



Tri-County Humane Society

# Annual Report 2014

YEAR OF THE CAT

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## Mission Statement

*We believe in the human/animal bond and exist to support Central MN by practicing and promoting quality adoption services and education programs.*

*Adopt • Donate • Volunteer*



**SHELTER STAFF**

**HR/Operations Manager**

*Jon Rand*

**Office Manager**

*Jennifer Jackson*

**Customer Service Manager**

*Anna Stratton*

**Customer Service Leads**

*Mae Marcattilio-McCracken*

*Adam Lewis*

**Animal Care Manager**

*Andrea Jaekel*

**Animal Care Lead**

*Kendra Winkelman*

**Animal Care Technicians**

*Bonnie Alexander*

*Laura Lund*

**Manager of Fund Development**

*Marit Ortega*

**Volunteer Coordinator**

*Kimberly Williams*

*Rose Hegerle*

**Part-Time Staff**

*Alan Zimmerman, Amanda Poepke*

*Ashley Toering, Brittany Davis*

*Heather Royalty, Courtney LeDoux*

*Kay Klein, Rebecca Christ*

*Sara Morales, Kayla Kosceilniak*

*Marion White, Corrinne Hibbard*

*Emma Smith-Miller, Josie Sias*

## Message From the Executive Director



Dear friends,

Within days of each other in December of this past year, Tri-County Humane Society (TCHS) and I celebrated a monumental birthday and anniversary. TCHS had 40 candles on the cake and I celebrated my 30th year as lead visionary and cheerleader. In all of the 30 years, I don't know if there's been a year with so many feathers added to our cap.

Establishing more foster homes and cat sale promotions were instrumental in reducing the number of cats euthanized. Our remarkable staff worked relentlessly with that goal in mind and they achieved amazing results. They're really the unsung heroes of those whose lives were saved. They truly are the wind beneath our wings!

Another highlight was receiving a \$10,000 grant from the ASPCA to tackle the rise of cats and kittens surrendered. Using a GIS (geographic information system), we're identifying areas of higher cat population in our community to target them with various methods to increase spay/neuter and address un-owned cats.

Nationally, TCHS had a presence working with the Society of Animal Welfare Administrator's certification program. I was asked to be on a task force to represent the small (but mighty!) shelters. We're evaluating the current program and bringing it up to date. It was humbling to work with people I've considered – and still do – my mentors.

In this report you will see the outstanding work that was done in 2014 at TCHS. Our accomplishments are made possible by the generosity of people who care about animals. Other accomplishments are, at the same time, pending due to the lack of resources. Built in 1989, it's no surprise that our current building is out of date and in need of repairs. As we prepare to research our options, please keep us on your radar for future support. Because of you, more children will experience the thrill of caring for a companion animal, helping to contribute to a more caring and empathetic society.

Please help our life saving dreams become a reality.

All that we do is a result of caring animal lovers like you!

For the animals,

*Vicki Davis*

Vicki Davis, Certified Animal Welfare Administrator,  
Executive Director



## In Loving Memory

In October we mourned the loss of our good friend and shelter mascot, WIBS (Wish I'd Been Spayed).

We are filled with memories of the past 16 years. From the moment she first set paws in our shelter until her parting day, she gave all who knew her much joy. We will miss her sassy meow and her fur balls that decorated every corner of our store, desk chairs and office areas. We will also miss her demands for catnip, tuna flakes, butt scratches and fresh, cold bottled water (tap water simply wouldn't do.)

WIBS was a true shelter ambassador, helping us spread the message on the importance of spaying and neutering our pets. She was also incredibly patient and welcoming to all two and four-legged friends visiting the Tri-County Humane Society!

Our lives are richer for having known WIBS, and she will be greatly missed.



Thank you for being such a good friend, dear Wiblet.

## New Programs

Clicker training for cats is a new program that was introduced to the cat room to help increase adoptions and, therefore, reduce the length of stay for cats.

It makes sense that customers are more likely to adopt a friendly cat that approaches the front of their cage. To help make this happen, volunteers train the cats (yes, they can be trained!) to approach the front of the cage through clicker training. Volunteers approach a cage and extend the end of a pen in a cat's cage. Cats are naturally curious, usually showing interest in the pen, and come in for a closer look. As the cat moves forward, the volunteer will click a clicker to mark the behavior and then toss a treat in the cat's cage.

Clicker training is a way to have fun, positive interactions with cats. This is especially important in a shelter where some cats become scared or shy in this unfamiliar environment. It reminds the cats that nice things happen when people are around.

It doesn't just benefit the cats while they are at the shelter. It provides them with an additional way to communicate and to interact with people once they find new homes. It also shows people what they can do at home to keep their cats motivated, mentally stimulated and exercised.

## A Happy Ending For Gigantor

**G**igantor, a 4-year-old Mastiff, came to TCHS in August of 2014. In just a few days, Gigantor had slobbered his way into all of our hearts. He proved to be a perfect example of a true gentle giant. Ever so loving, sweet, and always up for rubs and wet kisses!

There was just one problem. When he walked, there was a very distinct “clicking” noise that came from his back legs. X-rays confirmed our worst fear of torn ligaments in both knees. This was devastating news. A torn ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) in one knee alone is an expensive surgery with a long recovery period. Gigantor would need surgery on both knees. Now what?

Enter Dr. Cal Kobluk, our friend and an orthopedic surgeon. He and his wife Gina generously volunteered to perform the bilateral ACL surgery.

Gigantor spent the night under Dr. Gina Kobluk’s watch and then spent some recovery time in a foster home. We are absolutely thrilled to add Gigantor to our list of animals we once would not have been able to help. And we’re equally as happy to report he’s doing fantastic and enjoys running with his new doggie friends in his new home!



## Penelope Is Now A Happy Pig!

**P**enelope “Penny” was one of our more exotic pets that came to the shelter in 2014. Penny is a 5-month-old pot-bellied pig.

When she was surrendered she appeared to have a skin condition that made her extremely itchy and left her skin in very poor condition. Boysen Animal Hospital diagnosed the problem as mites.

We sent her to a foster home for 6 weeks of treatment, and they

fell so in love with her that they decided to adopt her.

Penny’s new family was the perfect match and she even has another pot-bellied pig at home she can call her friend. She has visited the shelter with her new family and we are very happy to say she looks fantastic and is a happy and spoiled pig!



*Special thanks to our wonderful foster homes and vets who make these happy endings possible!*

## Lilac's Story

Lilac was a shy little kitten who began showing signs of an upper respiratory infection, but otherwise appeared healthy. After a few days of treatment for her cold, we noticed that Lilac had stopped eating and her condition was worsening. Despite being weak and ill, Lilac was really opening up to people.

After about a week of supportive care, she still would not eat or drink on her own. Volunteer veterinarian Dr. Timothy Simpson examined Lilac and diagnosed her with a condition called masticatory muscle myositis, which is an

autoimmune disorder causing the chewing muscles to become extremely weak. Dr. Tim recommended we keep force feeding Lilac and predicted that eventually she would learn how to compensate for her disorder and learn how to eat.

Dr. Tim was right! Little by little, Lilac started eating on her own. Our staff were glued to her progress chart and there was justified cause for celebration when she was moved to the adoption floor. She made it! Another one to add to the "saved" list! Lilac was adopted on December 30th.



Tri-County  
Humane Society

## Dakota's Special Needs

Dakota, a 7-year-old Black Lab, had a severe uterine infection and needed emergency surgery. There was a day when a 7 year old Lab would not have been a candidate for surgery, no matter how sweet they were. Thank goodness those days are no more!

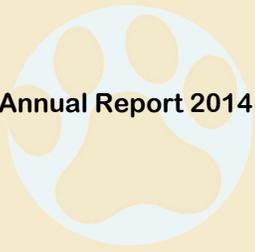
After her surgery, Dakota spent over a month in foster care before she was fully recovered. The foster home had only the best things to say about her. Dakota loved people, kids, cats and other dogs. They only noticed she was fearful outside with loud noises, and hesitant about car rides. The foster family worked with her and made noticeable progress overcoming some of her fears, and Dakota finally came back to the shelter for adoption.

Once Dakota was set up in a kennel on the adoption floor, her sweet and gentle behavior changed abruptly. She would growl at anyone looking at her and alarm bark if people tried talking to her. Knowing how well Dakota did in her foster home, we moved her from the adoption floor to one of the offices. She reverted back to her sweet self. It was apparent she was not going to get adopted from a kennel room environment.

A video of Dakota in the office was made and 98 Country put her video on their website. Someone saw it, and she was adopted on December 31st.

Dakota's New Year couldn't have started out any happier!





## Vet Services

The wellness of the animals in our care is always at the forefront of our minds. We have a dedicated team of animal health care specialists and are so grateful for the services they provided in 2014. Those services gave 1700 animals that first big step toward another chance for a happy life.

Many local veterinarians provide us low-cost veterinary services: Boysen Animal Hospital, Advanced Care Pet Hospital, Minnesota School of Business Veterinary Program, Granite City Pet Hospital & Surgical Center, Pine Cone Pet Hospital, Companions Animal Hospital, Banfield Pet Hospital, MN SNAP, The Minnesota State Fair.

We are grateful to Dr. Lois Harmon, our veterinarian, and to the veterinarians who volunteer their services: Dr. Traci Diggs, Dr. Marta Powers, Dr. Timothy Simpson, Dr. Gina Kobluk, Dr. Cal Kobluk, Dr. Hillary McCulloh, Dr. Laura Wilant, Dr. Karen Gjevre, Dr. Heather Vogl, Dr. Anne Lottie, Dr. Tom Rohman, Dr. Jennifer Melling.

*I don't remember how I first learned about Tri-County Humane Society, but my first adoption was two adorable kittens in 1989. I always wanted to volunteer, but for many years my work life didn't allow it. When I was finally able to spare some time I started with a few hours here and there as needed. Then I started helping with the Companion Walk, and in the last year I have been honored to serve as a board member. Through this process my eyes have been opened to how many people impact (and are impacted by) the shelter every day.*

*Staff, volunteers, visitors, adopters, and shoppers fill the building all day long. Activities take place outside the shelter on a daily basis that all require staffing. It's an amazing network of people who give what they can because what they get in return is so valuable.*

*Tri-County Humane Society is an invaluable resource for Central Minnesota. I encourage you to stop in and see for yourself.*

*Cheryl Ley*

## Surgeries

Cat spays 779 (654 in 2013)	ACL 2 (none done in 2013)
Dog spays 165 (163 in 2013)	Cherry eye repair 1 (8 in 2013)
Rabbit spays 16 (22 in 2013)	FHO 1 (none in 2013)
Cryptorchid neuter 17 (10 in 2013)	Fracture repair 1 (1 in 2013)
Cat neuters 709 (560 in 2013)	Suture repair 4 (2 in 2013)
Dog neuters 185 (202 in 2013)	Tail amputation 7 (1 in 2013)
Rabbit neuters 15 (20 in 2013)	Tumor removal 10 (13 in 2013)
Dentals 27 (17 in 2013)	Wound repair 3 (3 in 2013)
Eye removals 4 (2 in 2013)	1972 total surgeries (1708 in 2013)
Hernia repairs 18 (18 done in 2013)	
Leg amputations 4 (3 in 2013)	310 surgeries done off site
Quill removals 2 (1 in 2013)	1662 surgeries done on site

## Foster Care

Foster care continues to be a critical piece of our lifesaving efforts, and in 2014 we saved 1250 animals (an increase from 802 in 2013) by having them go through our foster care program. 560 of those were cats that needed to be treated for a simple upper respiratory infection. If not for our 249 foster homes this would not have been possible.

When an animal is too young, sick, injured or just needs someone to teach them basic manners, foster parents help fill the gap between the time the animal is brought to the shelter and the time they are adopted.

Our foster program helps us save more lives!

Throughout the year of 2014, Tri-County Humane Society had 679 active volunteers. The generosity of those volunteers gave us the gift of 13,744 hours of service! TCHS cares for thousands of homeless animals each year and that would not be possible without the help of our volunteers. Any act of kindness, large or small, provides invaluable help and makes a difference.

There are many areas in which our volunteers provide much needed help. Some volunteers provide hands-on assistance through shelter animal care, dog walking, foster care, and surgical assisting. Other areas in which our volunteers help accomplish TCHS's goals are through office assisting, helping during special events, and various projects in, around, and outside of the shelter.

Without our wonderful volunteers, we would not be able to provide the community services and animal care that we do! For information on how you can become a TCHS volunteer, please visit our website or, better yet, stop by for a visit and pick up an application!

## Adult Volunteer of the Year

**Keith Anderson** contributed over 310 hours of volunteer service in 2014! In addition to his regular shelter animal care shifts, he answered the call to many duties. He helped us with numerous animal transports,

lots of shelter maintenance, donation bank pick ups, working at special events, and so much more. Keith is also a valuable mentor volunteer, guiding new volunteers during their first shifts. He has been a valuable asset to TCHS and is very much appreciated.



## Junior Volunteer of the Year

**Kyle Waytashek** is a junior volunteer who gifted TCHS with over 132 hours of his time in 2014. At offsite adoption events, he volunteers alongside his mother, Vickie. Many offsite adoption events are held at Petco and Petsmart and involve advertising adoptable animals (in person) and spreading the TCHS mission within our community. Kyle also volunteered at the shelter walking dogs and helped at the Companion Walk. We are grateful for all his hard work and ambition to adopt out more animals!



## Above and Beyond Volunteer

**Nick Rasmussen** donated 337 hours of his time to TCHS in 2014. His primary role has been animal photographer and all around friend of animals. Nick continuously went above and beyond his weekly photography shift. He also accepted the role of volunteer mentor to support new photography volunteers. He put in marathon days at the shelter, created videos of our V.I.P. animals, and helped post pets on Petfinder & Facebook. There are numerous ways he went above and beyond the call of duty to support TCHS and our mission. He has been a delight to work with and we count on many more accomplishments with Nick on our team!



*When I accepted the position of volunteer and humane education coordinator, I was thrilled to become part of the Tri-County Humane Society team. I have only been in the position a few months but I already know how important our work is and genuinely enjoy working with the many caring volunteers. TCHS is so very fortunate to have the support of those volunteers.*

**Rose Hegerle**

## Highlights

2014 was the first complete year utilizing the new volunteer database "Vologistics." This program has allowed new organization and streamlining of record keeping. In 2015, we are including foster volunteers in this program.

In November, Rose Hegerle was hired on as the new Volunteer/Humane Education Coordinator.

Kitten Office Break visits were started. There have only been three visits, but they were well received. We hope to increase these visits in 2015.

The following pet therapy/humane education visits were made in 2014: 18 senior care facilities, 48 community events, 23 birthday parties, 34 shelter tours, 131 offsite adoption events.



## Flower Fundraiser

Our Administrative Professional's Day flower delivery fundraiser was a success! 217 vases of roses were prepared and delivered by volunteers to local businesses, raising \$2,439 for the animals!

*As a volunteer veterinarian at TCHS, I am fortunate to see firsthand the love and care which all animals receive. The dedication of the staff and volunteers is truly amazing. Each animal is greeted with compassion and care, and every effort is made to find a loving, permanent home for them. I feel very fortunate to be able to work with these outstanding people, and I could not even begin to do what I do without them. Thank you so much.*  
*Dr. Tim Simpson*

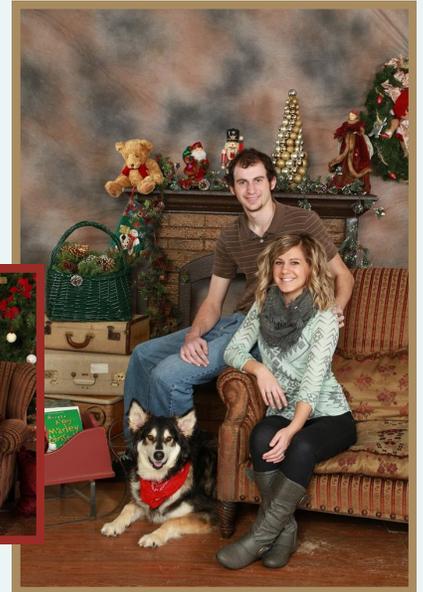
## Wrapping for a Good Paws

214 volunteers cheerfully put in 1,316 hours wrapping gifts at our gift wrapping booth at Crossroads Center, raising a total of \$10,661 for the animals!



## Santa Paws

We had a great event in 2014, raising \$7,580 for the animals with a total of 195 portrait sessions. Lisa Crayford and Brian Leither from Country Gallery Photography and Sue Dropp generously donated their time and talent, allowing 100% of the proceeds to help the animals.



## Woofstock Companion Walk

The 26th Annual Woofstock Companion Walk was a success! We raised \$50,369, thanks to all who contributed and/or participated in our 5k Companion Walk for animals on September 13th! Over 525 people and 260 pets joined us on this beautiful, cool fall day - perfect dog walking weather, but perhaps a little chilly for those who braved the dunk tank! The costume contest and annual hot dog eating contest made for some great entertainment, and the demo by Stearns County Sheriff's Tacking Team was highly educational.



## Wine, Kibbles & Bids

The 13th Annual Wine, Kibbles & Bids benefit for animals raised \$50,989 for the animals in our care! 252 attendees enjoyed wine and beer tasting complements of Coborn's Liquor, live music from the Janelle and Dan Duo, guest portraits by Country Gallery, over 200 silent auction items to bid on and a beautiful gourmet dinner at the Gorecki Center.



*Every day I strive to be a better person. I have to admit some days are better than others, but I know when I'm volunteering with TCHS, my days and those of the animals I am helping are a whole lot brighter. Let's all strive to be better, and if that includes volunteering, I encourage you to volunteer with TCHS; it will fill up your soul...I guarantee it.*  
*Emily Bezdicek,  
Volunteer, Board Member*

## Vision for the Future

We envision:

- A time when every treatable and rehabilitatable animal will be treated, rehabilitated and adopted to forever homes.
- A time when TCHS has abundant resources and finances to carry out its mission and vision.
- A time when TCHS will use technology efficiently to meet the needs for all staff, adopters and animals.
- A time when the community will be well educated about the TCHS mission, vision, purpose, and practices.
- A passion to continually explore new options and embrace new opportunities and improved animal care and enrichment techniques.
- A time when TCHS is recognized as the leader in responsible companion animal care.
- The continual development of a sound foundation to support the shelter as it evolves to meet ever changing community and animal welfare needs.
- A state of the art facility.



# National

Animal welfare professionals network and share ideas about how to better improve practices within our industry.

Before research was done and data collected, myths and beliefs were the inspiration behind the policies made. All were done with the best interest of the animals in mind, but unfortunately some were actually doing the opposite. For example, years ago it was believed that putting animals on sale devalued them and that pets should never be given as a gift. Now, through studies done at the national level, we know that's not true. In fact, research shows that people who bought a pet for a reduced or even waived fee were no less attached than those who paid full price. Also, people who received a pet as a gift were apt to be even more attached to the pet due to the connection to the person who gave it to them. Research also shows there were no more pets returned in either scenario.

More animals are being adopted because former restrictions which were in place (only based on a theory) were lifted. TCHS strives to stay on top of the latest research in animal welfare - and in some cases, we are breaking new ground and setting the trend! We owe this growth and leadership to our collaboration with the national organizations.

In May, Executive Director Vicki Davis accepted a position to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Humane Societies. Previously, Ms. Davis served as a member of the NFHS and worked on the best practices committee. She offers the Board representation of the smaller shelters, most who don't have the resources to be "state of the art", but want to offer "state of the art" care and services for animals.



**President**

*Mary Geller*

**First Vice President**

*Sherri Baker*

**Second Vice President**

*Cyd Reuter*

**Secretary**

*Sara Goodrum*

**Treasurer**

*Matthew Larson*

*Emily Bezdicek*

*Diane Buschena-Brenna*

*Kurt Durrwachter*

*Jim Hart*

*Cheryl Ley*

*Bill Nelson*

*Kris Stewart*

*Ron Von Holdt*

# State



Tri-County Humane Society is a founding member of MnPAW (Minnesota Partnership in Animal Welfare) and is very active in the progressive work being done in MN. This coalition has taken huge strides in the spirit of working together. Networking as we have, animals who would otherwise have been euthanized were moved to a location where their needs could be met and a new home could be found.

The 3rd Annual MnPAW conference brought valuable and affordable information to Minnesota's animal welfare community.

Session topics included:

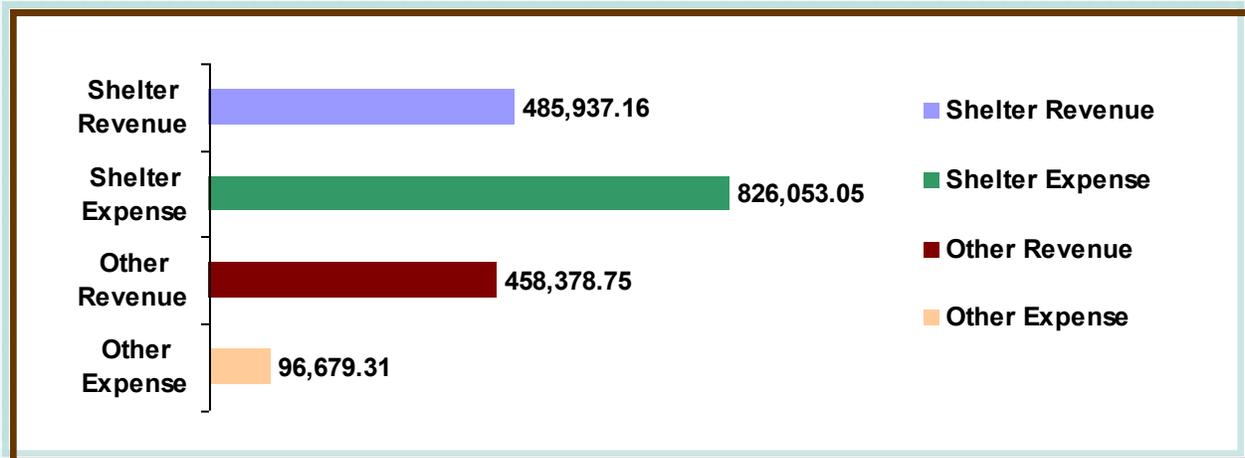
- Community Cat Management. Speaker Kate F. Hurley, DVM, MPVM, director of the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program.
- A Second Chance for Fearful Dogs. Speaker Kristen Collins, MS, ACAAB, director of the Anti-Cruelty Behavior Rehabilitation of the ASPCA.

This collaboration continues to expand, be successful, and save the lives of many animals - the one goal all members of MnPAW share foremost.

Our success to maintain our services is due to our strong base of annual donors.  
 But our progress in the future and vision of a new shelter will depend on our  
 community members supporting us at leadership levels.

## Finance

TCHS is a highly efficient organization which goes to great lengths to reduce our administrative costs so that the majority of funds can be focused on our lifesaving programs. Compared to other organizations with similar budgets, TCHS does a lot more for much less. We reliably receive high rankings according to national charity ranking organizations such as GuideStar and Charity Navigator. TCHS depends on the support of our local community to provide the highest quality services to the animals entrusted to us.



<u>Sources of Funds</u>		<u>Uses of Funds</u>	
Shelter Revenue	\$485,937.16	Shelter Expense	\$826,053.05
Thrift Store	\$47,114.63	Other Expense	\$23,059.13
Donations	\$231,824.22	Thrift Store	\$59,187.26
Fundraising	\$130,950.80	Fundraising	<u>\$14,432.92</u>
Grants	\$10,000	<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>\$922,732.36</b>
Other Revenue	<u>\$38,489.10</u>		
<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>\$944,315.91</b>		

<b>Animal Stats</b>	<b>DOG</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>CAT</b>	<b>KITTEN</b>	<b>OTHER</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2013 INTAKE</b>	808	123	1129	830	237	3127
<b>2014 INTAKE</b>	683	158	1204	991	375	3411
<b>2013 STRAYS</b>	114	13	276	230	5	638
<b>2014 STRAYS</b>	98	27	248	224	7	605
<b>2013 ADOPTIONS</b>	728	123	1014	777	233	2875
<b>2014 ADOPTIONS</b>	642	169	1148	1005	334	3298
<b>2013 CLAIMED</b>	76	3	22	1	1	103
<b>2014 CLAIMED</b>	70	4	15	2	1	92
<b>2013 EUTHANIZED</b>	130	0	376	239	10	755
<b>2014 EUTHANIZED</b>	84	4	333	144	28	593

# Tri-County Humane Society

Adopt • Donate • Volunteer



## Website

[www.tricountyhumanesociety.org](http://www.tricountyhumanesociety.org)



## E-mail

[pets@tricountyhumanesociety.com](mailto:pets@tricountyhumanesociety.com)



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St. Cloud, MN 56304  
(320) 252-0896

From humble beginnings in a renovated gas station on Lincoln Avenue, the Tri-County Humane Society has made great strides establishing itself as a progressive animal welfare organization in Minnesota and a leader in the humane field nationwide.