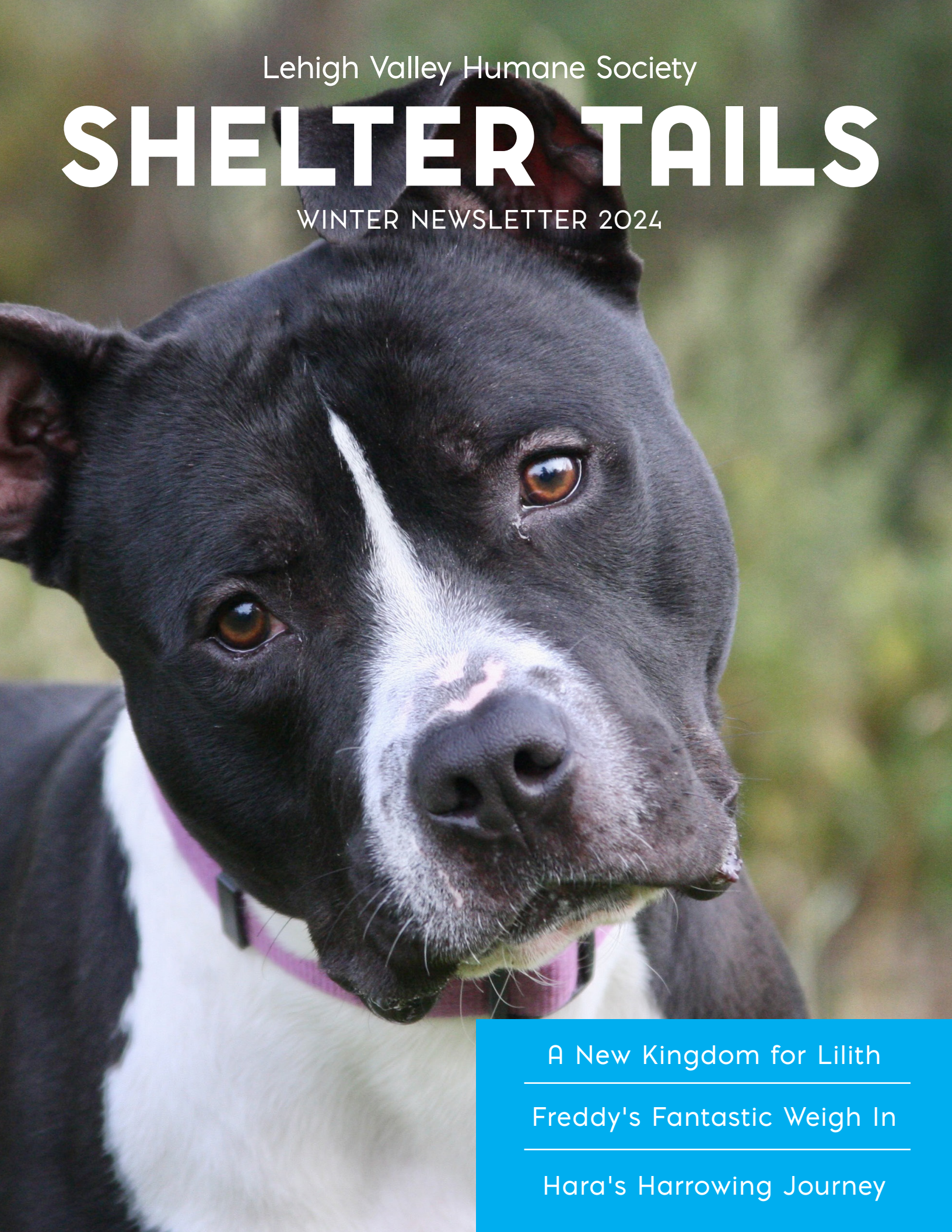


Lehigh Valley Humane Society

SHELTER TAILS

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024



A New Kingdom for Lilith

Freddy's Fantastic Weigh In

Hara's Harrowing Journey

FROM THE CEO

To our community members & supporters,

Thank you so much for all that you do for the animals of the Lehigh Valley Humane Society as well as for the owned pets in our community that receive medical care at our Community Veterinary Clinic.

2023 was an amazing yet very challenging year here at LVHS; we finally completed our \$4 million dollar renovation and expansion. This project completed our vision for 90 new state of the art dog kennels, a modern rescue and trauma center, greatly expanded free roaming cat areas, a grooming studio and the very first Community Vet Clinic in the Lehigh Valley.

In 2023, our shelter saw an increase of 34% in the number of homeless animals in need. 342 additional cats, 472 more dogs and 39 more small animals were brought to our shelter than in 2022. In total, an astoundingly high 3,340 stray, abandoned or surrendered animals came through our doors last year. More significantly, we continued to improve our live release rates through adoptions, returning lost pets to their owners, TNVR (trap-neuter-vaccinate-return) for community cats, and partnerships with other shelters/rescues. In 2023, we increased our live release rates by over 24% since 2021. Our live release rate for dogs even exceeded the "no kill" rate of 90%, reaching 91% for the first time ever.

What is a live release rate? This is the percentage of animals that leave the shelter with a live outcome, such as being adopted or being returned to the family that lost them. It is also sometimes called a save rate. As mentioned above, to be considered "no-kill", an organization must meet a live release rate of 90% or more.

It is very important to note that our live release rates are measured by noses in versus noses out. No excuses, no exceptions, no matter the temperament or health of the animal. Each and every animal is counted. It is the most honest and transparent method of reporting a live release rate. We aren't successful with every animal but we're getting better every year.

I'm extremely proud that we have accomplished this, all while remaining the only shelter in the Valley that doesn't turn away any animal based on their breed, age or health. We do it the hard way, because that's what the animals of the Valley and you deserve. We pride ourselves on putting the animals of our community and their needs first, before taking in dogs transported from out of state.

Our other programs, such as pet grooming, dog training, and our veterinary clinic thrived in 2023. The Community Vet Clinic continues to provide high quality veterinary services at affordable prices so that pet owners can access medical care and keep their pets in the homes where they belong. Last year LVHS awarded over \$300,000.00 in financial assistance for medical care to pet owners from all across the Valley. Our clinic also TNVR'd almost 1,000 cats, helping to reduce the number of outdoor cats reproducing in our community.

2024 will be another challenging year for LVHS as the only remaining shelter in the area that continues to provide animal control and respond to calls to rescue animals that have been dumped in the street to fend for themselves, tied to trees or poles, or left behind in empty apartments. We are still the only agency providing a Humane Police Officer to enforce animal cruelty laws in Lehigh county.

We at the LVHS are all very grateful for your continued support. We will always look for new and innovative ways to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome animals. We will strive for new programs to serve our community and we will continue to work to become the best Humane Society in the country.

We love to show our community the great things we're doing! You are always welcome. If you would like to come by for a tour, please email me at hal@lehighhumane.org

Thank you and have a great 2024!

Hal Warner
President & CEO

A New Kingdom For Lilith

Lilith was abandoned at the front doors of LVHS on a cold morning in November. She was left in a carrier with another cat. Both cats were scanned for a microchip and we searched local Lost and Found pages in an attempt to find their original owners. When the search turned up nothing, we started looking for new forever homes for the two kittens. However, Lilith was not quite ready for a new home. She was showing defensive behaviors with staff, and was clearly petrified. After a few days of no progress, staff in the admin building decided to bring her over to the office to give her a change of scenery.

Within hours, Lilith's playful and mischievous spirit shone through. Lilith was an entertaining office mate, and could often be found running down the hall, sleeping on the backs of chairs and trying to send her own emails. Typically for a cat that displays defensive, aggressive behaviors we have the option to TNVR (Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return). In Lilith's case, we had no prior information or address to release her to. We weren't sure if she had ever lived outside or if there was a caretaker in her neighborhood to look after her. Our admin staff were determined to turn around Lilith's defensive temperament and she became an incredibly fun, irresistibly adorable kitten and we knew it was time for her to find a forever home. A few weeks after Lilith's first day in the office, she found her perfect match! She now happily lives with her forever family and is having the time of her life!



FREDDY'S FANTASTIC WEIGH IN!



BEFORE



AFTER

At LVHS, we often see pets come in that are emaciated and malnourished. Our efforts are usually dedicated to adding back healthy weight and giving pets a well-rounded diet. We had to adjust our outlook and plan for Freddy. All the way back in August, Freddy was surrendered to LVHS in poor condition. He was extremely overweight and needed to lose over a quarter of his body weight to become the healthy and happy pup he deserved to be. Our staff got him started on the right foot, with a new diet and even some time swimming in the creek behind the shelter. We knew that Freddy needed some one on one attention to finally lose that stubborn weight. He found a wonderful foster home in September that dedicated their time to ensuring that he got proper exercise and a healthy diet. Since then, Freddy has lost an astonishing 25 pounds! We are so excited for him as he continues on his journey to find his forever home!



Hara's Harrowing Journey

Hara was seen by our Community Vet Clinic after a terrifying trip to an emergency vet. At the time, Hara's family was unaware of what their tiny, timid cat had gotten into to make her so sick, but they knew that she needed to be seen right away. At the emergency vet, Hara's family had been quoted thousands of dollars to remove a significant blockage in her stomach. As with many vet bills, this unexpected expense was not one her family could afford. There were very few options for her family, but then they found LVHS. We were able to see Hara quickly and perform the lifesaving surgery. Hara stayed overnight in our clinic for monitoring and had made a fully recovery. Thanks to the generosity of our community and our superstar supporters, we were able to charge the family a price they could afford. Her family was so grateful to have their beloved pet back, happy and healthy in their home.

Hara had swallowed hair ties, faux Christmas tree pine needles, and an adhesive strip! Hara is just one of many pets that we see every year for blockages. We are grateful to be able to provide pet owners with the affordable vet care they need.



UPCOMING EVENTS



2024 Garden Party Presented by Kay Builders

Join us for a luxurious afternoon of food, cocktails, live music by Hannah Violet, and an auction. All proceeds benefit the LVHS and the animals we serve.

We are excited to announce that our 2024 Garden Party will be held at the beautiful vineyard & winery Domaine Pterion located in Macungie PA!

Michael Kors and Coach **PURSE BINGO** Sunday April 14, 2024

Michael Kors and Coach Purse Bingo

Join us April 14, 2024 for our annual purse bingo! It's always a great time and raises money for animals in need in our community!

640 Dixon St. Allentown, PA 18103
lehighhumane.org
610-797-1205

