's hilarious!"



Yoda (Orion) - Adopted August 2020

Tiki

Tiki is fitting in wonderfully in his new home. He came in as a stray who was fearful of strangers and needed love. He's now in a home with all the love and attention he could ever need!



Tiki (Tiki) - Adopted October 2021

May Meow

"May Meow is doing wonderful! Her favorite things are catching treats in the air and wrestling with her fur brother Elmer. She also loves sitting and watching the birds out the window."



May Meow (May) - Adopted October 2020



Newsletter Committee

- Lauren Johnson
- Mitzi Combs
- Nelson Gonzales
- Blair Hancock
- Crystal Miller




Thank you all for your continued love, support, donations, and time. It's hard to express how much we value each one of you. Please consider continuing to support us as we work tirelessly to help the animals of Wilkes and surrounding counties!

Let's continue to have fun and remember why we're in this; to save those who do not have voices. to help those who do not have homes, and support those who are sick. Let's make the world a better place by helping one animal at a time!

-Humane Society of Wilkes Members

NOVEMBER EVENTS YOU CAN'T MISS

 **11/8 – 11/14**

PetSmart Charities National Adoption Week

Daily schedule will be announced on Facebook and website soon

www.humanesocietyofwilkes.org

 **11/11**

HSOW Annual Membership Meeting

Elks Lodge, 803 Cherry Street, N. Wilkesboro
at 6:30 PM

 **11/11**

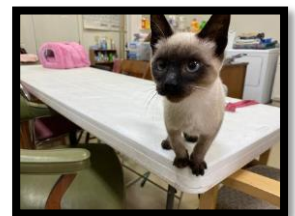
Handmade Quilt Raffle

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

To purchase tickets, please contact

Alison McCormick or Susan Allen

Tickets will also be available at the HSOW Fall Sale and the Annual Membership Meeting.



quilt (85" by 56") made and donated by Marie Absher.
Thank you!