

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

Kudos to the Northwoods Humane Society Shelter Staff and the Shelter Manager Alecia Austin. Through their efforts and commitment we are now registered as a Fear Free Shelter.

At the Northwoods Humane Society Shelter, our mission has always been clear: to provide love, care and support to each and every shelter pet that graces us with their presence. From the moment they arrive, we strive to create an environment where they feel safe, valued and cherished.

We are thrilled to announce a momentous achievement here at the Northwoods Humane Society Shelter. We are now officially certified as a Fear Free Shelter! This certification is a testament to the unwavering dedication and passion of our incredible Dog and Cat Teams who have embraced the principles of Fear Free care with open hearts and minds.

Alecia Austin, our Shelter Manager shared 'that with determination and commitment, our team embarked on the Fear Free Shelter Program journey, eager to enhance the lives of the shelter pets under our care. Today, we proudly announce that 8 out of 9 team members have successfully completed and passed all testing, solidifying our status as a Certified Fear Free Shelter.

As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to continuing our journey of compassion. With Fear Free principles guiding our every action, we are confident that we can make an even greater impact in the lives of shelter pets, offering them the love and support they need to thrive.'

Why the Fear Free Shelter program is essential for animal welfare: Every year thousands of homeless animals find themselves in the care of shelters and rescues across the globe. From large organizations handling tens of thousands of animals to small grassroots groups, these facilities play a crucial role in providing safety and care for animals in need. However, the shelter environment itself can often be a source of stress and anxiety for these vulnerable creatures.

The moment an animal enters a shelter, they're faced with a sudden and overwhelming change in their environment. The unfamiliar sights, smells, and sounds coupled with the presence of strangers and other animals, can trigger a range of emotions, from unease to outright fear. This stress is compounded by the inconsistent and unpredictable nature of daily interactions within the shelter, making it difficult for animals to adapt and causing further anxiety.

Short-term confinement in a shelter can lead to severe fear, anxiety, and stress for animals. But it's the long-term effects that are truly concerning. Animals subjected to extended stays in shelters may experience social isolation, lack of mental stimulation, and chronic anxiety, all of which can take a toll on their physical and emotional well-being. Sadly, some animals develop persistent emotional issues that can last a life time due to the stress they endure during their time in the shelter.

This is where the Fear Free Shelter Program comes into play. The program's goal is simple yet profound: To improve the lives of shelter animals by addressing their emotional needs. By educating shelter staff, volunteers and animal welfare professionals, the Fear Free Shelter Program empowers individuals to implement strategies and techniques aimed at reducing fear, anxiety, and stress in shelter environments.

The Fear Free Shelter Program provides comprehensive training suitable for all individuals involved in the care and oversight of shelter animals. From medical and behavioral staff to intake workers, receptionists, kennel attendants, and volunteers, everyone plays a vital role in creating a fear-free environment for shelter animals. By equipping these individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to promote emotional well-being and enrichment, the Fear Free Shelter Program aims to transform the shelter experience for animals in need.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of shelter animals.

Dates to Save: May 9 – Bingo - 5:30 Powell's on Round Lake

May 24 – Dining For Cats and Dogs – Lynn's Custom Meats and Catering