

2025



# ANNUAL REPORT

Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter

# MISSION & VISION

DEAR FELLOW ANIMAL LOVER AND FRIEND,

Thank you for supporting Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter in 2025. We could not fulfill our mission without the generosity of our volunteers, donors, adopters, sponsors, and community partners. Whether through your time, financial support, advocacy, or by opening your home to an animal in need, you play a vital role in every success story we celebrate.

Together, we are giving homeless animals throughout Marquette County the care, compassion, and second chances they deserve—whether it's their first opportunity at a loving home or another chance to find the right fit.

This year has been one of growth, progress, and excitement for UPAWS which is improving the quality of care we provide and strengthening our ability to serve both animals and the people who love them.

As you read through these pages, we hope you feel the impact of your support and share in our excitement for what lies ahead. Together, we are building a stronger future for homeless animals across the Upper Peninsula, and we are grateful to have you alongside us on that journey.

## Mission

**UPAWS champions the wellbeing of pets by providing safe shelter, promoting adoptions, and fostering a compassionate community through education and supportive services.**



## Vision

**A compassionate community where all pets are safe, cared for, and treated with respect.**

# SUCCESS AT A GLANCE



Animals Spayed or Neutered in House

**102**



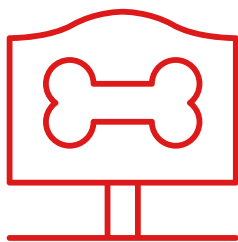
Save rate

**98.9%**



Lost pets reunited with their family

**137**



Paws Park Members

**53**



Animals that stayed out of the shelter with Home2Home

**31**



Safe Refuge Animals

**24**

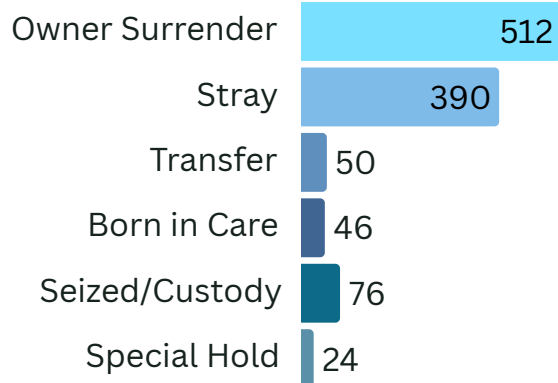


## Animal intake numbers by species

Save Rate =  
 $(\text{intake} - \text{passed}) / (\text{intake} - \text{euthanized})$

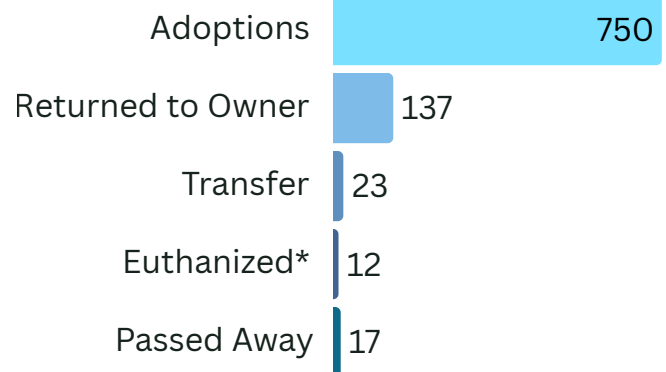
# 2025 IMPACT

## Animal Intakes



**Total intake: 1238**

## Animal Outcomes



**Total Outcome: 939**

*\*No animals were euthanized due to space or time at the shelter. Euthanasia is a last option after considering quality of life and public safety.*

*\*Animal intakes exceeded outcome due to our Foster and Foster-to-Adopt program.*



# HAPPY TAILS FROM ADOPTERS

## 1 Phil

When Phil first arrived at UPAWS, he was scared, stressed, and struggling. Living life on the streets had left him wary of people, and his anxiety was so severe that it contributed to a serious bladder infection.

Thanks to the patience and dedication of our staff and volunteers, Phil slowly began taking small steps toward trust. Over four months, those small victories added up to an incredible transformation.

Today, Phil is a much more relaxed and confident cat who enjoys playtime, spends time at the front of his kennel, and seeks out attention from the people he knows. While he still prefers to move at his own pace, his growing confidence has been a joy to watch. Phil's story is a reminder that healing takes time and that every animal deserves the chance to feel safe, loved, and understood. From fear to trust, Phil's journey is proof that every step forward is worth celebrating.

*Update from Phil's family: "He's doing amazing. He's very bonded to my other cat Bean (used to be named Koopa Troopa) who was also a stray through UPAWS. Bean has gotten so much more social and confident since I got Phil. I honestly think they were meant to find each other. Phil loves to chase his tail, sleep upside down, and run through the cabinets."*

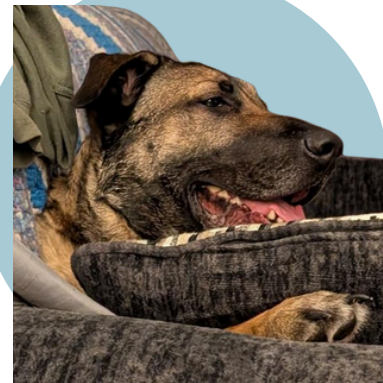


## 2 Ozzy

*"I'm so happy to share because Ozzy has really come a long way. I'm so proud of him because he no longer hides from us or shies away. He's social with strangers even and doesn't bat at them or bite them. He himself comes up to them and it makes me so happy."*



## 3 McKenzie



*"Just thought I'd send you some photo updates. McKenzie is doing great. Settled in pretty well at this point. We were even able to get him off his*

*anxiety meds, with the guidance of our vet, and he actually seems a lot more comfortable. Not so thirsty all the time. He looks like he dropped some weight as well. I don't have enough pics of him outside. He's so cute in the snow. He loves it so much. His new best friend is one of our cats. They're constantly romping around. I'll try to get a picture of them together. It's adorable. We sure love him. Thanks again."*

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

## DEB'S DOG RECEIVED THE LEGACY AWARD



Through our Legacy Awards, UPAWS honors individuals whose compassion and generosity continue to impact animals and our community.

Deb's Dog of the Month was established by Deb Danielson's family in honor of her lifelong love of dogs and animals. A beloved member of the Marquette community, Deb touched many lives during her time here. Through the support of her sister, Mikki, and their family, Deb's kindness and passion for helping animals continue to live on by giving shelter dogs additional opportunities to find the loving homes they deserve.

## UPAWS TRADEMARK IS REGISTERED

In 2025, UPAWS officially secured federal trademark registration for its name and brand, helping protect the organization's identity and strengthening its presence for years to come.

## UPAWS PROVIDES LIFELINE FOR 24 PETS IN CRISIS

UPAWS provides temporary care for animals when their owners face unexpected hardships such as hospitalization or incarceration, ensuring families do not have to worry about losing a beloved companion during difficult times.

In 2025, the program provided shelter and care for 24 animals, including 13 dogs and 11 cats, helping keep pets safe until they could be reunited with their families.

## UPAWS TURNED 50!

In 2025, UPAWS proudly celebrated its 50th anniversary, marking five decades of compassion, growth, and dedication to the animals of the Upper Peninsula. What began as a small community effort has evolved into a leading no-kill animal shelter, providing lifesaving care, adoption services, and community programs for thousands of animals over the years. Staff, volunteers, supporters, and community members came together to celebrate this milestone and reflect on the many people and pets who have shaped UPAWS' journey. The anniversary served as both a celebration of the past and a reminder of the bright future ahead as UPAWS continues its mission of saving lives and creating second chances.

## IN HOUSE SURGERY CENTER OPENS!

UPAWS officially opened its new surgery center in September, marking a major step forward in providing medical care for shelter animals. In October, the shelter expanded its capabilities with the purchase of a second anesthesia machine and an in-house blood analyzer, allowing staff to obtain faster diagnoses, reduce stress on animals by limiting outside veterinary visits, and provide adopters with baseline bloodwork to share with their veterinarian. In preparation for the opening, we hired a Vet Tech in August.

Thanks to the dedication of our volunteer veterinarians, UPAWS performed 102 in-house spay and neuter surgeries in 2025, helping improve animal health while reducing medical costs and wait times.

## ANIMAL BEHAVIORAL COORDINATOR IMPROVES OUTCOMES FOR ANIMALS

A major milestone for UPAWS in 2025 was the addition of an Animal Behavioral Coordinator, a role designed to improve outcomes for both shelter animals and adopters. By working directly with animals while they are in our care, providing behavioral support, and following up with adopters after placement, the program helps identify and resolve potential challenges before they become barriers to success. Adopters also have access to post-adoption training resources and guidance, creating a stronger support system for families and helping more dogs transition successfully into their forever homes.

## ONLINE RECORDS FOR ADOPTERS

UPAWS acquired Petszel, a new online platform that gives adopters 24/7 access to important pet records, adoption contracts, helpful articles, and other resources. The program makes it easier than ever for adopters to access information and support throughout their pet ownership journey.

## STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

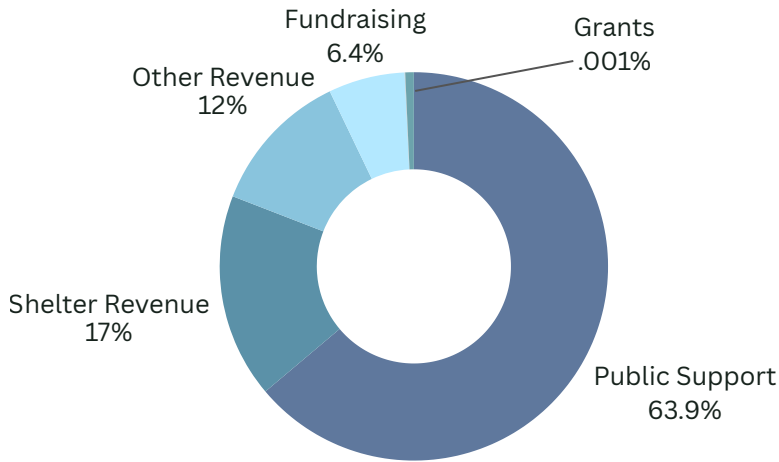
In 2025, UPAWS began developing a new strategic plan with Grow and Lead to guide the organization's future. Through input from board members, staff, volunteers, and the community, four core values—Collaboration, Transparency, Empathy, and a commitment to the No-Kill Philosophy—were identified as the foundation for the plan, which was finalized in 2026.

## TEAMWORK GETS THE PARK BACK ON TRACK

A significant grub infestation temporarily closed the UPAWS Paw Park this year, but thanks to the hard work of dedicated staff and volunteers, the park was quickly restored. Together, they spent hours raking, treating, and repairing the damaged turf, allowing the Paw Park to safely reopen and continue providing a place for dogs and their families to run, play, and enjoy the outdoors.

# FINANCIALS

Prepared using unaudited financial statements.



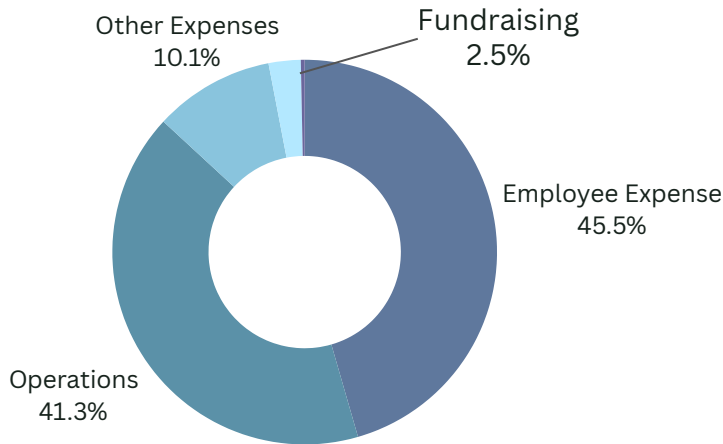
## Revenue

Shelter Operations	\$263,646
Public Support	\$989,037
Fundraising	\$98,549
Grants	\$835
Sally's Fund	\$11,027
*Other	\$185,807

**Total: \$1,548,901**

\$671,979 of Direct Support is from bequests

\*Other Revenue includes resale items and fund earnings.



## Expenses

Employee Expenses	\$480,889
Operating	\$436,660
Fundraising	\$28,491
Grants	\$0
Sally's Fund	\$3,400
*Other	\$106,830

**Total: \$1,056,270**

\*Other Expenses includes professional fees, resale items and promotional expense.

# GET INVOLVED

## Programs & Services

- Paws Park Dog Park
- Memorial Garden
- Pink Lady Vet Fund
- Pet Sponsorships
- Read to Your Shelter Pet Program
- Home 2 Home Program
- Community Food Bank
- Buddy Program
- Seniors for Seniors
- Barn Buddies
- Lonely Hearts
- Woofs & Meows for Military
- Sally's Fund
- Community Room Rental
- Self-Serve Grooming Room



## Fundraisers

- Strut Your Mutt
- Pet Photo Calendar Contest
- Raise the Woof Comedy Night
- Tee Up for Tails Golf Outing
- Cause for Paws Gala
- UPAWS holiday and in-shelter retail shop



# CONCLUSION

## AS WE CONCLUDE OUR 2025 REPORT,

Thank you for supporting Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter in 2025. This year was filled with exciting milestones as we celebrated UPAWS' 50th anniversary, opened our new veterinary surgery center, expanded adoption support through our Animal Behavioral Coordinator program, advanced the development of a new strategic plan, and strengthened programs that help keep pets safe and families together. These accomplishments reflect our ongoing commitment to providing exceptional care and creating brighter futures for the animals who depend on us.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of our volunteers, donors, adopters, foster families, veterinary partners, and community supporters. Every hour volunteered, every donation made, and every act of kindness helped save lives and strengthen our mission. From all of us at UPAWS, thank you for making these successes possible and for helping us continue to give animals the second chances they deserve.

### Board of Directors

**Lynn Andronis** - President  
**Steffani Baker** - Vice President  
**Andi Goriesky** - Secretary  
**Chris Danik** - Treasurer  
**Dominic Andriacchi**  
**Kayla Billings**  
**Shane Place**

**Upper Peninsula Animal  
Welfare Shelter**  
**815 South State Highway M553**  
**Gwinn, MI 49841**



*Thank you for being  
part of the UPAWS  
family. Together, we are  
making a difference  
every day, and we look  
forward to another year  
of providing hope,  
healing, and second  
chances.*

