Dear Friends:

It’s a BIG year for the Animal Protective Association of Missouri! It’s been 100 years of bringing people and pets together - year after year - adding purrs, squeaks, and tail wags to homes like yours. Thank you for being a part of this extraordinary journey with us.

Big birthdays tend to inspire reflection, gratitude, and big dreaming about what’s next. This year we intend to do all three!

Last year was a blockbuster. Despite the enduring challenges of the pandemic, we rallied and continued to do what we do best: build connection and care. We found loving homes for 4,758 pets – our biggest year yet! It took just 4 days, on average, for those pets to find a family. This feat wouldn't have been possible without you. And, our work wasn't just matchmaking, with your help we also:

• Gave pets a second chance by transferring in more than 2,000 pets, from 100+ shelters across the country. These are pets who wouldn’t have otherwise gotten a fair shake at a loving family.

• Supported our community by providing more than 5,000 lbs. of pet food, delivering life-saving medical care to 136 pets through our Hope Fund, offering safe shelter to 58 pets when their families were in crisis, and reuniting 184 lost pets with their families.

• Partnered with change-makers by engaging nearly 500 volunteers in almost 40,000 hours of service. Together with our 164 foster families, we cared for more than 1,800 vulnerable pets before they were adopted.

Continued →
This year marks an incredible milestone, and we are thankful. In 2022 we are celebrating our centennial and, quite frankly, we are astonished at how many people have contributed to making this milestone possible: thousands of adopters, volunteers, donors, partners, staff, and board members over the years. Your fingerprints are all over this! We couldn’t be more grateful to celebrate with you and we hope to see you at a slew of fun events in 2022. We hope you feel our gratitude, today and all year long.

Imagining what’s next. This year and into next, we are re-imagining the APA Adoption Center. Our Pet Project is a much-needed update of long-outdated spaces. This essential renovation will make us more welcoming to the community and allow us to serve even more pets, even better (if you can believe it). Learn more about Our Pet Project at apamo.org/ourpetproject.

In addition to our renovations, we are also planning to help find loving homes for pets who find themselves at St. Louis County’s Animal Care & Adoption Center. This partnership will extend the APA’s work to an additional location and enable us to do more for the pets and people in our community. Learn more about that at apamo.org/news.

Finally, we will close out 2022 with an opportunity to hear from you. When we blow out our candles on this year’s cake, what do you wish for the APA? You’ll have a chance to answer that and other questions when we invite our community to help us vision for our next 100 years. More to come on that!

PHEW! It sounds like a lot because IT IS! We are driven by the belief that the littlest among us deserve a fair shake and we intend to keep giving it to them. Thank you for being an essential part of this work and believing right alongside of us in the power of kindness.

Gratefully,

Sarah
President & CEO

For 100 years, the APA has been connecting people and pets, creating new families, and nurturing deep connections for life. And while our official birthday is in July, we think turning 100 is a pretty big deal, so we’re making it a year-long celebration full of exciting events and activities celebrating our three pillars – adoption, wellness, and education. You can learn more about our events and more at apamo.org/boop.

WALK OF THE CENTURY
Tie your shoes, grab your leash, and let’s go! This exciting year-long event will take place throughout 2022 and will raise money for pets being served by the APA. When you and your pet walk 100 miles in celebration of our Centennial Birthday, every mile walked will raise essential funds for our mission and bring you one step closer to some purrrty cool birthday swag.

CENTENNIAL EDUCATION BRUNCH AND LEARN (AKA “BOOP! BRUNCH”) On Wednesday, May 4th, we hope you’ll join us for our inaugural Education Brunch and Learn which will highlight the APA’s mission and programs by bringing in highly renowned expert, Kevin Morris, PhD, to present his fascinating research behind the reciprocal impact between companion animals and the community, as well as the science behind the human-animal bond.

100TH BIRTHDAY PAWTY On Saturday, September 24th (the evening before Canine Carnival), you are invited to help us blow out our birthday candles at our official Birthday Pawty (hats and all!). We will spend the evening celebrating 100 years of successfully helping pets in need. You’ll have the chance to meet and interact with a few of our furry APA friends, followed by celebratory cocktails, a delicious dinner, and of course, birthday cake!

CANINE CARNIVAL The 30th annual Canine Carnival will be hosted on Sunday, September 25th in Tilles Park. This event, which promises to be our biggest and best ever, will offer many fun activities for your family and four-legged friends to enjoy. As in previous years, Canine Carnival will celebrate the bond between people and their pets while raising funds for countless animals served by the APA Adoption Center. It’s a fun and festive time with hundreds of new friends!
Found in a dumpster, Oscar made his way to the APA late last year when the weather was already below freezing at night. He was malnourished, dehydrated, covered in fleas, and suffering from a severe upper respiratory infection. Oscar was in bad shape when he arrived and we were unsure if he would survive. The APA team took immediate action, administering the necessary medication and fluids to begin his healing process, as well as providing him with high-quality food to nourish him, and a warm bed to rest his tired body. It took several weeks of care, but Oscar finally improved enough to be moved into a comfy foster home where he finished recovering.

Once Oscar was cleared by our veterinary team, he returned to the APA where he quickly found his new, wonderful family! Oscar’s mom continues to update us about his new life and how much he loves head scratches and lap naps. She also says that he loves greeting his family with lots of cuddles after a long day and wants nothing more than to be with his people!

OUR IMPACT
SAVING A TREASURE

HISTORY

1922
Ella Megginson, a fearless animal advocate who was way ahead of her time, launched the Humane Society of St. Louis County, now APA, from her basement with a donation of just $500!

1947
We laid the first cornerstone at our first and current address, 1705 S. Hanley. The bones of the building have remained relatively unchanged since then, which is why Our Pet Project is so essential.

1983
The APA launched the area’s first therapeutic animal visitation program – PetReach – and volunteers began bringing companion animals to hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons to provide companionship to those who would otherwise be deprived of the opportunity.

1990s
We became the first area organization to perform pediatric spay/neuter surgeries. This leading-edge work prevented hundreds of thousands of unwanted litters and paved the way for others across the country to adopt the now-standard best practice.

1998
Our team began offering the first and only domestic violence pet assistance program in the region – Safe Care – which continues today and assists survivors leaving abusive homes by providing free pet sheltering until they can reach safety and regain their independence.

2014
The APA Pet Transfer Program was launched. This program has saved the lives of thousands of animals by transferring them from overcrowded shelters to our Adoption Center where they quickly find new, loving homes.

Thanks to you, the APA has collected 160 years of memories and given tens of thousands of pets a new leash on life (don’t tell the cats about that pun, we know how they feel about leashes...). It’s been a journey with many stops, but we wanted to share just a few of the highlights!
A victim of hurricane Ida, Vee was transferred to the APA from Louisiana with 17 other dogs after the shelter they were staying in was severely damaged during the hurricane.

Upon her arrival, the APA veterinary care team assessed Vee and found she had a fractured pelvis among other medical issues. We determined Vee would benefit from one of our comfy foster homes where she could get the one-on-one care required for a full recovery. The foster home Vee was placed in turned out to save her life in more ways than one!

In addition to receiving the best care in her foster home, Vee also found her new adoptive mother who fell in love with her immediately!

Once Vee fully recovered, she was ready to be adopted and Vickie made her an official part of her family!

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

We began our “No More Bullying” Education Program, which teaches children kindness, compassion, and responsibility - traits that will help break the cycle of violence towards and bullying of both animals and people.

We began our Pet Partners Outreach Program, which provides free vaccines, spay/neuter services, and other resources to low-income and under-resourced communities to keep pets with the people who love them.

Responding to the pandemic, the APA expanded our community programs, offering safe harbor for pets whose families facing housing insecurity, delivering thousands of pounds of pet food to animals in need, and growing our foster program.

Our biggest, most life-saving year yet! We found homes for 4,758 pets (the most ever!). We also launched Our Pet Project, a capital campaign that will help update the Adoption Center and make it possible to provide even better care to pets who need us.

The APA turns 100! Not only are we celebrating our successes to this point, but we are planning for our next 100 years! We have started major renovations and updates to the Adoption Center and are preparing for an exciting, new, and ambitious strategic plan.
OPENING OUR DOORS EVEN WIDER

Milestone moments give you the chance to reflect on how far you’ve come, celebrate with a great pawty, AND think about what’s to come. The APA’s future will be co-written with you.

WE HAVE A PET PROJECT.

Our “pet project” during our centennial is to give our home a much-needed update with the future in mind. The APA Adoption Center’s doors are always open, no matter what. And, it’s time we open those doors a little wider for the pets to come.

Each year, the APA has welcomed more and more pets in need. We’ve done all this at our Adoption Center, built in 1947, when we were serving dozens, not thousands of pets annually. We have outgrown our spaces and systems. Now is the time to renovate our home, giving our kennels, clinic, and even our nursery some long-overdue updates - which will make the Adoption Center more welcoming, efficient, and make room for even more pets every year. We are 75% to our fundraising goal – you can help us get the rest of the way there with an investment in our future. Learn more here at apamo.org/ourpetproject.

WE’RE GOING NEW PLACES.

Pets who need a second (and sometimes a third or fourth chance) will always find a soft bed and safe place under our roof. And, we recognize the world we (and they) live in continues to change, with new challenges and opportunities.

As we expand our footprint through our partnership with the St. Louis County Animal Care & Adoption Center, we will bring our adoption and matchmaking expertise to pets in need at a second location. We expect to double the number of animals we serve in the years to come. This is great news for pets and will mean that you will have a new set of doors to walk through to find the next love of your life.

WE WANT YOUR VISION.

While doing more and better is the driving force behind our work. We also value the insights, contributions, and commitment of our community. We want to hear from you – what do you envision for our region, what role should the APA play, and how can we help make St. Louis kinder for the pets and people who live here?

Toward the end of 2022, we will invite you to share your hopes for the future and help us chart a course for the APA’s next 100 years!

More to come.

The APA Adoption Center is an open admission organization dedicated to finding a safe, loving home for every adoptable animal.

Our updated dog kennels

Refreshed cat condos

Our future will be co-written with you.
“We’re Celebrating 100 Years
Learn more at apamo.org/boop

“I love the APA! The staff are so friendly and helpful.”

“The APA is spectacular! They have been so caring and helpful when I have needed assistance with a few animals in crisis. I couldn’t have helped these pets without the APA’s support.”

“100% recommend!”

“The work they do at the APA is nothing short of amazing.”