

2020 Annual Report



Contents

Director’s Corner2

Resiliency3

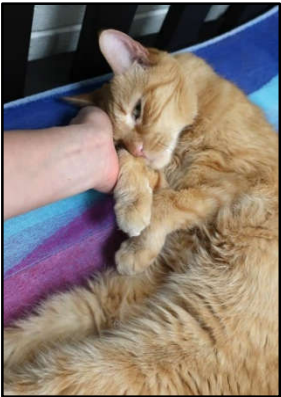
2020 Intakes & Outcomes8

Funding & Budget9

Friends of the FCAS.....10

Thank You!11

2020 A Year in Review12



Director's Corner

When we ushered in 2020 with hope and joy and all our exciting plans on New Year's Eve of 2019, who could have guessed how the world would soon change? Even in an industry like animal sheltering, where our day often starts off one way and ends another, we were soon to be challenged in new ways, with no guarantee that the solutions we created today would still work tomorrow.

The onset of COVID-19 required us to respond and change and change again and change again. Change and uncertainty became our new norm. Health and safety of our staff and ensuring the welfare of the pets in our care was, of course, the primary focus. But for all of us, flexibility and finding new ways to work and live became a daily challenge. Resilience and optimism in the face of uncertainty often seemed daunting.



We are very fortunate to live in a County where resources and community support for the welfare of animals is valued. Within two weeks of making the decision to cease traditional Shelter operations and suspend the daily support from

volunteers who helped us care for the animals, most of our pets were adopted or placed in foster homes to be cared for until adopted. We reduced the Shelter population to a very manageable number of pets, retaining in our care only those who needed to remain with us. We created a communication package to keep staff, County officials, and the community informed. And then began the work that would carry us through – the creation of virtual

operations. It was certainly awkward at first, but we learned over and over that new ways can often be more efficient, more effective, and ultimately a better way of working.



Virtual adoptions, zoom meetings, teleworking, virtual training, new cleaning protocols, and drive through/drive up rabies clinics all met

with positive results. Fewer pets came into the Shelter as families at home had more time to be with them. Adoptions became more deliberate and less impulsive, with fewer returns. And as the COVID months dragged on, with no change in sight for the near future, we learned the importance of being willing to do things differently even when we thought we already did them well.

All of us at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter look forward to the day when we no longer wear masks, and in person visits for Shelter adoptions can be less regulated. We know that will be months away, but we are hopeful, and we are here, every day, doing the work we love.

*Dr. Karen
Diviney*

Director,
Fairfax County
Animal Shelter



Resiliency.

The theme for 2020 was RESILIENCY. We all faced so many changes to our lives with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. Shelter operations, like everything, also had to change to meet the crisis. We could not simply just close our doors, though – we had Shelter pets and our community relying on us to continue our mission. Our operations, along with all our staff, volunteers, and fosters, had to be flexible enough to keep things moving forward in the face of seemingly endless changes.

We made gradual changes to our operations, including scheduling appointments to visit the pets in the Shelter before adopting, restricting the number of volunteers allowed in the building at any given time, and working to send more pets to foster. Eventually though, we realized we had to take more drastic action to stem the flow of people entering the Shelter – which was a hard step to take, because under normal circumstances we love all the visitors, adopters, and volunteers who come through our doors!

In late March, we paused all but the most essential services. No volunteers, no walk-in visitors, no pet surrenders except emergencies, no non-critical surgeries, and even a brief period of no adoptions so we could have a moment to catch our breath and decide how we could safely move forward. Staff who could telework, did, and we rearranged in-house staff schedules to reduce the number of people in the building.

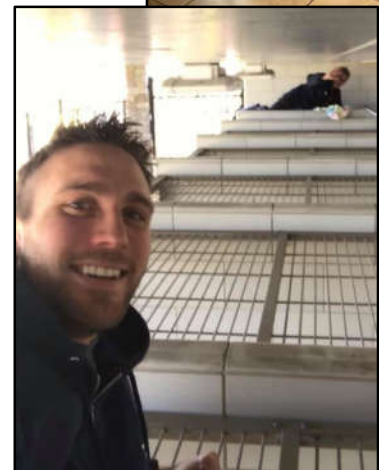


During this planning phase, our Foster and Rescue Coordinator worked to get as many of our shelter pets into foster as possible. We weren't sure what to expect in terms of intakes – would more residents than usual need to surrender their pets?



How would this hypothetical rush of intakes affect things, especially if we had to pause adoptions? Thankfully, our amazing foster families rose to the occasion and our Shelter was soon almost empty, with most pets sent to foster!

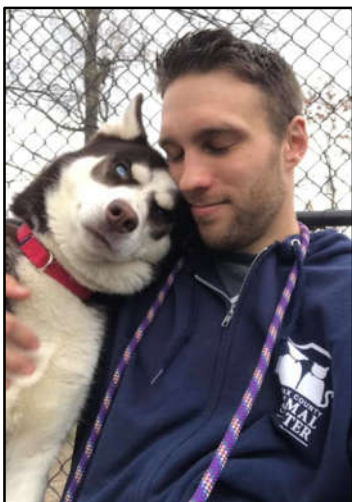
While we waited to see what every new day would bring, and as we planned for how we could continue providing critical services while keeping our staff safe, our staff utilized the unusual calm and quiet around the Shelter to tackle some extreme deep cleaning and other bigger projects!



Floors were scrubbed, rooms were deep-cleaned and reorganized, nooks and crannies that had been quietly collecting dust were tackled and made dustless, and so many things were power-washed.



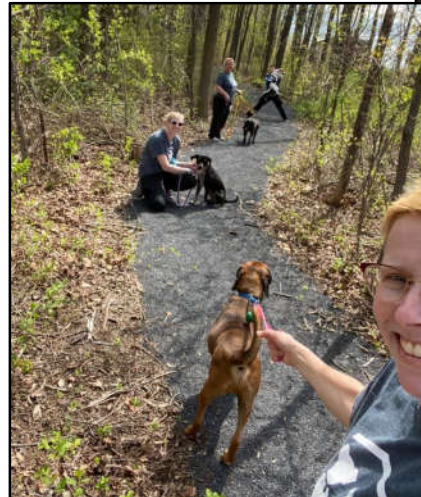
It couldn't all be cleaning, though; staff also spent lots of time with the pets still in the Shelter! Belly rubs and scratches were given...



... shoulders were leaned on...

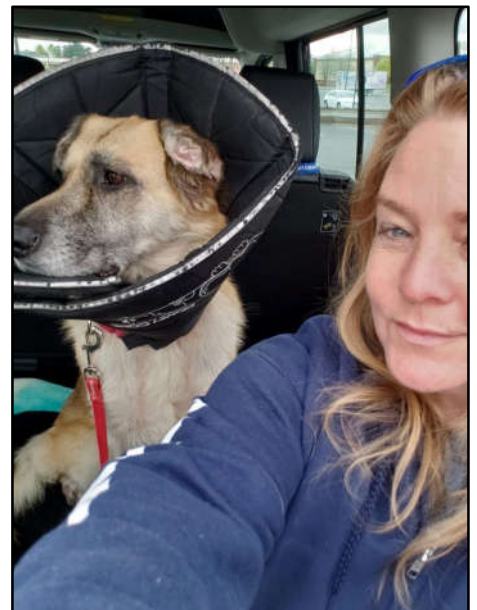


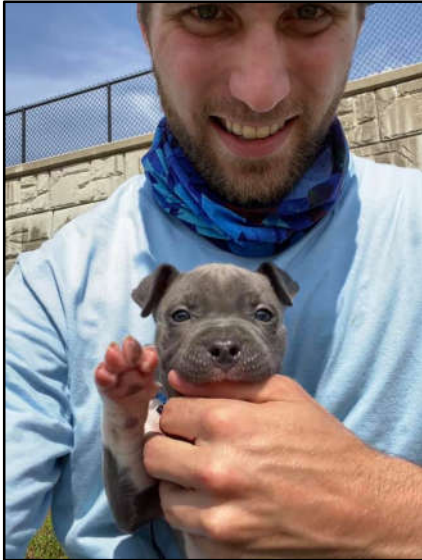
... hugs were given and received...



... group dog walks were embarked upon...

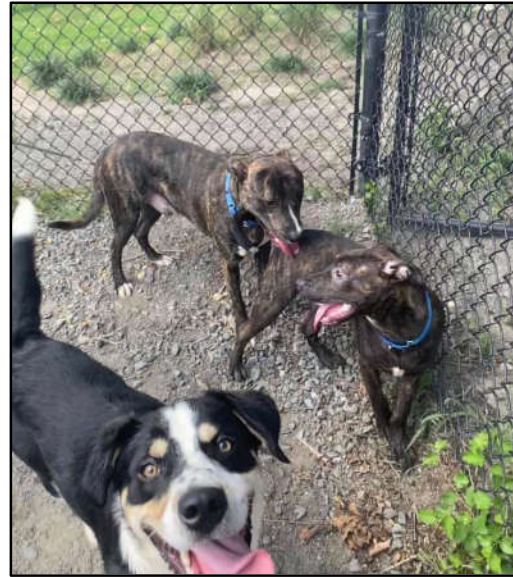
... dogs and other pets were driven to and from vet appointments...





... puppy selfies were taken...

... and there were dog play groups galore!



... cat scratcher use was facilitated...



... some pets took it upon themselves for some self-guided arts and crafts sessions...



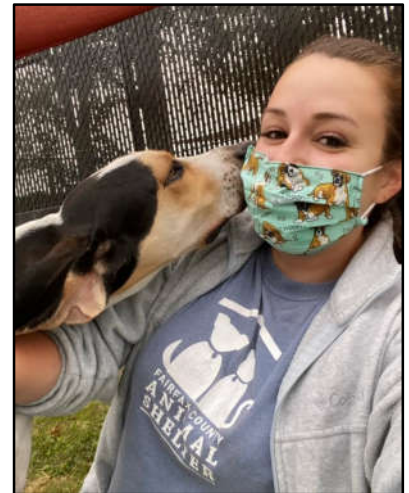
And we were also busy figuring out how we could restart adoptions! We never did get the large number of intakes we were worried about, which is a very good thing. One recurring theme from across the nation was that during the pandemic, more than ever, people sought companionship, and pets were there for people. The opposite of our worries was happening – more people were looking to adopt or foster!!

In mid-April we developed a ‘virtual adoption process’ which we continued to refine as the weeks went by; a streamlined version of that original process is what we ended up using for the remainder of the year, and will continue to use.



The COVID-19 pandemic made it all the clearer how important virtual programming is, and our Humane Educator got right into the swing of things by creating more robust virtual programs, with webinars on pet-related topics, including building out the Adoption Series, ‘So You Want to Adopt a...’ dog, cat, bunny or guinea pig, for people interested in adopting a new pet. The ever popular ‘No One Warned the Dog: Preparing Families and Pets for a Newborn Baby’ remained in high demand, and we were excited to be able to offer virtual humane education programming while more and more people were looking for opportunities to stay engaged.

In August, we started to open limited in-house volunteer opportunities, for those volunteers who felt comfortable coming into the building to help socialize cats and small animals, walk dogs, and help with dishes and laundry. Not all our volunteers elected to come back into the building, and that is understandable and ok! The Volunteer Coordinator kept everyone informed on Shelter operations and happenings, and our volunteers were supportive from a distance, sometimes bringing staff snacks and lunches! (Thank you!)



In early November, the Humane Education program again expanded to meet a need in our community, and we began offering virtual Shelter tours to Fairfax County Public School classrooms. The response and request for this was overwhelming – and they have been so fun for us and the kids we get to virtually meet!



Overall, 2020 was quiet in terms of pet intake, which has allowed our Foster and Rescue Coordinator to work with our rescue partners to transfer pets into our Shelter, where they are greeted with open arms by fosters, staff, and eventually – adopters! A total of 321 pets were transferred in, and we were so glad to be able to help them on their way to forever families.



Throughout the year, we recognized that pet owners may need a little extra help. To that end, we created a Pet Food Pantry to provide pet food and supplies to any resident who needed it, no questions asked. Many residents and even businesses continued to drop donations of food and other pet supply items off at the Shelter, and we were happy to be able to keep our Pet Pantry shelves stocked! We were fortunate to partner with the Fairfax County CERT to bring pet food to their regular food distribution events. All told, over 33,000 pounds of pet food were distributed across 16 events.



2020 was an incredibly challenging, changing, and rewarding year, for so many reasons. We were kept on our toes and had to develop creative solutions quickly to keep things running smoothly, take care of the pets in our care, and take care of staff, volunteers, fosters, and visitors.

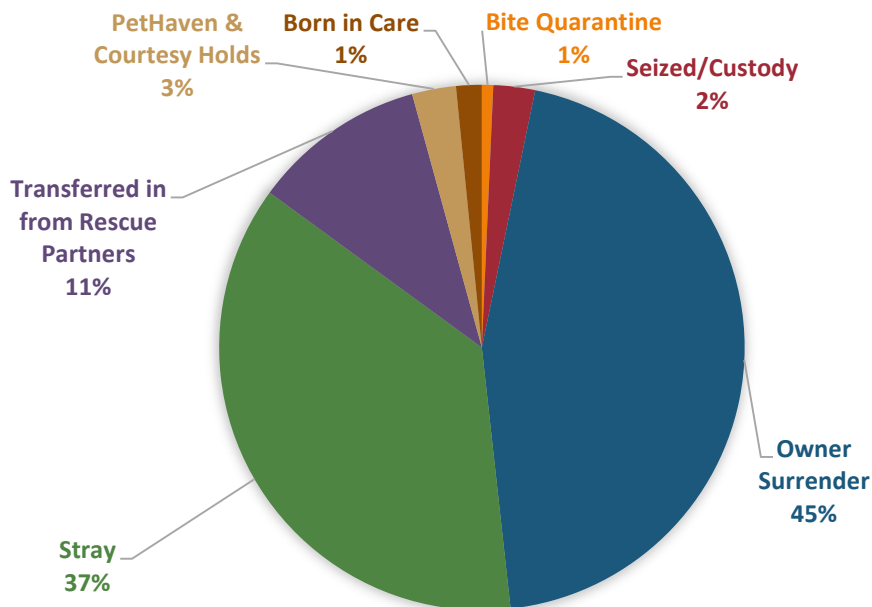


Despite all the challenges that 2020 has thrown our way, we are proud that **our live release rate using raw data is 91.6%**. (To view our data, and data from every shelter and rescue in Virginia, visit: <https://arr.va-vdacs.com/Home/SelectReportNew>) We made it, and we've settled into the groove of this new way of operating. And we'll be here into 2021 as things start to move back toward normal.



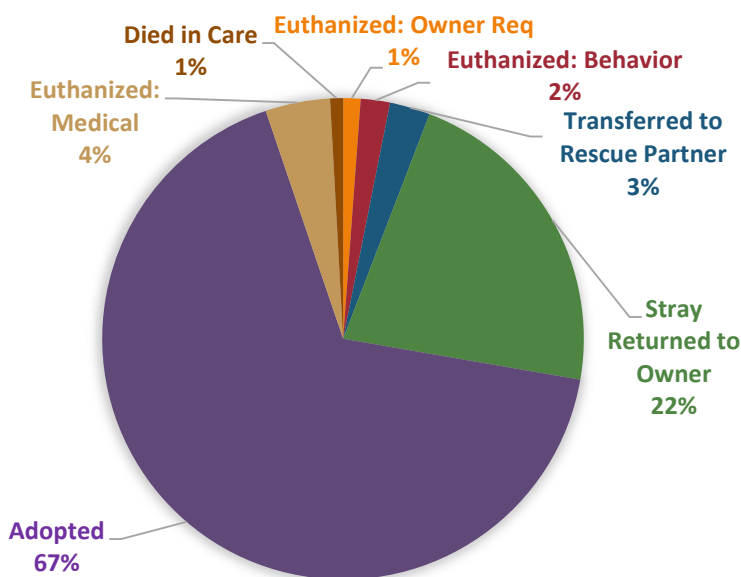
2020 Intakes

- 116 animals were on hand on January 1, 2020.
- We received a total of 2,999 dogs, cats, small animals, and domestic fowl.
- 1,349 pets were surrendered by owners who could no longer care for them: 440 dogs, 430 cats, and 479 small animals and farm animals/poultry.
- 1,103 picked up as stray.
- 77 were seized by Animal Protection Police.
- 21 were held on bite quarantines.
- 81 were courtesy holds.
- 321 were transferred in from other shelter or rescue partners.
- 47 were born in our care.



2020 Outcomes

- 2,010 pets were adopted: 542 dogs, 878 cats, 590 small animals and farm animals/poultry.
- 656 stray or custody pets were reclaimed by their owners.
- 81 pets were transferred to rescue partners.
 - This includes 25 pets we returned to their original shelter or rescue, after adopters brought the pets to us instead of returning them to the original shelters/rescues.
- 26 pets died in our care.
- 224 pets were euthanized:
 - 59 pets were euthanized for behavioral reasons and were unsafe to place.
 - 130 pets were euthanized for medical reasons, to prevent further suffering.
 - 35 pets were end-of-life euthanasia at the request of their owners.
- 117 animals were on hand on December 31, 2020.

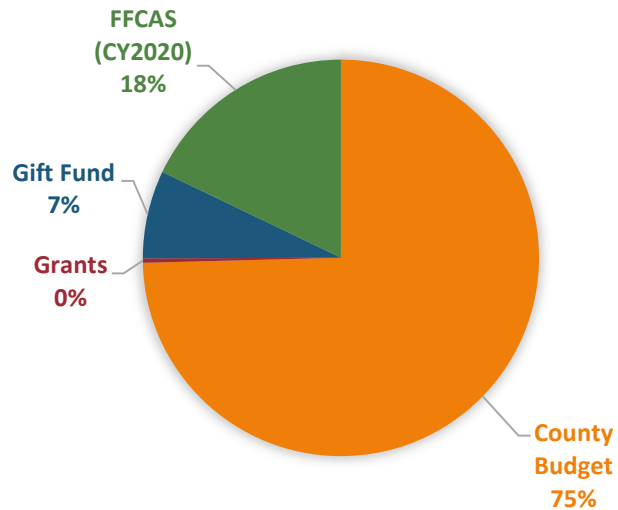


Funding & Budget

How Shelter Operations Were Funded:

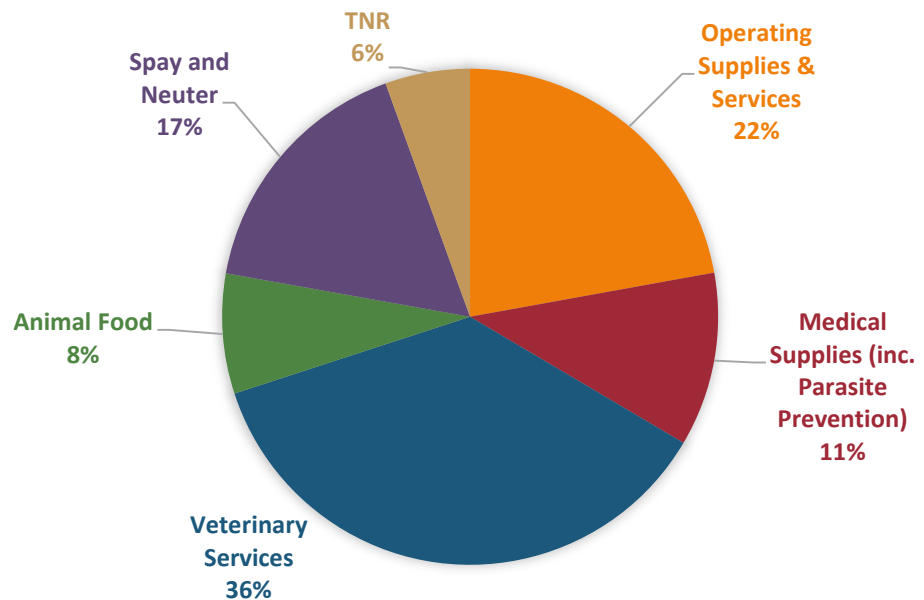
- FY 2020 Fairfax Co budget: \$670,418*
- FY 2020 Grants: \$3,105
- FY 2020 Gift Fund: \$64,686
- CY 2020 FFCAS: \$160,449
- **TOTAL: \$898,658**

**In addition to operational funding, the County allocated an additional \$2M for personnel services in FY20.*



How the Shelter Allocates Our Operational Budget and Funding:

- Operating supplies: \$199,187
- Veterinary services: \$327,768
- Medical supplies (incl. parasite prevention): \$101,894
- Animal food: \$70,330
- Spay and neuter: \$149,759
- TNR: \$49,720
- **TOTAL: \$898,658**



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 2020, with the generous support of our animal-loving community, Friends provided \$160,449 in support:



- \$26,382 for medical treatment, including emergency life-saving medical care for 38 pets.
- \$9,497 in leashes for dogs, and collars with personalized tags for adopted dogs and cats.
- \$21,125 toward dental care for a total of 35 pets, to improve overall health, reduce pain, and help set pets and their adopters up for success.
- \$3,232 toward the items for the Shelter's enrichment program.
- \$48,145 to fund spay/neuter surgeries for 700 community cats as part of the Shelter's TNR program.
- \$38,325 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 2020, the program treated: 1,084 dogs and puppies; 988 cats and kittens; 133 rabbits.
- 22 pets highlighted on social media as part of the FFCAS Spotlight Program.
- \$6,750 in adoption event sponsorships, ranging from one- to four-day free or half-price adoption events throughout the year. During these sponsored events, 62 pets were adopted.



Cora the kitten's life was saved thanks to Friends! She arrived at the Shelter with multiple broken bones and needed emergency surgery to give her the best chance at recovery and a normal life. She recovered in a foster home and was soon adopted! And Tyrek the dog was one of many pets who had a dental cleaning to get him started off on the right paw in his new home!

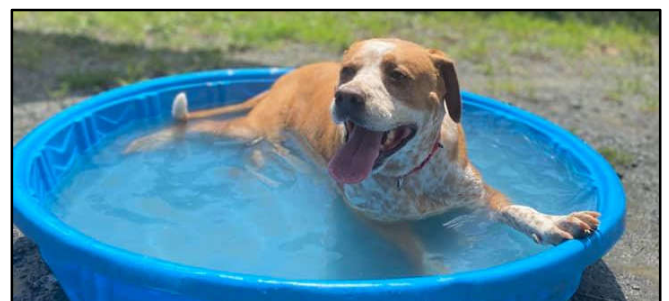
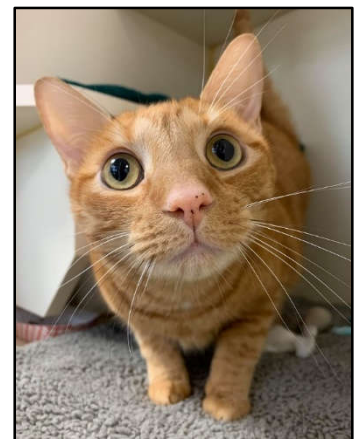
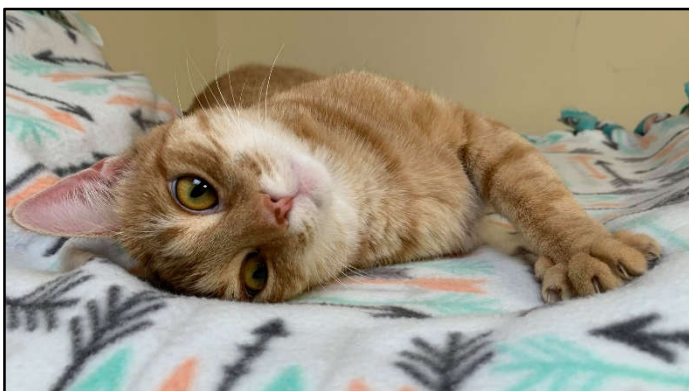


Keep up with Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter!

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

www.instagram.com/ffxfriends

Thank You!



2020

A YEAR IN REVIEW

FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER



In 2020, the
Fairfax County
Animal Shelter
had a total of

2,999
ANIMAL
INTAKES



656

Stray & custody pets were
returned to their owners

Live Release
Rate*

91.6%

*Raw Data



Approximately **33,690 lbs.**
of Pet Food Distributed Across
16 Community Events

2,010 Pets Were Adopted

878 Cats



542 Dogs



590 Small, Exotic & Farm Animals



841
SPAY & NEUTER
SURGERIES
Performed on
Shelter Pets



321

Pets were transferred in
from other shelter or rescue partners



Virtual Tours hosted for
Fairfax County Public
School Classrooms

33



5 Low-Cost Rabies
Vaccination Clinics Hosted

700

Community
Cats
Participated
in the
Trap,
Neuter,
Return
(TNR)
Program!



324

In-house volunteers
contributed

9,058

HOURS

131

Post-
adoption
training
sessions
conducted



176

Active FOSTERS
contributed

38,776

HOURS
& took

584

shelter pets on

765

foster BREAKS!