



2020 in Review:

Lives Saved,
Families Kept Whole,
and Progress
Despite Challenges





Roger (top) and Nemo,
rescued by PAWS in 2020.

Dear Friends,

In a year when so much was threatened and nearly everything was a struggle, the pets in our lives — those who have families and those still waiting for love — effortlessly inspired us. They brought us even closer together to fight for them, and taught us yet again how much we can overcome — because they depend on us to find a way.

When everything was on the line, our PAWS family — staff, volunteers, donors, fosters, adopters, community cat caregivers, and pet owners who visit our clinics — created thousands of bright spots, not to mention wagging tails and satisfied purrs, amidst all the pain and uncertainty of an unimaginable year.

Behind masks, through Zoom, and curbside, here is just a glimpse of the difference made possible by working together in 2020.

We look ahead to 2021 with resolve, hope, and profound gratitude. *It will take all of us* to keep creating and protecting those precious bonds with pets who need us.

Together, no matter what stands in our way, we will make Philadelphia a no-kill city.

Melissa Levy

Melissa Levy
Executive Director



2020 at a Glance

Stopping was never an option. Throughout the pandemic, with changes to all of our operations to protect the safety of our staff and clients, we:

Continued rescuing animals and caring for community pets

- An outpouring of foster parents enabled us to preserve space in our shelters for urgent cases.
- With both adoption centers temporarily closed, matches were made by appointment and through foster homes.
- Basic vet care and spay/neuter was provided daily at both clinics through curbside service.

Adapted to earn and offer needed support

- We created the Emergency Fund for PAWS and asked our supporters for help at a pivotal time. Their profound response ensured we could go on.
- Our volunteers engaged in new ways to serve pets in need: pantry events, clinic transport, and more.
- In-person fundraising events became virtual affairs.

Helped protect citywide lifesaving progress

- Shelter intake decreased for the ninth straight year; it is now nearly a third of what it once was.
- The city's save rate hit an all-time high of 89%.
- The lifesaving gap — savable animals not saved at the city's shelter — reached a record low: 384 dogs and cats, down from 25,000 before Philadelphia's transformation began.
- Collaboration continued among PAWS, PSPCA, and ACCT Philly — co-founders and co-leaders of the Philadelphia No-Kill Coalition.

2,749

**DOGS & CATS
RESCUED**

29,025

**PETS SERVED
IN OUR CLINICS**

INCLUDING

10,384

SPAYS/NEUTERS



A VILLAGE TO SAVE INJURED PETS LIKE RALPHIE

A Good Samaritan found this lovable puppy and brought him to the city shelter. Ralphie had a severely deformed leg and needed medical care far beyond the shelter's resources. PAWS' dedicated **foster parents and supporters made it possible for us to offer Ralphie a way out**, knowing we could give him all he would need. And with **volunteers standing by** to transport him, his healing could start right away.

The shelter animals most at risk have illnesses or injuries requiring **specialized veterinary care to survive. They find it at PAWS.** Once they're well, we use our matchmaking skills to find them just the right home where they can finally enjoy the carefree life they deserve.

32,087 pets rescued since PAWS began

Babs was one day old when she arrived, hungry and too young to eat on her own. We stabilized her body temperature, got food in her belly, and placed her in a home through **PAWS' bottle feeding foster program** so she could receive round-the-clock care during her critical first weeks.

Kittens — both orphaned and with their mothers — are among **the most vulnerable homeless pets.** That's why they've always been a leading lifesaving priority for PAWS.





GETTING CREATIVE TO KEEP SAVING LIVES

The new era of virtual adoptions was made for Stanley. He was rescued from the street in Brewerytown, and was so frightened in our shelter that he wouldn't let anyone touch him. An experienced foster parent helped him come out of his shell, and then arranged **virtual meets with potential adopters** so he could show off his affectionate personality from a comfortable distance until he found his perfect forever home.

With our adoption centers temporarily closed, our volunteers, fosters, and adopters seamlessly embraced **new ways of making great matches**, so we never skipped a beat. They joined our staff in rising to the occasion, and **thousands of families welcomed new PAWS pets in 2020, making room for love and happiness during difficult times.**

Fosters + volunteers: **an all-star team**

PAWS volunteers played a new, crucial role in saving lives in 2020. Unable to be on-site in their usual numbers, they eagerly offered to shuttle foster pets to our clinics for appointments when foster parents lacked transportation or just needed a helping hand. In doing so, they made it possible for many fosters to make the commitment and open their homes. **Thanks to our champion fosters and volunteers, PAWS kept rescuing pets every day** throughout the pandemic, while preserving shelter space to stay prepared for any sudden influxes of homeless pets.





SECOND CHANCES FOR FAMILY PETS IN DISTRESS

Cappuccino's owner made the heartbreaking, last-resort decision to give him up after losing their job during the pandemic. **Through our intake diversion program, this friendly 6 year-old never had to enter the crowded city shelter.** He was matched with a foster home within days of arriving at PAWS, and found a new, loving forever family just one week later.

While our primary goal of our clinic and counseling services is to keep families together, sometimes that is just not possible. In those cases, **a safety net eases pain and saves lives. In 2020, over 200 beloved family pets who needed to be rehomed found safe haven and second chances at PAWS.**

Healthy community: **strong safety net**

To achieve our goal of making Philadelphia a no-kill city, **there must be enough services for people who:**

- want to **keep their pets** but need help
- find it necessary to **rehome their pets**
- need to **prevent them from having litters**

In the coming year, PAWS will continue offering assistance to families who need **help staying whole — and peace of mind** that their pet will be safe if they must part.





VET CARE FOR CHERISHED COMPANIONS

Affordable vet care is sometimes all it takes to **preserve the precious bond between people and their pets**. By helping sick and injured pets get healthy, and protecting others through wellness and preventive care, PAWS' two clinics **keep families together and prevent pet homelessness**.

The pandemic has only magnified the need in Philadelphia, where 25% of residents live in poverty, and the effects will continue. Pet owners struggling to make ends meet need even more support to care for their companions, and serving them is vital — both to their health and well-being, and to our larger goal of keeping pets out of shelters. **In 2020, we transformed our clinic operations to continue serving our community, providing curbside vet care and spay/neuter to the pets and people who depend on us.**

271,212 pets served in PAWS' clinics since 2010, including **103,820** spays/neuters

Making spay/neuter widely available has been vital to reducing Philadelphia's homeless pet population, and it remains a **core PAWS service**. After a brief mandatory pause at the start of the pandemic to conserve supplies for human hospitals, PAWS resumed performing spay/neuter surgeries for the animals most likely to produce unwanted litters: owned cats and community cats brought to us through TNR (trap-neuter-release) efforts.





MEETING THE MOMENT: PARTNERS OLD & NEW

Whether through **long-established partnerships with our fellow No-Kill Coalition members**, or new ones forged during these hard times, the **importance of collaborating** to serve the growing number of Philadelphians in need has never been clearer.

The pandemic has driven more people in our community than ever to seek support from food pantries, and those with pets must also feed their beloved dogs and cats. With a small army of PAWS volunteers eager to help in new ways, we proudly worked with **Share Food, Philadelphia Auto and Parole, Citizens for a No-Kill Philadelphia, and ACCT Philly** to support **pet pantry efforts for the staggering number of neighbors who are food insecure.**

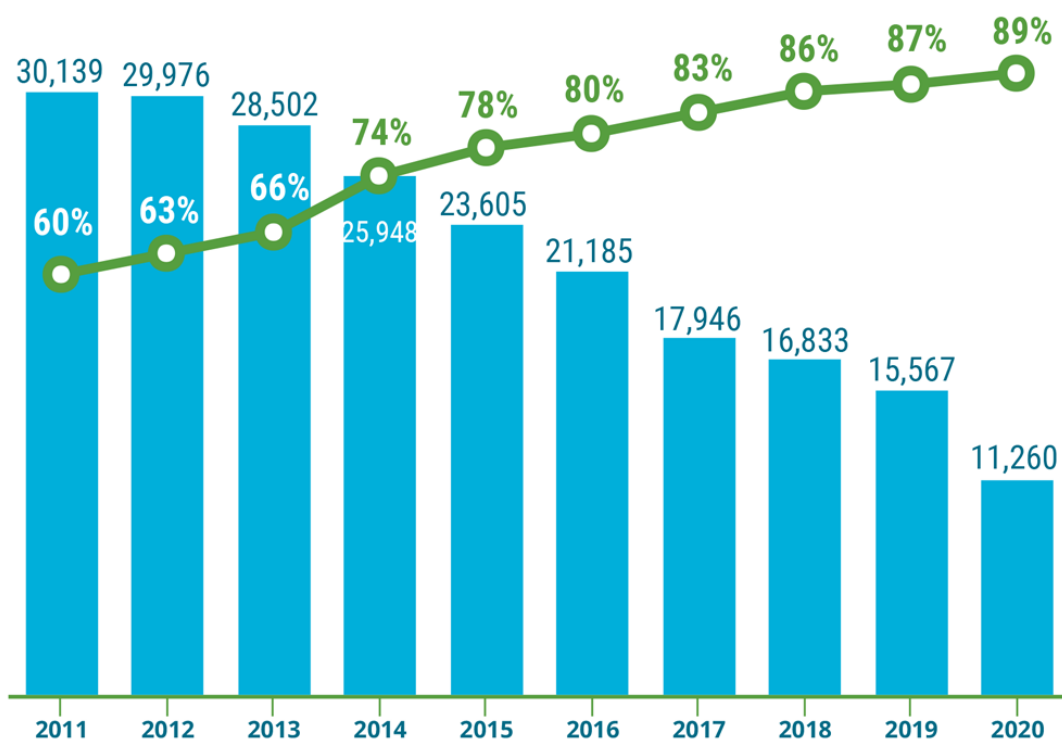
5,077 hours worked by PAWS volunteers in 2020
2,066 vulnerable pets fed

The need is far greater than current resources can meet, so we are exploring ways to expand on our collaborations in 2021 to provide life-sustaining food to even more pet owners in need — during this crisis and beyond. It's just one example of the **community outreach and support that we must bolster to create a true safety net for pets** and prevent unnecessary shelter surrenders.



UNDETERRED: Progress Toward No-Kill

Philadelphia's transformation continued despite COVID-19 challenges



89%
save rate*

up from 11% before
PAWS' lifesaving
efforts began

63%
fewer animals

entering city shelter
since we began

Number of dogs & cats entering ACCT, and the percentage saved.

*Approximately 93% would be considered no-kill status, since 6-8% of animals entering the shelter are unsavable due to severe medical or behavioral issues.

Key strategies to propel trends forward

To make the city shelter a true last resort and offer a way out for all savable pets who enter, **we must continue:**

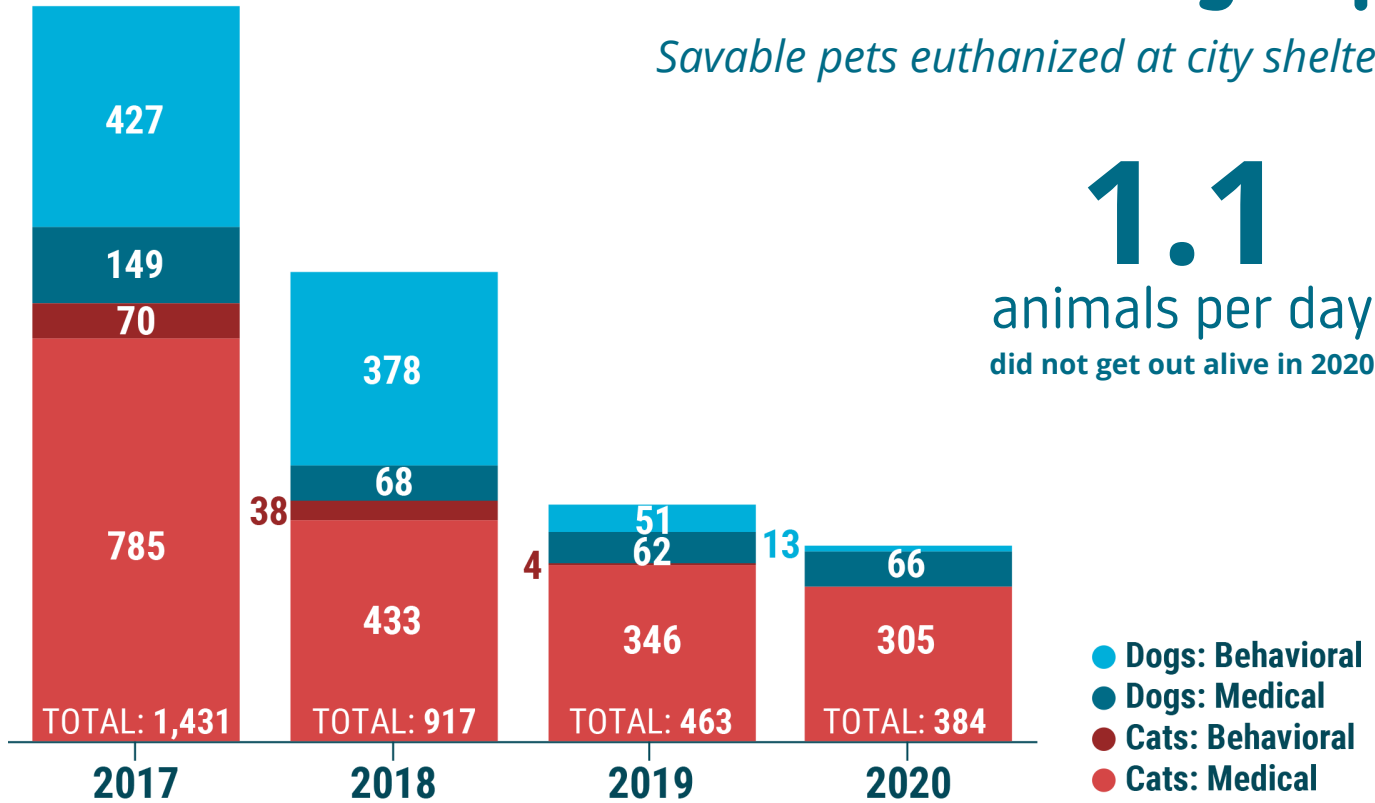
- **Rescuing sick/injured and senior dogs and cats** needing specialized veterinary care
- **Keeping families together** by assisting people who need help caring for their cherished pets
- With our No-Kill Coalition partners, facilitating **direct rescue intake** for pets who must be rehomed
- Providing **TNR surgery** to community cat caregivers to humanely control and protect their colonies



SHRINKING: Lifesaving Gap

Savable pets euthanized at city shelter

1.1
animals per day
did not get out alive in 2020



As we get closer to our goal, the remaining cases become more difficult.

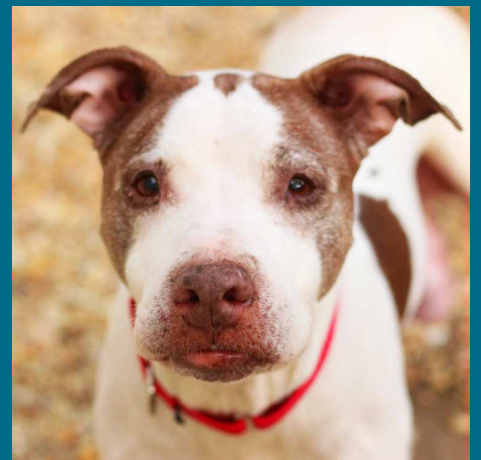
In 2020, 384 savable dogs and cats could not be rescued from the city's shelter. **Most (97%) had significant medical issues** requiring more resources than were available for them.

Together, we will **keep closing the gap**

Support for PAWS provides a place to heal for tiny kittens, dogs, and cats whose lives depend on it. All of our efforts are aimed at **giving each one the chance they deserve.**

100%
donor-funded

\$0.91
per donated dollar
spent directly on the animals





CARING FOR THOSE WHO NEED US MOST

PAWS' lifesaving programs provide hope to homeless pets, enable owned pets to remain with their families who cherish them, and curb the stray animal population.

Each one directly addresses the needs of pets that used to die in large numbers. **Now, most are saved.** These programs are critical to making Philadelphia a no-kill city.

CAT AND DOG RESCUE & CARE

- ✓ Complex Medical Cases
- ✓ Bottle-Feeding Kittens
- ✓ FIV+ and FeLV+ Cats
- ✓ Dental Care
- ✓ Ringworm Recovery
- ✓ Hospice Care

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER & PREVENTING PET HOMELESSNESS

- ✓ Affordable Vet Care
- ✓ Spay/Neuter
- ✓ Direct Rescue

Learn more: phillypaws.org/programs





PAWS was founded to reduce the number of pets entering and dying in Philadelphia shelters.



For nearly 15 years, as the city's largest rescue partner, we have been relentless in our efforts to find loving homes for homeless pets, help struggling owners keep their pets, and prevent the birth of stray and unwanted litters.



Our ultimate goal is to make Philadelphia a no-kill city, where every savable pet is guaranteed a loving home.



Old City Adoption Center

100 N. 2nd Street (at Arch), Philadelphia, PA 19106

Northeast Adoption Center and Low-Cost Clinic

1810 Grant Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19115

Spay/Neuter and Wellness Clinic

2900 Grays Ferry Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19146

215-298-9680 · phillypaws.org

