



# Tracks

Fall 2015



The Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Newsletter

## Events:

### November 21-22, 2015

Williams Route 66 Marathon  
Supporting the Tulsa SPCA  
*Downtown Tulsa*

### April 2, 2016

Tulsa SPCA Pranks & Paws Trivia Night  
*OU-Tulsa Founders Hall*

### Summer 2016

Tulsa SPCA Paws & Pictures Movie Night  
*Admiral Twin Drive In*

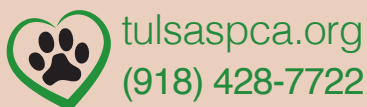
### July 16, 2016

Tulsa SPCA Bingo Bash  
*OU-Tulsa Founders Hall*

Visit [tulsaspc.org](http://tulsaspc.org) for additional event information.

We speak for those who  
cannot speak for themselves.

The Tulsa SPCA's mission is to improve the lives of dogs and cats and engage the community to foster mutual well-being.



## National Empty The Shelter Day Is Huge Success

On the morning of August 15, 2015, cars lined up at the gate outside the Tulsa SPCA waiting for the clock to strike 10 a.m., the official opening of National Empty the Shelter Day. Over the next several hours, dozens more would pull through the gates full of community members seeking new companions for their families and homes.

Volunteers and staff showed dogs and cats, helped facilitate perfect matches, and when the time came, processed applications. By the end of the day, over a third of the dogs and cats at the Tulsa SPCA were starting a new chapter of their lives in their forever homes. When the gates closed at 5 p.m., the shelter was the quietest it had been all year.

National Empty the Shelter Day, an event in which participating animal shelters and rescues waive or reduce adoption fees with the purpose of getting all the animals into forever homes, found its roots in Northern Texas. Last year, 38 North Texas shelters came together for the first Empty the Shelter Day and adopted out 2,273 animals. It was the first time "cities, counties and nonprofit organizations joined forces to offer a unified campaign."

This year, 19 additional communities across the nation joined Texas in the campaign, and Tulsa SPCA Executive Director Mindy Tiner knew it was an opportunity Tulsa could not pass up. "Any opportunity to find loving homes for



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the thousands of waiting animals is an opportunity I want to explore,” she said. She began efforts to coordinate Tulsa’s participation in Empty the Shelter Day months before the event, reaching out to local animal rescues and shelters and asking them to join.

The response from the Tulsa community was overwhelming. Sixteen area rescues and shelters committed to participating, and Woodland Hills Mall offered to provide clean, air-conditioned space for independent rescues that did not have brick-and-mortar buildings of their own. Additionally, Channel 2 News offered to promote the event through their news and social media outlets, helping spread the word across the city. “Obviously, finding homes for animals was

our primary goal,” Tiner says. “However, finding a way for so many rescues to work together was a huge success as well. The partnerships we forged between the media, local businesses, and shelters shows that by working together we can make a bigger impact than by working separately.”

All in all, Empty the Shelter contributed to 118 animal adoptions in Tulsa, which means that truly, 236 animals were saved — those that were rescued, and those that shelters could take in as a result. “A number of participating shelters reported they did the largest number of adoptions ever in a single day,” Tiner states. “We absolutely will participate in Empty the Shelter next year. I hope it is even bigger and more successful than this year’s event.”

## A Letter From Mindy...

Dear Tulsa SPCA Patrons,

The last six months at the Tulsa SPCA have been a whirlwind of activity. We work hard to make sure we’re doing the best job we can for both the animals in our care as well as using our resources as efficiently as possible. In the first eight months of the year, we’ve already exceeded the number of intakes and adoptions we did in all of 2014!

Some of the changes we’ve made in the last few months include things like adding options for youth volunteers, adopting a new logo that reflects the feeling involved in the work we do and working on ways to make sure we keep the best interests of our animals at the forefront of our decisions. In order to help our animals and their future families we’ve implemented a formal assessment process to try and identify any behavioral issues and develop a plan to address them.

I want to speak a little about some of the misconceptions people have about animal agencies. We often find ourselves passing judgement on shelters with “high-kill” rates. The reality is, we have a serious pet overpopulation problem because many people do not spay/neuter their pets. City shelters are required to take animals in. When they reach capacity they have no choice but to euthanize.

At the Tulsa SPCA, we have to make far fewer of those difficult decisions since we only euthanize for medical or severe behavioral issues; however we are still affected. Our population is largely made up of animals we pull from city shelters. Those animals eventually return to the com-

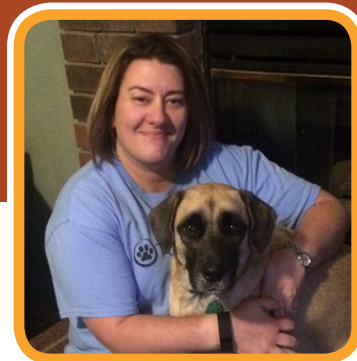
munity as healthy, well-adjusted, non-reproducing family members.

The solution is not to go after the shelters but to address the cause. Spay/neuter requirements are rarely enforced because there just isn’t the manpower to do so. The problem is bigger than any one agency so we try to make a point of collaborating with other shelters/rescues as much as possible. Additionally we are working on a plan to assist the community with spay/neuter services.

We are proud of the collaborative efforts we have been a part of over the last several months including our Empty the Shelter event, supporting Tulsa Animal Welfare’s Feed the Pets of Tulsa’s Homeless program with food donations, and working with the police and DVIS to help as needed with pets caught in the middle of legal issues. Additionally, we were thrilled to work with the Oklahoma Alliance for Animals and the Mental Health Association of Oklahoma to find a solution for a homeless gentleman and his dogs. This man was offered housing but wouldn’t accept until placement was found for his dogs. We were able to help and now both dogs and human have wonderful new homes! We hope to continue these types of partnerships in the coming years.

Hope you are having a Happy Fall!

Mindy Tiner  
Executive Director, Tulsa SPCA



## Why Microchip Your Pet?

*The following information is provided by HomeAgain.com.*

Registered microchips give lost pets the best chance of returning home.

The statistics indicate that missing pets rarely make it home:

- The American Humane Association estimates over 10 million dogs and cats are lost or stolen in the U.S. every year.
- One in three pets will become lost at some point during their life.

A study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, including 53 animal shelters across the U.S., confirmed the high rate of return of microchipped dogs and cats to their families, and the importance of microchip registration.

From the study:

- Only about 22 percent of lost dogs that entered the animal shelters were reunited with their

families. However, the return-to-owner rate for microchipped dogs was over 52 percent (a 238 percent increase).

- Less than two percent of lost cats that entered the animal shelters were reunited with their families. The return-to-owner rate for microchipped cats was dramatically higher at over 38 percent (more than 2000 percent better).
- Only 58 percent of the microchipped animals’ microchips had been registered in a database with their pet parent’s contact information.

High-tech protection can prevent heartbreak.

Enter the pet microchip — a simple, elegant product of our high-tech age. No bigger than a grain of rice or more costly than a month’s supply of pet food, a pet microchip and enrollment in a pet recovery database brings



lost pets home and provides peace of mind that your beloved companion will never wander unknown.

Veterinarians encourage microchipping.

And with good reason — microchipping substantially increases the likelihood of a pet returning home by offering secure, reliable, unique and permanent identification.

*The Tulsa SPCA offers microchip services at our clinic for \$20. Contact the Tulsa SPCA at 918-428-7722 for more information.*

## Walking Program Benefits Volunteers And Dogs

If you happened to stop by Guthrie Green for Food Truck Wednesday this fall, you might have noticed Tulsa SPCA dogs with bright “Adopt Me” bandanas parading through the park. Their walking partners, volunteers from Williams and ONE Gas, committed to walking dogs every alternating week to provide them with exercise, experience in public places, and increased publicity for the Tulsa SPCA. Over the course of nine weeks, walking partners collectively contributed over 100 hours to walking dozens of dogs, many of which were adopted before the program ended in the last week of October.

“I love seeing the dogs so happy,” said Williams walking partner Michelle Griffith, “and I love the people that come up to pet the dogs during our walk.” As much as the dogs enjoyed all the one-on-one attention, the ben-

efits went both ways. “Trust me, I’m getting a lot more out of this than the dogs,” said Williams walking partner Mike Schooling, “it’s such a great stress reliever, and I love interacting with the kids and the dogs.”

ONE Gas walking partner Jessica Miles met Wally, a Basset Hound mix, on one of her volunteer shifts. “I wasn’t looking for another dog,” she says, “but when I met Wally, I knew he was meant to be with our family.” A few days later, Wally was introduced to Jessica’s corgis for a friendship test and left that day for his forever home. Today, “he is doing great at home, playing with his new friends, enjoying toys, air conditioning, and lots of belly rubs,” Jessica tells us. “Wally has brought fun and excitement to our corgis. He absolutely warms my heart.”

The cold weather has brought an end to the program this year, but various organizations have expressed interest in joining the program in the spring. Look for us again when the weather improves!







## Planned Giving Partnership

The Tulsa SPCA was established in 1913, and for more than 100 years has provided a safe haven for abandoned, abused or neglected animals. We continue this dedication with an animal cruelty investigation department, adoption services and a wellness clinic. Additionally, we promote a stronger quality of life for domestic animals in our communities, through ongoing rescue services, rehabilitation, education, advocacy, community service and outreach.

Perhaps your beloved family pets — possibly adopted from us — have offered love and companionship that enriched your life immeasurably. If you would like to help us continue to serve animals over the next 100 years, please consider leaving a legacy through a charitable bequest in your will or living trust. You can honor your pets and help ensure that the Tulsa

SPCA maintains its mission to improve the lives of dogs and cats and engage the community to foster mutual well-being. These planned gifts provide the resources to create extraordinary opportunities to ensure the future of charitable organizations like ours.

Fortunately, through our partnership with the Tulsa Community Foundation, financial advice and direction is provided at no charge to you, to better understand the benefits of planning, as well as designating assets to the Tulsa SPCA.

For additional information about how your thoughtful act can make a significant impact in support of the mission of the Tulsa SPCA, please contact our Executive Director, Mindy Tiner at [mtiner@tulsaspc.org](mailto:mtiner@tulsaspc.org) or 918.428.7722, ext. 27.



## Volunteer Spotlight Chauncy Johnson



### How long have you been a Tulsa SPCA volunteer?

I've been a volunteer since March of this year.

### What made you want to volunteer?

Like most kids, when I was growing up, I really wanted to have a pet. I tried to convince my parents to get one, but they wouldn't budge. It's something I never grew out of as I got older, so a friend recommended that I start volunteering for the Tulsa SPCA. Volunteering here was an opportunity to constantly be around animals and a compromise, since my apartment has a no-pet policy.

### What is a memorable or significant moment you've had while volunteering at the Tulsa SPCA?

About a month ago, I happened to find a little stray kitten on my way home one day. He was scared at first, but within about 30 minutes he was eating from my hand. Eventually, he climbed into my car to explore a bit before falling asleep in my lap. Of course, I wanted to keep him, but I couldn't. Fortunately, the Tulsa SPCA had room and was able to take him in. It's been amazing to see him grow and do so well here over the past few weeks.

### What would you tell new recruits or others considering volunteering for the Tulsa SPCA?

There's always help needed, and the Tulsa SPCA staff appreciate any help you can give. When I first began volunteering, I wasn't the most comfortable with handling the dogs and cats, so I spent a lot of time doing laundry,

washing dishes, and doing other odd jobs. Since then, I've gotten involved all over the Tulsa SPCA campus, which includes volunteering in the clinic and spending more time socializing with the animals here.

### What do you like about volunteering on the Mobile Adoption Center?

MAC events are always a lot of fun. We take a group of cats and dogs out at least two times a week in order to find potential homes for them, and Terry Walker, the volunteer coordinator, makes sure that there's never a dull moment. Whether or not there are any adoptions for the day, everyone, volunteers and animals included, has a great time.

### How often do you volunteer?

I try to volunteer as often as I can. With school going on, I can generally only come to help out on the weekends, but during the summer I was able to volunteer much more frequently.



## New Promenade Mall Location To Open Nov 2015

At the Tulsa SPCA's sprawling Mohawk Blvd location, we dedicate large spaces entirely to making dogs and cats in our care as comfortable as possible. Huge outdoor runs give each dog the space to run and play, and the open-space cat colony room inside allows cats to play and nap together. But our location is not necessarily convenient.

Executive Director Mindy Tiner has researched ways to increase public access to adoptable animals at the Tulsa SPCA. This winter, we are excited to open a satellite location and adoption center at the Promenade Mall, open to the public three days a week.

"Promenade Mall is centrally located in Tulsa," says Tiner. "We hope that this location increases the num-

ber of people who have access to our animals and the information we provide."

Along with same-day adoptions, our location at the Promenade Mall provides a space where the community can gain information and resources for their pet-specific questions, sign up to volunteer, make donations and purchase merchandise. "The increased visibility provided by the location at Promenade is what excites me most," says Tiner. "I hope it increases adoptions, but also awareness and support for animal issues in general."

Doors open the first week of November 2015, and weekly hours will be Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



## Volunteer Spotlight Connie Ludwig



### How long have you been a Tulsa SPCA volunteer?

I think I have been volunteering for about 2 ½ years.

### What made you want to volunteer?

My daughter actually talked me into it. We took the Open Paws classes and then Terry Walker and John

Horkey asked us to participate on the MAC Events.

### What is a memorable or significant moment you've had while volunteering at the Tulsa SPCA?

Every time we find an animal a permanent home! I love happy endings!

### What would you tell new recruits or others considering volunteering for the Tulsa SPCA?

Do it! You will not only help the animals, but you meet so many wonderful other volunteers, just a great group of people.

### What do you like about volunteering on the Mobile Adoption Center?

Giving the dogs a chance to get out of the shelter and socialize with other people and surroundings. It is exhilarating to share the joy the animals feel with all of the attention they get.

### How often do you volunteer?

Usually I volunteer ½ day at the Vet Clinic on Fridays and whenever we have a MAC event, so about twice a week.



# Happy Kitty = Happy Tails!

Picking out a new pet to take home is a big decision. At the Tulsa SPCA, the Cat Room is set up for adopters to mix and mingle with the felines to make sure the one that is selected is the right one for the family.

Meg and her son, Kevin, arrived at the Tulsa SPCA with ideas about what their new forever friend would be like. The new cat was to be a birthday gift for Kevin and a new companion for their older cat, Snickers, who recently lost her friend of many years.

The Cat Colony, filled with cats of varying ages, sizes, genders and colors, allows adopters to enter the living area to play with them. Meg and her son lovingly held, inspected, and discussed most of the cats.

Meg later reported that sitting in the Colony Room mixing with all the kittens was a wonderful experience. "It was

tough to narrow it down, but the final three were those that had been the ones the staff had suggested would fill our needs. Then the BIG job was deciding which one. After much discussion, we hit a home run with the cat we chose, a sweet Polydactyl named Robyn."

Meg states that Robyn's name was changed to Twix in keeping with the candy theme off her new friend Snickers. Snickers is an older cat that Twix has learned needs a little space. Also the family describes Twix as "having excellent manners and seems well trained, using her litter box and not jumping on cabinets (yet). And she is cute to boot. Twix knows her name, loves Kevin's lap and snuggles against my legs in the bed."

Happy Kitty, Happy Family, Happy Tale!



# Third Time Is A Charm

Lil Bit arrived at the Tulsa SPCA on November 1, 2013, as a rescue/ surrender and was adopted quickly by a family who trained her well in house manners, giving and receiving affec-



tion, and how to play well in various situations. Life was good for Lil Bit until her family had to move and was unable to take her with them. She was adopted again... and returned. And again... and returned.

Until the day a lovely couple, who wish to remain anonymous, saw Lil Bit's picture in the Tulsa World and knew they had to meet her. The couple had spent several weeks visiting shelter sites online and checking local rescue groups in the hopes of finding their version of the perfect dog. After meeting Lil Bit at the Tulsa SPCA, they knew they had found an instant match.

Lil Bit has met the expectations of becoming part of the family "tribe" — quiet, intelligent, loving and well behaved. They report "Lil Bit is always with one or both of us, but happiest when we're all together."

Cuddling affectionately and touching are important. "Lil Bit likes to touch my husband with one paw while lying cupped against me in the middle. She often stays glued to my side while I am working in the house."

Life is once again full of love for Lil Bit. And this time it's there to stay.

# End of the Year Report

## January – August 2015

### Food

- 12,500 lbs. of dog food
- 3,500 lbs. of cat food
- 9,500 lbs. of cat litter

\* Does not include food provided to homeless pet programs

### Medical Care

\* Includes medical supplies, vaccines, veterinary care and preventatives (heartworm, flea and tick, etc.)

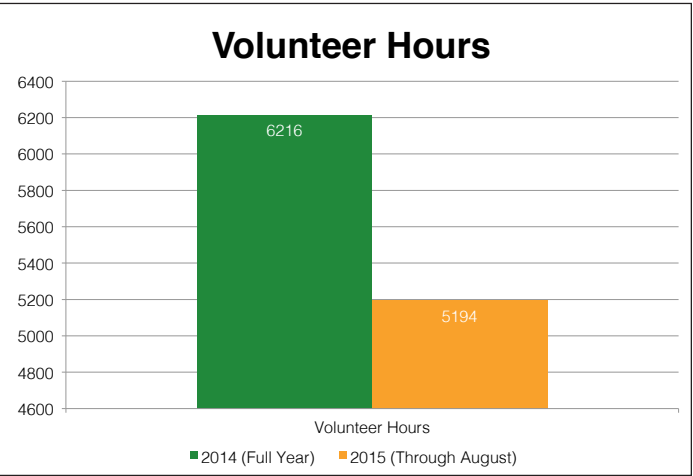
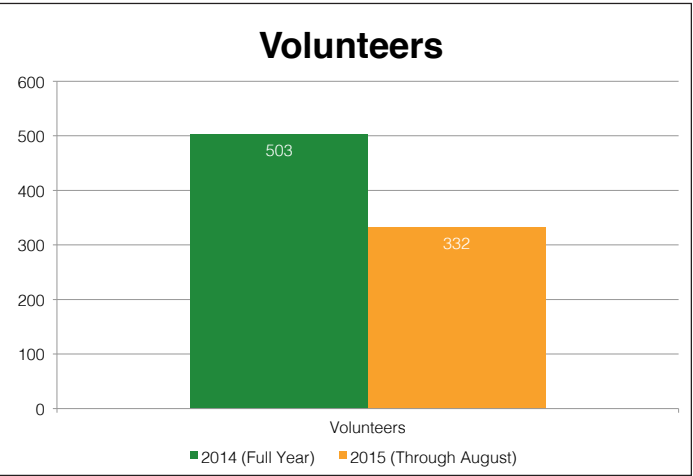
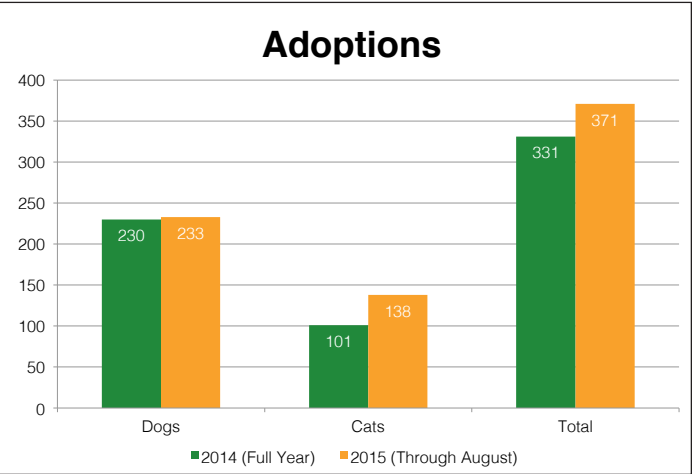
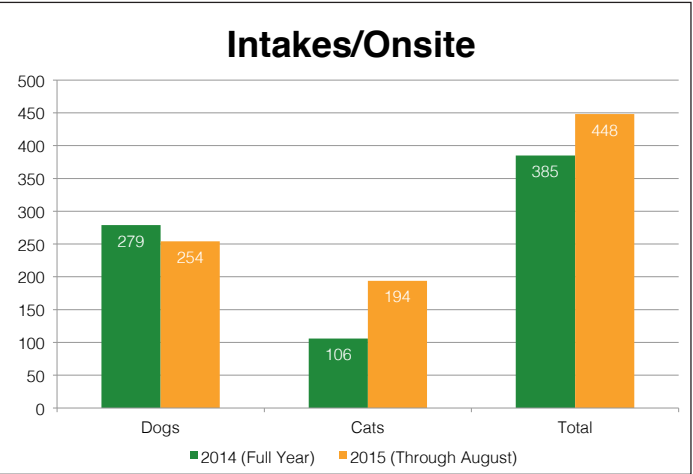
- \$40,000+

### Sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring a kennel, run, space in the Cat Colony Room or a kennel on the Mobile Adoption Center (MAC):

Yearly sponsorships available (please call us for more information):

- **\$1,000** – Outside Run
- **\$500** – Kennel or Cat Colony Room at the Shelter
- **\$250** – Kennel Space on the MAC





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Mark Your Calendars — April 2, 2016

