

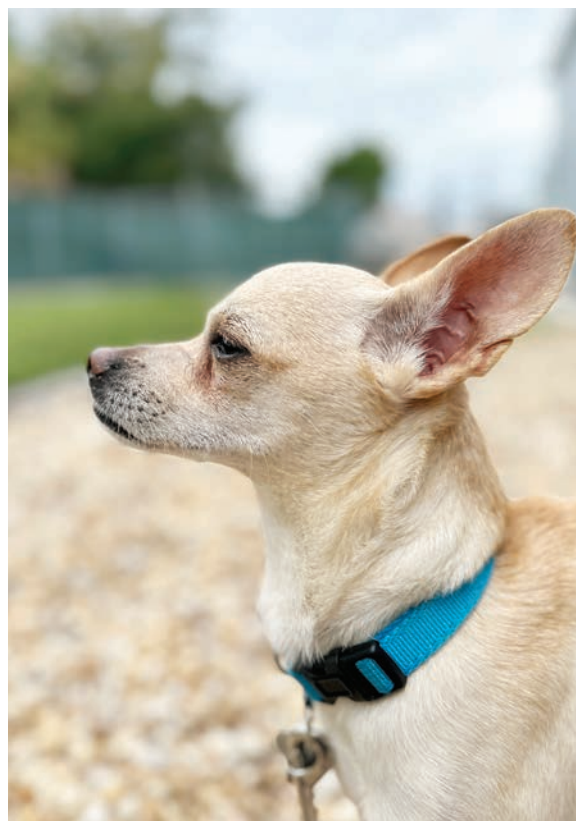


2022 *Annual Report*



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2022 BY THE NUMBERS

4,724

SURGERIES

4,619

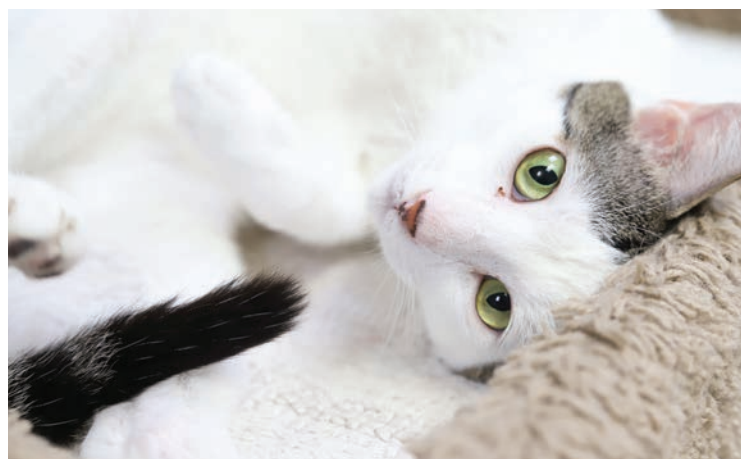
VOLUNTEER HOURS

1,713

ADOPTIONS

225

FOSTER HOMES



A Message from the CEO

Dear Friends,

As we look back on 2022, we have so many reasons to be grateful. Last year was full of challenges, but we made steady progress toward our goals, and we couldn't have done it without you!

This was another record-breaking year for Friends of Strays! In October, we adopted out the most animals in a month in our history with 202 animals finding loving homes. We surpassed our 2021 total adoptions by the end of November 2022 and closed out the year with 1,713 adoptions!

In 2021, we hit a staggering 4,000 spay/neuter surgeries. Thanks to many of you helping us with our medical expansion last year, we have been able to increase our surgeries and ended up performing more than 4,700 in 2022!

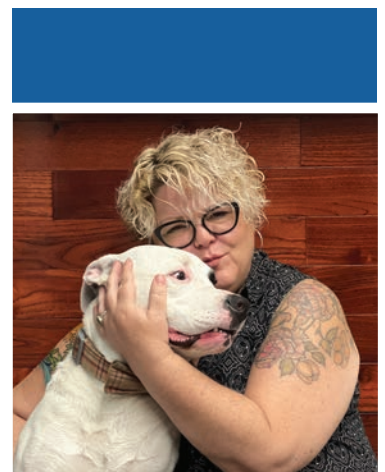
A significant portion of our spay/neuter surgeries comes from cats that go through our Pinellas Cats Alive! program. We started this program in 2021 in partnership with Pinellas County Animal Services (PCAS) with support from a Best Friends grant. In our first year, 1,282 stray cats brought in by caring members of our community were spayed/neutered, vaccinated, ear tipped, and returned to their outdoor homes. That number climbed to 1,646 cats in 2022. Not only has this program saved the lives of more than 2,800 cats since we started, but it has also helped PCAS come close to a 90% lifesaving rate, getting Pinellas County nearer than ever to being a no-kill county.

We expanded our impact on community cats in Pinellas County even further this year by joining forces with MEOW Now!, a trusted TNVR organization that has trapped more than 10,500 cats since its inception in 2014. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to help MEOW Now! grow in its mission to humanely reduce the number of community cats in Pinellas County through targeted trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return efforts.

After a 2-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we were able to meet in person again for our annual gala. More than 200 guests joined us at the beautiful Sunken Gardens for Wags and Whiskers: Jurassic Bark. The venue was absolutely perfect for this year's theme as guests mingled in the tropical gardens with dinosaurs. Our goal for this year's gala was \$75,000, but you helped us absolutely crush that goal bringing in \$115,000! Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's gala: we'll gather together at the St. Petersburg Coliseum on October 7, 2023, for an 80s prom-themed experience you won't want to miss!

While we have much to celebrate, we have so much to look forward to in the coming years: after some supply chain-induced delays, renovations to our new cat adoption center (the Cat Box!) will start this spring. Shortly after completion of the Cat Box, we'll start work on our new dog adoption center which will be called the Milky Bone Dog House, thanks to a generous gift from Kevin and Jeanne Milky. I can't tell you how excited I am about these two new buildings and the positive impacts they will have on our adoptable pets during their stay with us!

None of the good work that we're doing would be possible without the support of our community. We are so grateful to friends like you who have been there for us over the years. Stick with us, friends, as we have lots of good things coming up for the animals in Pinellas County and we can't reach our goals without you!



Dara Eckart
CEO

Financial Report



Revenue by Source

Source	Total
Adoptions	\$150,691
Donations (Cash/Card)	\$1,253,544
Events	\$129,537
Grants	\$45,600
Medical	\$49,523
Retail	\$10,834
Lease	\$26,690
Total	\$1,666,419



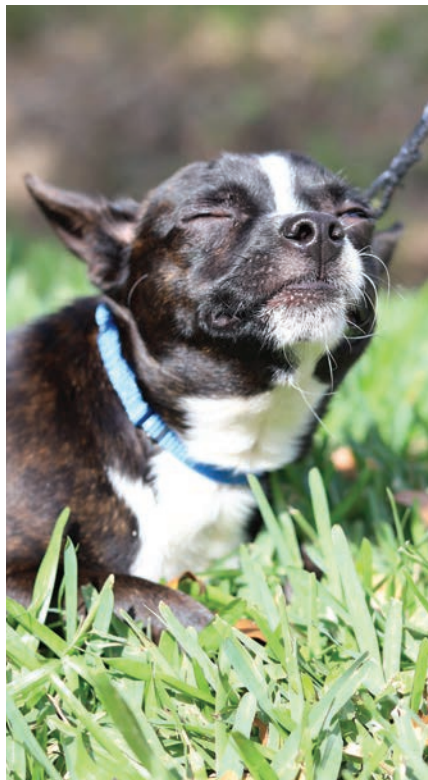
Expenses by Source

Source	Total
General Operating	\$117,777
Events	\$39,584
Fundraising	\$43,477
Insurance	\$35,909
Medical	\$219,239
Payroll	\$1,084,827
Retail	\$13,730
Shelter	\$120,550
Utilities	\$47,802
Renovation Professional Services	\$29,195
Total	\$1,752,090

The 2022 budget year was supplemented by reserves.

Special Funds Report

No Dog Left Behind Fund



Three years ago, Barbara Stakk and her partner Robert Palsha chose Friends of Strays to start the No Dog Left Behind Fund. Barbara wanted to help dogs who needed a second chance, particularly those with special needs such as behavioral modification or medical needs.

In 2022, 68 dogs received the help they needed thanks to the No Dog Left Behind Fund.

Brussels Sprout was one pup who got the care he needed thanks to this wonderful funding! This pint-sized pup came to us from Pinellas County Animal Services in late November 2022. He was a happy and sweet little dog, but on intake our Animal Care team noticed he was limping. During his medical exam, our staff realized that the poor pup had a dislocated hip – and probably had it for quite some time. He was sent out for x-rays at Parkview Animal Hospital to confirm. A couple came in and fell in love with him. They adopted him after being briefed on his hip, and Friends of Strays paid for the surgery from the No Dog Left Behind Fund. Brussels Sprout, now known as Noodle, is feeling better, has wonderful new owners and is living his best life!

Prima and Ziti Fund



Joan Hutchinson and Joe Beaulieu started the Prima and Ziti Special Care Fund to provide veterinary care for animals with more than average needs.

In 2022, the fund has helped to save the lives of 12 cats who might otherwise not be with us today.

Many shelters do not have the resources to take on difficult medical cases. Friends of Strays is fortunate to have both our in-house veterinarian, Dr. Emerson, as well as support from individuals like Joan and Joe so we can outsource help to vet specialists for advanced cases.

Legend came to us in November after being trapped for TNVR through our MEOW Now! program when someone noticed her injured leg. Upon intake, we discovered her front leg was broken. She's had three surgeries to help her regain the use of her leg through our partnering vet at Pet First Veterinary Hospital! Between her procedures, she was in the caring hands of a foster mom, where she recovered and became more playful each day. She was adopted in January!

Grant Highlights

Friends of Strays is an independent 501(c)3 organization, and we do not receive funding from any government entity or parent organization.

We are so grateful to have received \$45,600 in support from the following grant partners in 2022:



Athletes for Animals- to fund responsible pet ownership. Anonymous athletes donate to this fund for animal welfare!



Florida Animal Friend – to fund Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return and Return-to-Field programs.



Petco Love – to fund vaccines for community cats. In addition, Petco Love donates \$3 along with every vaccine.

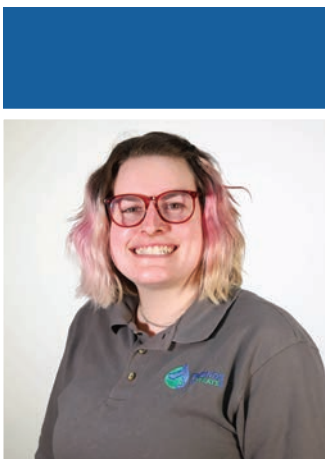


Maddie's
Fund

We Foster from Maddie's Fund – to fund purchase supplies for our pets in foster.



Intake & Adoptions Program



Jenn Held
Intake &
Adoptions
Manager



Kim Newsome
Adoptions
Counselor

1,713

ADOPTIONS

2022: 1,713

2021: 1,547

2020: 1,276

2019: 1,277

Adoptions



2022: 1,234 cats



2022: 476 dogs

Average length of stay



2022: 16.7 days



2022: 7.3 days

How did these pets come into our care?

Shelter Transfers

711 - cats

381 - dogs



Owner Surrenders

193 - cats

48 - dogs



Why are adoption numbers and intake numbers different? While pets come into the shelter through shelter transfers or owner surrenders, they can leave through a few different avenues besides adoption, such as a rescue transfer. Also, there is overlap of pets from 2021 as well as pets not adopted by the end of 2022.

Foster Program



Kelly Kraemer
Foster Manager

Many animals come into our care injured, sick, scared or too young for adoption.

Our fosters play a crucial role in helping us save lives, and more than 1,000 pets spent time in foster this year!

Every animal who passes through Friends of Strays gets all the

love and support we can provide, but a few special engagements always stand out.

This year we had the amazing “eyeball” kittens. These 2-3 week old kittens were found by a Good Samaritan who brought them to us. They had severe eye infections.

It took a village with a lot of support to raise them: due to their age and the condition of their eyes, these babies had to receive around-the-clock care, eye drops and feedings, every 2 hours. Ultimately, all but one kitten needed to have eye removals; one kitten was able to keep one eye after a special surgery. Because they had already been blind for much of their young lives, they adapted just fine. These special kittens were quickly adopted and will go on to live happy, healthy, and well-loved lives.

Their foster parent said, “I like fostering because it gives me the opportunity to help



the community and be inspired by the resilience of animals. Something that would have been a major hurdle to a human was a small bump in the road for them and they took it with stride. They don't know that they are missing anything and are just as happy as sighted cats. Obviously, we loved them so much we foster failed on one.”

Another amazing foster engagement we had this year was Aquarius and her 11 “Zodiac” puppies. She had given birth under someone's house in Florida, and her local municipal shelter did not have the resources to care for 12 dogs. They reached out to us to see if we could take her and her babies, and we found a foster willing to take on the job. Fostering a mom and puppies is no easy feat and this foster did an incredible job wrangling 12 dogs in her home. This amazing mom dog is an incredibly sweet, loving dog and her puppies grew into well-rounded citizens. Aquarius was even adopted with one of her daughters!

This is another prime example of why foster families are so important! These puppies, due to their age, would have been at risk of disease and illness if they remained in a shelter. Allowing this momma dog the space and time to relax and care for her babies saved their lives.

We are so grateful for all the passion and time the foster parents provide and we are looking forward to another wonderful year and more lives saved. Thank you for all the support!

225: Foster families

1,115: Pets who spent time in foster care



Medical Program

Lead by Dr. Katie Emerson, our medical program had another milestone year with 4,724 spay/neuter surgeries! These surgeries include both our adoptable pets as well as animals going through our other programs, Pinellas Cats Alive!, MEOW Now!, and Kitten Heros. Spay/neuter is of course only one component of the life-saving work our medical team performs. This year they saw a plethora of eye removals; ring worm treatment; amputations; dentals on senior cats and dogs; and more. Our team works hard to ensure the comfort and well-being of every animal in our care each and every day.



Kitten Heroes

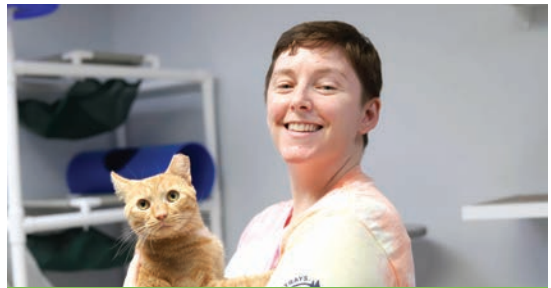


236 kitten participants

Young kittens are very delicate and susceptible. Because of that, many shelters try to keep tiny kittens out of the shelter until they are older and more resilient. Our Kitten Heroes program helps divert kittens from the shelter by encouraging kitten-finders to keep the kittens and find new homes for them through their own social networks.

In 2022, this program helped more than 200 kittens stay out of the shelter!

Pinellas Cats Alive!



Betsy VanderVoort
Program Manager

1,646 positive outcomes **99.6% Save Rate**

Our Pinellas Cats Alive! Program launched in 2021 and continued to succeed in 2022. This free community program is designed to help people get that friendly neighborhood stray altered and vaccinated to help humanely reduce the free-roaming cat population in our neighborhoods.

We increased the number of cats helped through this program from 1,179 in 2021 to 1,646 in 2022!

Community Cat Programs Expansion: MEOW Now! joins Friends of Strays



Nikola Couling
Program Manager

In October, Friends of Strays joined forces with MEOW Now!, a well-established TNVR organization in Pinellas County!

Bringing MEOW Now in as a program of Friends of Strays was a natural fit with our

mission and its core purpose, the humane reduction of community cat populations through targeted trap, neuter, vaccinate and return practices. Nikola Couling, a long-time MEOW Now volunteer and staff member, joined Friends of Strays as the MEOW Now Program Manager and we are thrilled to have her wealth of knowledge on our team!

MEOW Now sent 1,532 cats through TNVR in 2022. Of that number, 365 cats completed TNVR in the fourth quarter after MEOW Now joined Friends of Strays.

In 2022, 286 cats or kittens that came in through TNVR were adopted, 160 within the organization and the rest taken in by partner rescues. Since joining with Friends of Strays, 12 kittens have been put in foster

and 29 with other rescues instead of being returned to their original outdoor home.

A new metric we are beginning to track is trapping visits or 'bookings'. Each booking represents a weekend trapping appointment in which a MEOW Now volunteer was present to trap at a specified location, or provided some manner of assistance for a caregiver to trap their colony. Since October, MEOW Now had 110 bookings. Some of these bookings actually represent multiple visits and several hours of volunteer time, some may involve little more than coaching the caregiver or transportation of traps and cats. Some colonies require multiple bookings.

The future is strong for MEOW Now in 2023! We are currently utilizing a grant which targets St. Pete and Gulfport. The reporting period began in September 2022 and it is expected that we will need to put 700 cats through TNVR from the target areas to use all available funds by August. So far we have done 192.

We are so excited to see our progress in 2023!



Volunteer Program

Friends of Strays is so grateful to the service of 183 volunteers in 2022, tallying a total of 4,916 hours! That's more than 600 eight-hour work days!



Doggy Day Out

Our Doggy Day Out program has become a popular volunteering opportunity as a way to give eligible dogs a little break from the shelter, and to see what their personalities are like outside the shelter environment! Emma, pictured here, enjoyed her Doggy Day Out with volunteer Robin Haly Iller!

Happy Cats



Jax Barrett
Team Lead

Our Happy Cats program aims to help those cats who need just a little extra attention, love and engagement, helping them open up, trust people, and ultimately find loving homes. This in-shelter program is led by Jax, a member of our awesome Animal Care & Enrichment team, and

she's enlisted a number of wonderful volunteers who work patiently, lovingly and empathetically with these special cats

Here are few of this year's Happy Cats!

AJ was found by staff one morning in a playpen outside of Friends of Strays. His fur was dirty and matted, and he was anxiously pacing and crying. He was shut down, stayed in his bed and didn't respond to petting or any other interactions.

Being that he was clearly stressed, AJ was enrolled in the Happy Cats Program. After our wonderful volunteers worked with him to give him companionship and make him feel comfortable, AJ changed completely.



He couldn't stop talking to anyone that would listen! The senior kitty begged for attention constantly and absolutely loved love.

His adopter is so happy to give him a home no

matter how long it may be. He is enjoying his retirement with cuddles and window gazing. She said, "He loves to talk and we have full conversations and he really is the sweetest boy!"

Cassie and Cleo are two senior sisters who were abandoned together in a crate behind the Friends of Strays building one afternoon. Upon arrival, they both seemed friendly and social.

However, after realizing that they weren't going back home, Cleo began to shut down. She would only come out of her cage if she saw that her sister was out too.

It didn't take long for her to come around, however, thanks to our dedicated Happy Cats Team! She received the reassurance she needed (and lots of yummy treats!). And the story doesn't end there!



One day, a man called the shelter asking about the sisters. He said that he adopted them when they were kittens, but had to surrender them after he lost everything. He kept in touch with their new adopters, but lost track of his babies when she, too, had to surrender them.

For months, after getting on his feet again, he scoured the websites of various shelters in the hopes that he could be reconnected with Cassie and Cleo. He was overjoyed when they were reunited and he was so thankful that they were comforted during their stay at the shelter. That day they all went home together.

Happy Cats Volunteers

Jax has a team of dedicated and trained volunteers who work with cats in the program. Thank you so much to the following volunteers for making a huge difference in Happy Cat lives!

Nicole Bifano
Jeanne Davis
Marian Decklever
Mark Diorio
Vivian Gizowski
Emmalyse Holder
Ashley Lay
Jacqueline (Jacquie) Ott
Gail Stanfield
Charles Thorton

Happy Dogs



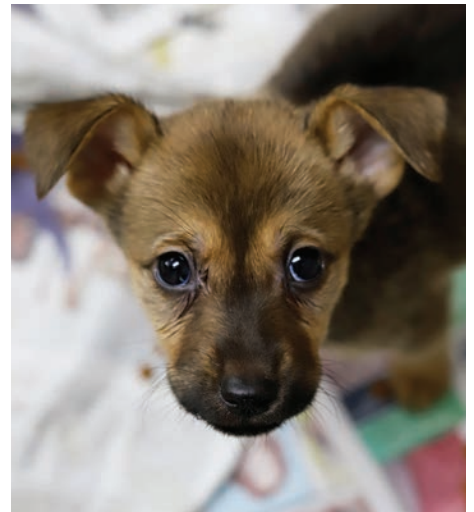
Lauren Gargiulo
Team Lead

With the success of our Happy Cats program, we have recently started a sister program for the dogs in our care who have had a longer than average stay at Friends of Strays or who need work on behavioral training. Lauren, a member of our awesome Animal Care & Enrichment team, is leading this initiative!



The program is still in the beginning stages but will hopefully swing fully into action in early 2023. Happy Dogs is designed to help dogs thrive in the shelter environment, especially those that may need some extra attention or some structured engagement to work on learning basic behavior skills.

Jam Master Jay, now known as Jett, came to us originally as young puppy. Unfortunately, due to changes in his adopter's life he came back to the shelter 9 months later. When he came back, he was very timid and nervous to be in a shelter environment. Within a couple weeks of being in Happy Dogs, he had made incredible progress and was much more outgoing and confident, even going on a Starbucks run to get a Puppuccino. After about a month of being here he got adopted to new owners who love him. They even sent us a holiday card with a photo of him in his new home!



Friends of Strays Staff

Leadership

Dara Eckart, CEO
Dr. Katie Emerson, DVM Medical Director
Mari Salls, Shelter Director
Karen Van De Putte, Development Director

Administrative

Tiffany Cornelius, Engagement Manager
Erin McGrath, Development Manager
Sandra Oliva, Office Manager
Jessica Salmond, Communications & Marketing Manager

Programs

Nikola Couling, MEOW Now Manager
Jenn Held, Intake & Adoptions Manager
Kelly Kraemer, Foster Manager
Kimberly Newsome, Adoption Counselor
Betsy VanderVoort, Pinellas Cats Alive! Manager

Medical

Jessica McCarrick, Medical Manager
Joel Cooper, Veterinary Technician
Megan Howard, Veterinary Technician
Yesenia Mendez, Veterinary Technician
Kaylyn Trumbull, Veterinary Technician
Emily Smith, Surgery Technician

Animal Care & Enrichment Team

Tara Kiernan, Supervisor
Jax Barrett, ACE Specialist
Lauren Gargiulo, ACE Specialist
Lex Martin, ACE Specialist
Taylor Tilton, ACE Specialist

Board of Directors

Mo Eppley, Chair
Elizabeth McMurray, Vice Chair & Treasurer
Alison Barlow, Secretary
Directors:
Eve Epstein
Arin Greenwood
Benjamin J. Kirby
Rosa Lopez
Michael McKenny
Sarah Penner
Barry Rubin
Cathy Unruh



Friends of Strays is a non-profit organization founded in 1978 in St. Pete, FL, dedicated to the care and adoption of homeless pets.

Mission

Our mission is to inspire compassion for all animals, provide shelter and humane care to homeless animals, and promote adoptions and responsible pet guardianship in our community.

Vision

Through our efforts, there will be a safe and loving home for every adoptable animal and humane treatment for all.



Friends of Strays Animal Shelter
2911 47th Ave. N
St. Petersburg, FL 33714