

About Wichita Animal Action League

Wichita Animal Action League, or WAAL, is a state-licensed rescue and 501c3 nonprofit organization. We are a foster-home-based rescue and do not operate a full-time facility.

Founded in November 2013, WAAL's mission is to prevent and mitigate crisis for animals, their owners, and our community by:



Proactively working to address overpopulation



Providing education and support for responsible pet ownership



Fostering and adoption of at risk animals



Keeping animals with their families and out of shelters and rescues.

Our goal is to fill the gap created from the financial and personnel constraints of local governments resources.

We fulfill our mission with three main branches of service:

1. Adoption

- Saving animals at risk of euthanasia at local shelters
- Providing rehoming services to owners to prevent pets from entering the shelter system

2. Spay/Neuter Services

- Spay It Forward, a voucher program designed to stop unnecessary pet euthanasia by combating its source: overpopulation
- TNR services

3. Community Outreach

- Providing welfare checks for neglect/cruelty concerns
- Emergency rescue responding when others say, "We don't do that," including saving cats in trees, ducklings in storm drains, and starving horses
- Assisting the city shelter with vet care costs for medical-emergency cases
- Donating supplies to owners in need
- Assisting owners with vet bills
- Empowering the community with vaccination and supply clinics
- Providing food for community per food banks
- Providing low cost microchips for the community
- Offering dog training grants for low-income owners

Our Team

Christy Fischer, Executive Director

- Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice, Summa Cum Laude, Wichita State University
- Masters of Arts, Criminal Justice, Summa Cum Laude, Wichita State University
- Certifications
 - Kansas State Certified Law Enforcement Officer, 2007
 - Nationally Certified Animal Cruelty Investigator, 2011
 - Texas State Certified Animal Control Officer, 2016
- Instructor
- National Animal Cruelty Investigator's School through the University of Missouri

Julia Craft, President

- Attorney and Member at Joseph, Hollander & Craft
- Bachelors of Political Science, Cum Laude, Wichita State University
- Juris Doctor, University of Kansas
- Member
 - Wichita and Kansas Bar Associations
- Achievements
 - Best Lawyers in America (Family Law) 2020 & 2022
 - Wichita Business Journal: Outstanding Businesswoman 2018
 - Wichita Business Journal: Woman Who Lead Legal Services 2021
 - Martindale Hubbard AV Rating
 - Trailblazers Award 2016

Lora Heit, Vice-President

- Koch Industries Global Business Transformation Leader, 26 years of leadership positions
- Bachelor of Science in General Studies & Administration of Justice, Wichita State University

Sonia Hicks, Secretary

- Private Wealth Advisor, Ameriprise Financial
- Bachelor of Science Finance and Management, McPherson College
- Certifications
 - Accredited Portfolio Management Advisor (APMA)
 - Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor (CRPC®)
 - CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ practitioner (CFP®)
 - Behavioral Financial Advisor (BFA)
- Member
 - Little River Learning Center
 - 2023 Forbes Next-Gen Wealth Advisor
 - USD 444 Finance Pathway Advisory Committee
 - Student Debt Mentoring Program at McPherson College

Cherie Warchuck, Treasurer

- Certified Public Accountant
- Master of Professional Accountancy, Wichita State University
- Bachelor of Business Administration, Detroit College of Business
- Member

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants

Brenda Johnson, Board Member

- Bachelor of English, Wichita State University
- Masters of Communication, Wichita State University
- Member
 - Junior League of Wichita
 - Designing Women
 - Delta Gamma Alumni

Sarah Coffman, Board Member & Founding Executive Director

- Flourish Placemaking Collective, Development Director
- Bachelor of Arts, Integrated Marketing Communications, Cum Laude, Wichita State University
- Achievements
 - “One to Watch” Elliott School of Communications
 - Non-profit Difference Maker of the Year
 - Wichita Business Journal, 40 Under 40
 - ASPCA Seizure-Response Deployment
 - Women’s Vision Leadership Conference Speaker, 2019
- Member
 - Kansas High School Activities Association
- Kansas State High School Activities Association, Volleyball official

Becky Craft, Past President & Founding Board Member

- Retired CEO, Integra Technologies
- Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, Wichita State University
- Master of Business Administration, Wichita State University

Deena Hyson Bailey, Past President & Board Member

- Senior Counsel, Cargill, Inc.
- Bachelor of Political Science, Kansas State University
- Juris Doctor, Dean’s Honors, top 15%, Washburn University School of Law
- Member
 - Kansas Bar
 - Wichita & Kansas Women Attorneys Associations
- Achievements
 - Wichita Business Journal, 40 Under 40
 - Pro Bono Award
 - Louis Mattox Attorney of Achievement
 - Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Attorney of Achievement

Stephanie Anne Fisk McCurdy, Past President & Founding Board Member

- REALTOR®/ Broker, Keller Williams Hometown Partners LLC
- Bachelor of Marketing Communications, Wichita State University
- Member
 - National Association of Realtors®
 - Kansas Association of Realtors®
 - Realtors® of South-Central Kansas
 - National Association of Home Builders
 - Wichita Area Builders Association

- Realtor® Political Action Committee (RPAC) Trustee, Current
- Achievements
 - Wichita Business Journal: 40 Under 40, 2013
 - Sedgwick County Sheriffs Office Citizen Activist of the Year, 2014
 - Wichita Business Journal: Women In Business, 2015
 - Willard Garvey Crime Prevention Award, 2015
 - Sedgwick County Sheriffs Office Citizen Activist of the Year, 2014
 - Realtors® of South Central Kansas Community Advocate Award, 2022
 - Wichita Business Journal: Women Who Lead, 2023

Christy Friesen, Past President & Board Member

REALTOR®/Team Lead, Trusted Advisor Team LLC at RE/MAX Premier

Bachelors of A and MA in Modern and Classical Languages/Spanish

Wichita State University

- Member
 - National Association of REALTORS®
 - Kansas Association of REALTORS®
 - Residential Real Estate Council (CRS)
 - Real Estate Buyer's Agent Council (ABR)
 - Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)
- Achievements
 - Board of Directors for the Realtors® of South Central Kansas – 2021-2023
 - Wichita Business Journal: Top Residential Real Estate Teams – 2020 and 2017
 - Cover of Real Producers Magazine – July 2020
 - RE/MAX Lifetime Achievement Award
 - Childrens' Miracle Network Miracle Agent
 - Previous Spanish Instructor for Wichita State University

Dr. Jessica Hodes, DVM

- Veterinarian/Owner, Hodes Veterinary Health Center
- Bachelor of Science, Suma Cum Laude, Kansas State University
- Doctorate Veterinary Medicine, Magna Cum Laude, Kansas State University
- Member
 - Kansas Dressage and Eventing Association – Board member
 - Kansas Veterinary Medical Association Equine Dentistry Task Force – Member
- Awards
 - 2007 Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH) Veterinarian of the Year
- Kansas State University Veterinary Student Mentor
- Nationally Accredited Veterinarian (Level 2)
- Boarded to practice in Kansas and Missouri

Dr. Christy Rafferty, DVM

- Veterinarian/Owner, Wichita Pet Wellness
- Doctorate Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University