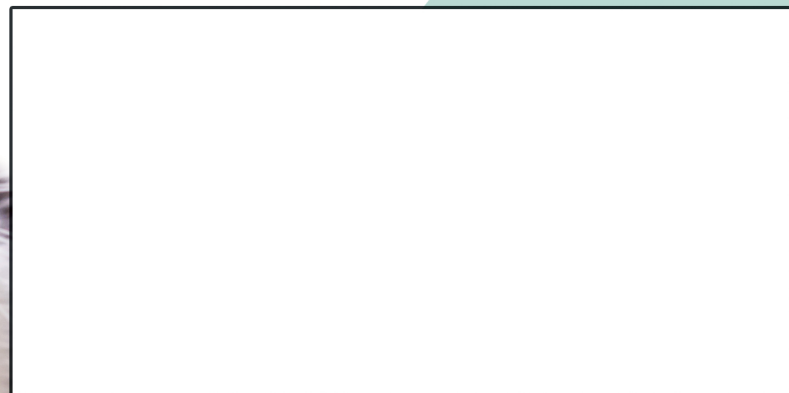




14717 Aurora Ave N  
Shoreline, WA 98133

## Seattle Area Feline Rescue annual report



warm fuzzy tale:

# Venus



Venus and her siblings started life under a porch in Eastern Washington. There, a Good Samaritan found them huddled up to their momma, trying to stay safe. With pet overpopulation, inclement weather, and predators, life can be especially dangerous for kitties like Venus' family, who live outside fending for themselves east of the mountains.

Here at SAFe Rescue, our community of cat lovers like you works to help felines in danger, wherever they may be. To aid our eastern neighbors with the homeless kitty crisis, we partner with organizations and rescuers across the state to take in weekly transports. That's how Venus made the journey to safety in Seattle!

Homelessness isn't the only obstacle her family faced; after they arrived, they were diagnosed with a skin infection. With the overpopulation of homeless cats in Eastern WA, infections are common there, as in many other regions. One of the most prevalent is a fungal infection of the skin called "ringworm." Although not serious or life threatening, it's contagious to people and animals and requires lengthy treatment. An infection can mean life or death for animals in some shelters.

Fortunately, with help from foster families and supporters like you, Venus was in good hands at SAFe Rescue! She got all the medicine and care she needed and spent 9 weeks in a foster home with wonderful volunteers dedicated to giving her treatment.

After Venus and her "planetary" family recovered, they were ready to find homes of their own. They didn't wait long: Venus went home with brother Jupiter one day later. This story has a happy ending for the whole family, too. Momma Sunny and all her little planets are now enjoying life in loving homes.

Venus' story is one of trial, tribulation and triumph. Her life is also a testament to the power of you, and the rest of the SAFe Rescue community. Together we can change the outcome of so many homeless kitties—and together we do!

# Eliza

*"Fostering  
is certainly  
a labor  
of love"*



## message from the executive director

This past year, I have been continually inspired by the kindness of you—our mighty SAFe Rescue community—and by the interconnectedness of the work we do together. Each step on a cat's journey from unwanted to loved relies on caring people like you who share your time, talent, and heart to help homeless cats become beloved family members.

From rescuers in the field transporting cats over mountains and oceans (or sometimes just around the block), to medical staff examining arrivals, to veterinary partners performing surgery, to fosters housing cats, to donors and sponsors funding this work and making it all possible, to staff and volunteers caring for cats and matching them with adopters, to the families who choose to adopt... You are all essential to this rescue journey.

This summer, as a foster for three kittens, I had the opportunity to experience one of these steps first-hand. My children were overjoyed with the three fuzzy bundles who arrived in our home, wobbly and timid. Angelica, Eliza, and Peggy soon settled in, purring, racing around the bathroom, and gobbling their food.

A few days later, their health started to decline. Upset tummies escalated, and soon we had three dehydrated, lethargic kittens on our hands. The medical team gave them fluids, meds, and a special diet. Angelica and Peggy improved right away, but Eliza was still suffering.

Fostering is certainly a labor of love, and I lay awake at night worried about poor Eliza. When I heard my daughter's panicked cry from the foster room one morning, I feared the worst. Eliza, who was suffering from prolapse, needed emergency surgery and a follow-up operation the next day. With guidance from the SAFe medical team, and some trial and error, we stabilized Eliza's medication levels. To our immense relief, she was soon zooming around and playing with her sisters again.

When the time came, it was bittersweet to send the kittens (especially Eliza) to the next step of their journey. Fortunately, I get to see first-hand how much care our Adoption Counselors take to match adopters with kitties. In their hands, all three soon found families. I didn't realize I was holding my breath until I saw happy updates

from their adopters soon after. My fosters' long journey from unwanted kittens to beloved family members was complete.

The emotional roller coaster of the experience was exhausting—and I had just three kittens for 40 days. Some SAFe Fosters took in more than 50 cats in 2018, some for months at a time. We are so fortunate to have such caring foster families, who give so much of themselves.

My hat is off to our fosters who do this over and over again, and to each and every one of you who helps kitties like Eliza along their journey. You are making the happy ending to their stories possible, and I am honored to do this important work with you.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we are looking forward to growing our organization and, together with you, building a bright future for the kitties who need us.

Emily Sprong



# medical fund

For kitties who need a little extra help, the Medical Fund is here to ensure they can have access to all the TLC they need. Heartfelt thanks to the **278 donors** who contributed to the fund in 2018. Your caring has made it possible for cats like Courage, Coffee, Farley Finnagan, and many others to start this year in new homes! Meanwhile, cats like Snowy and other rescue kitties can get all the ongoing treatment they need while they wait for the purr-fect person to find them.



**Coffee**, who is FIV+ and 100% lovable



**Snowy**, a senior with a heart condition



**Courage**, who survived cruelty, but kept her gentle spirit



**Farley Finnagan**, who needed surgery



**Sam**, who needed medication for chronic allergies

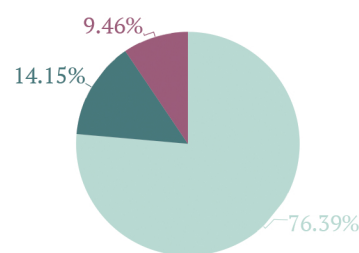


# financials

Your generosity and kindness make it possible to carry out SAFE Rescue's mission to save cats. Adoption fees cover only a fraction of the cost of operating the rescue and caring for the felines. Your support continues and expands this life-saving work, helping kitties from near and far.

## Expenses:

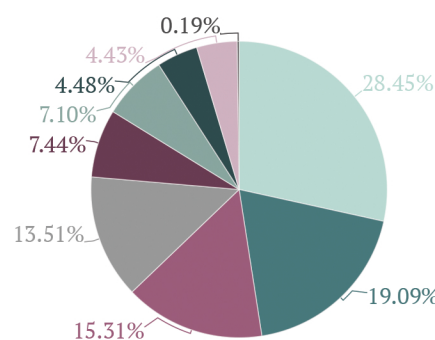
Program	\$444,705
Administrative	\$82,385
Fundraising	\$55,066
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$582,156</b>



- Program Expenses
- Administrative
- Fundraising

## Income:

Adoption Fees	\$184,333
Donations	\$123,720
Grants*	\$99,208
Nine Lives Gala, net revenue**	\$87,523
GiveBIG	\$48,178
Workplace Giving and Matching	\$46,023
Retail Sales, net revenue	\$29,015
Giving Tuesday	\$28,716
Other Income (interest and rent)	\$1,258
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$647,974</b>



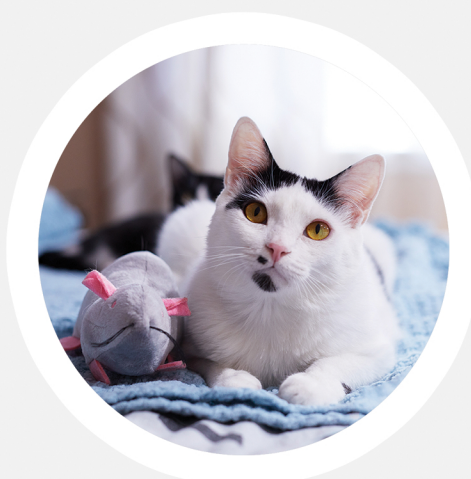
- Adoption Fees
- Donations
- Grants
- Nine Lives Gala
- GiveBIG
- Workplace Giving and Matching
- Retail Sales
- Giving Tuesday
- Other Income

\* Thank you to the ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society, The Rachael Ray Foundation, and GreaterGood.org.

\*\* Gross revenue is \$106,136

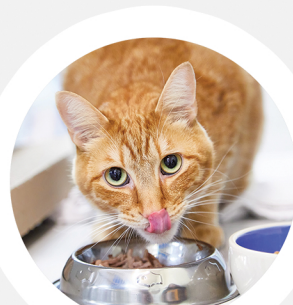
# counting paws

2018 IN NUMBERS



## Adoptions:

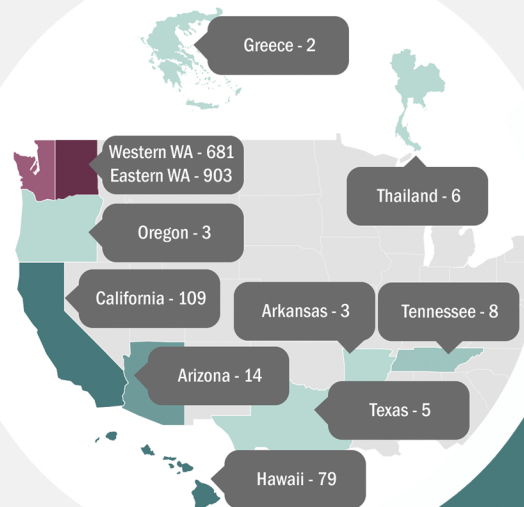
With your support, SAFE Rescue found homes for **1,740** cats and kittens in 2018, setting a new record for lives saved!



## Length of Stay:

Once they were ready for adoption, adult kitties waited an average of **7** days before finding a family. Seniors usually found homes within **30** days. Kittens who were available for adoption didn't have to wait long: just **4** days!

## Map of Intake\*:



## Behavior Training:

As part of the Behavior Program, **15** volunteers used clicker training and positive reinforcement to help more than **100** shy kitties blossom.

## Fosters:

**132** fosters opened their hearts and homes to rescue felines, giving **979** lucky kitties an incredible **27,780** total cat days of care!



## Volunteers:

**185** PAW-some volunteers devoted over **10,000** hours to the cats. That's the equivalent of **5** full-time employees. Meow!

## Ringworm Treatment:

In this special life-saving program, **135** "kitten cadets" received treatment for this curable skin infection, "graduated" from the rescue's Isolation Room, and found loving families!



## Helping Paw Circle:

**67** generous donors (and counting) came together to give kitties a helping paw throughout the year with a regular monthly gift.

