

Cleveland Animal  
Protective League  
**2021**  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



CLEVELAND  
ANIMAL  
PROTECTIVE  
LEAGUE

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.

At the end of 2021, we completed a \$13.5-million capital campaign that allowed us to expand and completely renovate the Cleveland APL's animal care facility. The five-room cottage, located on Willey Avenue in Cleveland, that opened as the APL's first shelter in 1917 is now a nearly 40,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art animal resource center and shelter. While much has changed over the years, our commitment to creating a more humane community for animals and people alike has remained steadfast.

The Cleveland APL's 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 improve the quality of life for pets in the community, advocate for their protection and value in our society, and work to keep pets with the people they love.

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.

Every healthy, friendly, or humanely and safely treatable animal who comes to the Cleveland APL will stay with us as long as it takes to find them a new home. Through our Second Chance Program, we provide exceptional and, often, advanced veterinary care to animals with treatable illnesses or injuries. There are no time limits for animals at the APL. Animals who can be humanely and safely placed in homes will stay in our care until a new family adopts them.

We're proud to celebrate our incredible accomplishments through this annual report and thank everyone who has been a part of our journey, in any way, for their support. 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 happily ever afters for animals in the years to come.





## LETTERS FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON AND PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

Last year remained a challenge for all of us—as individuals, as businesses, and as nonprofits like the Cleveland Animal Protective League. In the face of COVID-19 disruptions, the APL continued to operate and fulfill its mission. Through it all, the Cleveland APL team kept its focus on our goal—to make the world a better, safer place for animals.

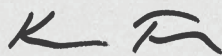
As you read this annual report, I know you will understand the deep pride that I feel to be associated with this incredible organization and why I am humbled by the determination, dedication, and resilience of our entire team. Animals and people needed our help, and we found ways to continue our life-saving work through very difficult times.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the Greater Cleveland community and our staff and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the Cleveland APL's mission. Your support sustained us through the pandemic and, equally important, allowed us to complete our Unleash the Dream Capital Campaign.

Thank you for being an integral part of our present and our future. Your generosity inspires us every day and

means so much to the animals—and people—we serve in our community.

Sincerely,



Kathy Tatman

Chair, Board of Directors



P.S. Thank you to everyone who adopted new family members during the pandemic. I am one of you! I adopted the two tuxedo kittens I am holding in the picture above!

Dear Friends,

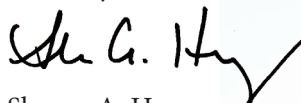
With our facility renovation nearing completion by the end of the year and the decline in COVID-19's impact on operations, 2021 can only be defined as a transitional year. We celebrated many successes while preparing to open our beautiful new animal shelter and resource center.

Our team demonstrated incredible resilience, determination, and dedication as we navigated the intersection of an ongoing pandemic, reopening safely, and maintaining operations during construction. Yes, it was quite a year, yet again, but through it all, we remained laser-focused on why we're all here—to fulfill our mission of fostering compassion and ending animal suffering.

The pride that I feel in our team is matched only by the gratitude I feel toward each of you who have shared our passion, compassion, and vision. You not only make our work possible but allow us to do even more every year.

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

Sincerely,



Sharon A. Harvey

President & CEO





## SHEILA MAY

When Cleveland APL Humane Society Agents came across five-year-old Jack Russell Terrier mix Sheila May, they knew she could get the help she needed at the Cleveland APL. Preliminary veterinary exams showed that she was using her back legs only 25% of the time. The rest of the time, she would limp or drag her legs. Sheila May had filthy fur, was covered in fleas, and she had pressure sores and road burn on her back. But, despite her condition, Sheila May was a happy, friendly dog.

Our amazing veterinary team immediately went to work to help Sheila May. She was given a course of Prednisone, and after ten days, Sheila May was able to get up on her own! Even though her gait remained altered and stiff, our team was encouraged that they were on the right path toward improving this sweet girl's quality of life.

Sheila May was diagnosed with chronic back disease, and a care plan was developed. To put the plan into action and closely monitor and manage her condition, she was sent to the home of an APL Foster Care Volunteer.

Once in her foster home, Sheila May began to stand while eating. Then she started to show how happy she was by rubbing her face and body along the carpet and requesting belly rubs. Not only was her body healing but so was her spirit.

Finally, after nearly three months in our care, Sheila May was ready to find a home to call her own. Although her condition would always require management, like non-slip surfaces and medication, Sheila May's quality of life was very good. All she needed now was a family that would love her unconditionally and understand her challenges.

When the day came for her foster family to send in photos for her adoption profile, they decided they couldn't live without her. Sheila May was already home!



## WELSHLY

Welshly was four months old when he was found by a staff member, abandoned in a large tote at the front door of the Cleveland APL. Our admissions team noticed that he was not using his back legs and immediately sent him to our clinic for further assessment.

Our veterinary team took an X-ray and determined that he had a broken pelvis and a ruptured diaphragm that was allowing his abdominal organs to move into his chest cavity. Even though Welshly couldn't walk and clearly was in a lot of pain, he had a sparkle in his eyes that made us want to fight for him even more.

Due to the severity of Welshly's injuries, our veterinary team was cautiously optimistic that he would make it. They made him comfortable and gave him everything he needed to fight—and fight he did.

After a few days in our care, it became apparent that, with time, Welshly's broken pelvis would heal on its own. But this sweet kitten still needed a specialty surgery to repair his ruptured diaphragm.

Thanks to donations to our Second Chance Program, Welshly was able to get the surgery he needed to repair his diaphragmatic hernia. It was a very big surgery for such a small kitten, especially when they found that Welshly's entire liver and small intestines were in his chest cavity! But, just like he had at our shelter, Welshly proved that he had a fighting spirit and was determined to survive this terrible ordeal.

Following his surgery, Welshly was sent to the home of an APL Foster Care Volunteer where he was able to heal and begin to live life as a normal kitten. After a month and a half in our care, Welshly was ready to find a loving family to call his own. After just one day on the adoption floor, Welshly was heading home to a lifetime of love.







# 3,926

Adoptions



# 246

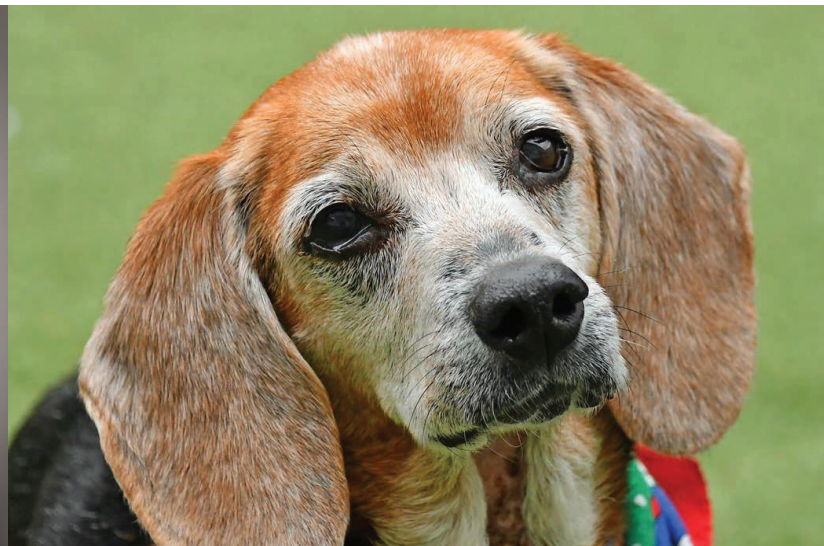
Animals were transferred to other shelters or rescue groups or returned to their owners

## ADOPTIONS

The Cleveland APL creates “happily ever afters” through our learning-centered adoption program. Our newly renovated adoption center provides a welcoming environment for visitors. Comfortable adoption counseling nooks offer a place where adopters and our adoption team can have productive, supportive conversations.

Our adoptable animals consist mostly of cats and dogs, but in 2021, we also adopted out canaries, chinchillas, cockatiels, ferrets, fish, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, parakeets, rabbits, rats, sugar gliders, and more. The Cleveland APL continues to partner with affoGATO Cat Café, where APL cats are housed and 231 were adopted out last year.

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 additional care supported include sending an adopted animal home with an initial supply of medication or prescription diet, covering initial veterinary costs for follow-up care, and/or providing a Petco gift card to help them purchase initial supplies.







# 6,122

Calls received reporting suspected animal cruelty or requesting other assistance



# 1,619

New investigations opened



# 1,102

Cats, dogs and other animals rescued from cruelty or neglect

## HUMANE INVESTIGATIONS

Animal abuse is a crime. The Cleveland APL's 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 with the goal of resolving care issues in the field whenever they can. However, when that's not possible or appropriate, they work with prosecutors to seek justice for the animal victims and punishment for the offenders. As there is such a strong link between animal abuse and human violence, APL Humane Society Agents are mandated reporters of suspected child and elder abuse.





# 2,854

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



# 4,940

Diagnostic tests performed



# 3,006

Medical treatments  
and/or surgeries performed

## SHELTER MEDICINE

Cleveland APL veterinarians provide everything from basic to emergency veterinary care to the hundreds of animals housed in our facility or volunteer 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 2,099 cats, 675 dogs, and 80 other 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.

This year, with the completion of construction on our new veterinary clinic at the APL, we were able to further expand the care we provide for our shelter animals. In 2022, once construction is complete and additional veterinarians and veterinary support staff are hired, we will open a low-cost Community Pet Clinic through which we will expand our reach to pet owners who face barriers to accessing veterinary care due to financial hardship.



# 8,936

Total animals sterilized



# 3,235

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



# 1,727

Adoptable animals from other  
shelters and rescue groups



# 3,096

APL animals prior to adoption



# 878

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, humane societies, and 501(c)(3) rescue groups. We also provide Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) services for the trappers and caretakers of free-roaming, community cats in Cleveland and the surrounding Cuyahoga County suburbs.

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





## FOSTER CARE

1,614  
Animals fostered



79

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 heal or 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.

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, such as food, litter, and medical support, until they are ready to return to the APL.



# 71,826

Volunteer Hours  
(Equivalent to  
35 full-time employees)

# 2,604

Behavior evaluations and  
updates



# 1,175

Canine hours spent on field  
trips



# 274

Cats monitored for litterbox  
concerns



# 42

Advanced dog-to-dog  
assessments



# 26

Socialization plans

## 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! Cat and dog enrichment volunteers provide much needed socialization for our animals. 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.

As we welcomed back more volunteers in 2021, we identified new volunteer opportunities including a Shelter Ambassador position to help visitors navigate our new, expanded building and services.



## BEHAVIOR

The Behavior team ensures that our animals receive behavior assessments and the individual socialization, enrichment, and behavioral support necessary to keep them healthy and happy while they are with us. We achieved a 99% placement rate for the cats being monitored for litterbox concerns. This team (with help from our volunteers) also facilitates Doggy Field Trips, giving 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 addition to individual Doggy Field Trips, there were 13 “pack walks” during which our team and a group of dogs all went to the same place and enjoyed an adventure away from the shelter together.





## PROJECT CARE

1,344

Animals helped through  
project CARE



1,040

Wellness appointments



128

Animals assisted through  
Peticaid

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, improve the quality of life for pets in the community, and provide pet owners with access to the care that they need and want to provide for their pets. Services currently offered to project CARE clients include low-cost spay/neuter, flea treatment and prevention, 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's Peticaid program, which falls under project CARE, assists qualified pet owners with pets needing more extensive and expensive veterinary treatment for injuries and non-chronic illnesses that have a good prognosis.

The demand from pet owners who were just one emergency away from not being able to keep their pets continued to increase throughout 2021. The demand for project CARE support and affordable veterinary care drove a 31% increase in the number of animals helped through this program. With the completion of our facility renovation in 2022, services through project CARE will be expanded to support even more people and their pets every day—and in new ways.



4,515

Total animals  
admitted

810

Dogs admitted



3,351

Cats admitted



354

Other animals admitted

300

Total animals transferred in



134

Dogs transferred in from  
overcrowded shelters or  
communities facing emergency

139

Cats transferred in from  
overcrowded shelters

27

Other animals transferred in  
from overcrowded shelters

## ANIMAL ADMISSIONS

Every day, animals come to the Cleveland APL for shelter, care, and to find new homes. Some are surrendered by their owners. Some are transferred in from other shelters in response to emergencies, to help reduce overcrowding, or when they are at risk of euthanasia. 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 can remain with us until they find a home of their own, our team asks owners to schedule an appointment in advance.

Our animal admissions team continues to place priority on helping sick and injured animals, animals with urgent needs, and pet owners in emergency situations. We, like many other shelters across the country, acknowledge that even the nicest of facilities does not compare to being in a home. Accordingly, the APL partnered with Home to Home® and other pet self-rehoming platforms to help owners wanting to surrender easily rehomed pets with resources and guidance to do so themselves. By placing pets directly and responsibly into new homes, from "Home to Home," those pets avoid the stress of living in a shelter and the APL can focus on helping injured, sick, or abandoned animals who need us the most because they do not have an owner or an owner who can help them.



## 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. Due to the significant local need during the past two years, we now are focusing our transfer efforts on assisting animals and shelters impacted by natural or man-made disaster situations or when significant overcrowding at another shelter might result in euthanasia for space.





# 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 are working just as hard to preserve the special bond between animals and people as we are to find homeless animals their new families.

In 2021, our team took great strides toward an ambitious goal of helping more animals in new ways through a major facility renovation. With the official opening of our new Animal Resource Center, we were able to begin our first steps in offering amazing medical care and services to the animals at the Cleveland APL as well as to animals in our community—and this was only the beginning. There will be so much more to come during 2022 and beyond.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, our team is now able to offer more advanced care to animals in our new, state-of-the-art veterinary clinic, provide improved housing to animals in our care, provide animals with a more enriched and less stressful environment during their stays with us, and provide a more supportive, respectful environment for the people who come to us for help or to adopt a pet.

During the past two years, our team has learned many lessons that have already begun to shape our organization's constantly evolving role in the community. No longer is our facility "simply" a safe place for homeless animals to wait until their new families adopt them. Now, it is a place where we work just as hard to remove obstacles, such as the health of a pet or the financial resources of a pet owner, that may impact a family's ability to keep or provide care for their beloved pet. The goal is simple—pets should stay with the people they love!

With the completion of our Unleash the Dream Capital Campaign, we are looking toward 2022 and beyond and celebrating our future as a progressive, innovative resource for pets and the people who love them in the Greater Cleveland Area.

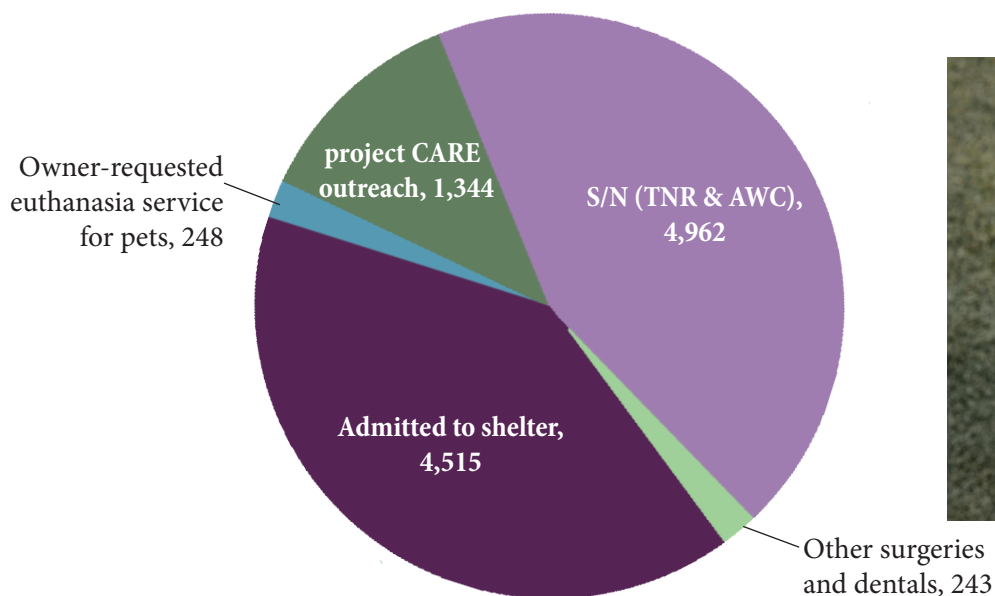
We wouldn't have been able to expand and renovate our facility and expand the reach of our programs without the help of caring animal lovers in the community like yourself. We are grateful that you are a part of our team as we look toward creating an even brighter future for the animals in Northeast Ohio. Thank you so much for helping us Unleash the Dream!



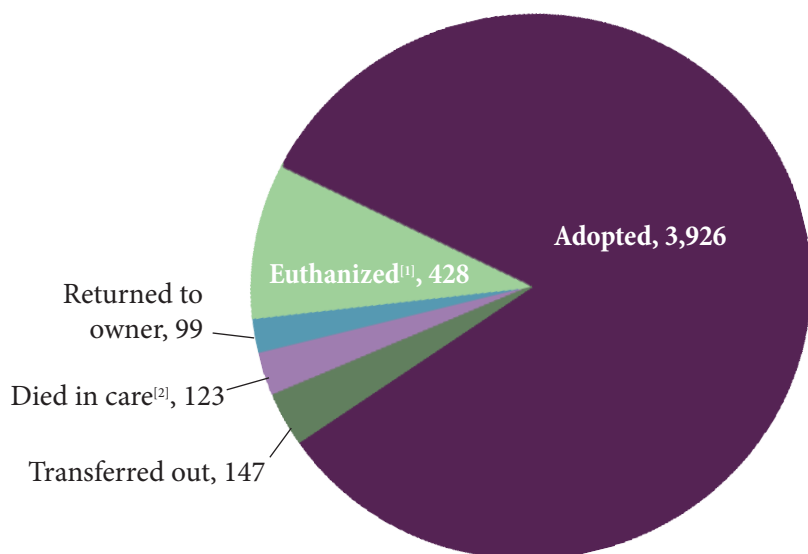
# 2021 KEY STATISTICS

## ANIMALS ASSISTED

11,069 Cats, Dogs, and Other Animals Helped



## SHELTER ANIMAL OUTCOMES



### NOTES:

<sup>[1]</sup> 100% of healthy, friendly animals and safely and humanely treatable animals were placed in homes or transferred to other shelters or rescue groups.

<sup>[2]</sup> Of the 123 animals who died in care, 49 were unweaned orphans or animals with challenging prognoses who we tried but could not save.





# 2021 REVENUE AND EXPENSES

## SOURCES OF SUPPORT



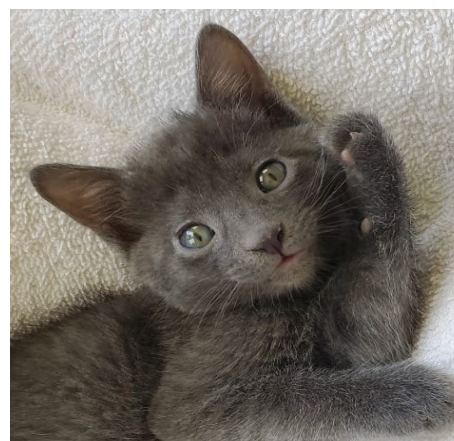
79.9%  
Contributions



8.0%  
Program and service fees



12.1%  
Net investment & other income



Contributions 79.9%, \$8,423,062  
Program and service fees 8.0%, \$846,670  
Net investment & other income 12.1%,  
\$1,274,645

Fiscal Year 2021 income: \$10,544,377<sup>[1]</sup>  
Source 2021 IRS Form 990, Statement of Revenue

## EXPENSES



76.3%  
Programs & services



16.8%  
Fundraising



6.9%  
Support services



Programs & services 76.3%, \$5,061,657  
Fundraising 16.8%, \$1,116,508  
Support services 6.9%, \$456,082

Fiscal Year 2021 expenses: \$6,634,247  
Source: 2021 IRS Form 990, Statement of Functional Expenses

### NOTES:

<sup>[1]</sup> As of December 31, 2021, the Cleveland APL had pledges and other receivables of \$2,079,362 that had previously been recognized as revenue. Of that amount, \$363,373 is donor-restricted or designated for the capital campaign.

## Honors and Accolades



## Charity Navigator Four Star Charity

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### Cleveland APL

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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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