Seattle Area Feline Rescue
annual report

warm fuzzy tale: Venus

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 pyloric, 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 got to see first-hand how much care our Adoption Counsellors take to match adopters with kittens. In their hands, all three soon found homes. 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 kittens 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 kittens 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 Finnegan, and many others to start this year in new homes! Meanwhile, cats like Snowy and other rescue kittens can get all the ongoing treatment they need while they wait for the purr-fect person to find them.

**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 kittens from near and far.

**Expenses:**
- Program: $444,705
- Administrative: $82,385
- Fundraising: $55,066
- **TOTAL: $582,156**

**Income:**
- Adoption Fees: $184,333
- Donations: $123,720
- Grants*: $99,208
- Nine Lives Gala: $87,523
- GiveBIG: $84,178
- Workplace Giving and Matching: $46,023
- Retail Sales, net revenue: $29,015
- Giving Tuesday: $28,716
- Other Income (interest and rent): $1,258
- **TOTAL: $647,974**

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

**Behavior Training:**
As part of the Behavior Program, 13 volunteers used clicker training and positive reinforcement to help more than 100 shy kittens blossom.

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

**Counting Paws 2018 in Numbers**

**Length of Stay:**
Once they were ready for adoption, adult kittens 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!

**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 kittens a helping paw throughout the year with a regular monthly gift.


**Grass revenue is $106,136**

*These numbers do not include kittens in care at the beginning of the year. For more details, you can explore our data on ProactiveAnimalCount.org*