



14717 Aurora Ave N
Shoreline, WA 98133

Seattle Area Feline Rescue ANNUAL REPORT

from 5 years to the next 50

Hi, I'm Lark. I have
my loving family now!
You will find my story
on the back.

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.

warm fuzzy tale *Lark*

Even the
 tiniest creatures have
 a big impact on our lives.
 Every act of kindness makes our
 communities stronger and more
 compassionate.

Thank
 you for making it
 possible for Lark and so
 many others to find a second
 chance!



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!



With your support, SAFe Rescue has become the **busiest cat-specific** organization in **Washington state**, and the **fifth-largest** cat adoption organization in the **United States**.

2,018
adoptions in 2019



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 get 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.

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 get 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



MEDICAL PROGRAM



Loaf, a barn kitten with a broken leg, was nearly euthanized when her owners didn't have the resources to treat her—but our medical team offered Loaf a safe place to heal!

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 kitties in need.

Thank you for caring about cats who need extra help!

Licorice

recovered from a wound that made her unable to care for her kittens



Herb

bounced back from chronic inflammation



Tucker

found love despite his head tilt



Anders

healed from his injuries at 18 years old



Pineapple

transformed into a healthy kitten



Ripley

healed from an infection after living outside

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.



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.



JENNIFER CADIGAN

President, Board of Directors

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.



GIVEBIG 2020... FOR CATS!

Tuesday, **May 5** & Wednesday, **May 6**

The kitties 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!



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!

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



Save
the Dates!



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!

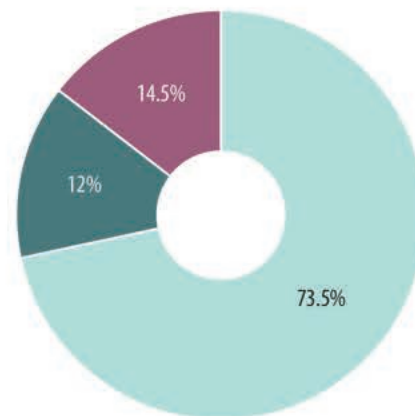
FINANCIALS

Thank you for giving homeless cats a second chance!

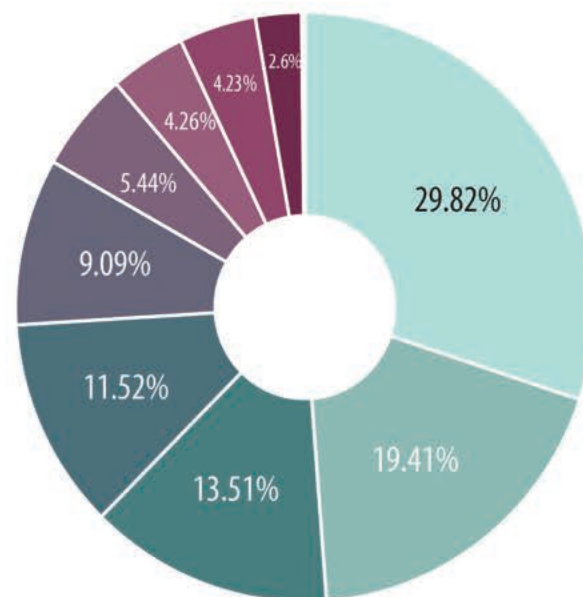
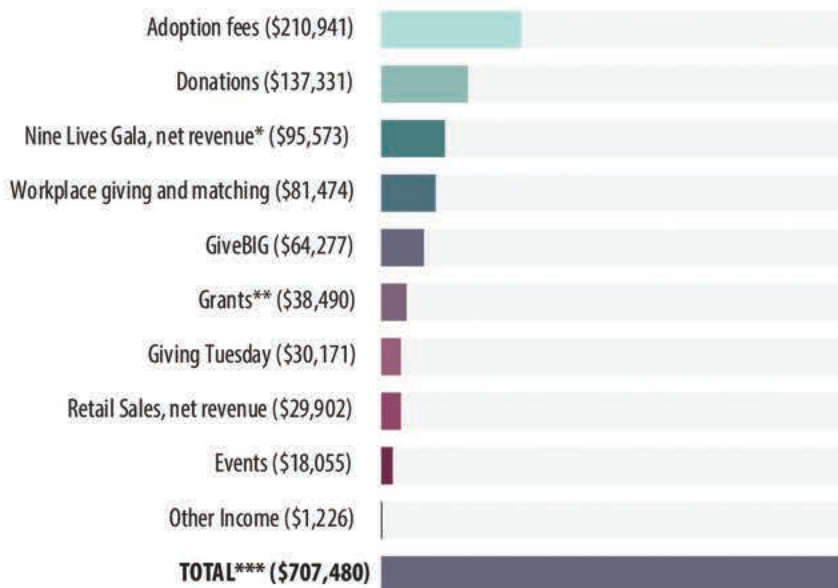
Thank you for encouraging empathy and making the world a safer place for animals!

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



Income



* Gross revenue is \$116,276.

** Thank you to Petco Foundation, the ASPCA, Svanee'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



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

8

Board Members

15

Staff Members

104

Foster Homes

195

Volunteers

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

Volunteer time: **11,424** hours filling **21** different volunteer job types.

Western WA: 750

Eastern WA: 817

Thailand: 3

Idaho: 2

Nebraska: 7

California: 373

New Mexico: 17

Mississippi: 4

Florida: 19

Hawaii: 53

Texas: 54

Louisiana: 1

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.



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**.

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.



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

