

Tracks



Spring 2024

The Tulsa Society for the Prevention
of Cruelty to Animals Newsletter

**We speak for those who
cannot speak for
themselves.**

The Tulsa SPCA's mission is to
improve the lives of dogs and cats,
and their human companions.



tulaspca.org
(918) 428-7722

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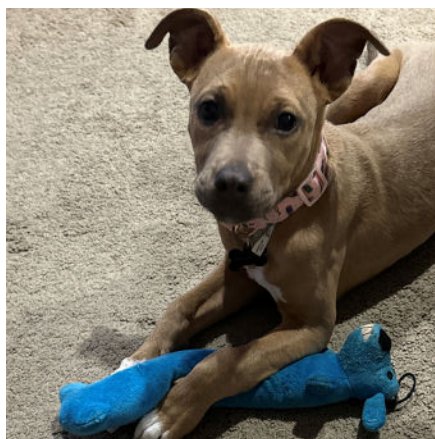
 **Tulsa SPCA**

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happy tails

Dolly Pawton

Dolly Pawton (was Sage) found herself at Tulsa SPCA in mid-January as part of a recent hoarding case. After being processed and reviewed for any medical conditions by our Clinic Staff, Dolly Pawton was made available. We are thrilled to report one week after, she was adopted into her forever family! In Dolly's photo (seen below), it is evident she is living the good life!



Here's a note from her family: "She is amazing! She is the best cuddler ever! She is doing really well with fetch and we are working on sit and learning the word 'no'. She is a doll (hence the name) and we are completely in love with her!" We at Tulsa SPCA think it's a match made in heaven.

Vegeta

Vegeta (was Pizza) came to Tulsa SPCA in early February. Vegeta was found by another local animal rescue that only accepts dogs. After seeing him, they knew they wanted to help so they began to foster him. Shortly after, circumstances changed and they entrusted Tulsa SPCA with Vegeta's care. After being seen by our Clinic Staff, we determined Vegeta was FIV+. Thus, he would need

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Faithful Friends



Nino

Currently available for adoption

Become a monthly donor and help homeless, abused and abandoned animals in the Tulsa community.

Faithful Friends are an integral part of our organization. Through monthly donations, Faithful Friends provide Tulsa SPCA with a consistent and reliable source of funding. This allows us to provide vital resources to the animals in our care and intelligently plan ahead, creating more life-changing outcomes.

When you join Tulsa SPCA's Faithful Friends program, you will join a special group of people committed to improving the lives of dogs and cats, and their human companions. It's a safe, simple, and effective way to support animals like Nino (pictured above) who are still waiting for their forever home.

Faithful Friends at all levels will receive a welcome kit and frequent updates throughout the year about the impact you're making! Currently, we have 114 Faithful Friends!

"We initially chose to support Tulsa SPCA because we're huge advocates for animal rescue. We have a soft spot in our hearts for seniors and have rescued 6 seniors to date. We continue to support Tulsa SPCA with monthly donations because of their commitment to providing affordable animal healthcare with their low cost clinics."

-- Heather & Allen Seiger

Becoming a Faithful Friend can accommodate any budget. Donations occur automatically each month and you can change or cancel the amount at any time.



BECOME A FAITHFUL FRIEND TODAY.
www.tulsaspc.org/monthly

Visit the Tulsa SPCA Clinic Today!

BOOK YOUR
APPOINTMENT
NOW!



Did you know our clinic offers acupuncture services? Acupuncture (seen on the left) can help with arthritis, lameness, spinal injuries or conditions, allergies and asthma, chronic pain, recovery from certain injuries, and recovery from surgical procedures. This does require a 30 minute appointment. When booking the appointment, please indicate you are requesting this treatment, so we can adjust your appointment time to 30 minutes. The cost is \$50 (which includes exam fee).

To make an appointment, or simply learn about our low-cost clinic services, visit: <https://www.tulsaspc.org/clinic-services/>

Program Spotlight: Cruelty and Diversion



In addition to responding to these calls for assistance, Lauren and Lantz respond to multitudes of food requests. As more and more people fall on hard times, many of them are forced to make the often impossible choice of medication for themselves or food for their pets. "I remember speaking with a gentleman who told me he gave his last packet of Ramen noodles to his dog when he ran out of food. In other words, he did not eat, but his dog did. That was striking to me," Lauren noted. According to Hunger Free Oklahoma, 14.5% of Oklahomans experience food insecurity. In light of this, Lantz and Lauren aim to provide our services to all those in need of assistance.

The noted French poet and journalist Anatole France once remarked, "until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened." At Tulsa SPCA, we fully believe this and strive to help spread the joy of pet ownership to all, regardless of the size of their bank account. One of the ways we do this is through our Animal Cruelty and Diversion Program. From responding to cases of animal cruelty and neglect, to assisting with deliveries of dog and cat food (seen below), assisting our community is always top of mind. Lauren Holder (seen above), Tulsa SPCA Cruelty & Diversion Manager and Lantz Woodburn, Tulsa SPCA Animal Cruelty Investigator, work tirelessly to advocate for dogs, cats, and their human companions. "Every day, we try our best to keep dogs and cats in their homes in any way we can. In the majority of cases, these animals are better off with their families rather than being taken to a shelter", Lauren stated.

Lauren's depth of expertise has given her a unique perspective into the needs of the Tulsa community. She began at Tulsa SPCA in 2015, and served as Intake Coordinator prior to being tasked to lead the Cruelty and Diversion Program. "Sometimes the best solution is helping people rehome their animals if they absolutely cannot keep them rather than sending them to us or another local shelter. We always aim to do what's best for the animal and the human." Lauren clarified.

While it is easy to sympathize with folks who struggle providing food and resources for their pets, it can seem almost impossible to extend the same compassion towards an altogether different type of report: animal cruelty. When this phrase is uttered, people immediately tense up and become filled with a plethora of negative emotions, and rightfully so. However, it is important to approach each case holistically. "Sometimes we will arrive to a home and we can immediately tell it has been a struggle for the individual. Maybe access to food and water has been limited or the animal has been living outside all the time.



Program Spotlight: Cruelty and Diversion

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Our place is not to judge, but to offer support and resources," Lantz (seen above) commented.

According to the state of Oklahoma, if an animal has access to food, water, shelter, and medical care, their owner is complying with the law. "As an organization, we do not have legal authority to prosecute infractions, which can make some people from the outside looking in uneasy," Lantz continued. While this might seem like a negative, Lantz and Lauren noted this lack of legal authority often opens the door to deeper conversations, which in turn allow them to discover the root cause of the problem. "I would say around 30%--maybe even less--of the cruelty cases we receive are true cases of malignant cruelty. All the others range from a well-intentioned neighbor who does not have all the facts to someone who is truly trying to do the right thing, but circumstances changed," stated Lauren.

She quickly added, when cases of animal cruelty are confirmed to be serious, local law enforcement such as Tulsa Animal Welfare (TAW) are immediately contacted. "We try if at all possible to avoid this measure. We issue warnings, attempt to form relationships, and provide education, but there are instances when it's in the animal's best interest to have law enforcement intervene," Lantz stated.

Lauren and Lantz have done an incredible job thus far in continuing the work and legacy of Tim Geen, former Tulsa SPCA Cruelty Investigator. Tim retired in December 2023 after 9 years. When asked to describe Tim in a word, Lauren and Lantz both immediately agreed. "Generous. He gave of his time and service to the Tulsa community and made an incredible difference," Lantz quickly stated. "When we had hoarding cases, Tim was often on the ground with me. If he recommended we take an animal, I trusted him without hesitation."

If you are interested in helping Lauren and Lantz with current needs, they would be very grateful for any and all donations! Whether financially through a monthly or one-time gift, or by purchasing high demand items such as doghouses, rest assured, every dollar makes a difference. Visit tulsaspc.org to learn how to give and to view our Amazon wishlist. Contact Lori at 918-428-7722 x 1037 or giving@tulsaspc.org with any questions. Thank you for your generosity!

If you would like to file a report/request for assistance, or to surrender an animal, please visit tulsaspc.org and click "surrendering an animal" or "cruelty investigations" under the programs tab. Thank you for doing your part to improve the lives of dogs, cats, and their human companions!

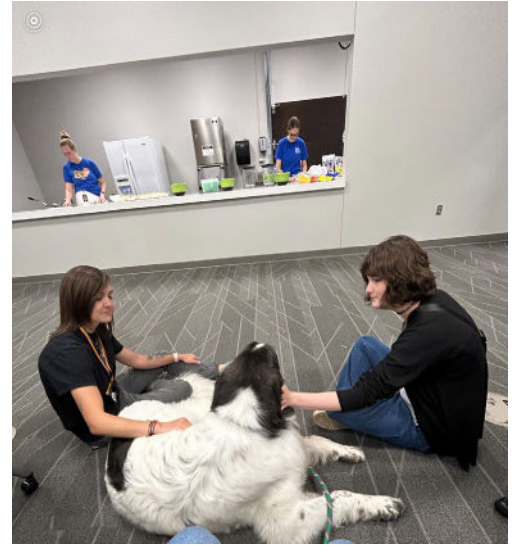
Pets Are Love: Changing Lives One Snuggle at a Time!

Pets Are Love. This aptly named program, often referred to as PAL, is a remarkable initiative. The Tulsa SPCA has been offering this program, grounded in the philosophy and practice of Animal-Assisted Therapy, since the early 1990s. Our volunteers take pre-screened and pre-trained dogs (and, occasionally, cats) for scheduled visits to facilities in the Tulsa area on an ongoing basis. These facilities include places like schools, universities, nursing homes, and even corporate events! Rebecca Roselle, LMSW, a special education teacher at McClure Elementary School, regularly participates in the program by inviting our team into her classroom.

"Working with the PAL program has been such a wonderful experience and support for my classroom! Students eagerly await our PAL visits, and every visit brings a spot of joy and relief from various school stressors. The PAL program helps my students practice their social skills and gives them an opportunity to practice loving and nurturing both the dogs and one another. Our classroom culture is positively impacted by the PAL program. Even though students only see the PAL dogs twice a month, they reference our furry friends in between visits and show care to one another more consistently and intentionally."

Taylor Roepke-Perez, Director of Community Engagement, noted a similar impact. "It is such a joy to see how the community interacts with animals, whether they are shelter animals or adopted. It brings a piece of happiness into everyone's day. Tulsa SPCA and the PAL Program have an impact directly in our community, so to be one of the many members that get to help in that mission is very rewarding. We are looking for volunteers to help with our program. This would be volunteers who are interested in taking animals out to different facilities or places of businesses on a routine basis. We are also looking for animals that would be a fantastic addition to this program."

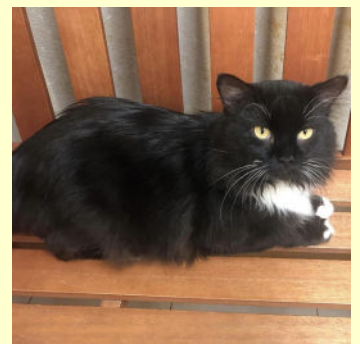
To learn more, please reach out to Taylor at 918-428-7722 x 1028 or troepke@tulsaspc.org. We look forward to meeting you!



Continued from page 1

the right family to adopt him. Three days later, that family walked through our doors! Here's a quote from Vegeta's adopters: "Vegeta (pictured to the right) is now my new administrative assistant. He has an office with a view. He is also a dedicated sentry and keeps the birds in line. He is an excellent foot warmer at night. He enjoys watching tv with his new dad. He is eating well and has been very curious about exploring the house. Thank you for everything! He settled right in. We love him being a new addition to our family."

If you ask anyone on our staff why they enjoy working in animal welfare, stories like this would be high on the list. We are incredibly happy for Vegeta and his forever family. Thank you for adopting, not shopping!



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Would you like to get the Tulsa SPCA Newsletter electronically via email?

Choosing an electronic version not only saves trees, but it also saves the Tulsa SPCA money on printing and postage. If you would like to help us go green, send an email to giving@tulsaspc.org and provide your name and email address. Thank you for your support of the Tulsa SPCA!

Furever Home!

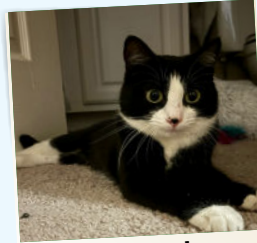
The Tulsa SPCA Brings Together Families



Dolly



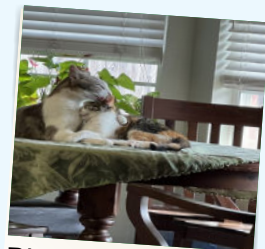
Steph



Petunia



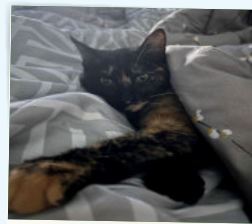
Nutmeg



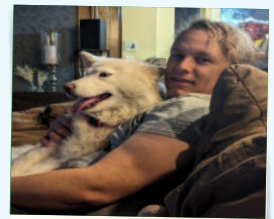
Pippin & Pumpkin



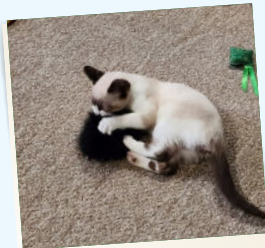
Gracie



Princess Leia



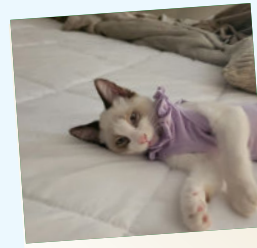
Luna



Bodhi



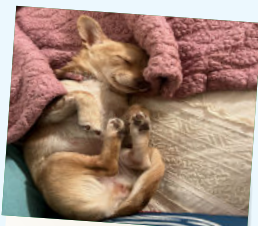
Button



Bonnie



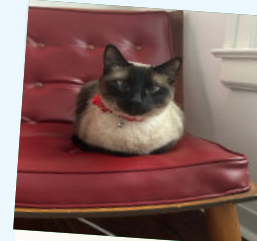
Mabel



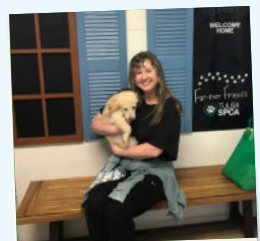
Pepsi



Skylar



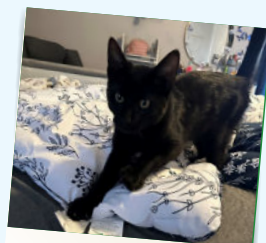
Alfie Cat



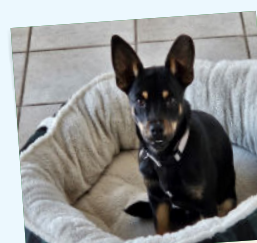
Jim



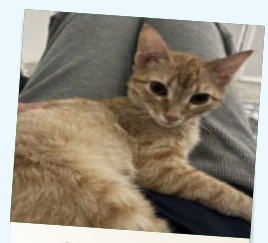
Teton



Lucky



Gus



Fender



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