



## Meet Aaron Walker, President and CEO at KHS

On behalf of the Kansas Humane Society Board of Directors, Dr. Melanie Summers, Board Chair, is pleased to announce the appointment of Aaron Walker as the organization's new President and CEO.

Aaron is an experienced leader of non-profit organizations and was selected because of our belief in his ability to lead KHS as we work to create a renewed passion for animal welfare in our community. We believe that through his proven ability to cultivate relationships and implement innovative strategies lives will be saved.

When asked about joining the team, Aaron remarked that he was super-excited to step in and not only act as a liaison between the Board of Directors and KHS team but to begin building a culture of consistency & accountability, supporting alignment for staff, volunteers, and patrons while working together to improve the lives of pets in need within our community.

Our staff had an opportunity to chat with Aaron and get to know him. We thought you would enjoy a bit of our Q & A Session as it offers great insight into our new leader and his vision for KHS.

### What was it that led you to KHS?

I started working in sales and had fully intended on working in the for-profit field. However, through a cooperative education opportunity at Wichita State University, I had the opportunity to study complex social problems and their resolutions. What does that mean? Essentially looking at our society and seeing a need and finding a way to meet that need. That is where charitable organizations come into play. For me, not only is it rewarding to be a part of something that makes

the world a better place, but it is also the satisfaction of problem-solving that draws me to the non-profit world.

Years ago, when I began my career, I discovered the Kansas Humane Society and fell in love with the mission. I knew that if an opportunity ever availed itself to me, and I were suited for the position, I would reach out.

KHS is an important part of our community, vital to the homeless pet population, and that opportunity recently lined up with my experience and availability, and here I am, the President and CEO of the Kansas Humane Society. It really is a dream come true for me.



**Aaron Walker,**  
President and CEO at KHS

### What would you like us to know about you?

I love getting to look at systems and processes and find ways to make them more efficient. I also greatly enjoy getting to lead and work alongside passionate people to achieve a mission with which we are all aligned. I think I'm going to have a chance to do both here at KHS.

### What's the best part of your day?

Getting up in the morning and getting to come into work - I love to check in with my team and find little ways to show our appreciation for the awesome work they do. Getting to walk by and say hello to the animals from time to time is awesome too.

*(Continued on page 4)*



3313 N. Hillside  
Wichita, KS 67219

(316)-524-9196  
www.kshumane.org

### Adoption & Admissions Hours

Monday - Saturday  
11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sunday  
1:00 - 5:00 pm

### Mission

The Kansas Humane Society is a community resource for pets and people, dedicated to enhancing the welfare of all companion animals.

### Vision

To create a humane community for all companion animals.

### Board Officers

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## Capacity Crisis

Pre-Covid there was an ebb and flow of pets in need throughout the year. This somewhat predictable pace allowed our care team to recover as needed, allowed for building maintenance, allowed our leadership team to plan strategically, and allowed our development team to cultivate relationships more often than they sought your financial support.

I am often asked why we are experiencing this prolonged crisis in animal welfare at KHS, and my first answer is always this ... did you know that spay and neuter surgeries across our country were halted for more than a year, as veterinarians were asked to reserve medical supplies for human care?

What exactly does that mean? Let me put that into perspective. A single pair of unaltered cats can turn into 420,000 kittens in just seven years. Talk about a lot of kittens running around. The average mature cat can have three litters with a total of 12 kittens per year. Out of those litters of kittens, about 4.7 are females, which means they will most likely have litters of their own. When you do the math, it is profound, isn't it?

I share this with you because overpopulation is just one of the reasons we are seeing such an increase in animals entering our shelter. As prices continue to rise for basic necessities, it becomes difficult for families, and they are making heartbreaking choices to re-home their pets at unprecedented rates.

We may be beleaguered by the challenges we are facing, and like businesses around the world, we feel the financial strain of increased expenses, but, I can tell you this... we will not turn our backs on the pets who come to us in need.

**If you are a business that supports KHS, a volunteer who helps in the shelter, a foster family who cares for critical need pets, or a donor who believes in helping those that have no voice, WE THANK YOU!**

Together we will continue to change the world for pets in our community. Together we will save every life we can. I am grateful to face the challenge with you.

With sincere appreciation,

Shasta Lockwood, Chief Development Officer

# Happy Tails:

## Meet Ryker

He was a long-stay dog that was with us for 141 days! Our staff grew really attached to him

during his stay with us, and we all wanted to see him go to the perfect home.

Ryker was such a sweet boy. He did great in a car, walked well on a leash, loved meeting new people (he even met the Wichita Thunder hockey team), gave the best kisses, and was just an overall great boy.

Eventually, he was moved into our Quantum Credit Union suite at the front of our lobby. We posted Ryker on social media numerous times, took him to the news, and throughout all of it, Ryker always kept a HUGE smile on his face and never lost hope.

His lucky day finally came on February 15th, when he was adopted!

**He will always have kids to play with and provide comfort to, he will never be alone, and it truly was the best family for him.**

We all said our goodbyes, and we're so happy for this beautiful boy.



## Meet Sadie

She was born about 38 miles south, at Wellington Humane Society, where

she remained for the next two years. Two years, can you believe that?



She was really playful, loved head scratches, and was incredibly sweet. One day the Wellington Humane Society reached out and asked if we would accept her as a transfer both to help make space for them and to give her a better chance at getting adopted.

We posted her story on social media the day she arrived, and she was settled into her new suite. Just a few hours later, she was adopted.

**Adopted the same day she came in!**

We always love seeing long stays go home, but this was something special, and we're really glad to have helped the Wellington Humane Society, and to have helped Sadie find a home so quickly.

# Meet Aaron Walker (Continued from page 1)

## What should people know about KHS?

Our goal is to be an amazing resource for both PEOPLE and PETS in our community--and our building is filled with dedicated individuals who work and volunteer on behalf of the pets who come to us in need. Our desire is to save every pet. We work very hard to help them all, from a big dog to a fluffy cat, to a little pet mouse—they just want to be loved and a part of a family. Everyone at KHS is an important part of the team and it just feels awesome to be a part of it.

Everyone at KHS works incredibly hard to be a strong community resource for both PEOPLE and PETS in alignment with our mission. I believe we've taken great strides in facilitating conversations about animals who have been lost, abused, neglected, abandoned, or surrendered. I am excited to see how we will continue to grow and the lives we will impact both for pets in need and their new families who will love them.

## What should people know about the animals KHS cares for?

Pets come to KHS for a variety of reasons. Sometimes they are a stray who was picked up

by the Wichita Animal Shelter response team, sometimes there is a family member who develops an allergy, and sometimes circumstances sadly change and the family has no choice but to surrender their pet. At any given point in time, there are hundreds of pets under the supervision of KHS. Some are simply waiting for their new family, and some need special care requiring a longer stay. It is awe-inspiring when you realize that last year alone we helped care for over 15,000 pets in crisis.

## Is there anything else the public should know about you?

I have had a great time learning about KHS. It is an organization that I am proud to be a part of and represent. The people who walk the halls of KHS do work that is vital to our community and I am honored to be among them.

As I begin my tenure, and start to plan strategically, I know we are facing many challenges because of the record-breaking overpopulation we are seeing. I am grateful to work with you and meet those challenges. I am grateful for your support. I know together can continue to save the pets that so desperately need us.

## Upcoming Events

### June 21

Join us at Wichita Wind Surge for Bark in the Park, 7 pm

### July 5

Join us at Chicken N Pickle for a Wag and Woof Doggy Ice Cream Social

### August 26

National Dog Day

### October 7

WOOFSTOCK 2023

YOUR PET'S PHOTO HERE!

**KHS**  
Kansas Humane Society

IS YOUR PET  
**PICTURE PERFECT?**

**JANUARY**  
Days 10, January 20th  
Gift 12 Days Back

DATE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT IN THE 2024 PETS & THEIR PEOPLE CALENDAR**

**WALL & DESK**  
CALENDAR OPTIONS AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SHASTA LOCKWOOD AT (316) 220-8703 OR SLOCKWOOD@KSHUMANE.ORG.

**LinkedIn:** KansasHumaneSociety  
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