

PAWSCHICAGO

2019 IMPACT REPORT



Life-Saving Impact

YEAR IN REVIEW
HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

FEATURE
PAWS OPENS ENGLEWOOD
OUTREACH CENTER

2019 HONOR ROLL
OF DONORS

pawschicago.org

Your dedication has saved the pets featured in these pages — and thousands more — in their time of greatest need. On behalf of each one of them, thank you.



PAWSCHICAGO

A LETTER FROM
THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

As we prepare our 2019 Annual Report, it seems impossible to ignore the world as it exists today in 2020. Our world has changed dramatically from those happy, hectic days of 2019, when we saved so many animals the “old-fashioned way.”

You’ll remember those days, when adopters chose their new pets face-to-face rather than by internet profile. When every No Kill milestone was celebrated together. In the same room. When the tragedy of a global pandemic seemed possible only as a movie plot.

We look back on 2019 today and we’re so thankful for so many things. For our passionate and dedicated staff and volunteers who are unceasingly big-hearted with their time and talents. For donors like you who generously rise to each and every occasion when animals are in need and we are their only hope. For 23 years of your support, enough time to anchor our organization so deeply in our No Kill mission that while a global pandemic can blow through our branches, it cannot weaken the roots of our work.

The following pages demonstrate our preparedness to continue saving vulnerable animals. PAWS Chicago is healthy today because of the work our PAWS community accomplished together in 2019 and all the years before. The numbers tell part of the story: 2019 was another year of over 5,000 adoptions (5,271 to be exact). Another year of more than 15,000 spay/neuter surgeries (15,174). Another year of volunteer hours—149,507—that match 71 full-time employees. And a 17th consecutive year of earning Charity Navigator’s 4-star rating.

But numbers aren’t in our hearts. Pierre and Loula are.

Sixteen-year-old Pierre, who stayed with us just three days short of four years, whose royal presence earned him the title of King of Kitty City, and whose adoption was met with tears of joy and, yes, the need to snuggle him just one more time before he left (see more about Pierre on page 11).

Loula (at left) too, will always be a PAWS pet. This senior came to us with serious health issues requiring extensive dental work and surgery. While we don’t know much about her past, we know this little gal has a bright future thanks to the care she received at our Medical Center.

Thank you for all you do to build the PAWS Chicago community. Thank you for all you do to save homeless animals.

With gratitude,

Paula Fasseas
Founder & Executive Chair



Loula stole our hearts upon her arrival at the PAWS Chicago Medical Center



Velvet's expression says it all— "It's Great to Be Alive"

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ON THE COVER

PAWS Chicago alumnus Erasmus, an FIV-positive cat who spent several years doing his best to survive on the streets. After receiving treatment for his wounds and abrasions at the Medical Center, Erasmus is living his best life in a wonderful home.

PHOTO CREDITS	Jennifer McInerney Burke	Rich Chen Photography	Mark Lukas
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2019 HIGHLIGHTS



5,271
adoptions
(64,898 since our founding)



32,562
pounds of food and
supplies distributed
through Pet Food Bank

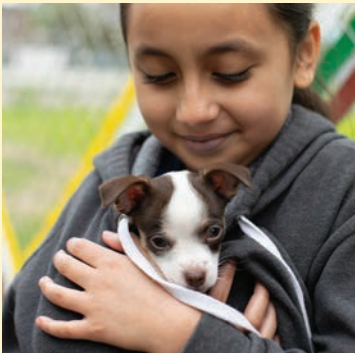


2,244
spay/neuter surgeries
provided for feral cats

97.9%
save rate



3,003
animals placed
in foster care



PAWS for Life
medical care for
2,749
pets in underserved
communities



15,174
animals spayed
and neutered
100% free or low-cost



149,507
hours worked by
volunteers = 71
full-time employees



2019
PAWS Chicago has received
17 consecutive 4-star ratings
from Charity Navigator

PREVENTION

CLOSER AND CLOSER TO NO KILL

It’s no secret PAWS Chicago has been a driving force to eliminate pet euthanasia and achieve a No Kill Chicago since 1997. What you may not know is the depth and breadth of programs required to get us there.

In 2000, we opened the Lurie Clinic and launched our aggressive free and low-cost spay/neuter program, aimed to eliminate the overwhelming number of animals flooding shelters. And it worked! Twenty years of high-volume surgeries at our Lurie Clinic is the primary driver of the 91% reduction in euthanasia in Chicago. Prevention includes free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for pets of families who otherwise could not afford it, feral cat Trap-Neuter-Return, our GusMobile and PAWS for Life programs in Englewood and Back of the Yards.

This work is the driving force behind reducing pet euthanasia. It is essential in maintaining our life-saving progress and must never end. It will always be one of our primary pillars to build and sustain a No Kill Chicago.



Pick up post GusMobile surgery



Trap-Neuter-Return in action



PAWS Veterinarian Dr. Wooten performing a neuter surgery

In 2019, PAWS veterinarians at the Lurie Clinic performed 15,174 free or low-cost spay/neuter surgeries.

These surgeries are the total between both the Lurie Clinic and the GusMobile van, which provides spay/neuter surgeries to people who are unable to travel to the Lurie Clinic, expanding our reach for providing these surgeries that are so imperative to our No Kill mission. Since 2000, PAWS Chicago has performed more than 261,611 surgeries in total.

2,244 Feral Cat Surgeries

Since the opening of the Lurie Clinic, PAWS Chicago has sterilized more than 47,500 feral cats, with 2,244 of those surgeries performed in 2019 alone. These cats are the primary source of unwanted kittens. Our Community Cats program manages colonies on the South Side of Chicago and works with community cat caregivers to support TNR (trap-neuter-return) efforts.

30,000 Pounds of Food

Each month, PAWS Chicago’s Pet Food Pantry distributes 2,500 pounds of donated pet food and supplies to members of the community that would otherwise not be able to care for their pets. These resources are crucial to keeping these animals fed and in their homes.

Celebrating a New Home in Englewood

PAWS CHICAGO OPENS ENGLEWOOD OUTREACH CENTER

A major accomplishment in 2019 was the celebration of our new permanent pet-resource presence in Englewood with the newly-opened PAWS Chicago Englewood Outreach Center. “PAWS Chicago has been a true blessing to this Englewood community,” said Alicia Mendoza, a PAWS for Life client, during an address to the crowd at the Grand Opening.

This important new space serves as an animal welfare anchor in Englewood, enabling PAWS to provide even more preventative resources beyond free spay/ neuter and transportation. This new location is expanding services into Community Medicine, providing veterinary care to sick, injured and suffering pets who would otherwise never see a veterinarian, Pet Food Pantry, the GusMobile, volunteer orientations, feral cat shelter building assistance, Trap-Neuter-Return support, educational sessions and more.

EXPANDING PAWS FOR LIFE

PAWS for Life launched in Englewood in 2014 with the goal of supporting our city’s most under-resourced communities that do not have access to basic veterinary care, pet food, supplies or important information on pet wellness and spay/neuter. We’re changing that by canvassing neighborhoods and offering pet resources and services. Our staff, interns and volunteers who are on the ground six days each week providing assistance for people with pets and booking free spay/neuter surgeries (including transportation) at our Lurie Clinic.

Last year, we expanded PAWS for Life beyond Englewood to help families in Back of the Yards and West Englewood. With our new Outreach Center, we’re able to do even more directly in the community that most needs our help.



Coleman Foundation’s Michael Hennessy cuts the ribbon at the opening of PAWS Chicago Englewood Outreach Center, joined by (right to left) PAWS Chicago Founder Paula Fasseas, PAWS for Life client Jacqueline Leonard, St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church Pastor Henry Raven, 16th Ward Alderman Stephanie Coleman, Director of Community Outreach Laurie Maxwell, Dr. Jesse Navatta



ANIMAL HEALTH & BEHAVIOR

SAVING ALL TREATABLE ANIMALS

No Kill means being a safe haven for animals, no matter from where they come or how much rehabilitation they need. This drives our work. To make that a reality, we are transforming our existing Medical Center into the premier homeless pet hospital in the nation. This multi-year project will celebrate its grand opening in spring of 2021.



Dr. Walter with cardiac patient Polo



Dr. Chen performing intake health check



Forest, treated for upper respiratory infection

With expert veterinary and behavior teams, we are one of the few shelters in the country that can treat and rehabilitate large numbers of sick, injured or behaviorally-challenged animals. In 2019, PAWS Chicago had a 97.92% save rate, even while taking in a vulnerable population.

97.9% Save Rate

456 SPECIAL OPERATIONS

456

Thanks to our industry leading Shelter Medicine program, even the most desperately sick and injured animals receive full medical treatment. In 2019, our talented surgeons performed 456 special medical operations and 9 pets were sent to outside specialists for critical surgeries.

130 TRAINING CLASSES FOR OUR HOMELESS PETS

130

In 2019, we expanded our Training Center offerings, providing 130 behavior classes for adoptable dogs. Customized programs and routine exercise, enrichment and rehabilitation give shy, highly-active, undersocialized or previously abused pets the confidence and training needed to show prospective adopters their true personality.

3,003 PETS PLACED IN FOSTER HOMES

3,003

By placing animals in temporary homes, we can dramatically increase the number of pets saved. In 2019, our Foster Care program placed 3,003 animals with dedicated foster families who gave these young, scared, sick or injured pets time for healing before being adopted.

CHIP

Chip found a way to survive on the street: with a little help from a concerned neighbor who left him food. She was slowly able to gain his trust to catch him and she brought him directly to PAWS Chicago. When Chip arrived, we thought he was in his senior years, with filmy eyes and a thin coat full of burrs and flea dirt. Over the course of fifteen days, we gave him five medicated baths, 60 medicated eye drops, one neuter surgery and a whole lot of love. And what we found under all Chip's dust and dirt was an amazing surprise - he wasn't a senior, but a five-year-old Shepherd mix! Chip has since been adopted into a loving home where he now spends his days being told he's the best boy.



Chip

ODYSSEUS

Odysseus is a fitting name for a cat who's had a long, hard road home. He was found in rough shape. An abscess on his back and a severe leg injury indicated that he survived an attack. To give Odysseus the best quality of life and alleviate his pain, we removed his leg and treated the ruptured abscess. With an arsenal of medication, warm compresses, and saline solution, our Medical Center team helped Odysseus heal. Afterwards, the once-in-pain Odysseus was as loving as ever. He wowed volunteers with purrs and a demand for head pats, quickly learning to live life with three paws. He now charms everyone he meets in his adoptive home.



Odysseus

ADOPTION

FINDING LOVING FAMILIES FOR HOMELESS ANIMALS

A robust adoption program for cats and dogs of all ages and backgrounds is essential to saving lives and building a No Kill community. Through efforts like adoption events spotlighting older or long-term animals, we're able to ensure pet populations who tend to be overlooked find the families they deserve. In 2019, we found thousands of once-homeless animals new families. Here are a few of their stories!



5,271 pets found homes through PAWS in 2019

Every animal deserves a chance, including those with special needs



PIERRE

Just three days short of four years at PAWS Chicago, 16-year-old Pierre found a home. As the staff and volunteer-proclaimed King of Kitty City, Pierre spent every day with us spoiled rotten and fully loved but, as is the case with every animal who comes through our doors, a shelter is not the same as a home. His age and diabetes had always been a debilitating factor in finding his family, as were his daily insulin injections. When his adopters, Madeline and Megan, came to us looking specifically for the longest-term cat in our program, we knew Pierre had officially become a PAWS Chicago alum.

Madeline and Megan, vet and vet tech at a local clinic, said, "He comes to work during the day and gets even more attention from my employees and some clients that come in! He loves to sleep in one of his five (yes, five) beds, his favorite of course being none of those and mainly sitting in my office chair or on someone's lap."

RANI

If everyone who's met five-year-old Rani had to describe her in a few words, it would have to be "pure joy." It's only fitting that we celebrated her as 2019's 5,000th adoption! Before finding the family she's with now, Rani had been returned to PAWS and spent 453 days in our care. She struggles with incontinence, a diagnosis that requires her to wear a diaper and proved to make finding her a home more difficult. Despite this, she's tirelessly happy and resolute in the amount of love she has to give.

Through our foster program, Rani found a loving family and home during the 2019 holiday season. The Gniechs, her new people, wrote to us to say, "We knew that she was right for our home. She's part of the family, and we're so happy to have her home with us." Congratulations, Rani!



VOLUNTEERS

THE LIFE FORCE OF PAWS CHICAGO

A dedicated team of volunteers is essential in every aspect of saving lives, including adoption, medical care, behavior rehabilitation, engagement, spay/neuter and outreach programs. Last year, our volunteers exemplified all that it means to be advocates for homeless animals. From coordinating summer Fun Runs with adoptable dogs to leading various foster and donation efforts and everything in between, our volunteers amplified their impact for an incredible year of saving lives.



149,507 VOLUNTEER HOURS = **71** FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

VOLUNTEER SUPER STARS



Ellie Feldmann

Growing our foster program is critical to saving more lives. In 2019, Ellie Feldmann helped PAWS expand our Racine Foster Program. As the volunteer program coordinator, Ellie oversaw volunteer training, ensured volunteer shifts were filled, liaised with foster parents, and so much more. Ellie herself is a tried-and-true foster parent for PAWS dogs, opening her heart to nearly 100 pups in need of a temporary home!

Cyd Kuck

Meet Cyd, a Level 3 Medical Center volunteer, intake trip driver, adoption counselor, New Volunteer Orientation leader, and wearer of many, many hats here at PAWS! Throughout 2019, she's driven our intake van 4,152 miles to transport homeless animals on their freedom rides. That's the distance between Chicago and Paris!



Cathy Sweeney

Cathy's a volunteer at our Lincoln Park Adoption Center's Kitty City and friend to felines everywhere. She mentors new Kitty City volunteers and leads our Level 2 Kitty City volunteer training. Even outside of PAWS, Cathy's an incredible champion for animals in need; for the past five years, she's been a TEAM PAWS Chicago runner!

Hugo Lavallade

You name it and Hugo does it: he drives animals from our Medical Center to our Adoption Centers, helps at our Pet Food Pantry, transports pets from Chicago's southside neighborhoods to our Lurie Spay/Neuter Clinic for surgery, reps PAWS as a PAWS Ambassador, and helps out at our annual events. Even after a long volunteer shift, you can find him with a dog by his side and a smile on his face.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

INSPIRING AND MOBILIZING PEOPLE TO ACT

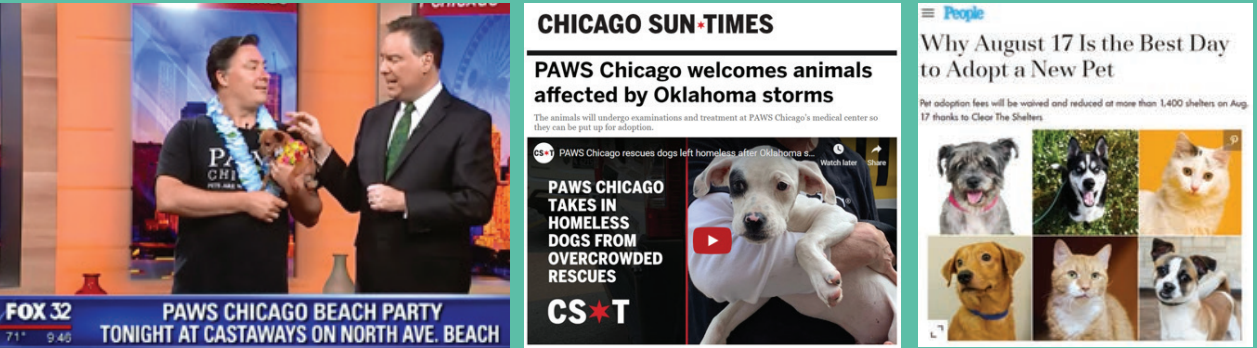
Community engagement is at the core of everything we do. After all, it is people who will solve the homeless pet problem and bring about change to reach our goal of a No Kill Chicago.

Engaging the public in the cause of homeless animals and providing them with the information to make compassionate choices, like adoption and spay/neuter, is what has brought about such life-saving transformation over our 23 years. This engagement is what has reduced the killing of homeless pets in Chicago by more than 91% since our founding!

Each and every community event, media placement, local and national partnership and endorsement is an opportunity to touch someone’s heart and inspire them to take action that will save a life. And as we all know, it is the aggregation of small actions that lead to big waves of change.

Thank you to every person who has been an advocate for homeless animals. You are part of our life-saving mission. We know that when people learn about what pets are facing in a community’s sheltering system, they respond. They are mobilized to adopt, to volunteer, to donate, to foster and to spread the word. They make a difference.

2,532 media stories—local and national TV, print, radio, and digital/web



Sports, Celebs and Memorable Moments That Made an Impact

PAW-LAPALOOZA

Lollapalooza 2019 put the spotlight on PAWS Chicago’s life-saving mission, bringing it to a whole new audience when PAWS puppies were featured in Lolla’s Lineup reveal video. Tens of thousands of viewers enjoyed fourteen minutes of adoptable, frolicking puppies while the 2019 musical line up was revealed through clues and puzzles. Viewers even had a chance to get their paws on a limited-edition Lollapalooza x PAWS t-shirt!



The partnership also showcased PAWS as one of just 20 national and local charities invited to visit festival grounds during the four-day event, and Lollapalooza was also a generous sponsor of the 2019 PAWS 5K. We were thrilled to have such awesome support from one of the nation’s biggest annual music events.

ICE COLD FUN

The Chicago Blackhawks got PAWS animals out on the ice for an evening’s lineup announcements. Players were accompanied by PAWS pets, putting our mission front and center in the eyes of new local and national audiences through this impressive brand partnership. The champion hockey team further honored PAWS Chicago by making it the beneficiary of the Blackhawks Pet Lovers Night. That evening, homeless animals were the winners.



A PAWS CHICAGO LIFELINE

Torrey DeVitto, Chicago Med star and passionate animal welfare advocate, lent her voice and stardom to pets in need as the face of PAWS Chicago’s Lifeline Monthly Giving Program, leading a PSA campaign to raise critical funds for PAWS Chicago’s programs. Torrey has a special place in her heart for senior dogs and adopted Tamara (now named Twiggy) at the 18th Annual Fur Ball!



 111,140 FACEBOOK FANS

 62,546 INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

 165,323 EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

 13,386,117 WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

PAWS LONGTERM SUSTAINABILITY AND VISION

In 1997, we founded PAWS Chicago to build No Kill communities – starting with a No Kill Chicago – that respect and value the life of every cat and dog. Today, pet euthanasia is down more than 91%, we’ve celebrated more than 65,000 pet adoptions, and hundreds of thousands of animal lives have been saved. Chicago is on the doorstep of becoming a No Kill Community, where homeless animals are no longer killed to manage overpopulation.

They say a journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step. What you learn along the way is the last 10 feet are the hardest to cover.

As we inch closer to our goal, the work gets harder. The animals are sicker. They have more serious injuries and face more challenging behavioral issues. Believe it or not, this is good news. Our robust free and low-cost spay/neuter program has dramatically reduced the unwanted pet population, opening up space at Chicago Animal Care & Control and our other transfer partners to save more needy animals.

PAWS is committed to the life of every pet and will treat every sick, injured and behaviorally challenged but rehabilitatable pet, regardless of the time or resources required.

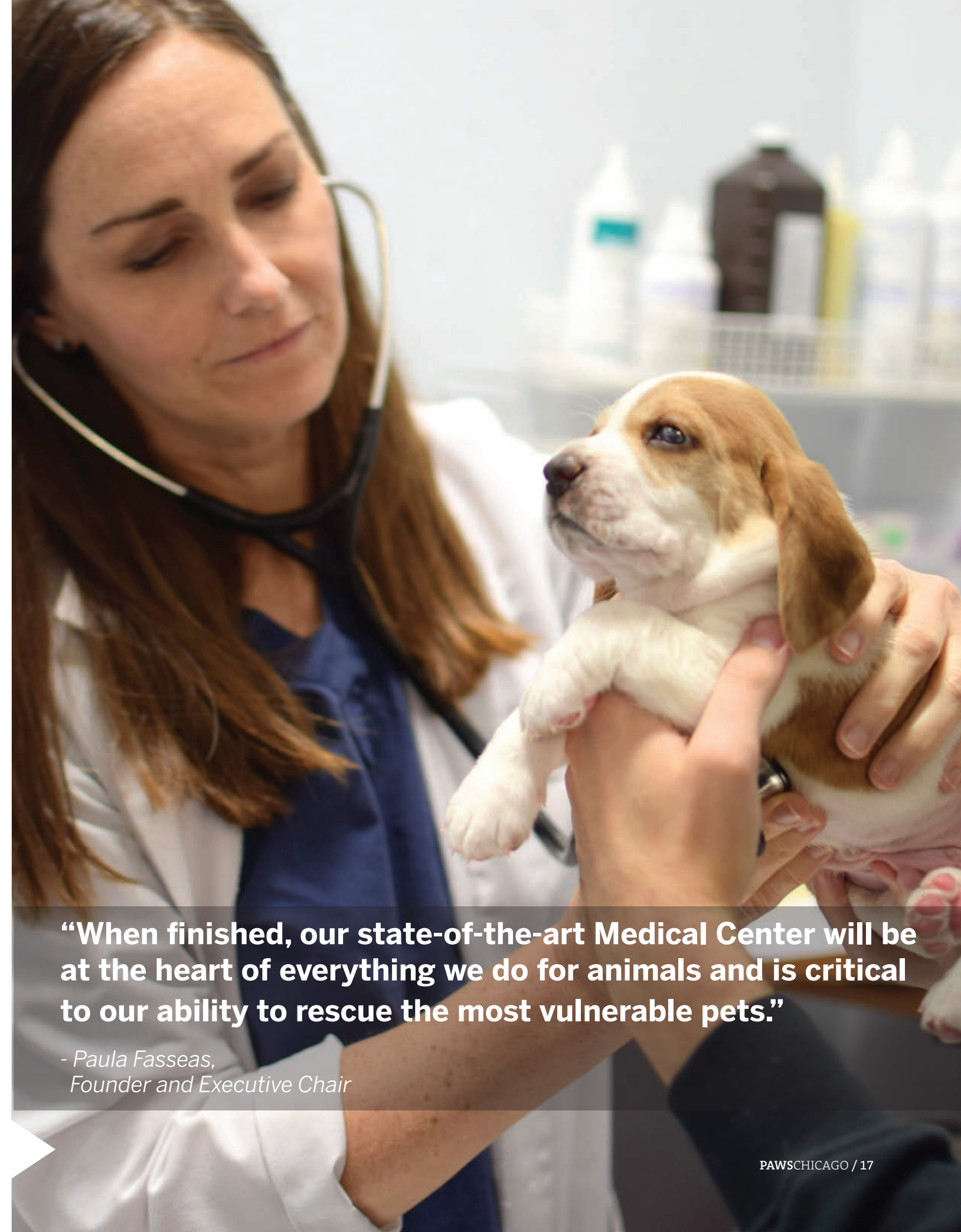
The work is harder, so we are taking more aggressive steps, like building our state-of-the-art Medical Center and staffing it with more professionals; expanding the PAWS for Life program, providing access to spay/neuter and wellness services to pets living in the most underserved areas of Chicago; and enabling residents to keep pets in their home.



Pre-op



Dr. Wooten examines special surgery



“When finished, our state-of-the-art Medical Center will be at the heart of everything we do for animals and is critical to our ability to rescue the most vulnerable pets.”

- Paula Fasseas,
Founder and Executive Chair

At right, Dr. Kompare with Katie Sunshine, one of four puppies and a momma rescued from a high-kill state

NEW PAWS MEDICAL CENTER CELEBRATED AS A MAJOR STEP TOWARD NO KILL MISSION

GENEROUS ANIMAL LOVERS MAKING THIS LIFE-SAVING DREAM A REALITY

The ribbon won't be cut on PAWS Chicago's new Medical Center until the early days of 2021, but it's already being celebrated as the next major step toward our 23-year effort to build No Kill communities.

When complete, this facility will be the most state-of-the-art hospital for homeless pets in the nation, a 25,000 square-foot expansion and renovation of our long-used space on 26th Street in Little Village.

The project is possible thanks to thousands of donors who have answered the call to support this critical effort over the last few years, including more than twenty who have

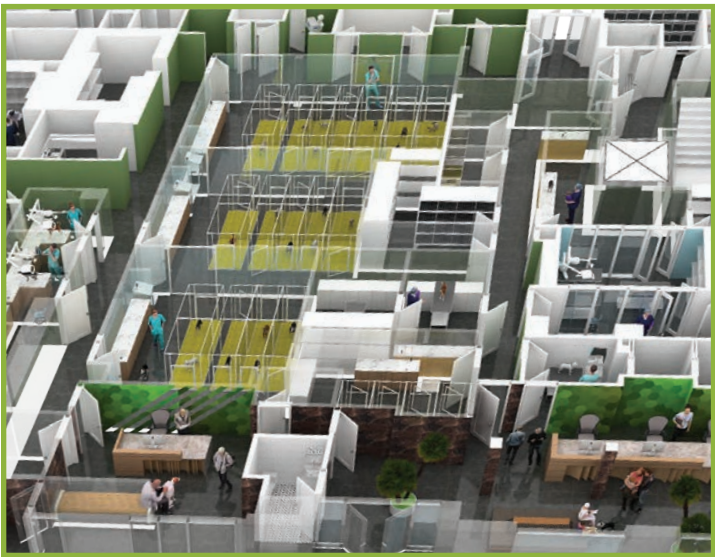
contributed to naming spaces inside the facility through generous Leadership Gifts.

"Our supporters are truly lifesavers, coming together to make real the PAWS solution to the next greatest challenge for homeless pets," said PAWS Chicago Founder and Chair, Paula Fasseas. "This Medical Center will be a transformative event for animals in greatest need. Our donors not only love animals, but they understand how critical this project is to saving homeless animals who need us most—those who are critically ill or injured," said Paula Fasseas.

FIRST FLOOR

THE JUDITH WHITE INTAKE & TRIAGE CENTER

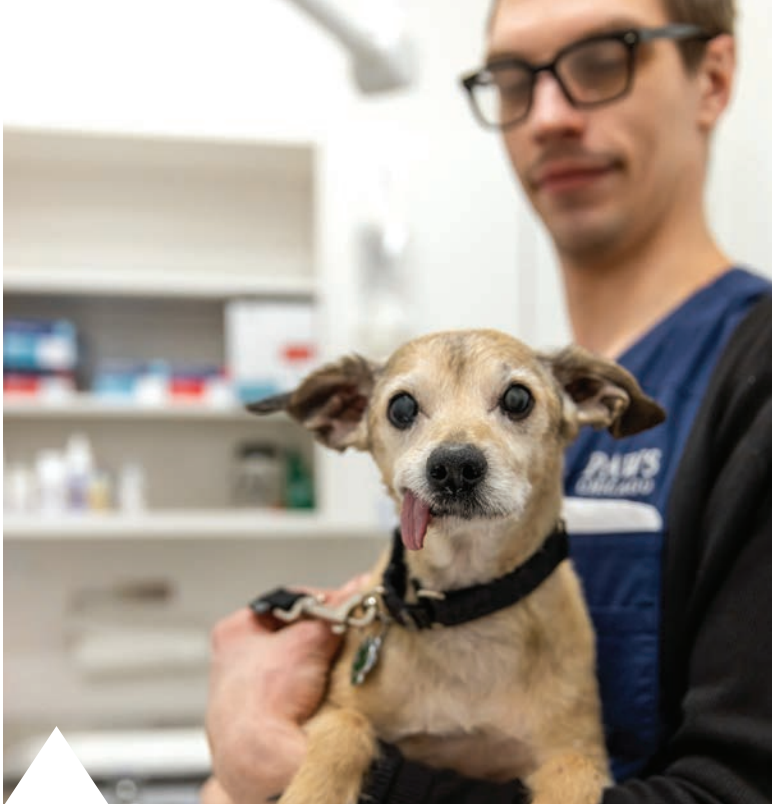
Last year, long-term supporters Miles and Kim White decided to memorialize Miles' mother, an animal welfare advocate and rescuer, with the naming of the Judith White Intake & Triage Center with a generous \$1.5 million gift. This newly renovated first floor of the Medical Center will be the first stop for every PAWS Chicago animal. It will house all non-contagious animals, including those waiting for or recovering from surgery. Judith White committed so much of her life to helping animals—now thousands each year will be cared for in the Center bearing her name. What an incredible legacy!



WHAT WE'RE BUILDING

The best-in-class space will include:

- State-of-the-art surgical and recovery suites
- Intake and triage center
- Canine Intake Wards
- Canine quarantine ward
- Canine isolation pavilion
- Feline maternity suite and healing room
- Recovery pavilion and play space
- Critical care rooms and exam rooms
- Feral cat intake and assessment rooms
- Foster center
- Community hospitality center



Vet tech Bill Drewinski with the very senior Cesar



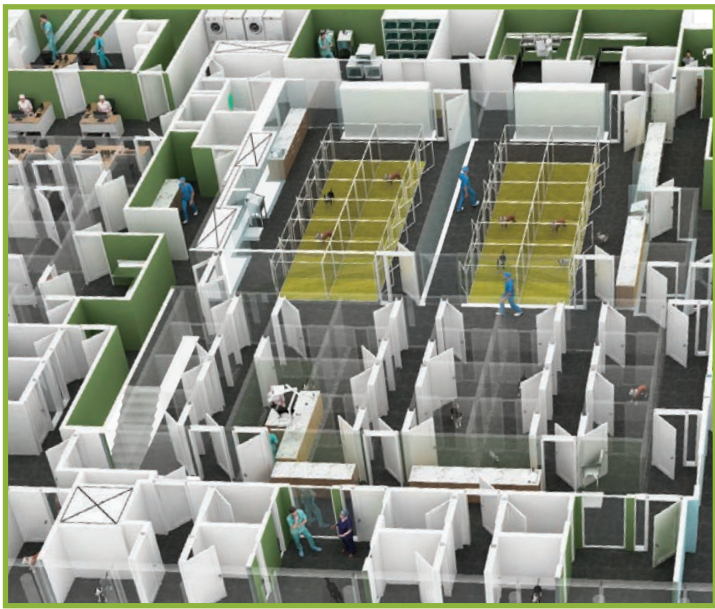
SECOND FLOOR

THE MADDIE'S® PET HOSPITAL

The incredible Duffield Family and their foundation, Maddie's Fund, has led the way in transforming animal sheltering by providing leadership and funding to the No Kill movement. From creating the veterinary specialty of Shelter Medicine (which did not exist as a field until their transformative funding and advocacy) to recognizing best-in-class No Kill programs in animal welfare and creating training programs, no other organization has done more to advance the lifesaving and transformative work of No Kill shelters.

Now, Maddie's Fund has recognized PAWS Chicago's excellence in the No Kill field through a generous \$2.5 million gift, naming the Maddie's® Pet Hospital at the PAWS Chicago Medical Center. The second-floor hospital will care for all animals being treated for contagious illnesses in the most state-of-the-art facility for homeless pets in the nation. Numerous Quarantine and Isolation Pavilions, examination rooms, our lab and pharmacy and play spaces, along with a best-in-industry medical team, make the PAWS Chicago Maddie's Pet Hospital a dream come true for the most needy and at-risk homeless pets.

PAWS Chicago is a proud recipient of funding from Maddie's Fund® (www.maddiesfund.org), helping to achieve a No Kill nation #ThankstoMaddie.



2019 EVENTS

Throughout 2019, PAWS Chicago held special events, adoption events and fundraisers to raise money for and awareness of the plight of homeless animals.



Fur Ball



Animal Magnetism



Beach Party



Adopt-a-Thon



TEAM PAWS Chicago



Adopt-a-Thon



Animal Magnetism



Animal Magnetism



Fur Ball



PAWS 5K



TEAM PAWS Chicago



Angels with Tails



Beach Party



Adopt-a-Thon



Fur Ball



PAWS 5K



Beach Party



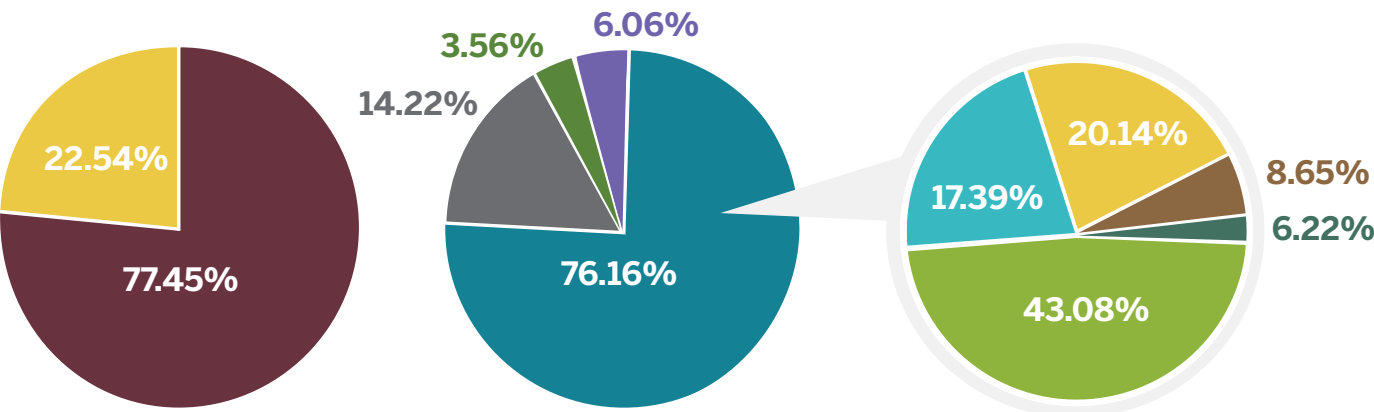
Angels with Tails

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

Strong fiscal management is key to optimizing and leveraging resources. We do this by:

- Recognizing the value of every dollar
- Incorporating trained volunteers into everything we do
- Recruiting talented professionals from a wide range of backgrounds, emphasizing private sector experience in our executive management
- Supporting a culture of continuous improvement, always considering how we can do more with less



CONTRIBUTIONS

- Contributions, Gifts and Grants
- Special Events

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

- Program
- Management and General
- Fundraising
- Special Events

PROGRAM EXPENSES*

- Adoption
- Animal Health & Behavior
- Prevention & Spay/Neuter
- Volunteers
- Community Engagement



Recognized for Non-profit Excellence

Charity Navigator, the nation's largest independent evaluator, has rated PAWS Chicago at its highest 4-star ranking for 17 consecutive years—an accomplishment that less than 1% of the charities in the nation have reached.

PAWS Chicago currently holds a Platinum Seal of Transparency, GuideStar's highest recognition. By sharing mission-focused metrics, we demonstrate our continued commitment to transparency and give donors and funders meaningful data to evaluate our performance.

*Estimates pending final submission of Form 990 to IRS

Maximizing Impact – A Glimpse at the Cost of Lifesaving Work



\$33 covers a vaccine such as rabies, distemper, or bordetella



\$83 sponsors a spay/neuter surgery



\$150 fuels a transport vehicle aiding in animal rescue



\$250 offers dogs in a need a veterinary behaviorist consultation



\$263 covers vaccinations, spay/neuter and care for one healthy pet, from arrival through adoption



\$965 covers the average cost of treating one sick or injured pet, from rescue to adoption



\$1,200 provides critical care to a pet with life-threatening injuries



\$4,000 sponsors day-of surgeries on the GusMobile spay/neuter van

PAWS CHICAGO LEADERSHIP

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