



2019
Annual Report

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Director's Summary: Change Is Our One Constant

Each year as we review the year gone by in preparation for our annual report – the successes, the challenges, the many lives touched – we are mostly pleased with our progress and our outcomes, and I am reminded that no matter what we have accomplished there is always a yearning to do more, to do better, to never be too satisfied with where we are. That approach has served us well over the last 15 years. It is a constant cycle of evaluating, changing, improving, and doing it again and again, finding better ways to serve our community and help the animals in our care. A lot has been accomplished, but still, we always find new things that can help us to do more.



At the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, we long ago identified and implemented the basic elements essential for a progressive, high positive release animal shelter. In 2018 there were a few things on our wish list of projects and programs: an on-staff certified trainer, spay/neuter for all rabbits, Sunday open hours, managed intake for better customer service, and systematic post-adoption follow up and support that reaches every adopter within a few days of taking home a new pet. Check, check, check.

Well you might say – that should do it. But, change is truly our one constant. Late in 2019, we identified an area of care that we realized was lagging behind our other progressive strategies and programs – special care for senior cats. It is a well-known fact in animal welfare that senior cats stay the longest, are often passed over when the kittens and the young adults exist in abundance, and yet they are the most gracious, noble, loving, and deserving of all we can provide them. And so began our “Senior Cat Program.” First suggested by our Foster and Rescue Coordinator, the Senior Cat Program ensures that every cat 10 years and older gets a veterinary wellness exam and bloodwork to identify any health or dental issues that may need treatment but that might have been missed at first glance. This helps us to start basic maintenance medications sooner, provide dental care if dental disease is serious, and have a good health baseline for new adopters who are considering bringing an older cat into their home. Sounds simple – right? And it is, but it was not really on our radar until we had taken care of all the foundation programs that now define us. Only then were we able to see that this was a missing piece.

So, what will 2020 bring? Stay tuned. While you wait, take a look that all that was done in 2019!



Karen Diviney

Director, Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Overview

Every animal shelter and rescue in Virginia is required to report intake and outcome data on an annual basis to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Our data, including the 2019 data, can be found at: <https://arr.va-vdacs.com/Home/SelectReportNew>

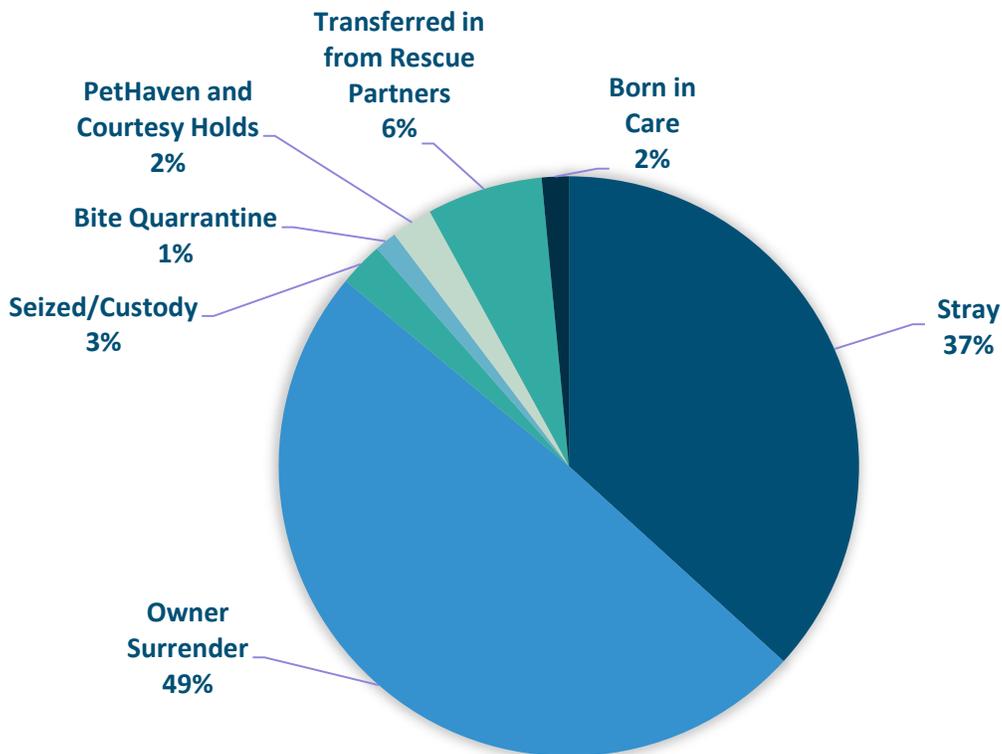
Many animal welfare organizations use the Asilomar Accords reporting format. This method of calculation allows shelters to reduce their overall numbers by the total number of owner-requested euthanasia, and the number of pets who enter the shelter that are deemed “untreatable.” At our shelter we only count a pet as an owner-requested euthanasia if the pet’s owner requested euthanasia at the time of intake, and if after a medical evaluation that is the actual disposition. In 2019, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter provided 71 owner-requests for euthanasia. To obtain the Asilomar live release rate: (Returned-to-owner + adopted + transferred out) / (annual total – number on hand at year’s end – owner-requested euthanasia). Our 2019 Asilomar live release rate is 93%.

At our shelter, we use the raw data, “noses in, noses out,” taking all animals into account in our calculation. To obtain the raw data live release rate: (Returned-to-owner + adopted + transferred out) / (annual total – number on hand at year’s end). **Our 2019 live release rate using raw data is 91.5%.**



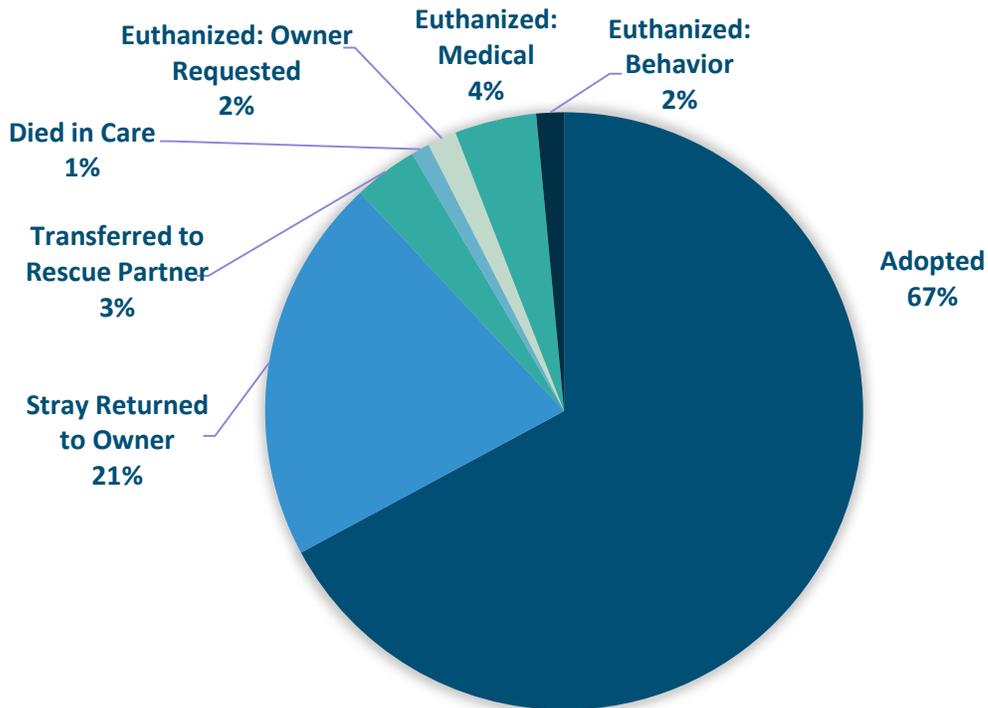
2019 Intakes

- 173 animals were on hand on January 1, 2019.
- We received a total of just under 4,500 dogs, cats, small animals, and poultry.
- 2196 were surrendered by owners who could no longer care for them:
 - 721 dogs
 - 778 cats
 - 697 small animals and farm animals/poultry
- 1,637 were picked up as stray or abandoned.
- 110 were seized by Animal Protection Police.
- 55 were held on bite quarantines.
- 103 arrived as courtesy or custody holds.
- 287 were transferred in from other shelter or rescue partners.
 - This includes 10 pets we reclaimed from other shelters, after adopters brought the pets to those other shelters instead of returning them to us.
- 67 were born in our care.



2019 Outcomes

- 3,029 animals were adopted:
 - 989 dogs
 - 1,330 cats
 - 710 small animals and farm animals/poultry
- 944 stray or custody animals were reclaimed by their owners.
- 156 animals were transferred to rescue partners.
 - This includes 47 pets we returned to their original shelter or rescue, after adopters brought the pets to us instead of returning them to those other shelters/rescues.
- 45 animals died in our care.
- 338 animals were euthanized:
 - 67 animals were euthanized for behavioral reasons, i.e., aggression towards humans or animals (57), or dogs legally deemed dangerous (7) or vicious (3).
 - 200 animals were euthanized for medical reasons, i.e., at the recommendation of a veterinarian (184), or because of a poor quality of life (16).
 - 71 animals were end-of-life euthanasia at the request of their owners.
- 116 animals were on hand on December 31, 2019.



New: Behavior Specialist!

In late 2018, the Shelter welcomed Randy Mouri as our new Behavior and Enrichment Specialist, which had long been a wish list staff position. Randy's experience, compassion, and understanding of dog behavior has helped take our in-shelter programs to a new level in 2019. His focus has been to help shelter dogs learn consistency when working with humans, and to learn and maintain positive behaviors here in the Shelter to help set them up for success in their adoptive homes.

Our Animal Care Team works with all Shelter pets, and Randy has been a welcome addition to the Animal Care Team and the Shelter as a whole. He works with individual shelter dogs daily on a variety of things; this includes improving leash manners, gaining confidence and comfort in exiting and entering their kennel, facilitating dog-to-dog interactions and playgroups, and helping dogs gain trust in humans. The Care Team meets with Randy every week to work on individual dog behaviors, practice techniques to help the caretakers develop stronger relationships with the dogs in their care, and to develop systematic and consistent training plans for specific dogs in the Shelter. In addition, Randy has developed a core team of experienced volunteers to be part of the 'Training Team,' to be mentored by Randy to expand and increase the number and variety of training sessions conducted in the Shelter.



Working with dogs in the Shelter is a key part of the Behavior and Enrichment Specialist position. Our goal is to help set dogs and their adopters up for success post-adoption, which means Randy also spends time almost every day working with and counseling adopters, either over the phone or during in-person training sessions, to guide them through questions they have with their new dog. He also works with families who might be considering surrendering their dog, and has helped many of them keep their dogs with just a little bit of training advice and guidance.

The volunteers and staff have grown to value Randy as much as the dogs he works with love him! His patience, work ethic, and amazing positive energy have helped both human and canine become better individuals, and we are so glad he is part of our Shelter team.



Quincy: Love & Resilience

Our cover dog this year is Quincy, and he was in our care for basically all of 2019, and even part of 2018. He was at the center of a very involved court case and we were unable to say a word about him the entire time! Fairfax County Animal Protection Police obtained a search warrant to seize Quincy from his former owners, after witnesses reported the terrible abuse Quincy had been subjected to at their hands. Quincy was rushed to the veterinary emergency room because his injuries were so severe – we weren't sure he was going to live. The list of injuries was extensive: 13 fractured ribs, a fractured scapula, several fractures to multiple bones in his hind legs, fractured canine tooth, several cuts and abrasions, and he was covered in bruises. On top of that, he had a body condition score of 2 out of 9.



Despite his injuries, when the veterinarian first saw Quincy to examine him... Quincy licked his face. He had a very long road to recovery but his will to live was strong. He stayed at the vet for quite a while so he could be monitored, and when he was ready, we started taking him to hydrotherapy to improve mobility and muscle mass. For the first few weeks, he was on three different pain medications and had to be walked with a sling due to the fractures in his legs and muscle atrophy.

Once the need for constant monitoring was over, we were fortunate to have very wonderful and dedicated foster families to take Quincy into their homes. He was in multiple foster homes throughout his time with us, and each of his foster families helped Quincy recover and heal – physically, mentally, and emotionally. It has been absolutely amazing to watch this very special dog – beaten and abused near death – recover so fully, with his joyful personality unbroken. Quincy is so full of enthusiasm for every new experience, and so full of love for everyone he meets. Very special thanks to Animal Care Team staff member John, who fostered Quincy for many months and showed him what it was like to live in a real family with people who loved him. To every single person who has helped Quincy recover and develop into the extraordinary dog he is today – THANK YOU!

This story has a happy ending: Quincy was adopted and is so loved and cherished by his family. He is making up for lost time and lost love now, and we were very excited when his new family started an Instagram account: www.instagram.com/mrquincytatum. His past was very dark but that's behind him now, and his future is extremely bright.

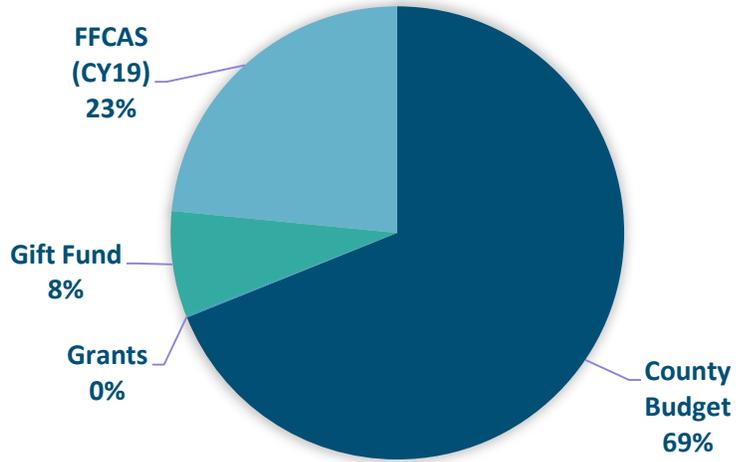


Funding & Budget

How Shelter Operations Were Funded:

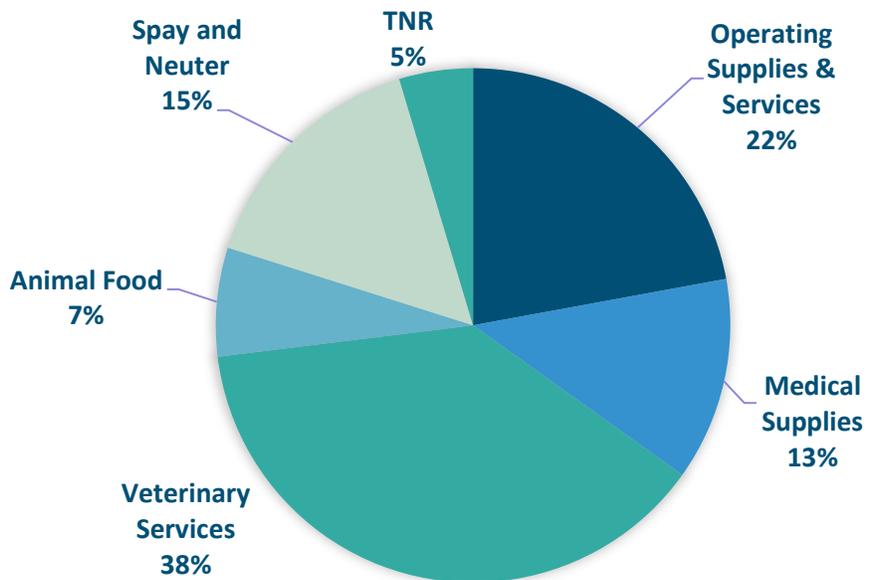
- FY 2019 Fairfax Co budget: \$703,945*
- FY 2019 Grants: \$1,104
- FY 2019 Gift Fund: \$76,957
- CY 2019 FFCAS: \$239,558
- **TOTAL: \$1,021,564**

**The County provided an additional \$2M for personnel services.*



How the Shelter Allocates Our Operational Budget and Funding:

- Operating supplies: \$225,931
- Veterinary services: \$389,955
- Medical supplies (incl. parasite prevention): \$130,290
- Animal food: \$69,854
- Spay and neuter: \$158,289
- TNR: \$47,245
- **TOTAL: \$1,021,564**



Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Since 2006, the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter has been the 501c3 nonprofit fundraising partner of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. By funding a myriad of critical programs to support pets, Friends joins in the Shelter's efforts to ensure every Shelter pet is offered the best opportunity to find and remain in a loving forever home. In 2019, with the generous support of our animal-loving community, Friends provided \$239,558 in support:



- \$56,468 for medical treatment, including emergency life-saving medical care for pets.
- \$13,706 in leashes for dogs, and collars with personalized tags for adopted dogs and cats.
- \$45,216 toward dental care for a total of 66 pets, to improve overall health, reduce pain, and help set pets and their adopters up for success.
- \$1,447 toward the items for the Shelter's enrichment program.
- \$45,025 to fund spay/neuter surgeries for 671 community cats as part of the Shelter's Trap, Neuter, Return program.
- \$67,704 of funding for the Shelter's comprehensive parasite prevention program, to administer flea and tick prevention and dewormer to all dogs, cats, and rabbits upon intake. In 2019, the program treated: 1,986 dogs and puppies; 1,600 cats and kittens; 228 rabbits.
- \$5,202 toward FFCAS' PawFax program, which provides a health overview for pets who may be getting overlooked due to age, and to support the Shelter's "fospice" program.
- 50 pets highlighted on social media as part of the FFCAS Spotlight Program.
- \$4,790 in adoption event sponsorships, ranging from one- to four-day free or half-price adoption events throughout the year. During these sponsored events, 55 pets were adopted.



Cinnamon the cat and Thora the puppy are two pets whose lives were transformed thanks to Friends! Cinnamon had urinary blockages that required an emergency perineal urethrostomy. Thora was born with 'patent ductus arteriosus (PDA)' and needed a specialized surgery with a cardiologist to repair her heart. Happily, both Cinnamon and Thora got the care they needed thanks to Friends' support, and are now loving life with their adopters!



Keep up with Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter!

www.ffcas.org | www.facebook.com/ffcas

www.instagram.com/ffxfriends

Thank You!





2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

4,455
INTAKES

3,029
ADOPTIONS

944
RTOs

1,376
SPAY/NEUTER

690
LOW-COST
RABIES VACCS

714
TNR

287
TRANSFERRED IN

390
POWER HOURS

698
LONG-TERM FOSTERS

379
VOLUNTEERS

34,855
VOLUNTEER HOURS

91.5%
RAW LIVE
RELEASE RATE