



Our Journey of

LIFESAVING

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

dear friend,

When Austin became a No Kill city in 2011, we knew the work to save animals most at risk of dying in other shelters didn't end there. In fact, it was just beginning.

We have saved 120,000 pets since we opened our doors in 2008 — over 11,000 of them in 2023 alone, a year that brought growth like never before, and put us at the forefront of innovation in how we save animals all across the country.

In the pages of this report, we're so proud to share what we've accomplished together in this last year — through weather emergencies and citywide disease outbreaks; through our creation of programs to reach the humans at the heart of animal welfare; and our building of new, even deeper roots in our hometown while expanding our reach across the country.

*At the heart of it all is our
commitment to lifesaving.*

At Austin Pets Alive!, we dedicate ourselves every single day to saving the cats and dogs who are counting on us to give them the second chance they so deserve — saving the individual pets who come through our doors, and innovating and teaching programs and treatments that allow other shelters to do the same.



We are also working to transform animal sheltering as we know it — focusing on the systems and gaps, and people problems, that account for so much of the picture.

This is not an easy mission. Saving lives never has been easy, and it never will be. There is no path laid out — **we are the ones making that path**, and we're so grateful to have you by our side as we do.

Our promise is that we will meet every challenge with the innovation, collaboration, dedication, and determination that this journey of lifesaving demands and deserves.

I write this letter to you now, full of hope and dedication to our mission to save animals' lives, and fix a broken system. This is an urgent mission, an urgent journey, and it's one we will never give up on.

Dr. Ellen Jefferson, DVM
President and CEO

2023 IMPACT

10,390 ADOPTIONS

 **4,903 DOGS**

 **5,487 CATS**

11,050 INTAKES

 **5,177 DOGS**

 **5,873 CATS**

11,324 FOSTER PLACEMENTS

 **3,964 DOGS** (1,371 new fosters)

 **7,701 CATS** (948 new fosters)

Active Foster Caregivers: 3,725 *new record

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Hours logged: **84,867**
Applications processed: **3,000**
New volunteers started: **1,200**
Volunteer dog walking: **43,000**
Dog outings = 14,000+ hours



MISSION & VISION

Mission

The mission of Austin Pets Alive! is to promote and provide the resources, education, and programs needed to eliminate the killing of companion animals.

Vision

Austin Pets Alive!'s vision is that every shelter animal, in Central Texas and beyond, gets a true chance at the life they deserve.

Austin Pets Alive! (APA!) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization pioneering, practicing and teaching comprehensive, innovative programs designed to save the most at-risk homeless companion animals every day while working to find solutions that will keep pets and people together shelters aren't needed in the first place.



Donor story:

"It was a sweltering August day when my husband Brian and I saw a dog chasing a cat. The emaciated kitten was so small he fit in the palm of a hand. When BJ Honeycatt crossed the rainbow bridge 15 years later, we decided to commit ourselves to animal rescue and advocacy in his memory. We were there when Austin Pets Alive! was born, and over 25 years later, I am proud to be a continuing supporter of this innovative and lifesaving organization."

Elaine Byrne, a 25-year volunteer and supporter of Austin Pets Alive!

2023 NOTABLE

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS



PARVO



Parvo puppies saved: **844**
Parvo Puppy survival rate: **88%**
Over **9,000** parvo puppies treated since 2009



CAT PROGRAMS

Ringworm kitties saved: **902** 🐾 adopted: **910**
Incontinent cats saved: **72** 🐾 adopted: **37** ↩️
Barn cats adopted: **180**
FelV+ cats saved: **398** 🐾 adopted: **377** (NEW RECORD)



NEONATAL KITTEN NURSERY

Kittens & mama cats treated in nursery: **2,696**
Neonatal kitten save rate: **91%**
Total neonatal foster placements: **1,939**
Panleuk kittens treated: **201**



MEDICAL CLINIC



Total number of spay/neuters: **6,208**

- Cats neutered: **1,697** 🐾 Spayed: **1,954**
- Dogs neutered: **1,237** 🐾 Spayed: **1,320**

Other surgeries & procedures: **580**



DOG PROGRAMS



Hours of playgroups: **3,285**
Miles of dog walks: **3,650**
One-on-one training: **9,125** sessions



POSITIVE ALTERNATIVES TO SHELTER SURRENDER (PASS) PROGRAM IMPACT

- **6,827** requests for assistance
- Divert intake for **88%** of cases
- PASS Facebook group increased to **61,000** members
- Helped raise nearly **\$28,000** for assistance with medical bills and pet deposits

BIG THINGS ARE COMING in 2024

Town Lake Animal Center Lease Renewal

APA!’s mission is to save pets everywhere — but our home is and always will be in Austin. Six years in the making, we have a brand new agreement with the City of Austin that allows us to keep operating out of our Town Lake Animal Center for at least the next 25 years and two additional 25-year extensions. The agreement allows us to rebuild the TLAC property, a massive project we’ll undertake over the next 3-4 years.

New Locations

We are moving forward with plans to move large chunks of our operations, like the medical center, transport hub, and behavioral program, off the Town Lake Property. These developments mean we can do even more lifesaving work. With the Yes Alive! Comprehensive Capacity Campaign, our goal is to complete fundraising for our new hospital and transport hub locations by summer 2024.



Donor story: “As a proud Austinite and a champion for innovation, my journey with Austin Pets Alive! has been one of the most fulfilling chapters of my life. Joining the APA! family in 2013, I’ve witnessed firsthand the transformative power of community and compassion in our shared quest for a No Kill city.”
- **Bill Symon, Austin Pets Alive!**
Board of Directors

APA! IMPACT IN AUSTIN



Photo credit: Karen Hardwick



ADOPTION SUPPORT

ADOPTER VISITS SHELTER DOG EVERY DAY FOR TWO MONTHS

When Joe first saw Alva on Instagram, he immediately fell in love. For two months, he visited her every day to gain her trust. Alva, who has wobbler syndrome, was returned to the shelter after being adopted as a puppy due to developing territorial, defensive, and fearful behavior. That didn't matter to Joe. All Joe saw was a dog who deserved to be loved on her terms — not his.

"I just looked at her and said, **'I bet everyone has given up on you,'**" Joe told the frightened pup. **"I'm not going to do that to you."**

APA!'s dog behavior training team worked with Alva every day to help her gain confidence and be ready for a loving home. Joe later became her foster, and even transformed his home to be more accessible for Alva's medical needs.

APA! provides ongoing dog training sessions at no cost to fosters and adopters, and these are paying off for Joe and Alva. "Alva gave me a gift every time I saw her, and that was inspiration. It is her spirit that is so infectious, she shines, and nothing gets in her way; she does not know she is different," Joe said. He recently finalized the adoption, formally welcoming Alva to his family.

DOG BEHAVIOR FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT

1,256
Adopters Helped

1,778
Fosters Helped

266
Free In-home Training Sessions

360
Free Virtual & Phone Training Sessions

CAT PROGRAM

A CAT WITH SPECIALIZED NEEDS FINDS LOVING CARE TEAM AND FAMILY

Xerus arrived at APA! with a health challenge that left her unable to eat or swallow properly. Because of the support of donors, Xerus was referred to experts at Texas A&M for a consultation — and we found that she has severe esophageal dysmotility and megaesophagus. Megaesophagus

is a condition caused by either trauma or congenital defects that cause the esophagus to dilate improperly. The condition requires Xerus to be held upright after she eats, for food to reach her stomach, and to prevent distress and discomfort.

We were glad to make this accommodation for Xerus to be safe and comfortable — and so is her loving adopter! Despite her health challenges, Xerus remains as loving and affectionate as a kitty can be.



APA! TEXAS STORIES

IMPACT AROUND TEXAS

CELEBRATING A RECORD NUMBER OF INCONTINENT CAT ADOPTIONS

Vincent Price is a 13-year-old cat who came to Austin Pets Alive! in October 2022 from the local municipal shelter. Vincent was in rough shape from some unknown trauma that caused hind limb paralysis and urinary and fecal incontinence.

At most shelters, incontinent cats don't stand a chance — especially when they are seniors. But at Austin Pets Alive! our dedication to caring for the most at-risk populations, like incontinent cats, is unwavering. Working tirelessly to dispel the myth that incontinent cats aren't adoptable, we've shown that every cat is unique — and with the proper routine and support, they can thrive in a loving home.

That's the case for Vincent. After a few weeks in the shelter, Clinic Team Manager took Vincent Price into her foster care, where he would spend the next seven months before he was adopted into a home of his own.

Vincent is one of **37 incontinent cats whom we found homes for in 2023** — a record-breaking accomplishment, with each one helping shatter misconceptions about these kitties' care.



Texas Pets Alive! and Policy Impact

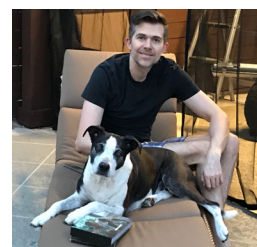
Texas Pets Alive! advances animal welfare through innovative, sustainable changes to statewide legislation and local ordinances — giving animal shelters, rescues, and companion animals in Texas and beyond a voice in the legislative process.

State Impact: TPA! tracked 969 pieces of legislation; Promoted the Access to Vet Care bill; Created five “Puppy Paws and Making Laws” opportunities for elected officials and staff to engage with Texas Pets Alive! and puppies.

Statewide Partnerships

Hays County Pet Resource Center

Austin Pets Alive! contracted with Hays County in April 2023 to provide recommendations for developing a Pet Resource Center. In the contract's first year, APA! established marketing channels for the PRC, completed a community assessment, and launched a virtual resource center via the PASS Program to support Hays County people and pets.



Donor story: “I’ve been a supporter of APA!, first as a donor and volunteer, then as a board member, for over 15 years. It’s so important to me that I continue to support APA! because as Austin faces new challenges. I sometimes hear

the same “No Kill is just too difficult,” arguments being made now as we did in the ‘00s when *fewer than half* of the animals that went into the city animal shelter in Austin made it out alive. The difference is that we have already proven the strategies that make No Kill possible, we just need to ensure that we, as a community, commit to doing what works.”

- Alexander Devine, Austin Pets Alive! board member, with Klondike the dog

IMPACT ACROSS THE NATION

TRANSPORT PROGRAM

NATIONAL IMPACT

2,676

Animals Transported

200 more than last year

121

Lifesaving Source

Partners

1,292

Animals Helped

978 dogs and 314 cats

167

Destination Partners

Destination states:

- Wyoming
- Wisconsin
- Washington
- Colorado
- New York
- Illinois
- Idaho
- Pennsylvania
- Maryland
- Missouri
- Connecticut
- Minnesota
- New Jersey
- Utah, Florida
- Delaware
- Virginia
- Oregon
- Montana
- Ontario Canada



DARLA GETS A SECOND CHANCE AND A NEW LIFE

In July, 8-month-old golden retriever Darla was being carted to the euthanasia room at a South Texas shelter in a wheelbarrow because she was too scared to walk.

Our APA! staff was able to intervene — doing a full medical check-up and sharing her story with rescue partners around the country, getting the attention of Mile High Lab Rescue in Denver, Colorado. A quick flight later, Darla was safe and warm in a foster home. Darla now has a full life ahead of her thanks to the quick actions of APA's Transport Team.

"We had to save her," says Jordana Moerbe, APA's National Shelter Support Director. "It's what every one of the pets in the shelter deserves, and that's what we're working so hard for, hand in hand with shelters across the country."

APA!'s Transport Program connects overcrowded and under-resourced Texas shelters with rescue partners around the country where fosters and adopters are waiting with open arms. Darla was adopted by her foster's sister and is now with her new family in Chicago. She is still discovering the world and learning to trust it, with her patient and loving adopter guiding her.

HUMAN ANIMAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The Human Animal Support Services (HASS) project is a movement seeking to revolutionize the animal welfare industry by leading with and embracing a community support model. Collaboratively built by hundreds of animal welfare professionals, it provides a new roadmap toward effective, measurable, and impactful change in and out of shelter doors.

IN 2023:

- The project launched an online **HASS Resource Center and redesigned website** to provide support that meets the needs of people and pets equally.
- **pets.findhelp.com** continued to grow, with more than 183,000 searches.
- The **HASS Community Values Survey**, administered to approximately 2,500 people across the U.S. indicated that local governments and service agencies should focus on pet ownership support, increased funding, and keeping people and pets together.
- The **Competitive Pet Placement project** was a 2023 initiative focused on helping HASS pilot shelters increase adoption outcomes by improving upon their existing shelter operations and data collection.

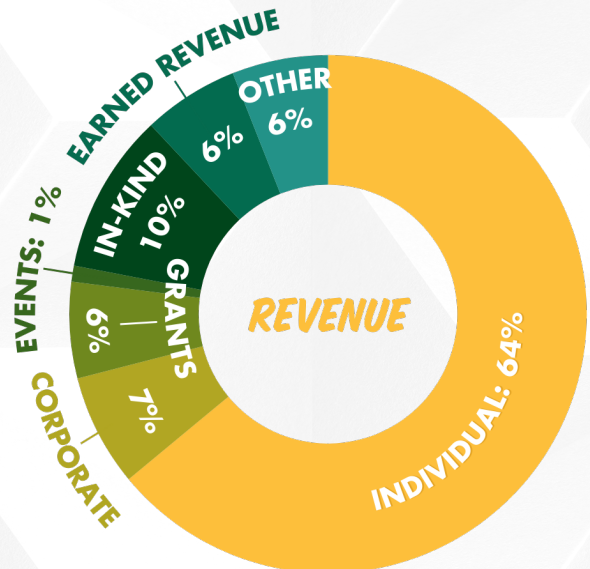
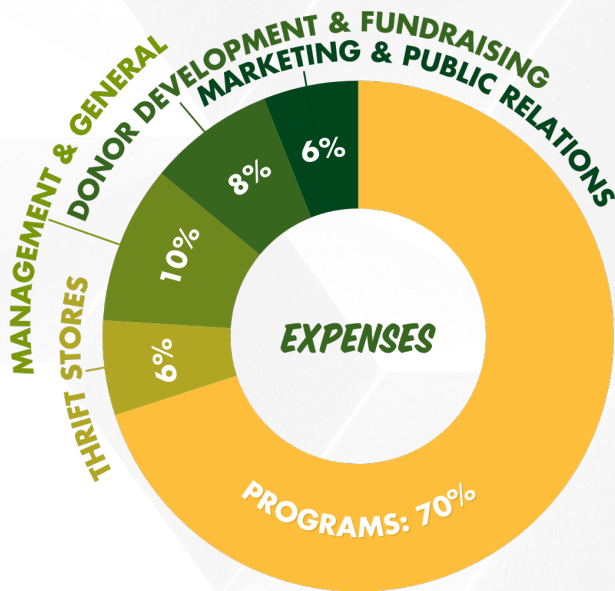
FINANCIALS

Full Organization Financials:

Revenue: **\$19,425,230**

Expenses: **\$19,476,430**

2023 estimates of cash revenue, expenses, and net assets are provided below. See audited financial statements and notes to the financial statements for the 2023 calendar year at austinpetsalive.org to review actual figures, including pledged gifts, when published in the fall of 2024.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Ellen Jefferson, DVM
President

Rusty Tally,
Chairman Emeritus

Germana de Falco,
Co-Chair

William M. "Matt" Harriss,
Co-Chair

Sharon Wichterich,
Secretary

Dan Ferreri,
Treasurer

Nancy Pollard,
Capital Campaign Chair

Dana Dean,
Board Member

Monica Dermott,
Board Member

Alexander Devine,
Board Member

Gael Lonergan,
Board Member

Wendi Martin,
Board Member

Gretchen Meyer,
Board Member

Maren Miller,
Board Member

Mike Rovner,
Board Member

Bill Symon,
Board Member

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Ellen Jefferson, DVM,
President and CEO

Alexis Bardzinski, DVM,
Medical Director

Clare Callison,
Senior Director of Care
Operations

Katie Jarl,
Director of Government
Affairs and Policy

Kelsy Johnson,
Director of Strategic
Customer Service

Maggie Lynch,
Senior Director of Research
and Development

Mike Stegen,
Director of Learning and
Development

Vincent Medley,
Maddie's® Director of
Human Animal Support
Services

**Stephanie Muller-
Simpson,**
Chief of Philanthropy

Angela Nazworth,
Senior Director of Strategic
Communications

RJ Peters,
Chief Financial Officer

Alexis Telfair-Garcia,
Director of Social Work

Elena Tolstikova, Strategic
Director of Human
Resources

Melody Wilhelm,
Director of Data Strategy
and Analytics