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**Brothers waiting to get adopted!** 

Winter 2024 | VOL. 7



9167 DICKEY ROAD NW SILVERDALE, WA 98383

kitsap-humane.org

Founded in 1908 and located in Silverdale, Washington, Kitsap Humane Society (KHS) serves Kitsap County and beyond as more than a shelter. We work to rescue, rehabilitate, and find loving homes for thousands of animals every year. To achieve our mission, we are committed to an open admissions policy—we don't turn animals in need away—and excellence in all of our services.

Kitsap Humane Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tax ID Number: 91-0728353

**Questions or concerns? Please contact:** Editor Mike Bush - (360) 692-6977, ext. 1206 Editorial Assistants Timber Hunt, Jamie Nocula, Jocelyn Horton, Kelly Fleischmann Graphic Design Elizabeth Stevenson

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ON THE COVER: Percy the Pig Photo by Kitsap Humane Society

## A Letter from Dr. Jen & Jamie

#### What a year!

hen the history of Kitsap Humane Society is written, 2023 will be one of those turning points that changed the organization and the community forever for the better. As with any organization that's stood the test of time (over 115 years in our case), there were some challenges and bumps along the way. Our team of dedicated staff and volunteers, however, embraced it all as opportunities to elevate our mission. As we like to say, "we're not a wealthy organization, but we're a healthy one."

Of course, the biggest news of the year was the opening of the Russ and Linda Young Veterinary Lifesaving Center, which you may have read about in the last issue of this magazine. We're still looking for veterinarians so we can be fully open later this year, but we have begun taking in emergency referrals for reduced-cost surgeries. If you know of any vets who'd like to be a part of a fun, dedicated team of professionals working in a world-class facility, please send them our way!

On the opposite end of the campus, we recently opened the Big Animal Barn, donated by the Jacobi Family Foundation. This facility – which you can read about on page 10 – gives our Animal Control Officers a place to house livestock and other large animals who have been taken under our care. We've already had several short-term occupants, including geese, ducks, a goat, and the very charming pig who made the cover of this issue - Percy.

Operationally, we've seen some pretty huge successes as well. We hosted dozens of successful events, from our annual Animal Krackers Gala and the Putting Fore! Pets golf tournament to PetsWalk in Poulsbo and our newest entry, Comedy Unleashed comedy shows. We held adoption events all over Kitsap County and partnered with dozens of local businesses in promotional activities. And along the way, we adopted out 3,497 animals, spayed/neutered 4,282, and found foster homes for 1,048.



Among our biggest wins was in September, when we learned that we've been accepted to the PetSmart Charities Accelerator Access to Veterinary Care program. This is an opportunity that we'd been pursuing for more than a year-and-a-half and to finally be a part of it is a huge validation of what we're doing as an organization. You can read more about it on page 3, but the short version is this: for the next four years, we'll have a partner in PetSmart to help us run our nonprofit in a way that stretches every dollar as far as it can go to help animals in our community.

What's more, we ended the year by announcing a partnership with Greater Goods Charities. Through their GOODS program, we'll get deliveries of excess, rebranded, and short-dated food and supplies for pennies on the dollar. As an ambassador of the GOODS program, we'll not only be able to regularly stock our Pet Food Pantry, but also share products with other area charities that need them. Read more on page 5.

Simply put, 2023 was a resounding success – and now we're heading into 2024 with a great staff and troupe of volunteers leading the way. We're once again opening the shelter for people who want to come to meet pets, we're building our "Angel Fund" to ensure we have the backs of those in low-income situations whose companion animals need veterinary care, and we're charging ahead with optimism and energy – and with your support – better equipped than ever to serve our community.

Thank you,

**Jamie Nocula** 

Director of Philanthropy & Co-Interim Executive Director Kitsap Humane Society

Dr. Jennifer Stonequist

Director of Shelter Medicine & Co-Interim **Executive Director** Kitsap Humane Society



# A SMART MOVE

t's estimated that 50 million pets in the U.S. experience a lack of access to even basic veterinary care. Rising costs and other barriers mean that many families with pets struggle to access services such as spay/neuter procedures, vaccinations, and critical medical and preventative care. It's a national problem, but a local one as well. It's why Kitsap Humane Society (KHS) recently opened the Russ and Linda Young Veterinary Lifesaving Center (VLC) — to help provide reduced-cost care for pets when their people fall on hard times. And now we have a partner in that effort.

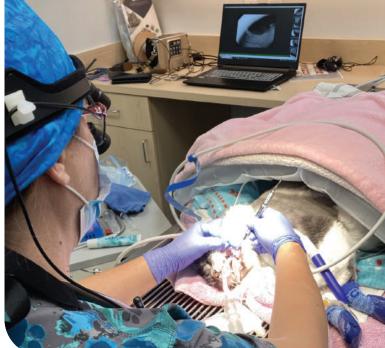
Last September, we were named a grantee of the PetSmart Charities Accelerator Access to Veterinary Care Program. As a participant in this highly competitive grant portfolio, we will not only receive funding, but also consulting, mentoring, and support tools designed to help us build a model nonprofit veterinary practice.

The Accelerator low-cost veterinary care grant program is a part of PetSmart Charities' larger

nationwide initiative to improve access to veterinary care – to which they've committed \$100 million in grants over the next five years. These grants support the expansion of low-cost veterinary care by funding growth and operations for up to four years for nonprofit clinics looking to expand their services, serve their communities better, and inspire other veterinary providers by sharing their experiences.

"Our veterinary system is in crisis," said Kate Atema, director of community grants and initiatives at PetSmart Charities. "Rising costs are putting standard veterinary care out of reach for as much as 50 percent of pet-owning families. We need innovative solutions that make veterinary care affordable for the families in every community who want the best for their four-legged companions but struggle to meet the cost of vet care. We're inspired by the incredible work Kitsap Humane Society is doing to create solutions that will build strong families and a healthy community."







The effects of the grant have already been felt, as the VLC has started providing emergency veterinary services for pets who have been referred to us from local vets. From Hulk, the giant pittie who needed surgery on his ear, to Fern, the kitty who had a broken tail and asthma – dozens of pets have already found needed care at KHS, and are back with their families, where they belong.

"Being a part of the Accelerator program is more than just a grant," said Co-Interim Executive Director Dr. Jen Stonequist. "It's an opportunity to not only expand our services, but to enhance those we already provide, and it's a confirmation that we're doing things right."

In the coming months, we will be hiring more veterinary staff and increasing our VLC operating hours to care for even more animals across Kitsap County – thanks to the innovation and generosity of PetSmart Charities and all the others who support our cause.

Photos clockwise from top left: Vet Services' Alana applies pre-surgery eye lubricant to a patient; Cats and dogs undergo dental surgery in The De Bruyn Tooth Fairy Dental Suite; Dr. Meisha performs a spay surgery.











# WE'VE GOT THE GOODS

ne of the less-talked-about but more important services we provide – and one of the ways we keep pets with their families – is the Pet Food Pantry. Seven days a week, residents of Kitsap and Mason counties who are faced with food insecurity are able to receive free dog and cat food at Kitsap Humane Society to ensure that they're not having to make a choice between feeding themselves or their beloved companion animals.

In the past, the success of the Pet Food Pantry has been entirely dependent on the generosity of the community – those who would donate unopened, unexpired food to stock its shelves. That model is changing, however, thanks to our new partnership with Greater Good Charities. Through their GOODS program, Greater Good Charities sources and manages excess, rebranded, and short-dated food and supplies from manufacturers, distributors, and retailers and makes those products available to non-profits – similar to a food bank model, in that goods are donated, but freight, warehouse, and program costs are met by handling fees and donations.

KHS was recently selected to be an ambassador of the GOODS program - one of only two in Washington state. This means that we will act as the hub of the "distribution wheel," receiving products from the organization, and with the invaluable partnership of Bremerton Foodline, doling out thousands of pounds of food to those nonprofits that qualify.

"The opportunity to work with Greater Good Charities really opens up what we're able to do for our community," said Co-Interim Executive Director Jamie Nocula. "We're proud of everything we've been able to do for animals, and now we'll be able to directly assist people as well. It's a way of expanding the community safety net that we work so hard to provide."

Of course, the GOODS deliveries can only go so far, and the demand for pet food among our neighbors is very high. That's why we'll continue to accept – and will always be in need of – donations of food and supplies to our Pet Food Pantry. If you'd like to help support the Pantry or any of our other initiatives, please scan the code to the right.

Photos clockwise from top left: KHS' Director of Animal Welfare Lisa Chastain, Admissions Manager Chris Russell, and Co-Interim Executive Director Jamie Nocula, along with Bremerton Foodline's Executive Director Cori Kauk and Operations Manager Brandie Short Western celebrate the first Greater Goods delivery; Bremerton Foodline volunteers unload a Greater Goods delivery; Nearly 27,000 lbs. of dog and cat food came in the first delivery; KHS staff taking inventory of multiple pallets of pet food.

In just the first month, we've been able to partner with the following organizations:

**Bremerton Foodline** 

The Rise Rescue Alliance

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Central Kitsap Food Bank

PAWS of Lynnwood

Humane Society of Mason County

**ShareNet Food Bank** 

**Pawsitive Alliance** 

PAWS of Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap

**Their Voice** 

The Salvation Army Project Connect

Olympic Peninsula Humane Society



### PET FOOD PANTRY

Pet Food Pantry is open on a walk-in basis between noon and 4:00 p.m., seven days a week.

Donated pet food is distributed free to qualifying households in the amount of a one-month supply for up to 5 pets.

## To receive food, applicants must:

- Be a resident of Kitsap or Mason County;
- Be experiencing financial hardship or qualify for lowincome status;
- Applicant's pets must be spayed/neutered. If pets are not spayed or neutered, the applicant must be willing to work toward getting their pets spayed or neutered, with assistance from Kitsap Humane Society.





# Kitsap Humane Society Events & Holidays

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#### JANUARY

January 5 My Furry Valentine Begins
January 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Shelter Closed

#### FEBRUARY

February 10 Chinese New Year
February 8 My Furry Valentine Ends
February 14 Valentine's Day
Ash Wednesday
February 19 Presidents' Day
February 27 World Spay Day

#### MARCH

**PetsWALK Registration** Opens March 10 **Daylight Savings** Time Begins Ramadan Begins March 17 St. Patrick's Day March 19 **Spring Equinox** March 23 Purim **National Puppy Day** March 24 Palm Sunday March 29 **Good Friday** March 31 **Easter Sunday** 

March 1 Comedy Unleashed

#### APRIL

April 1 April Fool's Day April 9 Ramadan Ends Eid al-Fitr Starts April 10 Eid al-Fitr Ends April 11 **National Pet Day** April 14 **National Volunteer Week Animal Care & Control Appreciation Week** April 15 Tax Day April 16 Kitsap Great Give April 22 Earth Day Passover Begins Take Your Daughters & Sons April 25 to Work Day April 27 World Veterinary Day April 30 **Passover Ends** 

National Adopt a Shelter

Pet Day

#### MAY

May 1 May Day
May 5 Cinco De Mayo
National Pet Week
May 10 Military Spouse
Appreciation Day
May 12 Mother's Day
May 27 Memorial Day
Shelter Closed

#### JUNE

June 1 PetsWALK
June 4 Hug Your Cat Day
June 16 Father's Day
June 19 Juneteenth
Shelter Closed
June 20 Summer Solstice
June 21 Take Your Dog to
Work Day
June 29 Armed Forces Day

#### JULY

July 4 Independence Day Shelter Closed

#### AUGUST

August 1 Wine & Whiskers Begins
August 2 Putting FORE Pets
August 17 International Homeless
Animal's Day
August 26 National Dog Day

#### SEPTEMBER

September 2

September 22 Autumn Equinox
September 30 Wine & Whiskers Ends

**Labor Day** 

#### OCTOBER

October 2 Rosh Hashana Begins October 4 Rosh Hashana Ends October 11 Yom Kippur Begins October 12 **Animal Krackers** Yom Kippur Ends October 14 Indigenous People's **Sukkot Begins** October 16 National Feral Cat Day October 20 **National Veterinary Tech Week** National Make a October 22 Dog's Day **Sukkot Ends** October 23 National Make a October 26 Difference Day October 31 Halloween

#### NOVEMBER

#### Early November Holiday Gift Auction

November 3 National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week Daylight Savings Time Ends November 5 Election Day

November 5 Election Day

November 11 Veterans Day
Shelter Closed

Thanksgiving
Shelter Closed

To be determined Santa Paws

#### DECEMBER

#### To be determined Santa Paws

December 3 Giving Tuesday
December 7 Pearl Harbor
Remembrance day
December 21 Winter Solstice
December 24 Christmas Eve
Shelter Closed
Christmas Day
Shelter Closed
Hanukkah Begins
December 26 Kwanzaa Begins
December 31 New Year's Eve



Get more details on events by visiting our KHS Calendar page!







## **OUR DOORS ARE OPEN!**

ne of the most often-asked questions we get at Kitsap Humane Society is "When are you going to let people tour the kennels again?" And the answer is: "Now."

Like the rest of the world, things at KHS changed dramatically during the Covid lockdown, one of which was how we let people visit animals. Whereas a curious visitor could once stop in, walk through the kennels, and discover a new best friend to take home, all of that changed during the pandemic.

"Because of the precautions we had to take, we could no longer allow people to just stroll through and see dogs and cats," said Customer Service Manager Michele Zarb. "We had to resort to an electronic queue system where you could make an appointment to see an animal that you'd seen online, but it's not like that immediate connection you get by seeing them in person."

Post-Covid, it was still difficult to return to the old system of walk-through viewing, simply because KHS was short-staffed, and allowing guests back in the kennel areas required extra volunteers to serve as guides. Now, with increased staffing and volunteer participation – and the addition of volunteer "hosts," – we're once again able to open the doors for visitors to fall in love at first sight.

"We're so excited to get back to this more personal way of introducing people to pets," says Zarb.
"There are so many great stories of people who just happened to stop in and felt a bond with a particular animal. We can't wait to watch that magic happen again."

Walk-through viewing for dogs and cats will begin on March 1. Viewing hours will be from noon to 5 p.m.



The Barn has already seen a fair number of short-term residents, including ducks, geese, and a very loud rooster, but its first four-legged guest was a pig named Tinsel (our cover model) who was captured running stray and eating Christmas decorations in Poulsbo. After receiving treatment for an eye injury, Tinsel (now named Percy) was adopted by a family in Maple Valley and is now roaming their farm, eating pears, and chasing their dog Jade – also a KHS alum. To see a video of Percy in action, scan the code below.





Walk a dog. Pet a kitten. Hold a bunny. Assist a vet. Help with an adoption. At Kitsap Humane Society, there's all sorts of ways you can volunteer to lend a helping paw and ensure that animals are cared for, exercised, socialized, and sent to loving new homes. But don't just do it for the critters – do it for yourself.

#### Why should you become a volunteer?

- A great way to serve your community
- Help adorable animals
- Add a great line to your resume
- Accumulate community service hours
- Gain knowledge and experience
- Learn from animal care professionals
- Make friends!



To apply to be a volunteer or learn more about how you can help, just scan the code below. It's a great time to Lend a Paw!



# VOLUNTEER DARLA LANDES SPOTLIGHT & KATHY OLIPHANT

t Kitsap Humane Society, we rely on our amazing team of volunteers and staff to help provide compassionate care to our animals in need. With so many animals coming into the shelter on a daily basis in need of care and compassion, it truly takes a dedicated group of people to give them the very best care they deserve. From walking dogs and socializing cats to dishes and laundry, KHS volunteers do so much to improve the lives of our pets and amplify the mission of KHS.

For some, lending a helping hand to pets in need is a family affair. Darla Landes works as an Animal Care Technician at KHS while mother Kathy Oliphant dedicates her time to KHS as a volunteer. The mother-daughter pair are committed to helping animals, covering a wide variety of daily tasks to ensure the care of our pets. True animal lovers, the family has had many pets of their own over the years, including cats, dogs, parrots, fish, an aquatic turtle, hedgehogs, lizards, goats, birds, snakes, and horses.

After retiring from the civil service industry, Kathy was looking for something to do. When she heard that KHS needed volunteers, she knew it would be the perfect fit! As a volunteer, Kathy spent time as a Cattery Lead, teaching and mentoring new volunteers on how to interact with cats at every temperament, while ensuring they are socialized and getting the enrichment they need.

"I like being a part of a community with a goal that I can stand behind and contribute to," Kathy shares. "KHS is an amazing place with amazing people who care deeply for animals and for each other."

Like so many who spend time on our campus, Kathy and her husband eventually fell in love with and adopted a KHS cat of their own. "Through the years, we've adopted so many animals and with each one, my husband would just roll his eyes and smile. He always accepted the fact that we'd have animals, but I didn't expect that while walking through the cattery one day, that he would want to adopt one. He said that the cat was old, had scabs on his ears, and he needed us," Kathy shared of their KHS alum Mitch, named after a Chicago Bears quarterback.

There truly is a volunteer opportunity for everyone within the community to impact the animals at Kitsap Humane Society. After all, as Darla states, "We are all here for a common goal; to give the animals the best care and love we possibly can until they can be adopted."

## THERE AROSE SUCH A CLATTER!

Thank you to everyone who came out to visit our amazing St. Nick at Santa Paws! With help from our hosting friends at Olmsted Tree Farm, Bay Hay and Feed, and West Hills Kia, along with some very jolly volunteers, Volunteer Santa Jeff took pictures with 217 pets and their families and raised \$8425! A special "ho! ho! ho!" to our corporate sponsor, Eagle Pipe and Mechanical, as well as our photographer, Mary from Four Foot Photography for donating her time!



# HAPPY TAILS CLYDE

There's something so special, in this digital age, about receiving a physical letter. Even more so when that letter tells the story of a once-shy cat, now living his best life with a loving family and feline friend by his side. Last month, we received such a letter.

When his family could no longer care for him, 10-yearold orange tabby Clyde found himself at Kitsap Humane Society. He was scared, shut-down in his new unfamiliar surroundings, and obese. With a specialized diet plan, time spent with KHS staff as an office cat, and plenty of love, he began to slowly come out of his shell revealing his sweet and loving personality.

Less than a month later, his new family adopted him and brought him to his new home on Bainbridge Island. Months later, we received the sweetest letter in the mail updating us on Clyde's new life and featuring adorable photos of him in his new home.

Not only had the once-obese Clyde trimmed down to a healthy weight, his family made sure to give him all the time he needed to get comfortable and settled into his new home before introducing him to their resident cat, "BabyGirl." With slow introductions and patience, the two became friends. Together, they are enjoying each other's company and playing in their loving home.



onkey, a 5-year-old black lab mix, arrived at Kitsap Humane Society after being found wandering alone near the Green Mountain area of Bremerton.

This shy boy was sweet and loved by all at KHS but he hated being in a kennel. He'd bite and scratch at kennel walls, injuring himself in the process, despite our staff's best efforts to keep him happy and entertained. We

placed him in foster homes, where
he took to eating things he
shouldn't, like gloves
and plastic bags. We
even tried placing

him in one of our more spacious kennels, a "dog lounge" in the shelter where we discovered he was something of an escape artist who knew how to open doors. He was taken on off-site outings to the beach and put on special diets and medications, all to try and lower his stress. What Monkey really needed was a home of his own.

Monkey needed a special place, one with plenty of open space and dedicated humans to love on him. After 3-1/2 months of work from the KHS behavior team, and plenty of love from our staff and volunteers, Monkey found that special place. A Key Peninsula woman who manages a horse barn and is the Kitchen Manager at YMCA Camp Seymour

brought Monkey home. Now, Monkey has a family of his own, spacious open fields to roam with his new equine friends, and the attention of endless kids who come by the camp.

#### **SERVICES DIRECTORY:**

KHS is dedicated to serving as more than a shelter to pets and people in need. For more information, please visit **kitsap-humane.org or call (360) 692-6977.** 

#### **ANIMAL ADOPTIONS**

Cats, dogs, and critters are available for adoption at **kitsap-humane.org/adopt**.

#### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

Animal Control Officers serve and protect both pets and people in our community. To report an incident or file a complaint involving a domestic animal, please call **911**.

#### **BEHAVIOR SUPPORT**

If you would like information about training or other solutions for supporting your dog, please contact dogbehavior@kitsaphumane.org, and for cat owners, please contact catbehavior@kitsap-humane.org.

#### **COMMUNITY CATS**

KHS offers support to community and feral cat colonies, including spay/neuter surgeries, ear-tipping, rabies vaccinations, and humane traps for rent.

kitsap-humane.org/resources/community-cats/

#### **EUTHANASIA & CREMATION**

We offer low-cost humane euthanasia services in a caring environment by appointment only. Low-cost cremation services are also available.

kitsap-humane.org/vet-services/ euthanasia-cremation/

#### FINDING A HOME FOR YOUR PET

We realize the decision to surrender or rehome your pet can be difficult, and we are here to serve as a resource with options at the shelter and private alternatives. **kitsap-humane.org/resources/** 

surrendering-your-pet/

#### **LOST & FOUND PETS**

KHS accepts lost and found animals daily from 11 am to 5 pm. Lost pets are regularly listed on our website. kitsap-humane.org/resources/lostfound-pets/

#### **PET FOOD PANTRY**

We believe the best place for pets is with their loving families and we are committed to keeping families together whenever possible with our Pet Food Pantry. The pantry is open every day from 11 am to 4 pm. Information on how to qualify can be found at kitsap-humane.org/resources.

#### **PET LICENSING**

Pet licenses are required by law in unincorporated Kitsap County and all municipalities for pets 6 months or older. It is much easier to reunite lost pets with their families when they are licensed and wearing their tags. kitsap-humane.org/resources/licensing/

#### PET PROTECTION PROGRAM

KHS offers temporary safe-haven to cats belonging to victims of domestic violence and people experiencing job loss, homelessness, or other unexpected life changes. To learn more about this program, please visit kitsap-humane.org/resources.

#### **PET SUPPLIES**

Our retail store inside the shelter offers a variety of pet supplies.

#### **PET TRAINING & SUPPORT**

KHS is proud to offer post-adoption and behavioral support for dog and cat owners. For help with your dog, please email dogbehavior@kitsap-humane.org and for your cat, please email catbehavior@kitsap-humane.org.

#### **SPAY & NEUTER**

KHS offers low-cost spay/neuter services to Kitsap County and Mason County pet owners who meet our annual income guidelines. Learn more at kitsap-humane. org/resources.

#### **WAYS TO HELP:**

To learn more about how to support our lifesaving work, please visit **kitsap-humane.org.** 

#### SAM'S ANGEL FUND

We're building a stronger safety net for pets and their people with Sam's Angel Fund. To learn more, please email jnocula@kitsap-humane.org.

#### **SPONSORSHIPS**

For information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact **jreynolds@kitsap-humane.org.** 

#### **DONATE ITEMS**

KHS is always in need of supplies to keep our shelter animals clean, happy, and comfortable. Donations can be dropped off any time in the donation bins at the shelter's front doors.

#### **FOSTER CARE**

KHS depends on its network of lifesaving foster volunteers to care for our most inneed animals. To get started, please visit kitsap-humane.org/foster-care.

#### **FUNDRAISE FOR THE ANIMALS**

We could not care for animals in need without our pet-loving community! Interested in hosting a fundraiser for KHS? Please contact

kfleischmann@kitsap-humane.org

#### **MONETARY DONATIONS**

Donate to KHS and transform the lives of vulnerable pets by helping us provide lifesaving veterinary care, low-cost spay/ neuter and vaccinations, rehabilitative behavior and foster support, and loving forever homes by visiting kitsap-humane.org/donate.

#### **PLANNED GIVING**

Make a big impact with a future gift as a member of our Friends Forever Society! Ready to start? Please contact jnocula@kitsap-humane.org.

#### **PUPPUCCINO PALS/PURR-UCCINO PALS**

Coffee shops, this one is for you! Become a month-long Puppuccino Pals Sponsor and your coffee shop or stand will be featured across our massive social media platforms. For more info, please contact kfleischmann@kitsap-humane.org

#### **VEHICLE DONATION**

Honk if you love shelter pets! Turn your clunker into cash for pets in need. For assistance, please email

info@kitsap-humane.org

#### **VOLUNTEER**

Kitsap Humane Society needs you! Volunteers are needed for a variety of positions and help with all kinds of duties at the shelter. To get started, please visit kitsap-humane.org/get-involved.



Scan the QR code to see our available pets!







## **SAVE THE DATE 2024**



Animal Krackers
HOLIDAY
GIFT AUCTION

Santa PAWS COMEDY SHOW MARCH 1, 2024

5K WALK/RUN & FESTIVAL JUNE 1, 2024

GOLF TOURNAMENT AUGUST 2, 2024

WINE TOUR
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 2024

GALA & AUCTION
OCTOBER 12, 2024

ONLINE AUCTION
EARLY NOVEMBER, 2024

SANTA PET PHOTOS NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 2024





