He might be small, but he has a mighty spirit!
Lark overcame one giant obstacle after another to become what he is today: part of a happy family.

Lark’s origin is a mystery: We don’t know how he ended up by a busy road in Eastern Washington, where a Good Samaritan found him under a bush. Lark’s tiny face was covered in tar, his jaw was dislocated (possibly from being hit in the road), and his ear was infected.

This trauma was too much for a kitten to endure, but Lark refused to give up. His SAFe Rescue foster family nursed this tiny fighter back to health, hand-feeding him wet food to help him eat through his injured jaw.

Little by little, Lark healed and grew stronger. And his place in his fosters’ hearts was growing, too. Lark became inseparable from his human sibling. As his foster mom explained, “They seriously bonded, and they are so great for each other!” Whenever Lark felt lonely, he’d mew until his favorite human arrived to scoop him up for cuddles.

It was a happy day at SAFe Rescue when Lark’s family decided to adopt him, along with kitty friend Raven. Lark’s new family has given him new life—and in return, Lark brings great joy to them as well.
FROM 5 YEARS TO THE NEXT 50

Looking to our Community’s Future

In 2014, SAFe Rescue opened its Adoption Center in Shoreline. Five years and 7,707 adoptions later, we’re looking back on so many lives saved and celebrating YOU, our wonderful community who makes this work possible. We’re also looking forward to a future of helping cats and the humans who love them.

5 years of adoptions

In 2019, we reached our longtime goal of surpassing 2,000 adoptions in one year!

We believe each cat has inherent value and that humans and felines enrich each other’s lives. This bond builds compassionate communities with empathy for all living things.

This is more than a statement of purpose at SAFe Rescue – it is part of our everyday conversations and work. It is reflected in our warm and welcoming facility that has been a place for those enriching relationships to take root for the past five years, and in our focus on both cats and the people who love them.

So many benefits come from the bonds that form between cats and their humans, and we are thrilled to have helped 7,707 of those relationships form in the past five years. As we continue to help more homeless felines each year, we know that there are many kitties already in loving homes who also need support. We are working to build capacity to serve these cats and their humans as well.

I want everyone who is ready to open their heart and home to a cat to have the opportunity to be a part of that special bond, and to experience firsthand how that bond can bloom into a larger understanding of the interconnectedness of all living things. On a larger scale, I see that understanding play out in the collective compassion and strength of our community. When I see supporters rally to help fundraise for a cat with unique or heartbreaking medical needs, fosters willing to wake every 2 hours to feed orphaned bottle babies, or volunteers distributing flyers and social media posts to help the word out about a shy, scared, or harder to place cat, I am reminded that together, as a community we can do so much more than each one of us can do alone.

As you read through the accomplishments listed here, I hope that you see yourself reflected in each success, and know that your contributions to this compassionate community are helping to build a better world, for all living things.

Emily Sprong, Executive Director
Thanks to your support, in 2019 SAFe Rescue was able to expand its medical team!

Doctor Jessica Green, DVM, has joined veterinary care manager Kim Morgan, LVT, and veterinary assistant Erika Olson on the SAFe medical team.

With a doctor on staff one day a week, now rescue cats can receive more exams and treatment right here at the rescue. Less travel to other clinics and expanded in-house capacity means more efficient care for felines!

Future goals for the medical program include expanding the rescue veterinarian position to add a second day of the week, obtaining equipment and space that will make it possible to perform more specialized procedures onsite, and building capacity to take in more cats and kittens in need of medical treatment.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

In 2019, 207 supporters made gifts specifically designated to the Medical Fund—and every contribution to the rescue of any kind is helping build our capacity to find loving homes for kittens in need.

Thank you for caring about cats who need extra help!

Staff Profile: Dr. Jessica Green

For Jessica, working at SAFe Rescue is a return to her roots: her dedication to helping animals is the reason she first entered the medical field. Jessica especially enjoys getting to know different cats and their personalities: “I enjoy meeting each new kitty, learning about them, and trying to make them feel their best!” When she’s not tending to the needs of animals, you can find Jessica cooking, running, hiking, and spending time with her two children. Jessica’s furry family members include three kitties and an honorary feline: chihuahua Betsy, who is convinced that she’s a kitty, too.
July marked our 5th anniversary as SAFe Rescue, and in those years we have given 7,707 cats another chance at happiness. This year, we reflected on who we are as a rescue, why we do the work we do, and what values are important to us. From this foundation, and with your partnership, we are preparing for a future where we have an even greater impact.

We are proud to share our refreshed mission statement with you, as well as SAFe Rescue’s first official Statement of Purpose and Values, and we are excited to have these guideposts to help lead us into the future. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our feline friends and for being part of this compassionate community!

**MISSION:**
SAFe Rescue saves feline lives by taking in homeless cats, giving them the care they need, finding them loving homes, and supporting their human companions.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**
We believe that each cat has inherent value and that humans and felines enrich each other’s lives. This bond builds compassionate communities with empathy for all living things.

**VALUES:**
- Compassion
- Community
- Optimism
- Respect
- Excellence

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**GIVEBIG 2020... FOR CATS!**

Tuesday, May 5 & Wednesday, May 6

**The kittens are counting on us:** with your help, we can make GiveBIG the life-saving day they need! Please mark your calendar for May 5 and 6 and help spread the mews!

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**NINE LIVES GALA**

Saturday, September 19

We can’t wait to see you for the most life-saving night of the year! We’re happy to welcome back Pat Cashman for another year, and we’re planning a thrilling, fun-filled evening for you. Tickets will go on sale in June; please mark your calendars and plan to join us!
FINANCIALS

Compassionate supporters like you are at the very heart of SAFe Rescue’s work. Giving loving care to thousands of felines and bringing joy and companionship to thousands of humans is an immense endeavor. Adoption fees fund less than a third of this important work; your generosity is truly what powers SAFe Rescue’s mission.

Expenses

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<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Administrative</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong> ($682,869)</td>
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Income

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoption fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Nine Lives Gala, net revenue*</td>
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<td>Workplace giving and matching</td>
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<td>GiveBIG</td>
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<td>Grants**</td>
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<td>Retail Sales, net revenue</td>
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<td>Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong>* ($707,480)</td>
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</table>

* Gross revenue is $116,624.
** Thank you to Petco Foundation, the ASPCA, Siwanee’s Foundation, and Wings of Rescue.
*** Thank you to everyone who made in-kind donations as well.

5 years of Caring Support

Number of donors over five years

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<th>Donors</th>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>2079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
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Helping Paw Circle

Membership in this special group of cat lovers continues to grow as supporters pledge regular gifts to help cats.

By the end of 2019, Helping Paw was **95 members** strong... And counting!
COUNTING PAWS: 2019 IN NUMBERS

104 Foster Homes
- Foster time: 927 cats spent time in foster homes, for a total of 26,317 cat days in care!

195 Volunteers
- Volunteer time: 11,424 hours, filling 21 different volunteer job types.

2,018 adopted cats

Giving Back to Community
In the second half of 2019, SAFE Rescue donated over 4,000 pounds of cat food to North Helpline, where neighbors using the Bitter Lake Food Bank can find supplies to support their kitty companions.

Ringworm treatment
In the rescue’s isolation Room, 105 cats and kittens spent time healing from the skin infection known as ringworm. They received gentle care from the iso team, then found happy homes!

Socialization Training
A team of 7 volunteers used positive-reinforcement clicker training to help over 100 cats gain the confidence they needed to interact with adopters and find homes. Making eye contact and coming out of hiding to greet visitors were the two most frequently-practiced skills.

Length of Stay
Once they were ready for adoption, adult cats waited an average of 11 days to find a home, while seniors usually found homes within a month. Meanwhile, kittens went home in just 3.5 days.

“Volunteering makes my heart happy. It’s so rewarding to see the cats’ spirits rise, to see them get adopted, and to see them grow up.”

Quinn, rescue volunteer