



2021 Midyear Impact Report

Enduring the pandemic.

Closing the lifesaving gap.

Strengthening the safety net.



Working to make Philadelphia a no-kill city.

On the cover, left to right:

Chowder, found as a stray, now living happily in South Jersey!

Zazu, whose owner brought him to PAWS' clinic for vaccinations and a check-up.

Olive, brought to the city shelter with her mother and siblings, now in a loving Queen Village home.

Below, left to right:

Bo, who found comfort in a PAWS foster home before meeting his forever family.

Guppy, once a stray with dental disease, now pain-free and safe with her adopter in West Philly.

Pumpnickel, with vet tech Sabina, had been found fending for herself in Kensington.

Facing page, left to right:

Baklava, brought to PAWS with her two littermates by a Good Samaritan, thrived in foster care.

Peppy with foster coordinator Megan, now adopted after his previous owner was unable to keep him.

Malachite, rescued from the city shelter after being found as a stray, was adopted by her foster mom!



Fall 2021 marks 15 years since PAWS' lifesaving work began.

Taking Stock & Forging Ahead

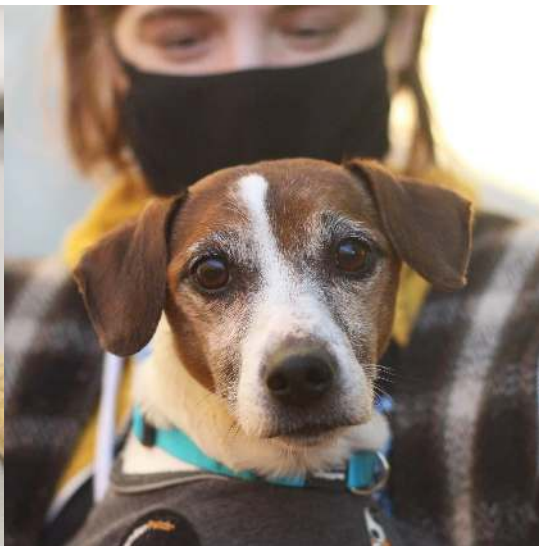
Dear Friends,

Amid another extraordinary year, PAWS is proud to provide this update on our lifesaving efforts and our continued progress toward making Philadelphia a no-kill city. As the pandemic keeps unfolding, **we remain focused** on keeping our staff, volunteers, adopters, and clients safe while **providing our vital rescue and clinic programs** to all who rely on them.

This year also marks PAWS' 15th birthday, and so we are celebrating and reflecting upon all we have accomplished, while persisting in our work and preparing for the challenging times ahead.

Our gratitude to you, our supporters, is immeasurable. You make our work possible. Together, we are transforming lives, keeping families together, offering hope, and creating lasting change in our community.

Melissa Levy
Melissa Levy
Executive Director



Keeping our sights set on those still waiting for their chance.

PAWS by the Numbers



3 facilities

housing our adoption centers, shelters, and clinics



55 staff members

working 7 days a week to save and serve pets and people in need



2,400 rescued pets

will find safety, medical care, and a fresh start with us this year



30,000 owned pets

will receive affordable veterinary care in our clinics this year



500 volunteers

supporting every aspect of our rescue and prevention efforts



100% donor-funded

and \$0.91 of every dollar is spent on our lifesaving programs

Behind the statistics: safety, love, and new beginnings.

2021: Updates and Snapshot

In the pages that follow, you'll find details on our rescue efforts, clinic services, and how we're working to keep strengthening the safety net. This year, we've also expanded our team, and made investments in our facilities and our future. Here are other major updates:



COVID-19 Status as of August:

- 96% of PAWS staff members are **vaccinated!**
- **Masks** are required in all PAWS facilities.
- At both our clinics, pet owners may accompany their pets inside; curbside service is offered as well. All services are provided by appointment.
- Our **Old City Adoption Center is open once again**, housing cats only.
- Adoptions and foster meets for dogs and cats continue to happen daily by appointment at our **Grays Ferry shelter**.
- With Old City reopened and more animals being housed at Grays Ferry, we are **welcoming volunteers back in greater numbers**. We missed you!



Lifesaving Progress:

- Intake at ACCT Philly during the first half of 2021 was up 24% over the same time in 2020, yet the long-term downward trend continues. Compared to 2019 (the last "normal" year), **intake is down 14%**.
- Through sustained collaboration, rescue efforts, and public awareness raising, the **save rate through the end of June was a record 91%**.
- **All but 10 savable pets were rescued from ACCT.**



Coalition Activity, with Co-Founders ACCT and the Pennsylvania SPCA:

- We launched the "**Foster a Philly Pet**" campaign, collectively urging Philadelphians to foster and create more room in our shelters.
- We continue to **meet weekly and monthly to strategize**, troubleshoot, and ensure we keep closing the lifesaving gap by evaluating the needs of at-risk animals and finetuning how we work together.



Honoring a Milestone:

- This fall, PAWS will turn 15! Our plans for an in-person event to raise a glass – and raise funds for all that lies ahead – were thwarted by the delta variant, so we launched a **15th Birthday Campaign online to celebrate our progress and secure our future**. For details: phillypaws.org/15



Returning to the Navy Yard:

- After going virtual in 2020, the Mutt Strut is back! **Join us on October 23** at The Navy Yard. Our 15th dog walk and fall festival will offer fun for everyone. We can't wait to gather again! For details: pawsmuttstrut.org

We continue to adapt, rescue, treat, lead – and celebrate.

Saving Those Who Need Us Most

This year through July, **1,211 cats and dogs have found save haven at PAWS.** *Grover, right, was one.*

While fewer animals are entering shelters – a sign of progress – **most who need us now are sick or injured.** Many urgently need medical attention, and must spend more time in our shelter and foster homes to receive veterinary care before they can be adopted.

PAWS' lifesaving programs were created to meet the needs of homeless pets with nowhere else to turn. Along with **complex medical care**, they include:

- **Ringworm recovery**
- **Dental care**
- Rescue and placement for cats with **FelV and FIV**
- Relay foster teams for **bottle-feeding kittens**
- **Hospice care**



Making it Possible



Found as a stray, Jasper suffered from a respiratory infection and dental disease.

With more resources required for every animal we save, these programs create hope and second chances:

- **The Tooth Fairy Fund**, launched in February, pays for lifesaving surgery so that we can rescue and treat animals with severe dental disease.
- **PAWS' Foster Challenge** in June enabled 225 animals needing extended care to be placed into foster homes, making room for us to rescue 230 more.
- **The Medical Relief Fund**, established in May, allows us to rescue and provide emergency and complex veterinary care for animals at immediate risk of euthanasia.

Since we began: PAWS has rescued 33,453 homeless dogs and cats.

Vet Care Keeps Families Together



Creed is comfortable and safe despite a variety of ailments that need monitoring.

This year through July, **17,188 pets have received basic vet care at PAWS' two clinics.**

PAWS' clinics make care accessible for Philadelphians who cannot otherwise afford it, enabling cherished pets to stay in their homes where they are loved. This bond – which has a profound effect on physical and mental health, and strengthens communities as a whole – always deserves to be protected. During a public health crisis, the need is especially great.

Providing a safety net for the pets who are most vulnerable to being surrendered is key to preventing shelter intake and making Philadelphia a truly humane city.

Making it Possible

In addition to treating pets' illnesses and injuries, PAWS' clinics are **leading providers of spay/neuter surgery in Philadelphia.**

So far in 2021, our surgeons have spayed/neutered 6,959 animals, including 838 community cats. Since opening our first clinic in 2010, **nearly 111,000 animals have been sterilized at PAWS' clinics**, drastically reducing the number of unwanted litters.

Some clinic clients are referred to us by the **Community Pet Help Desk**, a collaborative effort to prevent shelter surrenders and divert intake from ACCT Philly. Thanks to generous supporters, **funding is available for owners who cannot afford care but wish to keep their beloved pets.**



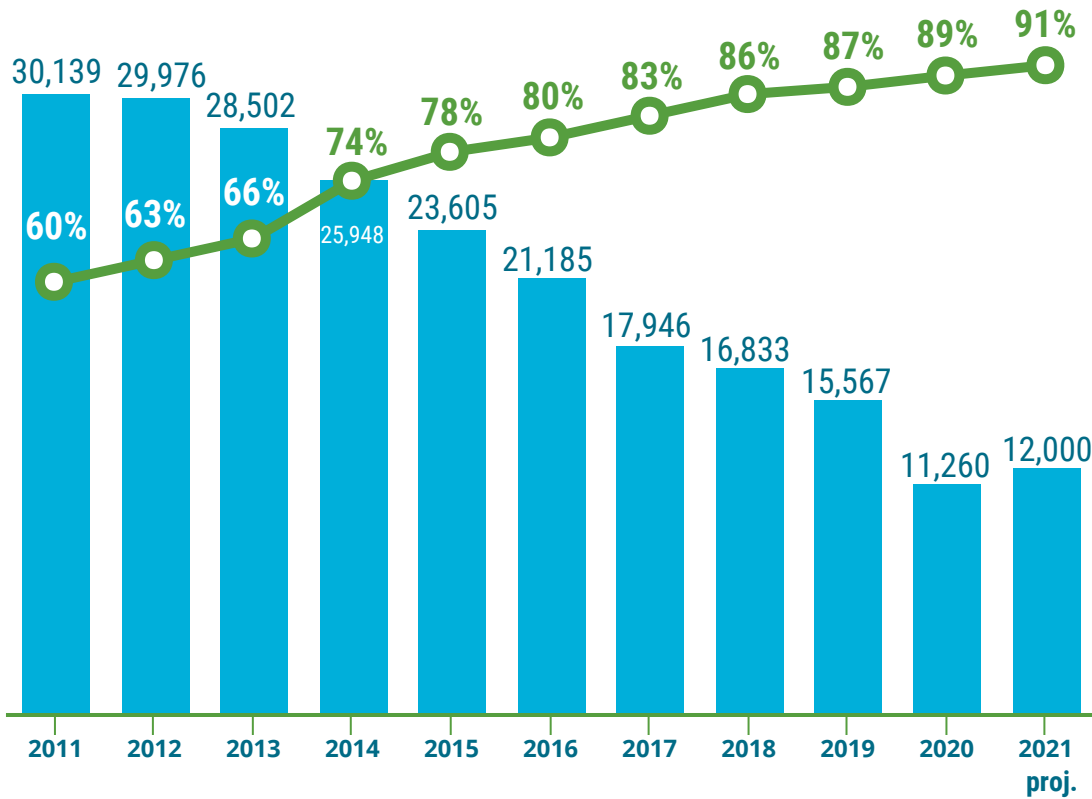
After losing her home, Blue Bell learned to trust again with the help of a foster parent.

Since we began: 288,400 pets have been treated in PAWS' clinics.

Marching Toward a No-Kill City

THE SHELTER POPULATION:

Number of dogs & cats entering ACCT, and percentage saved.



91%
save rate*

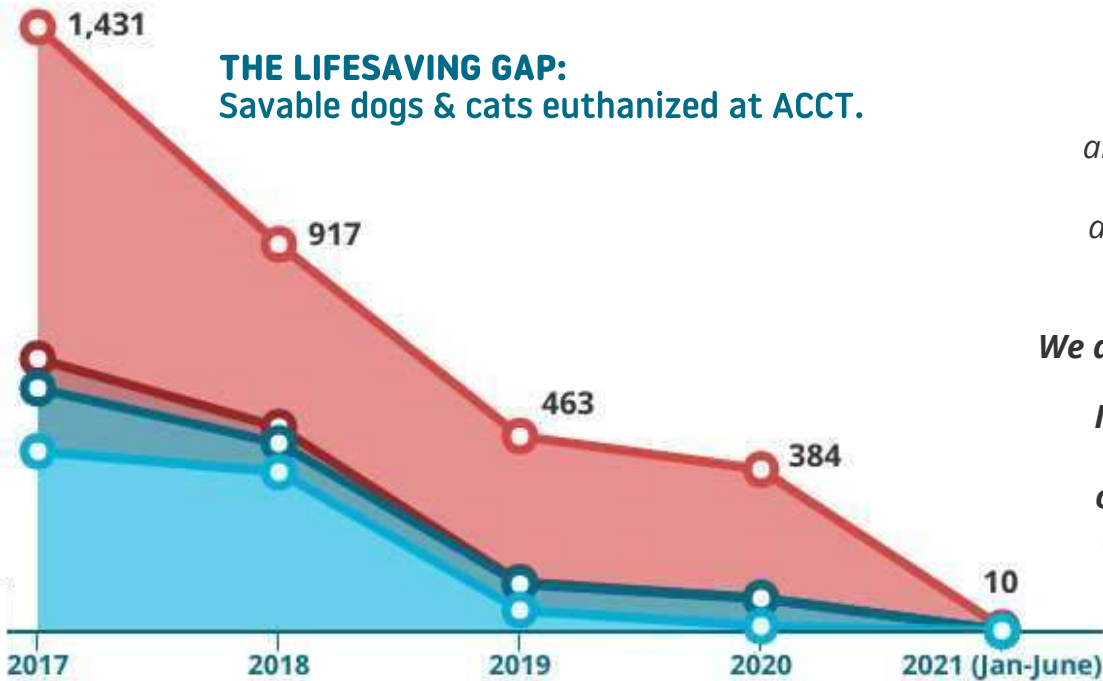
up from 11% before PAWS' lifesaving efforts began

63%
fewer animals

entering city shelter since we began

THE LIFESAVING GAP:

Savable dogs & cats euthanized at ACCT.



*Approximately 6-8% of animals entering the city's animal control shelter are considered unsavable due to severe medical or behavioral issues. We aim to save all the rest.

In the first half of 2021, only ten were beyond our reach, compared to tens of thousands when we first began.

Since we began: Shelter intake in Philadelphia has dropped by 63%.

Investing in our Team

We are extremely proud to have expanded our staff in 2021, welcoming:

- Dr. Laurel Frydenborg as **Medical Director**
- Two additional **full-time veterinarians**, Dr. Mary Bailey and Dr. Eleni Healey
- Liberty Britton as **Communications and Grants Manager**, a newly created position
- Spike Dougherty as **Dog Program and Animal Care Manager**, a newly created position

We have also **reconfigured our animal care staff** to take a more holistic approach, including offering **individualized behavior support and enrichment** for shelter and owned pets.

Lastly, while navigating these uncharted waters, staff and board leaders developed PAWS' fourth **three-year strategic plan** to ensure we remain focused on making measurable progress toward achieving our mission and fortifying our strength.



Ozzie – playful and charming despite many challenging health issues – stole staff hearts.

Investing in our Facilities



Despite the upheaval, it's been time to make long-awaited updates and repairs to our three facilities:

Our **Grays Ferry Shelter and Clinic** received:

- A brand new heating/air-conditioning system.
- State-of-the-art cat condos, thanks to a grant from the Petfinder Foundation.
- Renovated office and storage space to accommodate our growing staff.
- Many other improvements, including fresh paint and wall treatments for high-traffic areas.

Our **Old City Adoption Center** received a full facelift before its grand reopening in early-August.

Major work is underway at our **Northeast Adoption Center and Clinic**, including a new roof!

Ensuring we are well-equipped for the work that lies ahead.

The Power of Partnerships

We've been honored to give and receive support through many valued partners in 2021. Here are a few:

- In May, our "PAWS Loves Philly" campaign celebrated **dozens of businesses** who have been so good to us.
- Through our friends at **Share Food**, we met **Second Chances Youth Foundation**, now a co-host of our pet pantry events in collaboration with **ACCT Philly** and **Citizens for a No-Kill Philadelphia**.
- PAWS was featured in the **Philadelphia Orchestra's** "Your City, Your Orchestra" series, an exciting opportunity to share our story with a new audience.
- Ongoing partnerships with **PennVet**, **VSEC**, and **Queen Village Animal Hospital** give PAWS pets access to emergency and specialty vet care beyond our clinics' scope, enabling us to save more lives.



Maximizing our role as ACCT Philly's largest rescue partner has always been our top priority. While continuing to rescue as many animals as we have space for, we found new ways during the crowded summer months to offer support:

- Offering free spay/neuter as incentive for rescue groups to pull more dogs
- Rallying our skilled vet techs to go to ACCT to treat kittens with ringworm

Our Next Steps



While we sustain our rescue and prevention efforts, **we must also grow the safety net** for people and pets in need. Here is how we'll be working to keep pets out of shelters and enable families to stay together:

- Serving pet owners referred by the Community Pet Help Desk to **prevent surrenders to ACCT**.
- For pets who must be surrendered, **taking them in directly to PAWS**, where their safety is guaranteed.
- Expanding **access to pet food** through collaborations with human service agencies. A shipment of over 41,000 pounds of food kicked things off in August!
- Enabling **community members to help each other keep their pets** through temporary foster care during times of transition (moving, hospital stays, etc.).

Reaching further to understand and meet the needs of our community.

Facing page, top to bottom:

Macaroni, with vet tech Alex, was emaciated and covered in fleas when he was found as a stray.

George Harrison was only a few days old when he arrived at PAWS with his mom and four siblings.

Below, left to right:

Baby Fiona, with her mother, was adopted with one of her brothers once both were big and strong enough.

Tootsie, with then-volunteer (now staff member!) Libby, had lots of love to give after being rescued.

Maverick is safe at home in South Philly, where he is on a special diet to manage chronic health issues.

Back cover, left to right:

Bart was diagnosed with untreatable cancer, but he lived his best life as part of PAWS' Hospice Program.

Orwell received hip surgery at PAWS and, finally recovered and pain-free, is settling in to his forever home.

Gustavo, whose owners could no longer care for him, got needed medical and a second chance at love.



Stray, surrendered, sick, injured, young, and old – new lives begin here.

PAWS was founded to reduce the number of pets entering and dying in Philadelphia shelters.

For 15 years, as the city's largest rescue partner, we have been relentless in our efforts to find loving homes for homeless pets, help struggling owners keep their pets, and prevent the birth of stray and unwanted litters. Today, shelter intake has been reduced by two-thirds, and nearly all savable pets are being rescued.



Old City Adoption Center • 100 N. 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106
Spay/Neuter & Wellness Clinic • 2900 Grays Ferry Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19146
Northeast Adoption Center & Clinic • 1810 Grant Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19115

Adopt • Donate • Foster • Volunteer



phillypaws.org • 215-298-9680