

Fairfax County Animal Shelter 2018 Annual Report



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Director's Summary

Dear Friends:

As I reflect over 2018 I am reminded how fortunate we are to live in a community that recognizes the importance of pets and the value of every pet's life. It is something we can all be proud of. Equally important, at FCAS, our shelter team is committed to working toward the best option for every pet that comes through our doors. I believe that commitment is demonstrated to a great degree by the programs and policies we have implemented to provide the highest level of service possible. Without these essential programs we would not have the success we have today, helping thousands of pets each year. More information about any of these programs can be found on our website at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter



Essential shelter programs available at FCAS:

♦ open adoptions ♦ managed intake ♦ pre-adoption spay/neuter ♦ proactive redemptions for lost pets ♦ volunteer program ♦ robust foster program ♦ fospice ♦ Trap, Neuter, Return Program ♦ social media presence ♦ Humane Education ♦ pet behavior and training program ♦ in-shelter behavior enrichment program ♦ on-site veterinary care ♦ parasite prevention program ♦ low-cost rabies vaccination clinic ♦ transfer in program ♦ working cat program ♦ Friends of FCAS 501c3 fundraising partner ♦

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter served almost 5,000 pets last year. In addition to the programs listed above, we are always looking for ways to improve what we do. To meet the community's needs we expanded our open hours last July to include Sundays and we are now open to the public six days a week. This was an important change for families who cannot visit us during the week: it is just one example of our commitment to doing all that we can to help every adoptable pet find a home.

In 2019, we will expand our efforts to reach some of the underserved areas of our community where families may not have access to important animal services, such as affordable veterinary care and spay/neuter programs. This will be a collaborative effort between the Department of Animal Sheltering, the Community and Neighborhood Services Division of Health and Human Services, Animal Protection Police, and Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. We are excited about this new program that will help support those families in areas of the County with fewer pet resources and we look forward to helping them keep and care for the pets they love.



Karen Diviney

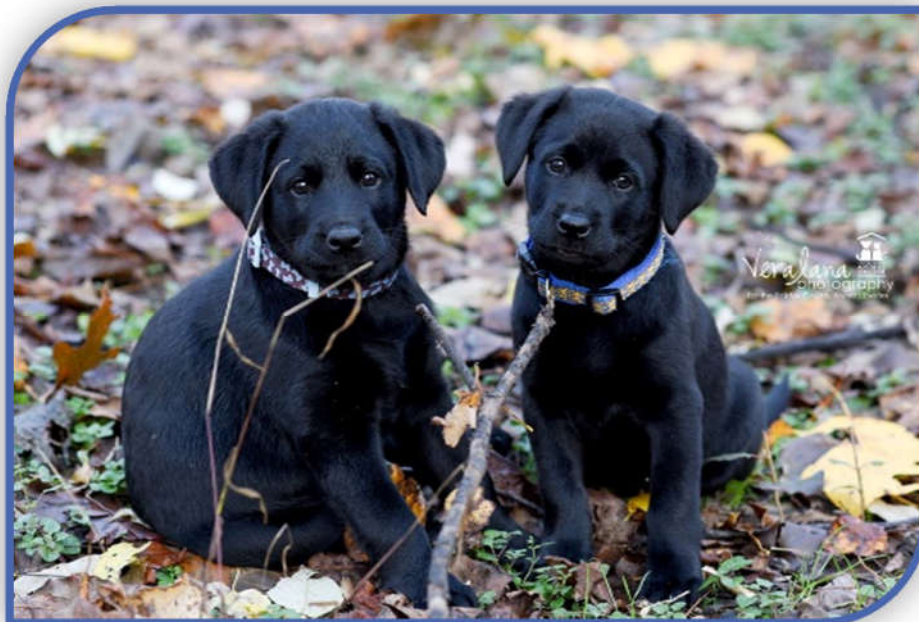
Director, Fairfax County Animal Shelter

2018 Numbers

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 2018 data, can be found at: <https://arr.va-vdacs.com/Home/SelectReportNew>

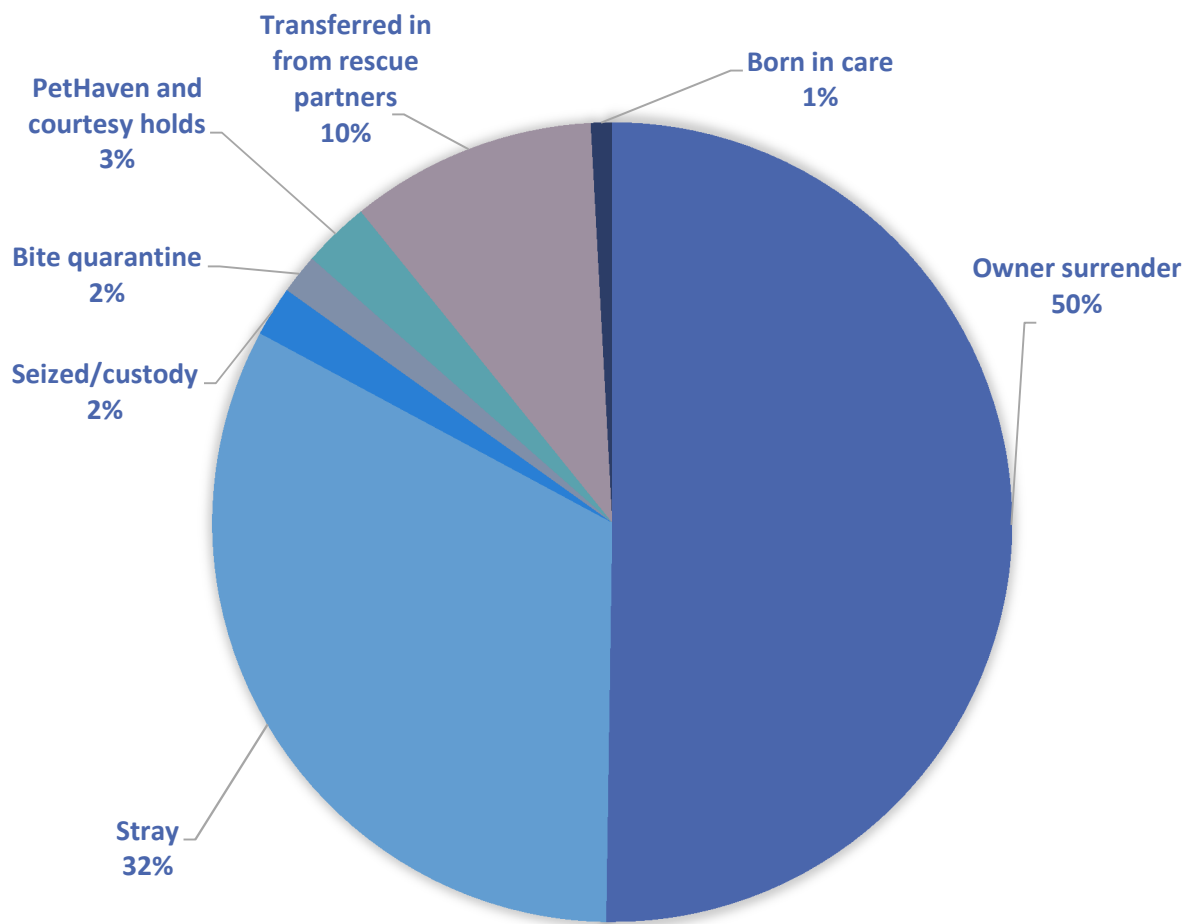
Many animal welfare organizations prefer to use the Asilomar Accords standardized reporting format. This method of calculation allows shelters to reduce their overall numbers by the total number of owner-requested euthanasia, and the number of pets who enter the shelter that are deemed “untreatable.” Although it varies among shelters and rescues, at our shelter we only count a pet as an owner-requested euthanasia if the pet’s owner actually requested humane euthanasia and if after a medical evaluation that is the actual disposition. In 2018, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter provided 76 owner-requested euthanasias. When this number of owner-requested end-of-life euthanasia is subtracted from our total, the 2018 live release rate is 94.6%.

An even more transparent way of calculating the live release rate is to include all animals’ outcomes, even the owner-requested euthanasias. Noses in, noses out, every pet matters. To obtain the raw data live release rate: $(\text{Returned-to-owner} + \text{adopted} + \text{transferred in-state} + \text{transferred out-of-state}) / (\text{annual total} - \text{number on hand at year's end})$. **Our 2018 live release rate using raw data is 93%.**



2018 Fairfax County Animal Shelter Intakes

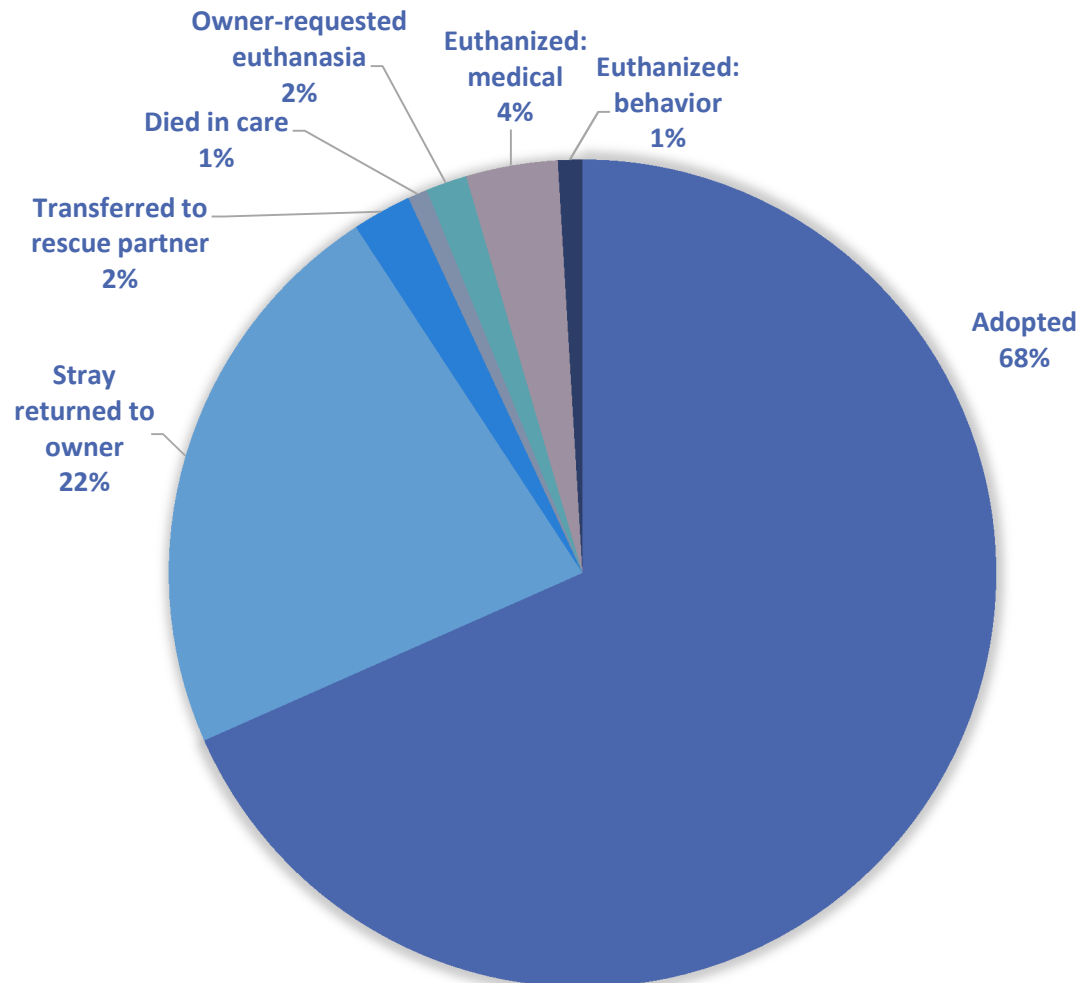
- 148 animals were on hand on January 1, 2018.
- We received a total of just under 5,000 dogs, cats, small animals, and poultry.
- 2,381 were surrendered by owners who could no longer care for them:
 - 844 dogs
 - 852 cats
 - 685 small animals and poultry
- 1,545 were picked up as stray or abandoned.
- 96 were seized by Animal Protection Police.
- 76 were held on bite quarantines.
- 128 arrived as custody/courtesy holds.
- 472 were transferred in from other shelter or rescue partners.
 - This includes 12 pets we reclaimed from other shelters, after adopters brought the pets to those other shelters instead of returning them to us.
- 41 were born in our care.



2018 ANIMAL INTAKES

2018 Fairfax County Animal Shelter Outcomes

- 3223 animals were adopted:
 - 1,092 dogs
 - 1,331 cats
 - 800 small animals and poultry
- 1,056 stray or custody animals were returned to their owners.
- 109 animals were transferred to rescue partners.
- 36 animals died in our care.
- 290 animals were euthanized:
 - 45 animals were euthanized for behavioral reasons, i.e., aggression towards humans or animals (41), or dogs legally deemed dangerous or vicious (4).
 - 169 animals were euthanized on the recommendation of a veterinarian (159), or because of a poor quality of life (10).
 - 76 animals were end-of-life euthanasia, at the request of their owners.



2018 ANIMAL OUTCOMES

Improving Pets' Quality of Life

Spay & Neuter

We are still committed to ensuring that all dogs, cats, and rabbits are spayed/neutered prior to adoption; this is essential for providing a better quality of life to each individual pet, reducing shelter intake, and using our resources effectively as a responsible animal welfare organization. In 2018, we spayed/neutered 535 dogs, 857 cats, and 110 rabbits.

Low-Cost Rabies Vaccination Clinics

A total of six low-cost rabies vaccination clinics were hosted by the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and Pender Veterinary Centre at various locations within Fairfax County, providing affordable rabies vaccinations to dogs, cats, and ferrets. A total of 672 vaccinations were given to: 444 dogs, 220 cats, and 8 ferrets.



Parasite Prevention

Our parasite prevention program, funded by the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, was launched in 2016 and continues today! Every dog, cat, and rabbit who enters the shelter receives comprehensive parasite prevention, which positively impacts that pet's individual health and helps the shelter's "herd health" as a whole.

Dental Care

Thanks to the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter's support of our shelter pets' dental health, we provided 75 dogs and cats with dental cleanings!

Advanced Medical Treatment and Surgeries

Sometimes we have pets come to our shelter with injuries or conditions that require specialized surgeries before they're adopted into loving homes. Thanks to the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, we're able to take care of these pets and provide them with the often expensive surgeries they need. These include amputations, TPLO surgeries, and others. In 2018, the Friends provided funds for 64 pets to receive advanced medical care!



Trap, Neuter, Return Program – 10 Years!

2018 marked the 10-year anniversary of our incredibly successful Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) program, and we could not be happier at the positive effect this one program has had on our shelter as a whole. What started as a pilot program has become a keystone, life-saving program.

In 2018 alone, 662 cats came through the TNR program. Over the past ten years, a grand total of 7,937 cats have been through our TNR program! That's 7,937 cats who were spayed or neutered, vaccinated against rabies and distemper, eartipped, and returned to the location where they were originally trapped, to live healthier lives, be better neighbors, and not reproduce. Because of the reduction in the total number of stray cats and kittens being brought into the shelter, we are able to spend more time focused on the pet cats who need our help to find a new home. We even have the capacity to transfer in friendly, indoor pet cats and kittens from other Virginia shelters to help save even more lives *and* give a helping hand to shelters who are starting their own TNR programs.

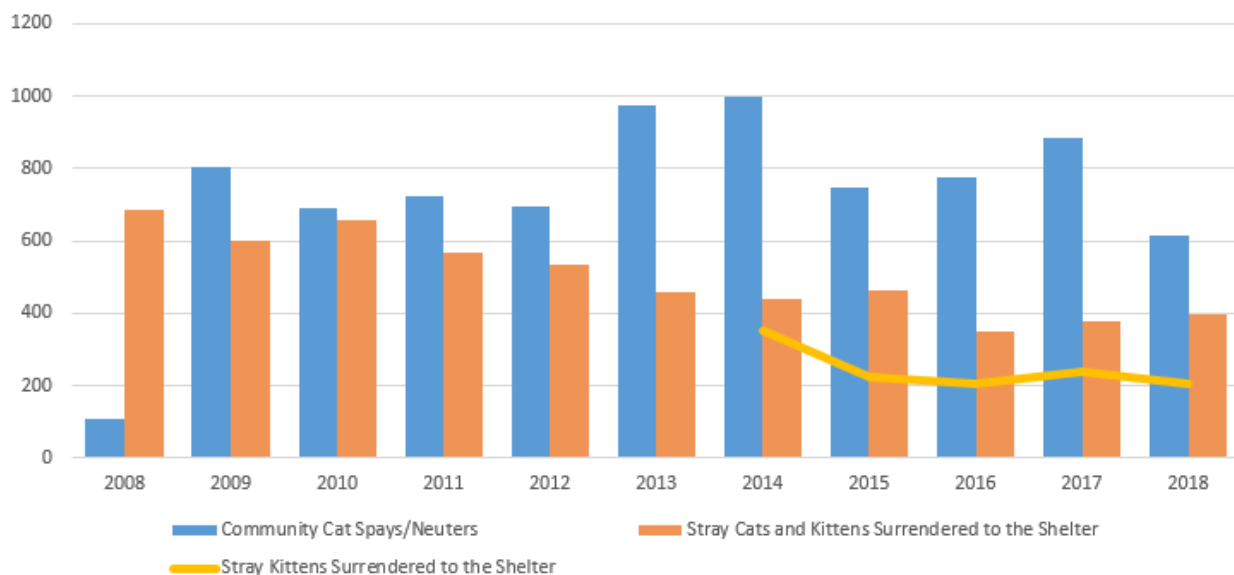


Our TNR program also helps community members become involved in the solution, by offering a positive outcome for community cats. Since the program's beginning, almost 500 individual community members have participated in helping to stabilize community cat populations via participation in our TNR program.

For more information about our TNR program, including how you can get involved, visit:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/tnr>

TNR By The Numbers



Becoming a Pet Resource Center

The days of the “dog pounds” are over! The animal welfare community as a whole is constantly evolving and improving, and we are proud of our staff for always looking for ways to help people and their pets and improve shelter programs, and of our community for being supportive of new initiatives we undertake.

Managed Intake

We are an open access municipal shelter, and we accept owner-surrendered dogs, cats, and other companion animals in need, regardless of age, health, or behavior from residents of Fairfax County. Previously, Fairfax County residents could walk in any time during open hours, and surrender their pet(s). One of the biggest improvements we made in 2018 was an overhaul of our intake process for owner-surrendered pets, with the implementation of a “surrender by appointment” system. This has made a huge difference. It helps shelter staff by allowing us to prepare in advance, and ensures that we have open kennels available for incoming pets. It also allows pet owners to prepare by gathering medical documents and thinking through the decision completely before actually bringing their pet in.



Making an appointment also allows our counseling staff to ask, “How can we help you keep your pet?” Our goal is to help keep pets with their families if at all possible, and if we can have a conversation and provide information about pet resources that help that happen, well, mission accomplished. Because sometimes all pet owners need is someone to talk to.



Transferring Pets In

We hear from other shelters in Virginia and beyond almost every day, with pleas for help. Rural shelters are often underfunded and overcrowded, which means that pets in those shelters may face euthanasia due to lack of space or resources. Our Rescue Coordinator works very hard to create solid partnerships with rural shelters, which enables us to transfer dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and other pets from those shelters into our shelter. This helps our rescue partners have the time and space to create sustainable programs and initiatives in their area, and it helps us because we have more great pets available for adoption here! And, of course, these rescue partnerships help save lives!

With a clear set of transfer in guidelines in place, our Transfer Program went into overdrive in 2018. We transferred in a total of 460 pets: 127 dogs, 299 cats, and 34 small animals. All the photos on this page are pets who were transferred in from rescue partners!



Outreach Programs

Our in-house volunteers and fosters are truly invaluable, and help shelter pets, the staff, and visitors every single day. We truly could not do what we do without the support and involvement of our wonderful volunteers and fosters... THANK YOU!

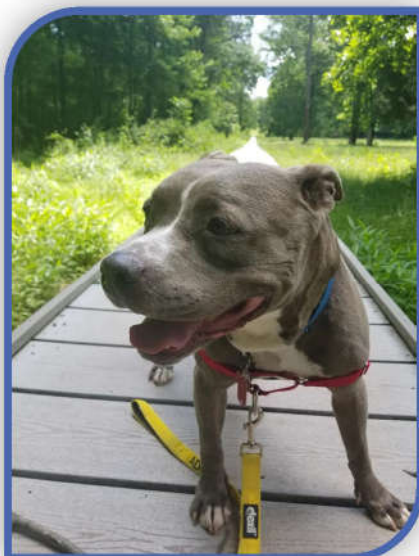
In-House Volunteer Program

Our in-house volunteers serve in five main roles: dog kennel assistant, cat room assistant, small animal assistant, clean team, and customer care. Volunteers are here 365 days a year, from 8am to 8pm! Volunteers socialize all species of animals at the shelter, give shelter pets time outside of their kennels and condos to stretch their legs, take professional photographs to show shelter pets' best sides, somehow keep up with the mountains of dirty dishes and laundry, help visitors by answering questions and showing pets to prospective adopters, and even maintain a garden so our small animals get fresh herbs! In 2018, 370 volunteers contributed a whopping 34,954 volunteer hours to the shelter!!!



Foster Program

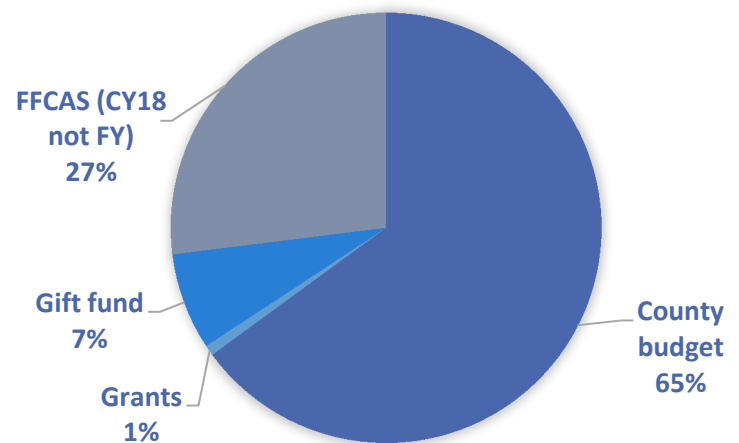
Our foster program continues to be critical in helping the neediest shelter pets. Whether it's a tiny neonatal kitten, a stressed adult dog, or a guinea pig with ringworm – our fosters improve the quality of life of the shelter pets who need it most, by taking them out of the shelter and into their homes, or maybe just on a walk around the block. In 2018, 861 unique pets went to foster a total of 1,346 times! (The higher total number accounts for individual pets sent to foster multiple times.) Foster volunteers gave a total of 43,902 hours to caring for their foster pets, as calculated using the regionally-agreed upon foster volunteer hour formula.



Funding and Budget

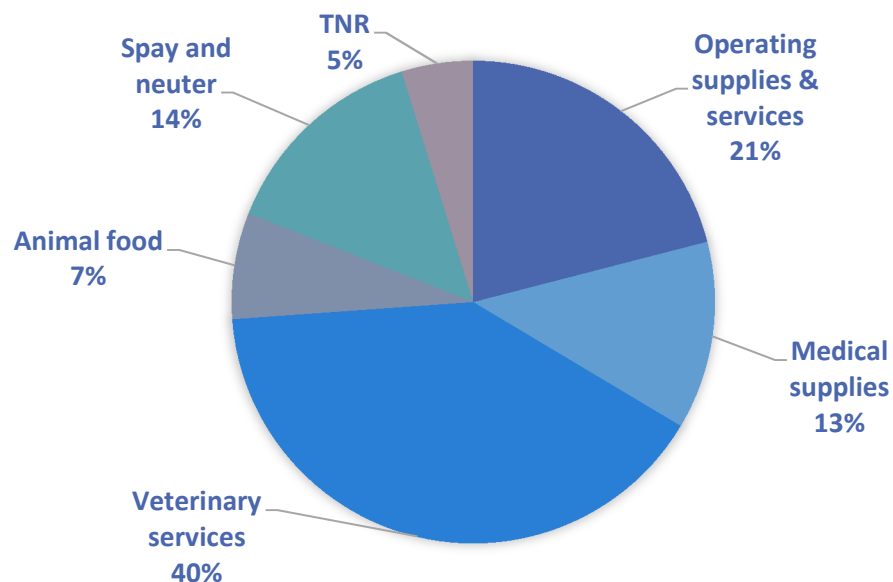
How Shelter Operations Were Funded:

- FY 2018 Fairfax Co budget: \$663,775
- FY 2018 Grants: \$8,073
- FY 2018 Gift Fund: \$74,531
- CY 2018 FFCAS: \$275,671
- **TOTAL: \$1,022,050**



How the Shelter Allocates Our Operational Budget and Funding:

- Operating supplies: \$214,357
- Veterinary services: \$411,803
- Medical supplies (incl. parasite prevention): \$128,779
- Animal food: \$72,771
- Spay and neuter: \$145,330
- TNR: \$49,010
- **TOTAL: \$1,022,050**



Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter

The Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FFCAS) is the 501(c)3 nonprofit fundraising partner of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. The Friends started with a single idea: take care of the major medical expenses for pets at the shelter. Over the past 13 years the Friends has been able to expand the programs they support because of generous donors who believe in the mission. By funding emergency medical care, behavior training, parasite prevention, dental care, and spay/neuter, Friends joins in the Shelter's effort to ensure every shelter pet is offered the best opportunity to find and remain in a loving forever home. In 2018, with the generous support of our animal-loving community, Friends provided \$275,671 in Shelter funding. Friends' 2018 accomplishments include:



- Providing over \$13,000 in leashes for dogs and collars with personalized tags adopted dogs and cats.
- In support of the Shelter's enrichment program, Friends provided \$5,500 toward the purchase of items to stimulate shelter pet's cognitive, social, physical, and behavioral health.
- Funding medical treatment for 64 shelter pets, amounting to over \$57,000.
- Providing over \$43,000 to fund spay and neuter surgeries and vaccinations for 578 community cats as part of the Shelter's Trap, Neuter, Return program.
- Funding dental care for 75 shelter pets, totaling more than \$41,000, to reduce pain, improve overall health, and aid in their adoption.
- Providing more than \$75,000 to fund the Shelter's comprehensive parasite prevention upon intake program. In 2018, 1,173 dogs, 1,397 cats, and 182 small animals were treated.
- Improving adopter satisfaction and helping reduce returns by providing \$7,300 in funding for pre- and post-adoption behavior training for 40 dogs.
- Providing more than \$7,000 to support senior pets through both the PawFax Program and the Shelter's hospice foster program.
- Providing over \$16,000 for adoption event support, for uniquely themed one- to four-day free or half-price adoption events throughout the year. During these events, 262 pets were adopted.
- Highlighting 71 pets on social media through the Spotlight Program.
- Purchasing \$1,300 of medical equipment for the Shelter.



Keep up with the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter:

www.ffcas.org

www.facebook.com/ffcas

www.instagram.com/ffcas_friends



THANK YOU!!

To everyone who has adopted a pet from our shelter, reclaimed a lost pet, fostered or volunteered with us, shared our shelter pets' stories and photos on social media, participated in our TNR clinics, attended a Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter fundraising event, brought a pet to one of our low-cost rabies clinics, and told a friend about our shelter... THANK YOU! We couldn't have accomplished all that we did in 2018 without your support. Onward to 2019!

