

# Cleveland Animal Protective League



# 2020 Annual Report

Adopt • Protect • Love

Making Happily Ever Afters Since 1913





# ABOUT THE CLEVELAND ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE

On June 12, 1912, twelve women met at the home of Stella Hatch and formed an association called the Animal Protective League. Incorporated in 1913, the Cleveland Animal Protective League (APL) is a private, 501(c)(3), nonprofit humane society and progressive leader in animal welfare. A five-room cottage, located on Willey Avenue in Cleveland, opened as the APL's first shelter on January 1, 1917. Today, we operate a 34,000-square-foot animal shelter and resource center in the same location on Willey Avenue where we strive to create a more humane community for the animals and people we serve.

Our mission is to foster compassion and end animal suffering. Every day, we rescue abused and neglected animals, offer shelter to homeless pets, promote compassionate and responsible pet guardianship, strive to elevate the status of companion animals in our society, and work to keep pets with the people they love.

Joseph Amelin, the APL's first humane agent, went out with a cat cage on street cars in response to reports of injured or cruelly treated animals. Today, our humane agents respond to thousands of calls a year in their state-of-the-art animal transport vehicles.

We never turn companion animals in need away due to their age, health, or temperament. This year, thousands of injured, abused, or homeless animals will come through our doors. Once inside, they receive the food, shelter, and medical care they so desperately need. For some, it is the only human kindness they have ever known.

We place every healthy, friendly, humanely, and safely treatable animal who comes to us to find a new home. Through our Second Chance Program, we provide exceptional and, often, advanced veterinary care to animals with humanely treatable illnesses or injuries. There are no time limits at the APL. Animals who can be humanely and safely placed will stay in our care until they find their new home.

We're proud to celebrate our incredible accomplishments through this annual report and thank our supporters for being a part of our journey. We are already dreaming about where the APL will be in another 100 years and hope you will continue to support our mission and help us to create more happy endings for animals in the years to come.



## LETTERS FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON AND PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

I have never been more honored to be associated with this amazing organization than I was this past year. For all of us, the COVID-19 pandemic changed life as we know it. But animals and people still needed our help, and despite social distancing and other restrictions, we found ways to continue our lifesaving work.

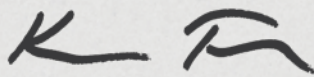
I hope you will appreciate the resiliency shown by our amazing staff and volunteers as you read about how we continued to care for animals in need in the middle of a pandemic. I am sure you will share my pride in that, despite the challenges of 2020, we never lost our focus on our goal—to make the world a better, safer place for animals.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the staff, volunteers, and the Greater Cleveland community for their dedication and commitment to the Cleveland APL. Your support has never meant more, and your belief in

our mission to foster compassion and end animal suffering inspires us every day, but this was especially true during 2020—thank you.

Finally, as we near completion of our Unleash the Dream Capital Campaign, I hope you will consider supporting this important undertaking for the future of the APL. It will mean so much to the animals—and people—we serve in our community.

Sincerely,



Kathy Tatman  
Chair, Board of Directors



Dear Friends,

After 108 years of serving the animals and people in our community, we are beginning a new chapter in the Cleveland APL's story. A chapter filled with excitement for the future of animal welfare and our organization's evolving and critical role in our community.

Early in 2020, we broke ground on a facility renovation that will allow us to expand our outreach efforts to animals in the community and provide even better care for animals who come to us to find new homes. Then a pandemic struck.

Overnight, the APL team had to adapt and find new ways to offer our lifesaving programs and services. What we thought would be a few weeks, maybe months, became a very long year. But our commitment to fulfilling our mission and providing exemplary care to animals in need never wavered. I'm very proud of our team's incredible accomplishments and resilience in the face of unimaginable challenges and adversity, at work and at home.

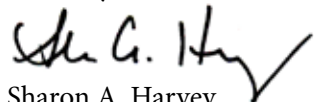
Construction was delayed, but it continued. As the year went on, our plans for expanding programs that will preserve the human-animal bond and increase access to

veterinary care for Cleveland pet owners were affirmed—overwhelmingly! During this period of extreme hardship, people did not clamber to give up their pets. Instead, they reached out seeking resources to care for their beloved family members in rapidly increasing numbers. The Cleveland APL was here for those families.

As you read this report, remember that there is an animal with a beating heart and unique story behind every number—and people who cared enough to help them. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Thank you for your belief in the APL, our mission, and the value of animals in society.

Sincerely,



Sharon A. Harvey  
President & CEO







## COOKIE, BOBBIE, TINKY, AND ELLIE

Ten-year-olds, Cookie, Bobbie, and Tinky, and six-year-old Ellie had nowhere else to go when their owner became homeless. Lucky for them, our team was ready and able to help them and got right to work treating this lovable foursome!

Our veterinary team addressed all sorts of medical needs—treating Cookie’s whipworm, helping Ellie with her minor heart murmur and severely overgrown nails, and treating Bobbie’s cataracts and heart murmur, and giving her a medically-necessary grooming to relieve her pain from severe matting, which had also caused this little one to smell awful!

Out of the four of them, Tinky had the most to deal with—cataracts, dental disease, and a large stone that filled her entire bladder! An X-ray showed that the stone was about three inches long and one inch wide, which is HUGE by any standard, but Tinky was a little, seven-pound dog. Luckily for her, Tinky was exactly where she needed to be. Her life was about to get much better!

Four much needed groomings, four dental procedures, four blood tests, three X-rays for heart murmurs, the removal of one very large bladder stone, and three foster homes later—all four were feeling much better and ready to fall in love with their new families.

These four dogs went from being homeless with many health issues to finding wonderful, second chances at the APL. Now, because of your support of the Second Chance Program, Cookie, Bobbie, Tinky and Ellie can enjoy the rest of their lives with their new loving families.



## OLIVER

Oliver was three years old when his owner could no longer afford to care for him and surrendered him to the Cleveland APL. It was obvious to our veterinary team that this adorable, friendly cat was in a lot of pain because he had entropion in both eyes. Entropion is an uncomfortable condition where the eyelids are turned inward and the lids and eyelashes rub against the surface of the eyes. Despite living in darkness with this painful condition, Oliver was a loving cat whose spirit was strong.

Oliver was taken right to surgery where he underwent a procedure to remove a bit of his eyelids. Later that day, as Oliver came out of anesthesia, he opened his beautiful green eyes and had vision—probably for the first time in his life. Oliver went to the home of a foster care volunteer to finish healing and adjust to having vision. In his foster home, this sweet, loving cat learned to navigate the world around him with sight. And it gets even better! Oliver fit in so well with every member of his wonderful foster family that, once he was cleared for adoption, he became an official part of their family!

3,546

Adoptions



348

Animals were transferred out to other shelters or rescue groups or returned to their owners

## ADOPTIONS

The Cleveland APL has been creating “happily ever afters” since 1913 through our learning-centered adoption program. Due to COVID-19 and public health orders, we had to temporarily suspend the program. When we were able reboot the program, we had to adapt it to comply with all pandemic precautions. First, our team shifted toward completing adoptions via foster homes. Then they developed and implemented a new virtual, appointment-based adoption process. Regardless of the process and through the most unconventional of times, we continued to match homeless animals with new families and create happily ever afters.

Through our project HOPE program, we continued to provide significant post-adoption support to the adopters of very senior animals and other animals with advanced medical needs. Examples of the extended care include providing an initial supply of medication or prescription diet, initial veterinary costs for follow-up care, and/or a Petco gift card to help with initial supplies. In all, nine animals and adopters were helped through project HOPE.







# 4,494

Calls received reporting suspected animal cruelty or requesting other assistance



# 1,194

New investigations opened



# 1,367

Cats, dogs and other animals rescued from cruelty or neglect

## HUMANE INVESTIGATIONS

Animal abuse is a crime. Our Humane Investigations team rescues animals from life-threatening situations and investigates cases of suspected animal abuse and neglect. They also help pet owners by providing support and education that will resolve the issue. When that's not possible or appropriate, they work with prosecutors to seek justice for the victims and punishment for the offenders. As there is such a strong link between animal abuse and human violence, our humane agents are mandated reporters of suspected child and elder abuse.

In 2020, when many of our programs and services had to be suspended, our Humane Investigations team continued to rescue animals from life-threatening situations. They also assisted project CARE by making home deliveries of pet food to pet owners in need.



# 2,795

Animals received  
diagnostic and/or medical care  
for illnesses or injuries



# 3,686

Diagnostic tests performed



# 2,682

Medical treatments  
and/or surgeries performed

## SHELTER MEDICINE

Our Cleveland APL shelter veterinarians provide everything from basic to emergency veterinary care to the hundreds of animals in our facility or in foster homes at any given time. They assess incoming animals, perform forensic analysis for cruelty cases, perform diagnostic workups, provide medical treatment, and perform surgeries that improve and save lives. Through donations to our Second Chance Program, our veterinary team provided diagnostic testing and/or treatment to almost 2,800 animals who were sick, injured, or had special needs. Through this program, we can do more than simply believe they deserve a second chance. We can give them that chance—a chance not only to survive, but to heal and start a new, healthy, happy life with a loving family.

In 2020, our veterinary team experienced new challenges when all surgeries had to stop due to COVID restrictions. During that time, our veterinary team shifted from performing surgeries to providing medically necessary care to the animals in our community that were in need.





# 7,159

Total animals sterilized



# 2,458

“Community” cats through our  
Trap-Neuter-Return program



# 1,522

Adoptable animals from other  
shelters and rescue groups



# 2,490

APL animals prior to adoption



# 689

Owned animals



## SPAY AND NEUTER

Every dog, cat, and rabbit adopted from the Cleveland APL is spayed or neutered prior to adoption. Our Animal Welfare Clinic (AWC) provides low-cost spay/neuter surgery for adoptable animals from local municipal shelters and 501(c)(3) humane societies and rescue groups. Our AWC also provides Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) services for the trappers and caretakers of free-roaming, community cats.

Through our progressive spay/neuter initiatives, along with other surrender-prevention strategies, we have experienced a decrease in animal intake at the APL that has allowed us to extend more advanced, expensive care to the animals who still need to come to us for help.

Due to COVID restrictions, all elective surgery, including spay/neuter, was stopped for a period during 2020. As soon as restrictions were lifted, our team got right back to work spaying and neutering animals at the APL and in our community through our AWC and TNR services.





## FOSTER CARE

1,892

Animals fostered



173

Animals saved through the  
Foster to Surrender program

Our dedicated, caring network of foster care volunteers provide in-home, individualized care and love to special-needs animals—underweight kittens and puppies, moms and litters, orphans who need to be fed by bottle, victims of neglect or abuse who need to learn to trust again, timid animals who need a little socialization, and animals who are recovering from an illness, injury, or surgery. They also provide temporary shelter for incoming animals when there are not enough cages at the Cleveland APL. Our foster volunteers are always ready and willing to offer a warm bed and caring hands to heal wounded spirits and bodies.

In 2020, our foster care volunteers became an even more vital part of our team. When our shelter began to close in March 2020, we needed to move as many animals into foster homes as possible. Thanks to the amazing effort of our team, response from our active volunteers, and an outpouring of support from new volunteers from the community, we were able to place almost every animal into a foster home. This experience has led animal shelters across the country to reimagine how foster homes might be used not only to help special needs animals or when space is short, but also simply to keep more animals out of cages in shelters and in temporary homes while they wait for their new family to fall in love with them.

Our Foster to Surrender program enlists community participation to save more animals. Through it, community members who bring sick, underweight, or underage animals to the shelter are asked if they can keep the animals until they are ready for adoption. The APL provides everything needed to keep the animal at home (including food, litter, and medical support) until they are ready to return to the APL.



# 118,108

Volunteer Hours  
(Equivalent to  
57 full-time employees)

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do at the Cleveland APL. The more volunteers we have, the more animals we can help! Our dog and cat enrichment volunteers provide much needed socialization for our cats and dogs, and our dog play group volunteers make sure our dogs get the off-leash exercise they need to keep them socially, mentally, and physically happy and healthy. Volunteers help with adoptions, transporting animals, events, and office work. They work in the clinic and take animal photographs for our website. Our list of volunteer opportunities is constantly growing.

In 2020, due to COVID-19, our in-shelter volunteer program had to be suspended for most of the year. However, as restrictions eased and animal numbers increased, we welcomed back volunteers who were trained in roles that supported critical activities, such as animal enrichment, client services, and dog walking.



## BEHAVIOR

Although there was a heavy emphasis on moving animals out of the shelter and into foster care, animals with special needs had to remain in the shelter. With the adoption program on hold, some were in our care for more time than usual. The Behavior team ensured that our animals received the individual socialization and enrichment necessary to keep them healthy and happy while they were with us. With the help of our wonderful volunteers, a new program was created. Doggy Field Trips gave dogs a chance to get out for fun trips for hours at a time. They went to parks, on hikes, or sometimes simply to a house to cuddle on the couch for a few hours. In 2020, 49 volunteers took dogs on 334 field trips for a total of 1,002 hours.





## PROJECT CARE

Project CARE (Community Animal Retention Effort) provides support for pet owners in Cleveland who have limited resources or during times of hardship. The goal of the program is to keep pets with the people they love and provide pet owners with the access to care that they need and want for their pets. Services currently offered to project CARE clients include low-cost spay/neuter, flea treatment and preventative, behavior advice, general wellness care, resource referrals to other programs, pet care and training supplies, and pet food. Wellness clinics offered at the Cleveland APL through project CARE allow clients to take advantage of low-cost wellness check-ups, vaccinations, testing, and other wellness services. The APL also assists qualifying residents whose pets require additional, more expensive medical care through our Peticaid program.

In 2020, it became more apparent than ever just how many pet owners were one emergency away from needing assistance to keep their pets. Emails to the program increased by 50%, and by the third week of July, we had surpassed the total number of calls to the program received during 2019. Wellness appointments were up 94%. The APL's plans for improving access to care for Cleveland pet owners was affirmed. Thanks to generous donations from Hill's Pet Nutrition and GreaterGood.org, the Cleveland APL was able to act as a hub for pet food distribution to pet owners in Cuyahoga County and other pet food pantries. When the facility renovation is complete, services through project CARE will be expanded to support people and their pets every day—pandemic or no pandemic!

# 1,029

Animals helped through  
project CARE

# 1,005

Wellness appointments

# 755

Pet owners



4,207

Total animals taken in



823

Dogs admitted



2,793

Cats admitted



591

Other animals admitted

## ANIMAL ADMISSIONS

Every day, animals come to the Cleveland APL for shelter, care, and to find new homes. They arrive through a variety of avenues. Some are surrendered by their owners or transferred in from other shelters. Others are rescued by our Humane Investigations team or are stray cats who arrive in the arms of Good Samaritans. To make sure every animal who comes to us can be given humane care and stay with us until they find a home of their own, our team asks owners to schedule an appointment in advance.

In response to constraints created by COVID-19 public health orders and changes in community need, our animal admissions team placed priority on helping sick and injured animals, animals with urgent needs, and pet owners in emergency situations. Owners who wanted to surrender easily placed pets were provided with resources and guidance to help them rehome their pets directly and responsibly with the goal of keeping them out of a shelter entirely. We, like many other shelters across the country, acknowledge that even the nicest of shelters still does not compare to being in a home. In the future, we will increase our efforts to help pet owners rehome their pets themselves while we expand our resources for injured, sick, and/or abandoned animals who need our care the most and do not have other options.



403  
Total animals transferred in



170

Dogs transferred in



194

Cats transferred in



39

Other animals transferred in

## TRANSFER PROGRAM

Our success in getting animals adopted into loving homes extends outside of the walls of the Cleveland APL. Whenever possible, animals from other shelters are transferred to the APL where their hope for finding a new home will continue. Through partnerships between the APL and shelters that are committed to saving the animals who come to them, we are collaborating to create happily ever afters without geographic boundaries. In 2020, however, we were forced to focus our transfer efforts on animals from other shelters who were in the most critical need, for example, animals involved in disaster or emergency situations or who may have been facing euthanasia for space at another overwhelmed shelter.



# Unleash the Dream

## An Ambitious Vision for More Happily Ever Afters



Fostering compassion and ending animal suffering has been our mission at the Cleveland Animal Protective League for more than a century. Since our founding in 1913, we have worked tirelessly to protect and save homeless animals and find them new homes. At today's Cleveland APL, we also are working to preserve the special bond between animals and people and keep pets in their homes and with the family they love.

In 2020, our team took the first steps toward this ambitious future by breaking ground on a major facility renovation funded by a multi-year, \$13.5-million capital campaign. By renovating and expanding our Tremont facility, we are creating a resource center for our community that will allow us to meet the needs of the animals and people who need us today and be flexible enough to address what may come our way tomorrow.

Last year, our team learned many lessons that will help to shape our future as an organization and our evolving role in the community. Animal sheltering as we know it is no longer as “simple” as providing a place for animals where they will go to find new homes. We need to provide resources, such as food, behavioral support, and veterinary services for pet owners that will help them to care for their pets. We also need to make sure that obstacles, such as the health of an animal or the financial resources of a pet owner, won't make it challenging for a family to keep their beloved pet.

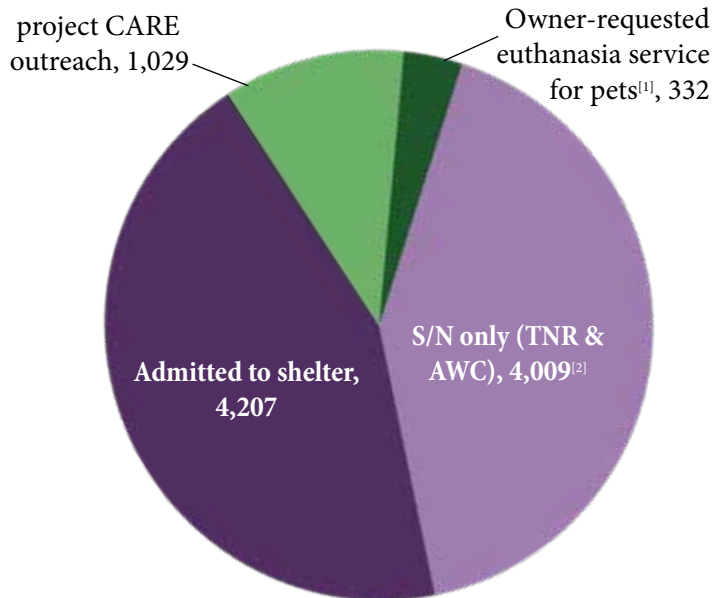
Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, we had identified the community's need for an animal resource center and planned a facility renovation that would make it possible. We are excited for the completion of our Unleash the Dream Capital Campaign at the end of 2021 and are even more excited to expand our reach and capacity to preserve the human-animal bond and help even more animals and people in the Greater Cleveland Area.



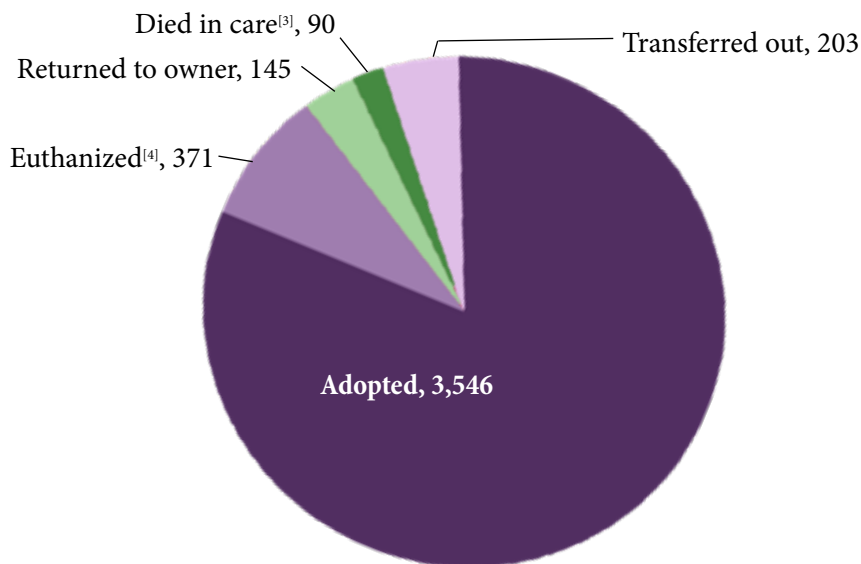
# 2020 KEY STATISTICS

## ANIMALS ASSISTED

9,577 Cats, Dogs, and Other Animals



## SHELTER ANIMAL OUTCOMES



### NOTES:

<sup>[1]</sup> Pet owners brought 425 animals to the Cleveland APL to be euthanized. After assessment, 332 animals were euthanized and 93 animals were admitted to the shelter for adoption.

<sup>[2]</sup> Includes 29 animals who received medical treatment through the AWC that was not spay/neuter.

<sup>[3]</sup> Of the 90 animals who died in care, 48 were either orphaned or other very young animals with challenging prognoses who we tried to save, but were unsuccessful.

<sup>[4]</sup> 100% of healthy, friendly animals and animals who could be safely and humanely treated were placed in homes or transferred to other rescue groups.





# 2020 REVENUE AND EXPENSES

## SOURCES OF SUPPORT



78.7%  
Contributions



8.3%  
Income from services



12.9%  
Net investment & other income



Contributions 78.7%, \$6,808,430  
Income from services 8.3%, \$721,486  
Net investment & other income 12.9%,  
\$1,117,191

Fiscal Year 2020 income: \$8,641,107<sup>[1]</sup>  
Source 2020 IRS Form 990, Statement of Revenue

## EXPENSES



73.1%  
Programs & services<sup>[2]</sup>



19.7%  
Fundraising



7.2%  
Support services



Programs & services 73.1%, \$4,109,568  
Fundraising 19.7%, \$1,104,417  
Support services 7.2%, \$405,386

Fiscal Year 2020 expenses: \$5,619,371  
Source: 2020 IRS Form 990, Statement of Functional Expenses

### NOTES:

<sup>[1]</sup> As of December 31, 2020, the Cleveland APL had pledges and other receivables of \$2,098,448 that had previously been recognized as revenue. Of that amount, \$1,148,891 is donor-restricted or designated for the capital campaign.

<sup>[2]</sup> Program and service expenses were down in 2020 due to program and service reductions mandated by COVID-19 public health orders. As a result, this percentage is less than what is customary for the Cleveland APL.

## Honors and Accolades



*Charity Navigator Four Star Charity for six consecutive years*

*Only 16% of the charities we evaluate have received at least 4 consecutive 4-star evaluations..."*

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### Cleveland APL Board of Directors

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Trish Decensi	Dawn Swit
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Cleveland APL  
Adoption Center, Animal Care Center and Admissions

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[www.ClevelandAPL.org](http://www.ClevelandAPL.org)



Download the free Cleveland APL adoption app available for iOS and Android devices!

The Cleveland Animal Protective League is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. (Federal Tax ID #34-0714644)



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