



# PAW PRINTS

Visit our website at [www.hsop.org](http://www.hsop.org)

Winter 2024



## AND THEN THERE WERE 146

Gary McIntyre  
Executive Director

Things are not always as simple as they seem. For example, our shelter can go from a normal Wednesday with three animals adopted and new animals taken in, and our canine residents have gotten some time in the play yards and some enrichment time. All of this can change in an instant though and on October 30, that is exactly what happened.

Our humane officers were responding to a welfare check on what was believed to be 10 dogs and upon arriving, it became clear that the number of dogs exceeded 10 and, regardless of the number, the animals needed help. This case and many others like it all start out in the same way and often, there is no ill-intent involved, things just get out of hand.

You might be asking yourself just how something like this happens. How does one dog turn into 146 dogs? Well, it normally starts with one dog that has not been spayed or neutered, and that turns into two dogs that are not spayed or neutered. Then those two dogs quickly turn into seven or eight dogs (an average litter of dogs is normally 5-6). When these new dogs are added to the original pair which continues to remain unaltered, you can see this cycle begin to repeat as often as every six months, and each new litter provides more opportunities to create new litters of puppies and the cycle continues.

The one pair of unaltered animals quickly turns into an entire brood starting in just a few short months. This, then, makes the task of getting the original pair or any of the offspring spayed or neutered nearly impossible due to logistics and cost. The need to feed and clean up after a large group of animals is a daunting task, not to mention treating for fleas, parasites, grooming, and bathing costs, and as time goes by things get more difficult and are less likely to happen.

While it is easy to see how something of this nature gets out of hand, it is also clearly possible to see that simply failing to have the first pair of dogs spayed and/or neutered has caused the entire cycle to perpetuate until someone realizes things are out of hand. The cost and logistics of having two dogs altered are much more manageable and could have prevented even a first litter of puppies.

Spaying or neutering your pet is necessary to prevent overpopulation, it can also help prevent certain medical conditions and in some cases can improve your animal's behavior. Spaying and neutering along with administering the proper vaccines will help to reduce the number of homeless or abandoned animals in the community and can certainly prevent instances of hoarding when performed in a timely manner.

**If you are interested in supporting HSOP after you are gone, Legacy and Planned Giving opportunities are available, contact the shelter for more information.**

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**SAVE THE DATE-  
HSOP SPRING BINGO  
SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025**

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

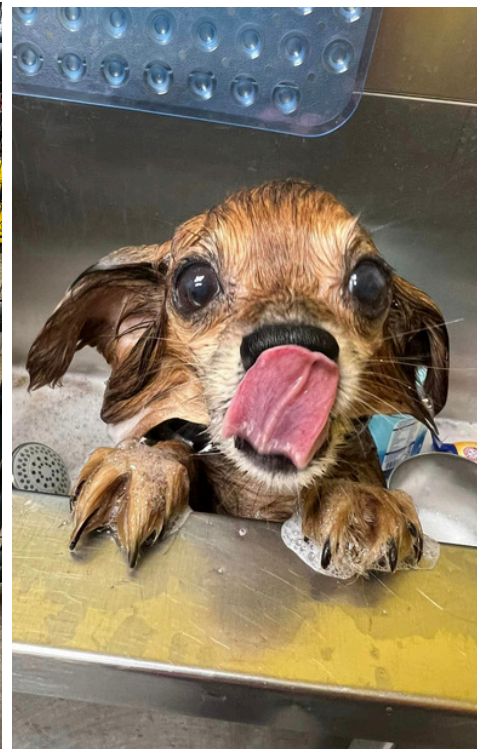
## MARGIE OLDFIELD

Margie Oldfield has been a dedicated volunteer for nearly 5 years.

Throughout the last 5 years Margie has become a walk leader, attended numerous events, and devoted many hours at the SPOT clinic.

Margie is a retired elementary school teacher. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren.

We are proud to have Margie on our team!



These photos show a few of the dogs recently rescued by HSOP

Note: These dogs are not necessarily still available for adoption.

## Meet Tom Cat

If you like big cats and you cannot lie, you're gonna LOVE Tom Cat. This handsome & hefty black-and-white boy is 18 POUNDS of pure love & sweetness!!! He is 8 years old and was surrendered to the shelter in August of this year.

Tom is our longest waiting shelter cat and he is ready to go to his new home.



Tom Cat



## Meet Tucker

Just look at this happy boy!!!!!! This is Tucker, he is a 1-year old hound mix. Tucker weighs 51 lbs. He has lots of puppy energy and does well with other dogs. If you have any questions, please call or visit the shelter.

Tucker has been with us since June and he is yearning to find his new family that enjoys an active dog.

THANK  
YOU

The board of directors, staff, and volunteers would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks for all that the community has done for us in the past weeks. Whether you brought supplies, provided meals, or made monetary donations-your help was appreciated!

## Upcoming Events

*Saturday,  
May 31, 2025  
Worthington Golf Course,  
Parkersburg, WV*



**Two Camp Sessions  
limited space in both sessions.  
Registration will open  
February 15.**

**June 9-13, 2025  
July 7-11, 2025**



P.O. Box 392  
Parkersburg, WV 26102-0392

## **Humane Society of Parkersburg**

### **Mailing Address:**

**PO Box 392, Parkersburg, WV 26102**

### **Physical Address:**

**530 29th Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101**

**Phone: 304-422-5541**

**Fax: 304-485-4261**

**Emergency: 860-674-5080**

### **Shelter Hours**

**Monday - Friday: 10:30 to 5:00**

**Saturday: 10:30 to 4:00**

## **SPOT Clinic**

### **Mailing & Physical Address:**

**506 29th Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101**

### **SPOT Clinic Hours have changed-**

**The Clinic is open from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday for wellness visits and Monday, Wednesday and Friday for surgery by appointment.**

**Phone: 304-917-4275**

**Fax: 304-917-4279**

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application.

