



Where broken hearts are healed by second chances

Mission Statement:

Caring for animals in need. The homeless, strays, abused, neglected, lost. Heal them, love them, help them find a home.



Joel, Head Shelter Cat



Penny, Second in Command



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Welcome..... 2
- Facility Layout and Facts..... 3
- Medical Care..... 4-5
- Volunteer Involvement ..... 6-7
- Fundraising ..... 8-9
- Pet and Financial Statistics..... 10-11

**Northwoods Humane Society**  
 7153 Lake Blvd | Hwy 8  
 PO Box 264  
 Wyoming, MN 55092

Phone: 651-982-0240  
 Fax: 651-982-0458  
 E-mail: [info@northwoodshs.org](mailto:info@northwoodshs.org)  
[www.facebook.com/northwoodshs](http://www.facebook.com/northwoodshs)

MN Kennel License #141010



## WELCOME FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we close out 2014 I reflect on all of you, our adopters, donors, employees and volunteers. The message that I would like to convey is that Northwoods belongs to all of us. It began as a dream by a small group of citizens in Chisago County, reacting to the unwanted and abandoned animals who needed hope.

with kindness and love. I believe in our mission. I see the best in each and every animal that comes through our door.

I look forward to each and every day here and feel blessed to have a job that I truly enjoy. I feel so honored to have met and worked with so many wonderful people.

I enjoy working for you and for the animals who cannot speak. We have all laughed together and cried together, all in the belief of a world where animals are treated

~ Brenda Farr Zelinka

*The vision of Northwoods Humane Society is a community with no more homeless or neglected companion animals.*

### SHELTER STAFF

#### Executive Director

Brenda Farr Zelinka

#### General Manager

Lindsey Niemi

#### Assistant to the Executive Director

Charlotte Ihrke

#### Volunteer Coordinator

Debby Brunette

#### Office Assistant

Tracy Schlichenmaier

#### Veterinary Technician

Kim Johnson

#### Animal Care Technicians

Melanie Beam

Leah Funkhouser

Brittany Furgala

Autumn Houle

Lindsey Johnson

Karen Kropelnicki

Jennifer Laqua

Emily Linn

Michelle Mueller

Jaci Stich

Denise Tauer

Tiffany Thompson

## THE COST OF CARING FOR ANIMALS

With adoptions and intakes increasing every year, our costs continue to increase as well. Animals receive an examination by our Vet Tech, vaccines and medical tests when necessary. Additionally, every animal is spayed/neutered and each come with a free initial vet exam. When compared to our adoption fees, these services, along with the cost of running the shelter and caring daily for each animal, means Northwoods **LOST \$263** on average on each animal that got adopted in 2014. That equates to a loss of nearly **\$19,000** per month. This is why your donation matters so much. It helps cover these costs and allows us to continue doing what we do!!



"Pippy was accepted into the family without issues. Vik (pictured on the right) is enjoying a lot more exercise with him around." ~Dan H.

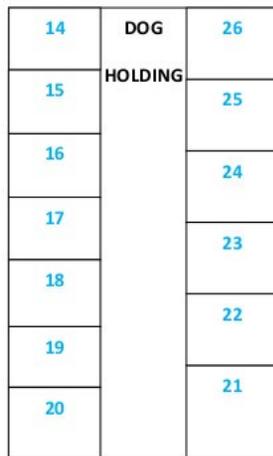
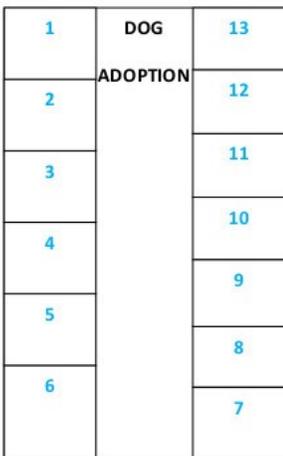
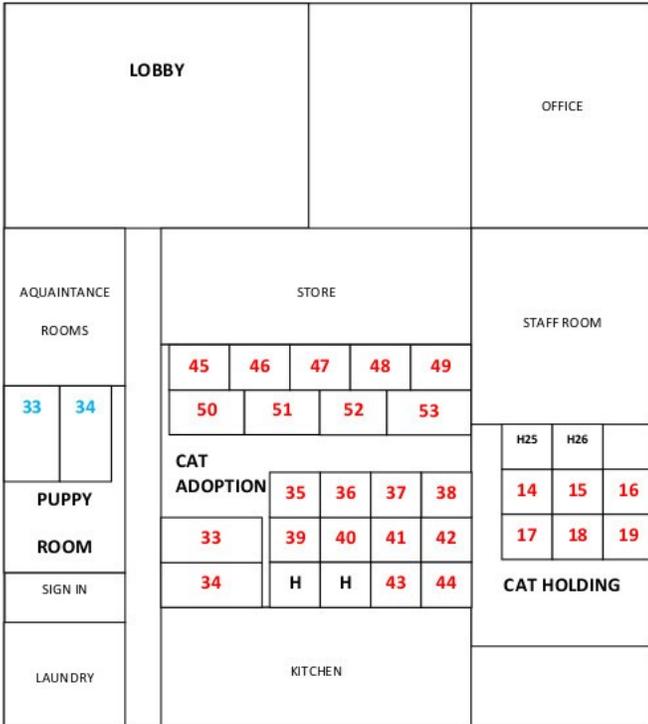




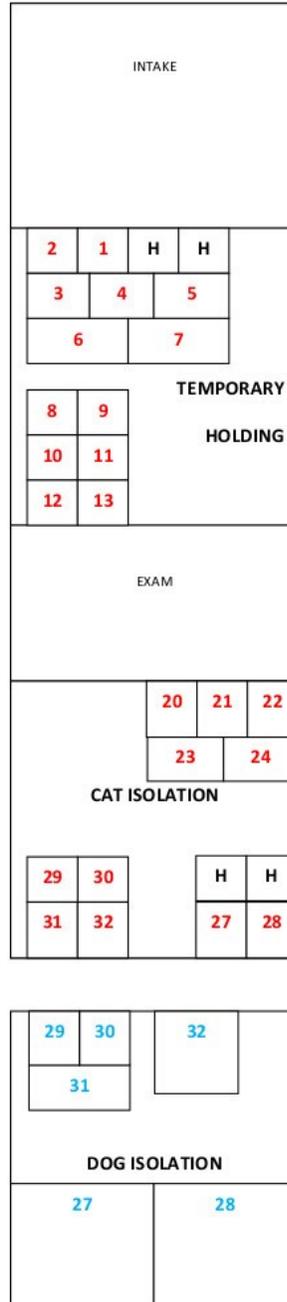
## OBJECTIVES

We strive to improve the lives of homeless animals by providing compassionate care until permanent loving homes can be found. We promote responsible adoptions and offer post-adoption support for the human-animals relationship.

### Facility Layout



**KEY:**  
 H = Holding Kennel  
 Red # = Cat Kennel  
 Blue # = Dog Kennel



## BUILDING FACTS

- Built in 2000 and located on 5 acres of donated land.
- Dog and cat isolation rooms are for animals who are sick—waiting to get better and go up for adoption.
- We have a competitively priced retail store with a variety of items from collars and leashes to dog/cat food. You can make your donation go further by supporting NHS through purchases at our store!



## SURGERIES

**Cat spays and neuters: 460**

**Dog spays and neuters: 118**

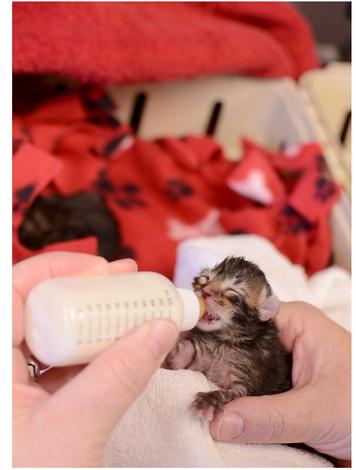
In 2014, 725 cats arrived at NHS with the purpose of being adopted. **75%** were not already spayed or neutered upon arrival. 339 dogs arrived at NHS with the purpose of being adopted. Roughly half (**51%**) still needed to be spayed or neutered upon arrival.

This left NHS to alter **578** pets as every cat, kitten, dog and puppy is spayed or neutered prior to adoption; this is a **3.6% increase from 2013**. Pediatric spays and neuters allow us to adopt out young kittens and puppies while still altering them.

Great thanks to our partners:

- Animal Medical Center: 2 cats
- Kindest Cut: 57 dogs, 308 cats
- MN School of Business: 2 dogs, 2 cats
- MN State Fair: 4 dogs
- Oak Grove Animal Hospital: 3 dogs, 38 cats
- South Shore Veterinary Hospital: 9 dogs, 40 cats
- University of MN: 43 dogs, 70 cats

NHS does not declaw cats unless there is a medical reason such as an injury that the declaw procedure would benefit.



## GREAT PARTNERSHIP WITH KINDEST CUT

Kindest Cut provides low cost, high quality spay and neuter surgeries for cats, dogs and rabbits through a traveling mobile surgical unit. Services are geared to pet owners with limited incomes in the Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN area on an appointment basis and are performed by licensed veterinarians who are skilled at small animal care.

Kindest Cut's mobile spay/neuter clinic was at Northwoods 12 times **in 2014**, completing surgery on **365 pets**.



*Nicki's transformation courtesy of Forest Lake Pet Grooming. May 2014*



*Franklin received a grooming at Forest Lake Pet Grooming and was neutered by Kindest Cut. April 2014*

## MEDICAL MIRACLES

**Ruthie:** 1 year young on her date of arrival at NHS (February 5th, 2014)

Ruthie was found in a snowbank by two of our volunteers. When they found her, she was cold, underweight and would not put any weight on her right front leg. They kept her with them at their cabin for a few days, giving her a warm place to lay her head, and lots of good food! The volunteers, Debbie and Dave, then brought Ruthie to Northwoods.

At exam it was found she had puncture wounds on her injured shoulder and the wounds were infected. Ruthie was started on an antibiotic right away and kept comfortable with plenty of good food and warm blankets while her body recovered and the infection subsided. During her recovery, Ruthie made many friends and stole the hearts of everyone she met.



Because of the extent of Ruthie's injuries, her right front leg was amputated, including her entire scapula. With your help, \$1,040.00 was raised for Ruthie's surgery! Her surgery went great and recovery took about two weeks. She was then spayed and placed up for adoption!



**Bonzo:** 10 months - 1 year at date of arrival at NHS (September 30th, 2014)

Bonzo was brought to Northwoods as a stray. When he arrived he had a severely injured left rear leg and some shattered teeth. He had to have a leg amputation and dental work.

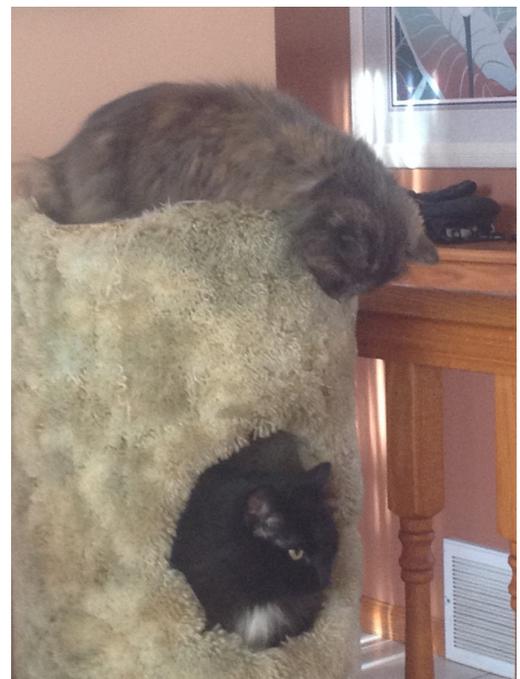
After his surgery, Bonzo went to stay with Leland, one of our many wonderful fosters. He continued to recover and before long was seeking out attention and playing just like a normal cat. He was adopted by one of our volunteers and is now king of the house!

A word from Bonzo's new family: "We first heard of Bonzo when donations were needed for his dental and leg amputation. We watched his progress online and after he had been up for adoption for a while we decided he should join our merry band of rescues! His first evening home he proceeded to smack all three dogs in the head! Needless to say they gave him a lot of distance but eventually a truce was made. Bonzo has no idea he only has three legs. He attempts all the jumps the other cats do—not always with success but that doesn't stop him!"

"One thing Bonzo has is an affinity for bread! We heard the bread box door opening one night and there he was dragging the loaf of bread across the counter eating as fast as he could—plastic and all! Lynn went to make a grilled cheese sandwich, buttered her bread, turned for two seconds and the last thing she saw was her bread in Bonzo's mouth running down the hallway!"



"We're not sure he knows he is a cat. He comes when called, gets treats with the dogs, and is the most affectionate and loving cat who wins over every person that meets him. He has certainly worked his way into our hearts."  
~Lynn & Toni



"We can't begin to thank you enough for all of your hard work and dedication to our animals and the shelter. For 2014, all of you donated a grand total of **17,658** volunteer hours which is amazing! We realize that without your help, we would not be able to stay open and consequently not be able to help our pets find the loving, forever home that they deserve. We know how difficult it is to find time in their busy schedules and to give up some of their valued free time to commit to the well-being of our pets. That's what makes them special, caring people!"

- **Debby Brunette,**  
Volunteer Coordinator

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 651-982-0240 ext 304 or [volunteer@northwoodshs.org](mailto:volunteer@northwoodshs.org) with questions about volunteering.

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

With 1,064 cats and dogs coming through our doors in 2014, it takes a village to ready a pet for adoption. As a nonprofit organization, NHS operates within a limited budget, thereby relying on the countless efforts of our volunteers. NHS would not be able to accomplish all the good that is done in our community without the **178 dedicated volunteers** who selflessly donate their energy. By donating their many hours of service, their hard work and dedication saved Northwoods an estimated **\$131,089**; which is 1/3 of the annual budget.

NHS volunteers work in a variety of areas including: administrative support, animal care, special events, foster care, pet photography, in-shelter dog and cat training, adoption events and more. Time spent can be as rewarding for the volunteer as it is for the pets.

For information on how you can become a NHS volunteer, please visit our website at: <http://northwoodshs.org/positions/>.

<b>Dog Walking</b>	<b>2,697.25</b>
<b>Cat Socializing</b>	<b>983.50</b>
<b>Foster Care</b>	<b>11,127.00</b>
<b>Fundraising/Event Planning</b>	<b>879.75</b>
<b>Transportation/Other (including administrative assistance)</b>	<b>316.25</b>
<b>Adoption Counseling</b>	<b>1,654.50</b>
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>17,658.25</b>



## VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

**Adoption Counselor:** Assists and counsels potential adoptive clients in choosing the right dog or cat for their home; usually the first impression people have of Northwoods.

**Greeter:** Greets customers and answers phones.

**Board Member:** Assists with strategic planning, fundraising, ambassadorship and evaluation.

**Building Maintenance:** Assists with general repairs and improvements from broken faucets to painting walls.

**Cat Socialization:** Provides their assigned cat social interaction by spending time with them, brushing and cuddling.

**Dog Walking and Kennel Cleaning:** Provides exercise and socialization to dogs, which is essential to their physical and mental well-being.

**Foster Care:** Provides temporary care for abandoned, orphaned, sick and pregnant animals.

**Fundraising/Events:** Includes all aspects of fundraising and event planning, from contacting sponsors, mailings, event set-up and cleanup, etc.

**Grant Researcher:** Assists in researching and writing grant funding possibilities.

**Veterinary Technician Helper:** Assists Vet Tech with animal examinations, blood draws, vaccinations, worming and general medical duties.

If you are at least 16 years old and willing to commit at least 4 hours of volunteering per month for 6 months, then Northwoods may be the place for you to volunteer!



## FUNDRAISING

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, NHS relies heavily upon the involvement of our community members. Participating in fundraising events is a great way to support the pets at NHS and learn more about your community's local animal shelter.

### 2014 EVENTS INCLUDED:

#### **Meatballs for Mutts** - March 15th

Our M4M fundraiser held at the Forest Lake VFW had guests dining on spaghetti and bidding on silent auction items. Together we raised **\$7,194**.



#### **Walk with the Animals** - May 4th

Our 15th Annual Walk with the Animals was a day of pet-friendly activities including: coordinated walk, agility course and paw print paintings. This annual event was held at Lent Town Hall and raised a staggering **\$22,104**.



**A Toast to Tails - Wine and Beer Tasting** - September 27th

This evening was full of wine and beer tasting and a silent auction was held at Stella's on 97 Event Center in Forest Lake, MN. Together we raised **\$10,835**.



**Pet Fest** - October 25th

Our Halloween-themed party invited our community's pets and their humans for a day full of games, paw print art, lunch and pet costume contests. This was all held at the Chisago City Community Center. Together we raised **\$1,687**.



**Santa Paws** - November 22nd and 23rd

Our annual photo event, Santa Paws, was held at Forest Lake Senior Center and hosted photo sessions for the whole family (with or without Santa). Even some of the adoptable pets were brought to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas.

This event raised **\$2,744**.



**Give to the Max Day** - November 13th

During this 24-hour online day of giving our generous donors helped us raise an incredible **\$11,154!**



**DID YOU KNOW?**

We think you, our supporters, are *amazing!*

On Thursday, November 13, 2014 you really stepped up and helped the kittens, cats, puppies, and dogs that are staying with us while awaiting their fur-ever homes!

Thank you for "Giving To The Max" and helping us raise

**\$11,154!**



Where Broken Hearts are Healed by Second Chances

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**

Laura Shaleen

**Vice Presidents**

Dr. Tracy Skwiot

Muffy Hejny Guptill

Rebecca Schultz

**Treasurer**

David Gorman

**Secretary**

Ruth Nordquist

**Board Members**

Dr. Ann Edmonds

Jack Felix

Vicci Mattsfield

Ann McLellan

Michelle Pommier

If you have the desire to be a part of a successful non-profit business utilizing strategic planning, fundraising, ambassadorship and evaluation, we welcome your efforts. If you have experience in animal welfare, finance, human resources, legal or marketing, that is desired.

For more information: <http://northwoodshs.org/positions/>

**PET STATISTICS**

Northwoods Humane Society regularly partners with other animal welfare groups to best serve the needs of pets around the country. At times NHS reaches out to specific breed rescues to give difficult adoption candidates another chance at adoption. NHS also collaborates with other shelters, rescues and Animal Control agencies to take in pets when there are too many and not enough adoption traffic at other locations. NHS is committed to working with responsible partners to benefit the pets we serve.

Pets Stats	CANINES	FELINES	TOTAL
2014 INTAKE	347	728	1075
2013 INTAKE	281	765	1046
2014 ADOPTIONS	231	630	861
2013 ADOPTIONS	190	642	832
2014 RECLAIMED	100	5	105
2013 RECLAIMED	69	9	78
2014 EUTHANASIA	30	112	142
2013 EUTHANASIA	35	110	145

**Is Northwoods a "no-kill" organization?** Northwoods Humane Society is a limited- admissions facility. We do NOT euthanize to make room for more animals or put a time limit on their stay. However, we do euthanize for severe temperament or health issues. Because our ability to take in animals is directly related to our adoptions, sometimes we are unable to accept new animals into our shelter or we have a waiting list for appointments to surrender your pet.

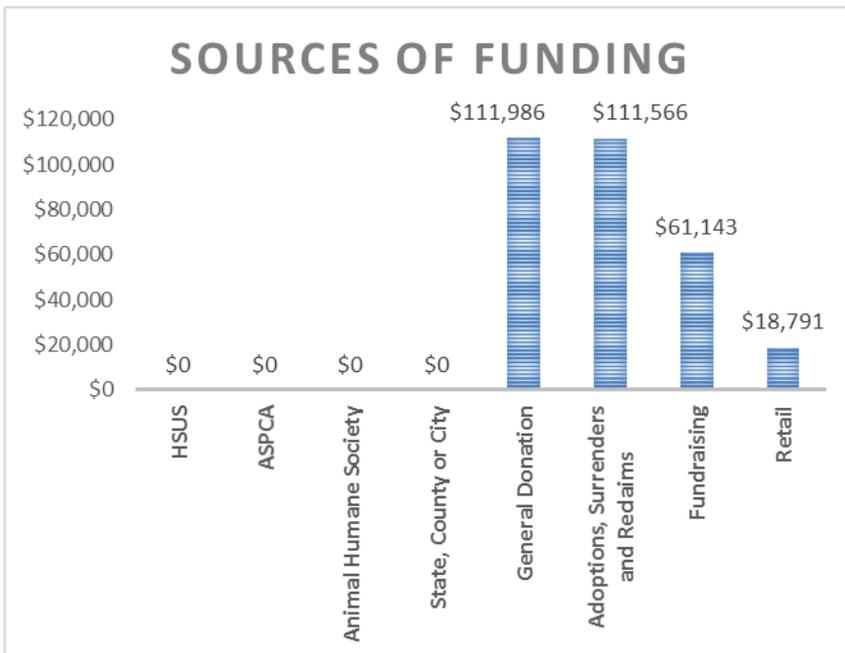
Peace Team kids with some of the collected items. Several large boxes of supplies and \$406 were collected by Peace Team at Scandia Elementary to help the homeless dogs and cats—woo hoo!!



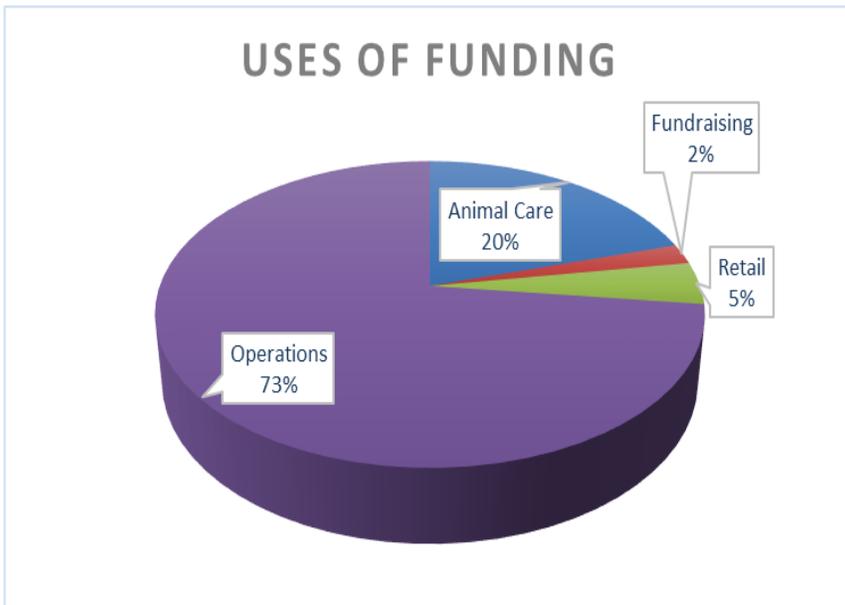
## FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Northwoods Humane Society is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. NHS is not affiliated with any other Humane Society and receives no support from them. NHS does not receive funding from the state of Minnesota or the counties or cities served. Every dollar raised comes through donations, earned revenue (adoption fees, retail sales, etc.), and fundraising events. Northwoods exists because animal lovers support us.

We reliably receive high rankings according to national charity ranking organizations such as GuideStar and Charity Navigator. NHS depends on the support of our local community to provide the highest quality services to the pets entrusted to us.



Humane Society of the United States	\$0
ASPCA	\$0
Animal Humane Society	\$0
State, County or City	\$0
General Donations	\$111,986
Adoptions, Surrenders and Reclaims	\$111,566
Fundraising	\$61,143
Retail	\$18,791
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$303,486</b>



Animal Care	\$66,064
Fundraising	\$6,869
Retail	\$14,538
Operations	\$237,485
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$324,956</b>

"We got our kitty, Sif (formerly Pepper) a month ago. She's the best cat I've ever met! My family has always had great luck finding amazing additions at Northwoods Humane Society." ~ Erin S.



As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, it has been the support of our community that has allowed us to successfully maintain our shelter, facilitate countless adoptions, and respond to the steady call for the rescue of pets in need.

Whether you can donate money, time or items, we welcome whatever you can do! If you are able to make a monetary donation, or would like to make a donation in honor or remembrance of someone special, there are many ways to do so.

Please visit our website at [www.northwoodshs.org](http://www.northwoodshs.org).

**GOALS:**

- ◇ Provide quality care and adoption services for companion animals in Chisago County and the surrounding area.
- ◇ Educate the community regarding the humane treatment of animals and promoting the welfare of animals.
- ◇ Demonstrate excellence in care and sheltering of animals.
- ◇ Promote responsible pet ownership with special emphasis on spaying and neutering.
- ◇ Advocate public policies that promote compassionate treatment of all animals.
- ◇ Aid in prevention of and provide referrals for prosecuting cruelty to animals.
- ◇ Foster positive human/animal bonds.

Where Broken Hearts Are  
Healed By  
Second Chances

**Northwoods Humane Society**

7153 Lake Blvd | Hwy 8  
PO Box 264  
Wyoming, MN 55092

Phone: 651-982-0240

Fax: 651-982-0458

E-mail: [info@northwoodshs.org](mailto:info@northwoodshs.org)

[www.facebook.com/northwoodshs](http://www.facebook.com/northwoodshs)

MN Kennel License #141010

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

