

Louisiana SPCA

2018 Annual Report



2018

by the numbers

 **2,789**
adoptions


 **12,861**
wellness exams

 **9,985**
spay/neuter surgeries
3,064 public surgeries
2,313 shelter surgeries
4,608 TNR surgeries


 **1,459**
animals fostered

526 
pets reunited with
their owners

 **4,972**
animals in our care
3,396 dogs
1,473 cats
27 rabbits
25 guinea pigs
14 ferrets
6 horses
1 cow
10 birds
5 chickens
2 pigs
3 lizards
10 small wildlife

 **4,608**
cats TNR'd
(trap-neuter-return)

 **2,485**
volunteers
19,285 hours volunteered

 **11,440**
children impacted by
humane education

 **532**
animals transported
to forever homes

 **289**
behavior & training
clients

 **8,049**
Humane Law & Rescue
calls completed



letter from the CEO

I am so happy to share the 2018 annual report with you! This report is not unlike other annual reports, in that it consists of the same elements you typically find in annual recaps – everything from a year's overview to financial data to various cumulative statistics. However, what makes this document so unique and powerful is how it highlights transformative moments that occurred this past year – and specifically how companion animals transform our lives each and every day.

Within these pages you'll learn about several life-changing experiences including JJ and his transformative journey from pain to adoption into a loving home; Flash Gordon's miraculous recovery; and Philly Cat's amazing odyssey.

In addition to the many amazing felines and canines, we also cared for other species this past year including rabbits; pocket pets such as guinea pigs and ferrets; and large livestock, notably horses. You'll learn more about one horse in particular, Buddy, who came to the public's attention during a Mardi Gras parade.

At the core of each of their stories is that despite all the challenges and hardships experienced by the thousands of companion animals we've touched and cared for in some way – they continue to love us unconditionally, and transform the lives of staff, supporters and volunteers who have rescued, fostered, adopted or sheltered them.

As you review the various statistics, it's transforming to realize that behind each number is an amazing creature who teaches and inspires us every day.

Thanks to all of you who are part of the Louisiana SPCA community for allowing us to be a part of their journey, and helping us help them. These transformative experiences could not have happened without the incredible support from friends like you.

Ana Zorrilla, CAWA
Chief Executive Officer

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extraordinary lengths JJ's Journey

Abandoned, injured and seeking shelter in a stranger's barn, JJ was in critical condition when our Humane Law & Rescue officers arrived on scene. The situation was far worse than they could have ever imagined.

It appeared that JJ had a chemical burn on his face and down his spine; x-rays would later show that he had multiple broken bones most likely caused by being hit by a car. Due to the severity of JJ's condition, our officers could barely move him without causing excruciating pain. Once they were able to transport him safely back to the Louisiana SPCA, he required constant monitoring and round-the-clock care. Our team of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and animal care specialists changed JJ's wound dressings daily and allowed him plenty of time to rest in order for his skin and bones to begin to heal.

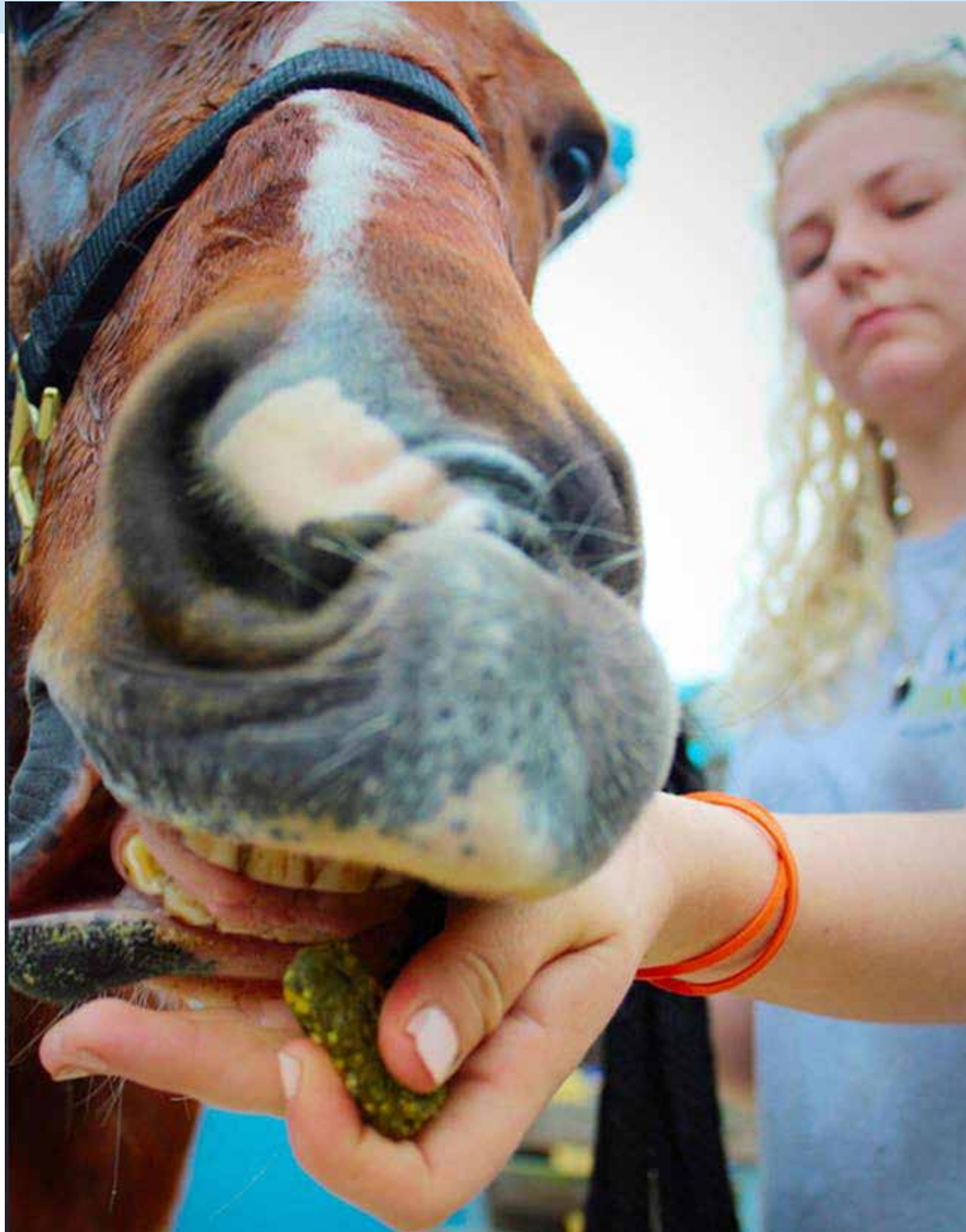
Although this resilient dog had experienced great abuse and neglect at the hands of humans, he never displayed an ounce of aggression towards our team. From the moment he entered our care, our team of volunteers noticed his disposition — always calm and affectionate. As JJ's condition improved, his personality blossomed. Eight weeks later, he was ready to make his adoption debut!

JJ's adoption day was emotional and memorable for everyone who helped him on his journey. When his adoption was announced over the intercom, our team and volunteers flooded the adoption floor to give JJ one last head-rub goodbye and wish his new family well.

Because JJ was heartworm positive at the time of adoption, we provided his treatment at no cost to his new family. If left untreated heartworm disease is fatal. The cost of treatment can reach upwards of \$1,000 and often-times is a huge obstacle for potential adopters. We are fortunate that a group of our dedicated volunteers raises money for heartworm treatment year-round. Because of their efforts, more than 280 dogs like JJ were able to receive life-saving heartworm treatment last year!

In 2018, our Humane Law & Rescue team responded to over 3,400 cases of cruelty and neglect. Stories like JJ's remind us why we do what we do — why our mission is to promote, protect and advance the well-being of Louisiana's companion animals. To learn more about our cruelty investigation work visit www.la-sPCA.org/hlr.





Our Animal Care team ensured that every horse in our care received daily walks and extra special treats to make their time at the Louisiana SPCA as comfortable as possible.

Buddy's story

a community engaged

As an open admission shelter, we accept animals of all shapes and sizes at the Louisiana SPCA. This includes large animals and livestock such as horses.

In a typical year, we find ourselves caring for one to two horses. In 2018 we found ourselves with six! Each horse was rescued from a situation of abuse or neglect. Many arrived malnourished, with the outline of their bones visible on their emaciated bodies. The horse that sparked it all was Buddy. Because of his story, our community's awareness to the mistreatment of these animals heightened and reports of suspected horse cruelty came pouring in.

Buddy's story started when he was gifted to a new owner. Neither the new owner nor Buddy had any experience riding in Mardi Gras parades. Regardless, Buddy was enrolled in a riding group as a guest and made his way down St. Charles Avenue during his first parade. Not surprisingly, he quickly became overwhelmed by the sounds and commotion characteristic of every Mardi Gras parade. The atmosphere of a parade can be overwhelming even for humans, but more so for a horse not trained to handle such an environment.

On the route, Buddy was overwhelmed and became unresponsive to his rider's commands. His owner responded by kicking and hitting Buddy repeatedly, adding to his stress. A cell phone video capturing this incident went viral. The video was shared across social media thousands of times and the story was picked up by news outlets across the country.

Because the Louisiana SPCA inspects every horse for proper vaccines and signs of injury before parades, we were able to identify the rider quickly. We rescued Buddy from the stable he was housed in, along with a second horse belonging to the owner. Both horses remained in our care while their owner was prosecuted in court for animal abuse. Eventually, we were able to find Buddy a perfect home with a member of the New Orleans Police Department's Mounted Unit.

Buddy's story sparked an increased interest within our community to ensure that working animals are treated humanely. Over 130 years ago, the Louisiana SPCA was founded on the principle of protecting working animals like horses and mules, and we carry that legacy with us today. To learn more about the history of the Louisiana SPCA, visit www.la-sPCA.org/history.





For a variety of reasons many animals that arrive at the Louisiana SPCA are not immediately candidates for adoption. Some are too young to be spayed or neutered, some have medical conditions they must recover from, and some are not socialized enough to go into a new home just yet. This is where our network of amazing volunteer foster families comes in.

Fostering a shelter animal is one of our most rewarding, and demanding, volunteer opportunities. We provide everything needed for a foster family to properly care for and nurture the animal or animals in their care, including food, medicine, medical care and other supplies. The growth and enrichment that animals in foster care receive give them a significant advantage in finding and adjusting to new forever homes.

One of the most popular and critical foster opportunities is Kitten Krewe and puppy fostering. From early spring through the end of summer, there is a large influx of orphaned animals in our community. The height of breeding season that comes after the weather warms up results in a population boom for stray, unfixed animals. Many are orphaned or abandoned by their mothers and are unable to survive on their own.

When a litter of orphaned kittens or puppies arrives, we reach out to our foster network to find a temporary home. During this critical time for survival, kittens and puppies require round-the-clock monitoring. Bottle-feeding is necessary every two hours, and the animals require heating pads in their bedding to imitate the warmth they would usually acquire from their mothers.

The care provided in the first few weeks of an animal's life is pivotal to its development. Once the animals are big enough, foster families are able to return them to the Louisiana SPCA for spay/neuter surgery and

adoption. Kittens must weigh 2 pounds before their surgeries; puppies can generally be spayed or neutered between 8 and 12 weeks of age, depending on their breeds and health.

Foster care additionally provides an opportunity for older animals, animals struggling in a shelter environment, and animals with medical issues that need healing to come out of their shells and enjoy their lives in a stress-free environment. Foster care provides these animals with the individualized attention they need to become the best version of themselves.

Beyond fostering, many volunteers spend time taking adoptable animals on "BFF" outings for an afternoon, a weekend, or just a short walk in the park. This helps us learn more about the animal's behavior and personality outside of the shelter environment, as this can often differ from their disposition in the shelter. It also allows for potential adopters to meet an adoptable animal in an unexpected location, and sometimes leads to on-the-spot adoptions!

In 2018, our foster families took in over 1,400 animals, unleashing their hearts for a time to help animals thrive. Some families fostered only one animal, and some fostered upwards of 20 throughout the year. No matter the number, each foster parent is incredibly special and vital to the animals in our care. Many foster families also volunteer for everything from walking dogs to cleaning cat condos and more. Over 2,400 volunteers gave nearly 20,000 hours of their time to help the animals last year. We couldn't do what we do without the support of this network of volunteers and fosters, saving lives one animal at a time.

If you are interested in joining this amazing group of life-saving volunteers, fill out a foster application on our website at www.la-sPCA.org/foster.

**421 foster families
unleashed their
hearts in 2018**



Flash Gordon's Recovery

When we first met Flash Gordon, we were not sure he would survive the night. Flash was abandoned on the side of the road, locked in a crate in the hot summer heat, left to die. Emaciated, barely breathing, and covered in ants, Flash was found by a good Samaritan and brought to the Louisiana SPCA for help.

Our veterinary team immediately jumped into action. Despite the heat outside, his body temperature was dangerously low. Our first priority was to get Flash warm and to stabilize his breathing and heart rate. But Flash was covered in ants and needed to be rinsed off before he could be treated. Severely dehydrated and unable to move, he tried to drink the water we were using to rinse him with. In that moment, we knew Flash was not going to give up without a fight.

Though Flash stabilized, his recovery was far from over. Living for an extended period of time without food left him very thin with little muscle mass. Because of his physical condition, moving around caused him extreme discomfort. He was so malnourished that he attempted to eat anything, even rocks. This behavior is common in emaciated, malnourished, animals and only complicated his recovery.

Helping Flash return to a healthy weight involved more than just allowing him to eat all the food he wanted. Re-feeding starved animals can be dangerous. Flash required constant attention, needing small amounts of food every few hours and consistent monitoring to ensure his body responded well to the sudden influx of nutrients.

Flash's spirit and will to live inspired everyone involved in his care. Dr. Reardon, one of our veterinarians, was so moved by Flash's journey that she decided to bring him into her home as a medical foster. While with her, Flash gained weight, learned to walk again, and began to show his true personality. Her tender love and care turned Flash from a sick, abandoned, helpless animal into a sweet and affectionate dog given a second chance at life.

We shared Flash's story far and wide with our community of supporters, and they answered the call for help. His journey would not be possible without the support of this community. Once Flash was ready, he went up for adoption, and very quickly adopted a human who would love him unconditionally.

If you don't already, please follow us on social media to see stories of these amazing animals, all of whom need our help year-round! You can find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and you can subscribe to receive our email updates by visiting our website.



Flash spent plenty of time resting and recovering after his arrival. He spent some time in a cast with limited mobility due to a fracture in his leg.

Dusty's Final Home

We first met Dusty in 2017. He had wandered away from home but thankfully our amazing Lost and Found team was able to reunite him with his family because he had a microchip.

Sadly, one year later Dusty found his way back to us again. Dusty's health was rapidly declining and his humans didn't think they could take care of him any longer. His health was deteriorating, his vision poor, he kept having accidents in the house and his medical care was getting costly. This is not a decision anyone takes lightly and while we try to provide as many resources as possible to keep pets in homes, it's not always enough. After a difficult conversation with his humans, we recommended that they surrender him to us and they agreed.

After Dusty's painful goodbye, we knew our veterinary team needed to evaluate Dusty so we could determine the best placement option for him. After his examination, our medical team broke the news to us that at best, Dusty only had a few weeks left. His kidneys were shutting down and his appetite was nonexistent. But the good news was that Dusty didn't appear to be in pain.

We made a promise to Dusty that he would not spend his final days in a shelter. Each night Dusty went home with Sue, our wonderful volunteer coordinator, as we searched for a more permanent home. In the hopes of finding someone special to help Dusty, we shared his story on social media, and soon found the perfect candidate. An angel named Anne answered our plea and opened her heart and home to Dusty. She agreed to be his "fospice" mom to care for him in his final days.

Anne spoiled Dusty with special treats, toys and therapeutic bedding. Sadly, Dusty crossed the rainbow bridge just a few days later. Though they only spent a small time together before he passed, Dusty made a tremendous impact on Anne's life. She sent us a letter shortly after Dusty's passing that we want to share with you.

Dusty is a dog we will always remember, and his story is one we will never forget.



rememberance

"As I emailed earlier, Dusty yesterday was acting significantly different. At first he just seemed to be really tired. He would still perk up when I said his name and drink water if the bowl was near him. I spent the day monitoring him.

He had a big Saturday! About 10 or so people were over, just hanging out, and Dusty loved every second of it! We had a taco bar and sure enough Dusty was in the kitchen hoping for a treat. He was coerced into the living room for pets, for which there was an abundance of people ready to love on him. I thought maybe all this attention may have made him exhausted.

I began to worry when he was not getting up at all this morning. He could not stand when I took him outside. He seemed to be hard of hearing. He didn't perk up as quickly when I called his name. I set an appointment for my vet to see him on Thursday. My neighbor checked on him midday for me and told me he was breathing quite heavy. I moved the appointment to today at 3PM with a different vet at the same clinic. Work conflicted and I was told 20 minutes would be too late for me to get there so I rescheduled. When I came home I saw he had pooped himself. He then pooped himself again and vomited while I was cleaning him up. He was lethargic. We rushed to MedVet. I asked them to do everything they could do. I wanted him to live but I didn't want him to suffer. The doctor took a good look at him before coming to me and telling me that it looked as though it was time.

I am heartbroken. Dusty is and will always be a good boy. I have no regrets. I do not regret buying all the stuff I did for his new life with me, I do not regret falling asleep with him on his bed of pillows and blankets with my hand on him just in case he woke up in the middle of the night looking for his water, I do not regret waking up earlier than usual or in the middle of the night to make sure he was okay, I do not regret going to the LASPCA and picking him up. I know how he spent his last weekend, with lots of love and treats. His previous family did not deserve the 10 years of love I know he gave them. His ashes will be scattered in the Memorial Garden at Heaven's Pets, with all the other good boys and girls.

Thank y'all for all you did for Dusty. For giving him a chance to be in a home and loving him. For bringing him into my life. How amazing dogs are that you can completely fall in love with them in just a weekend. I will hug my animals a little harder tonight."

- anne



finding home again

Philly Cat's Return

Philly Cat lived alone on the streets, relying on the kindness of community cat caretakers to survive. One of the people who frequently fed Philly Cat noticed she wasn't walking right and that she appeared sickly. Determined to look after Philly Cat's well-being, the caretaker brought her to our Community Clinic for a check-up.

As soon as our veterinarians saw Philly Cat they immediately sent her for x-rays. The results showed that Philly Cat was suffering from a bullet lodged near her spine. From the looks of it, the bullet had been there for at least a year and had migrated from its original entry point towards her spine. The pressure from the bullet was paralyzing Philly Cat!

Standard procedure for every animal that comes through our doors is to scan it for a microchip. If the animal does have a microchip, we are often able to contact the owner and reunite them with their pet. If an animal does not have a microchip, our Lost and Found team will search lost reports that are filed with us, and browse social media and similar websites for lost pet posts. They exhaust every resource to try and return pets to their owners. In 2018, they were able to reunite 526 missing pets with their humans.

Luckily for Philly Cat, our Lost and Found team found a microchip! We contacted the owner on record, who informed us that she had re-homed Philly Cat seven years ago. Through a series of phone calls, we were finally able to reach Philly Cat's most recent human, Stella.

It turns out that Stella had not seen Philly Cat in more than three years. She had moved from New Orleans to Texas, leaving Philly Cat temporarily in a friend's care. Stella intended on coming back to take Philly Cat with her to Texas once she secured housing, but she got out. Philly Cat wandered alone for three years, and during that time, her owner Stella moved again from Texas to California.

You could hear the change in Stella's voice when we told her that Philly Cat was still alive. The excitement in her voice was quickly replaced with horror when we told her about the bullet wound. Regardless, Stella made the decision right there on the phone that she would move mountains to bring Philly Cat home and get him the medical treatment he needed!

Stella immediately began making arrangements to drive from California to New Orleans. Sadly, their reunion was delayed due to the California wildfires that forced her to evacuate her home. But Stella was committed to reuniting with Philly Cat and wouldn't let anything get in her way.

After almost a month of coordination, Stella was finally able to make the road trip from Oakland, California to New Orleans for a long-awaited reunion. She arrived, tears filling her eyes immediately after entering our doors, before she even saw Philly Cat. After three years of separation, Philly Cat and Stella were reunited on January 9, 2018.

Stella stayed in New Orleans for several days to make sure she had all the information she needed about Philly Cat's injury. She planned to seek out additional medical treatment once she returned to California.

After three long years lost and alone, Philly Cat finally returned to her forever home.

Prior to 2018, we depended on other veterinary facilities to complete x-rays for injured animals in our care. Thanks to a generous donation from the Lynn & Mike Coatney Family Foundation Fund we were able to acquire an x-ray machine for use in our clinic, which has been of great assistance in diagnosing and treating animals with injuries like Philly Cat's.

*new name,
same service*



Last year, we introduced a new name and logo for the services we provide to Orleans Parish as part of our animal control contract with the city. In order to better reflect the services our team provides, we renamed our Humane Law Enforcement department to Humane Law & Rescue. Since much of our work involves rescue and investigation, we feel that this name better reflects the nature of our work.



Legislation

The Louisiana SPCA advocated for several animal-related bills during the 2018 Louisiana Legislative session; and in the case of one bill, actually drafted the language. Legislation and advocacy are crucial tools in protecting animals and improving their well-being.

The Good Samaritan Law (Act No. 360)

Drafted by the Louisiana SPCA Legislative Affairs Committee, Louisiana State Senator Troy Carter authored a bill that protects good Samaritans from liability if they break into a vehicle to rescue an animal or child in distress. In the past, if you were to break a window to rescue a child or animal, the vehicle owner could press charges against you for damage to their vehicle. The only people exempt from this were first responders.

Seeing the need to decrease the unnecessary deaths of animals and children trapped in hot vehicles, the Good Samaritan law passed and went into affect in August 2018. There are a few guidelines that you must follow when rescuing an animal or child in distress. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the Good Samaritan Law before acting on it.

1. You must verbally call out for the vehicle's owner
2. Call 911 or animal control
3. Gain access to the vehicle with the least amount of damage
4. Leave a note on the windshield with your contact information, reason for entry, location of the animal or child and that authorities have been contacted
5. Remain in a safe place until help arrives

Senate Bill 160

This law prohibits the tying or tethering of a pet in a manner that would expose it to extreme weather conditions during emergencies and disasters. This law's enactment is especially vital in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast, in areas prone to hurricanes.

In previous disasters, many unnecessary animal deaths were caused as a result of a pet owner tying their animal up without the option of movement or escape. In severe floods, animals can easily drown in any circumstance, but drowning is a guaranteed outcome if the animal is tethered, unable to retreat from floodwaters or other danger. This law protects pets by making it unlawful for pets to be tied out in severe weather or disaster. Violators of this law can be fined or imprisoned, due to the animal endangerment associated with tying an animal out to fend for itself in severe conditions.

Act No. 485

In other legislative activity related to animals, Senator J.P. Morrell authored Act 485 which created a standalone bestiality law. Previously, the crime of bestiality was "bare bones," and law enforcement did not have a way to effectively prosecute the crime. Act 485 recognizes the crime of sexual abuse of an animal, and strengthens fines and penalties for those found guilty of bestiality. The Act was signed by the Governor and became effective immediately.

In 2018, we presented the Dorothy Dorsett Brown Humanitarian Award to Senators Troy Carter and J.P. Morrell for recognizing that a strong legal framework is key to the advancement of animal welfare in our state.

Luna

Luna's story is one with many road bumps. We received a report about a dog chained up and living under a porch, and when we arrived to investigate the situation was far worse. Luna was chained with a collar so tight it was embedded into her neck, leaving a large wound all the way around.

After our veterinarians removed her collar and treated her wounds, Luna's dressings were changed daily. After a few weeks, Luna was healed enough to go into a temporary foster home to finish recovering.

In foster care, Luna's personality began to show signs for concern. She was extremely energetic and had difficulties settling down. While this behavior is manageable with some obedience training, it was only the tip of the iceberg. Luna had aggression towards other dogs and was selective about which humans she wanted to interact with. Both of these behavior issues are likely due to the abuse and neglect she had experienced before her rescue.

Our team works hard to get to know each and every animal so we can find the best possible match. Not only does the match have to make sense for our animal, but must also match the needs of the family opening up their home. Despite our best efforts, sometimes the first match doesn't work as well as we had hoped and an animal is returned. Luna's case is a perfect example of this.

We disclose everything we know about an animal to potential adopters. Unfortunately, adopters are sometimes eager to tackle behavior issues and quickly get overwhelmed once they bring the animal home. Luna's first adopters were not well-equipped to deal with her energetic personality and decided to bring Luna back so she could find a better home than they could provide. Because shelter life can be stressful for some animals, we put Luna back in foster care. While there, our trainers worked with Luna every week.

Finally, two months later, we were able to find Luna a perfect home. Her new mom dedicated herself to working on Luna's manners, being patient with her as she adjusted to her new life. She reported that Luna gets better with each passing day!

Luna reminds us that animals who suffer from abuse and neglect can undergo significant transformations. It just takes a little time and special resources to get there!



A Healthy Pet is a Happy Pet

Affordable Veterinary Care

- Wellness Visits
- Spay/Neuter
- Preventative Care
- Vaccinations
- Microchips
- Heartworm Treatment
- Pharmacy
- Trap-Neuter-Return
- Dentals
- SNAP testing
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SEPT. 21, 2019
NOLA *on* TAP
BEER FEST

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Thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped us impact the lives of so many animals and families in our community. Every contribution truly counts, whether you are a first time supporter concerned about how you can help community cats in your neighborhood, an annual donor helping transport adoptable dogs to our partner shelters, or a private foundation sharing our vision of spaying and neutering as many animals as we can in our region. We are deeply grateful for all contributions and pledges of all sizes. They lay the foundation for improving animal welfare in our state and also show the continued power of the hope we all share, to rescue and help companion animals when they need us the most.

16,499
gifts

\$230
average gift

BEQUESTS

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OPERATING GIFTS \$10,000+

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	Keller Family Foundation		

OPERATING GIFTS \$5,000+

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Thank you to all members of the 4Paws Society for giving \$1,000* or more in 2018!

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Finances

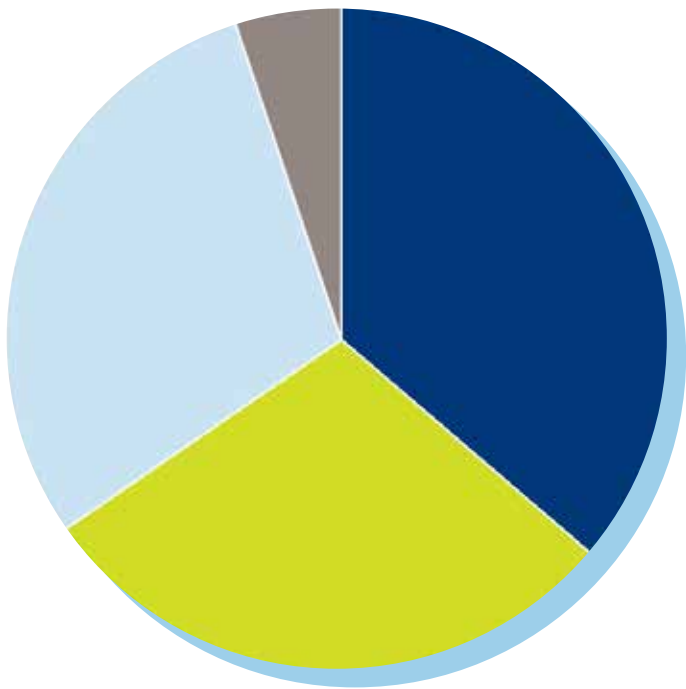
Our financial story is different every year, and only so much of that story can be told through numbers alone. We’d like to give you a more in-depth look at the factors that contributed to a deficit in 2018.

In 2017, we were extremely fortunate to receive multiple bequests totaling \$1,371,979. Because bequests cannot be planned for, we never know year-to-year what revenue the organization will receive from planned giving. In 2018, our bequests were \$1 million short of what they were in the year prior.

As an organization, we made a strategic decision to not host Howling Success Patron Party & Gala in 2018 in order to transition the event from November to April. This decision was not made lightly, but we were confident that moving Howling Success to the spring would reduce competition with other galas during peak season. It additionally would allow our team a much-needed break between NOLA on Tap and Howling Success, which previously occurred little over a month apart. As a result of this decision, we experienced a 14% decrease in program revenue in 2018. However, we are elated to confirm that the 2019 Howling Success surpassed its fundraising goal.

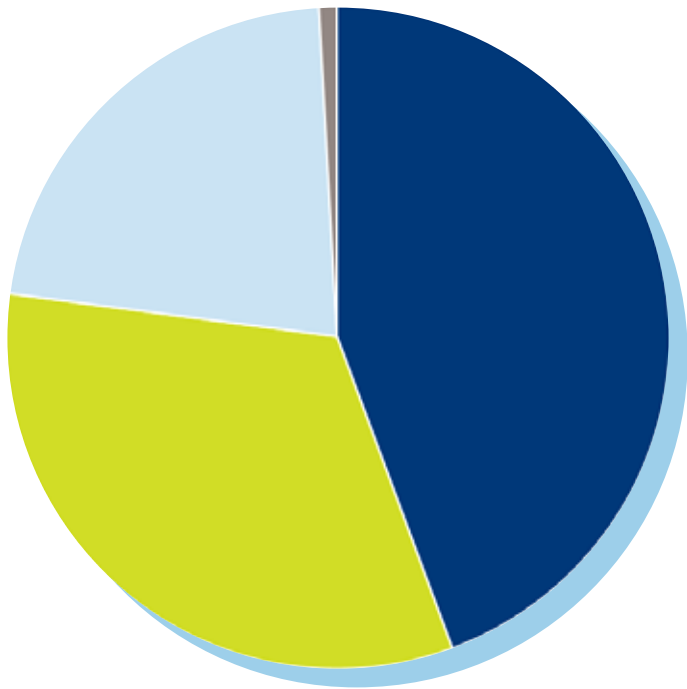
The Louisiana SPCA also experienced structural changes in 2018 that resulted in a revised financial reporting structure, including welcoming a new financial officer to the team, and introducing the entity of New Orleans Humane Law & Rescue.

Revenue



■ NOHLR.....	\$2,543,461
■ Community Clinic.....	\$2,042,982
■ Programs.....	\$2,063,255
■ Bequests.....	\$360,655
Total Revenue	\$7,010,353

Expenses



■ NOHLR.....	\$3,348,561
■ Community Clinic.....	\$2,469,118
■ Programs.....	\$1,664,316
■ Other.....	\$65,587
Total Expenses.....	\$7,547,582

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The Louisiana SPCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. As the oldest and most comprehensive animal welfare organization in the state, the Louisiana SPCA provides care for more than 70,000 homeless and companion animals annually. For more than 130 years, our mission has been to promote, protect and advance the well-being of Louisiana's companion animals. The Louisiana SPCA is committed to serving the needs of the people and animals in the community and across the region as a 4-Star Charity Navigator rated nonprofit ranking in the top 1% nationally.

