



2025 IMPACT REPORT

We see possibilities, not disabilities.

OUR STORY

our purpose.



At Speak! for the Unspoken, we believe that no animal should be overlooked, dismissed, or forgotten because of how they were born. Since 2013, our mission has been rooted in one simple truth: **every pet, regardless of ability, deserves a life filled with love, dignity, and possibility.**

Founded in Columbus, Ohio, Speak! began with a focus on rescuing double merle dogs — animals born deaf, blind, or both due to irresponsible breeding practices. Too often misunderstood and discarded, these dogs are frequently labeled as “unadoptable.” We see them differently. We see resilience. We see intelligence. We see extraordinary companions waiting for someone to believe in them.

Rescue is only the beginning. Through education and advocacy, we challenge harmful breeding practices, raise awareness about special needs animals, and work to change the narrative around what these pets are capable of. They are not broken. They are deserving, and they thrive when given the chance.

In 2025, that belief continued to guide every decision we made and every life we touched. Each dog welcomed into our care represented more than a rescue, they represented a promise kept.

This report reflects the impact of that promise in action — the lives saved, the families formed, the awareness raised, and the community that stands beside us. None of this work happens in isolation. It happens because people choose to care, to advocate, and to believe that every life matters.

TOGETHER, WE ARE REDEFINING WHAT IS POSSIBLE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS DOGS,
and ensuring that the unspoken are not only heard, but celebrated.



Andrea Kochensparger
Executive Director

Guided by our motto: Special Needs and Good Deeds.

As I reflect on 2025, I'm reminded that rescue is never easy and that some years ask more of us than others. This past year was a true year of transition for Speak! for the Unspoken. It stretched us, challenged us, and ultimately called us back to our roots: **saying "yes" to the dogs who need us most**, especially double merles and animals with special needs.

In 2025, **we rescued 140 animals and celebrated 162 adoptions**—each one a testament to what's possible when compassion, commitment, and community come together. With the help of dedicated volunteers, we coordinated transfers from 13 states, ensuring animals had a safe path into our care and toward loving homes. At the same time, we carried a responsibility that weighed heavily on our hearts: 13 dogs who have been with us for more than nine months, some for multiple years. These dogs are deeply loved, incredibly deserving, and remain one of our highest priorities. In the year ahead, we are committed to doing everything we can to help them finally find the homes they've been waiting for.

This was also a year where the complexity of our work increased. With multiple dogs with behavioral challenges, our boarding and training expenses rose by 131% over the previous year. These are not easy or inexpensive cases, but it was necessary to give these dogs the chance they deserve.

Behind the scenes, 2025 was about building for the future. We invested significant time in strengthening our systems and processes so we can operate more effectively and sustainably. That work will continue into 2026. Looking ahead, **our goal is for 75% of our intake to be animals with special needs**. This is our niche, our strength, and our calling.

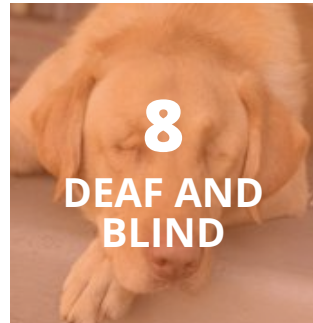
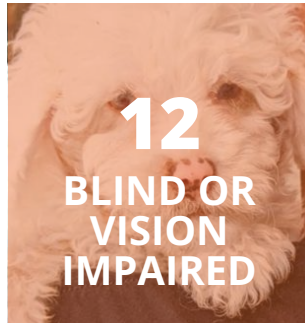
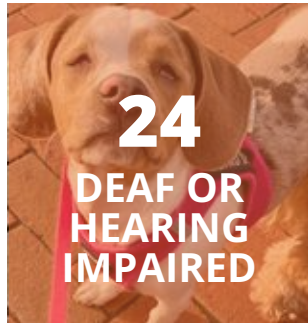
Through it all, one truth remains constant: our most important resource is people. Our volunteers, donors, and advocates are the heartbeat of Speak!. As we move forward, growing this community is essential to expanding our reach and saving more lives.

Rescue is always hard, but it is also always worth it. Thank you for standing with us during a difficult, transformative year and for believing in our mission even when the work is heavy. Together, we are creating a stronger foundation so we can continue to say "yes" to the animals who need us most.

Speak! Nation,
THANK YOU.

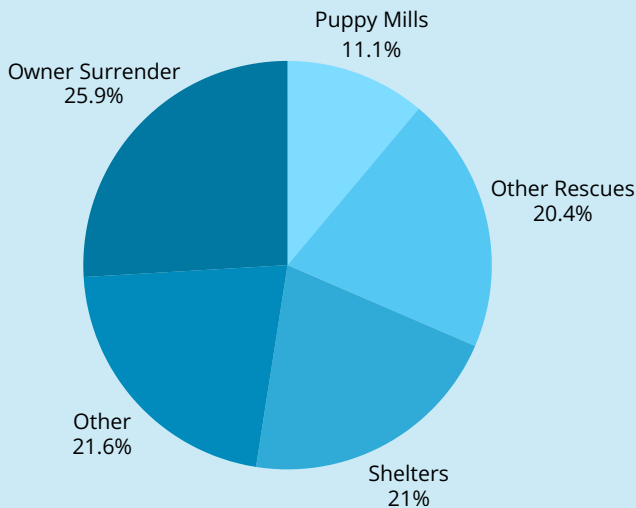
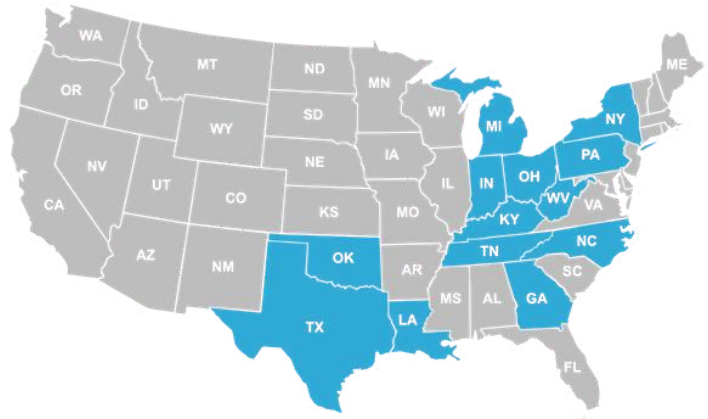
RESCUE WITHOUT LIMITS

60% OF OUR RESCUES HAD SPECIAL NEEDS IN 2025.



DISTANCE NEVER STOPS COMPASSION

We transported dogs and cats from 13 states into safe foster homes across Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Pennsylvania, supported by 60 dedicated foster families. We say **yes** to dogs in urgent need, regardless of location, when the right foster, medical care, and transport come together.



WHERE OUR FOSTERS COME FROM

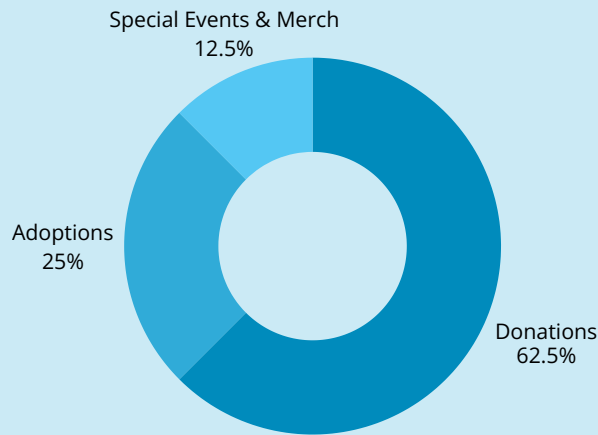
We accept dogs from a variety of sources, prioritizing urgent cases and special needs animals who have limited options elsewhere. Dogs are at the heart of our mission, but we also help the occasional special needs cat needing a safe place to land.



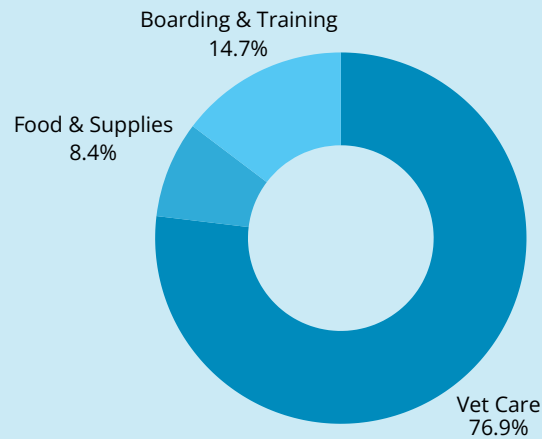
SUPPORT AT WORK

Every dollar received becomes medical care, rehabilitation, and second chances for dogs who need it most. This support allows us to say yes to urgent cases, provide specialized treatment, and give special needs animals the time and care they deserve.

OUR REVENUE \$366,762.29



OUR EXPENSES \$200,557.57



Funding Stories like these..

When **Tug** arrived at Speak!, he weighed just three pounds and struggled to eat without pain. Diagnosed with a rare congenital condition, he needed lifesaving surgery to survive. Thanks to donor support and dedicated foster care, Tug grew strong enough for surgery — and today, he's thriving.

A RECORD BREAKING YEAR OF GENEROSITY

Giving Tuesday was our largest fundraiser of the year, raising just over \$70,000 and reaching more supporters than ever before. This incredible outpouring of generosity directly fueled the \$150,838 we invested in veterinary care, along with funding for food, medications, and extended board and train programs in 2025. Because of our community, dogs received lifesaving medical treatment, full bowls, critical vaccines, and the behavioral support they needed to thrive. One day of giving created lasting impact all year long.



LOOKING AHEAD

OUR PATH FORWARD IN 2026

As Speak! for the Unspoken moves into 2026, we do so with renewed focus and a clear sense of purpose. After a challenging and transitional year, we are aligning our work more closely than ever with the mission that started it all: **advocating for double merles and animals with special needs.**

A FOCUSED RESCUE MODEL

In 2026, our goal is for 75% of our intake to be animals with special needs—medical, behavioral, or both. These are the dogs most at risk and most often overlooked, and this is where Speak! does its best work. By narrowing our focus, we can deepen our impact and provide the specialized care these animals need to thrive.

A COMMITMENT TO OUR LONG-TERM DOGS

Finding homes for the dogs who have been with us the longest remains a top priority. Thirteen dogs have been in our care for more than nine months, some for multiple years. In the year ahead, we will invest in enhanced adoption efforts, targeted outreach, and individualized support to help these dogs finally find the families they deserve.

BUILDING STRONGER SYSTEMS

In 2025, we laid important groundwork by strengthening our internal systems and processes. This foundation allows us to operate more efficiently and sustainably. In 2026, we will continue refining these systems so we can responsibly increase adoptions, support more foster homes, and bring more animals into our care without compromising quality.

EXPANDING OUR FOSTER COMMUNITY

People are at the heart of everything we do. Expanding our volunteer network is essential to our future and our ability to save lives. In 2026, we are prioritizing recruitment, education, and support to ensure more dogs can leave shelters, heal in homes, and move toward adoption.

SPECIAL NEEDS AND GOOD DEEDS STILL GO HAND IN PAW—
and the future is one we are building together.

Want to support one of these goals or join the fun? Reach out—we'd love to hear from you!

RESCUE@SPEAKFORTHEUNSPOKEN.COM

EVERY DOLLAR MATTERS



\$50 DONATION

Covers necessary preventatives, like flea, tick, and heartworm for three months.

Meet **Baloo!** This deaf boy was found very sick with parvo. He received life-saving treatment and beat the odds!



\$100 DONATION

Covers spay, neuter and microchip for one dog.

This is **Silver Bells!** He is in a custom high chair, called a Bailey Chair, to help him eat due to his megasophagus diagnosis.



\$200 DONATION

Covers x-rays and orthopedic exams for adorable pups or cats with limb disabilities.

Meet **Stasi!** A 12-year-old Chihuahua with a heart murmur given another chance at life!



\$500 DONATION

Covers appointments with specialty vets, surgeries, behavior assessments and sessions with trainers.

This is **Cupid!** He was found after surviving a car accident resulting in the amputation of one of his legs. He has been thriving in his foster home and ready for his future family!

Donate
Online



ON A DESKTOP? DONATE [HERE!](#)



I WANT TO **SPEAK!** UP FOR DOGS WITH DISABILITIES!

MONTHLY GIFT

- \$10/month
- \$25/month
- \$50/month
- \$75/month
- \$100/month
- \$ _____ /month

ONE-TIME GIFT

- \$100
- \$200
- \$500
- \$750
- \$1,000
- \$ _____

PAYMENT CHOICE

- Give using the QR code above for credit card
- A check payable to: **Speak! for the Unspoken**
PO Box 534, Grove City, OH 43123

Your name

Your email

*By providing your email address, you'll receive email updates and communications about the latest happenings with Speak!



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

Because of you, our impact continues.

