

## Letter from the Director

Dear Supporters,

In case you missed it, we published a video reviewing our overall statistics from 2020, and I am so proud of what we have accomplished. You can find the video published on our Facebook page, but some of the highlights include an overall live release rate of nearly 80%, our highest ever achieved, and tons of wonderful adoptions despite the ongoing pandemic.

As we continue into 2021, I feel we are continuing to build on the success we had in 2020. Many adoptable pets are finding their forever homes faster than animals are coming in, which is an incredible problem to have and something I have never seen before in my 19 years at Pitt County. All of these adoptions mean the shelter is less full and more prepared for what the summer may bring!

The summer often means an influx of stray animals, along with puppies and kittens, and with the help of our community and supporters we say: bring it on!

With Gratitude,

Michele Whaley, Director

## Lost Pets & What To Do

As the weather warms and more folks head outdoors to enjoy the summer sun, so do more pets! While we hope all pet owners are careful, accidents can still happen and your furry family member can slip away.

If you lose a pet, don't panic but do act quickly.

There are several important steps you should take, such as:



- Report the lost pet to Animal Control (sometimes multiple agencies!)
- Post information in neighborhood groups, and local lost & found pages
- Ask your neighbors to be on the lookout and let you know if the pet is sighted: when and where
- Leave out a bowl of water and an item with the scent of home (the pet's bed, or even their owner's worn t-shirt). DON'T leave out food, which may attract wild animals that deter your pet from coming home

## Exciting Opportunity for PCAS Staff Member!

Lisa Amundson, the Office Manager at Pitt County Animal Shelter, has been selected to participate in the invite-only Management Leadership Certification, an accredited partnership with Southern Utah University and Best Friends Animal Society. This is the very first cohort of this 6-month course! It is an exciting opportunity and we are proud that Lisa was chosen to be a part of it.



## Pet Health & Wellness Tip

Declawing cats can be misunderstood as a simple permanent nail trim, but the truth is that it can be very harmful to your cat. Medical drawbacks to declawing include pain in the paw, infection, tissue necrosis (tissue death), lameness, and back pain. If you are concerned about your pet scratching, try alternatives like trimming their nails or nail caps. Also make sure there are plenty of surfaces they are *supposed* to scratch, like posts or mats, so they can exercise that natural impulse somewhere other than your couch!

