Foster Time: 955 cats spent time in 183 foster homes, for a total of 26,068 cat days in care. That’s an increase from 104 foster homes in 2019—meow wow! During the pandemic, moving cats to foster care has been key to maintaining social distancing and keeping cats and humans safe. Foster homes stepped up to care for cats with medical needs during the pandemic. For example, 47 foster homes took on the treatment of cats with ringworm in 2020, up from 7 in 2019.

Counting Paws: 2020 in Numbers

WHERE DO CATS COME FROM?

Although travel restrictions during COVID-19 made transport more difficult, SAFe Rescue continued to help cats throughout the state of Washington (and even beyond) in 2020.

Q: Do online adoptions really work?
A: We have reorganized our adoption process to keep both cats and people safe during the pandemic. We continue to offer support to adopters and are pleased that we have seen kitties settling in just as successfully with our remote procedures as we did pre-pandemic.

In 2020, 22% of cats adopted from animal welfare organizations in King County came from SAFe Rescue (up from 17.5% in 2019). By creating a unique virtual adoption process (launched April 2020) SAFe was able to keep the community safe while continuing to find homes for large numbers of cats. Although travel restrictions during COVID-19 made transport more difficult, SAFe Rescue continued to help cats throughout the state of Washington (and even beyond) in 2020.

Volunteering will benefit you and the cats. It truly is a pawsitive experience.
Gin, volunteer

Stay SAFe Pet Pantry: Since it began, the Stay SAFe Pet Pantry has grown to serve 50 households on average each week, distributing 331 lbs. of food monthly— that’s over 1,000 meals each month!

Warm Fuzzy Tale:
Arnold and Goldfish

Last spring, as Washington’s first “stay home, stay healthy” order was about to begin, the SAFe team worked hard to find homes for all the cats at the Adoption Center. One by one, enclosures emptied as kittens went home with happy families. But two cats were still waiting. Arnold had wounds and bare patches in his fur. Goldfish was shy and frightened. Both cats had tested positive for FIV.

Arnold and Goldfish’s chances didn’t look bright: they would need to enter foster care until the new online adoption system was ready... Then a family arrived at SAFe looking for a feline companion. They didn’t mind that Arnold and Goldfish were older and scruffy. They understood that cats with FIV could lead long, happy lives. They only had one problem: choosing between them. So they adopted both!

Arnold and Goldfish hadn’t met before, but their family explains: “Once we introduced them, they became instant friends. They spend their days grooming each other and snuggling together or with us.” During the past year, Arnold and Goldfish have stayed busy entertaining their humans and giving them lots of love. As you can see, Goldfish takes helping his human sibling read very seriously—he’s always an attentive (and cuddly) audience.

Congratulations to the all the cats who found homes in 2020—and to all the humans who welcomed new feline family members!

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“"We couldn’t have two more loveable cats... We are so happy that they are part of our family."
HELPING CATS AND THE HUMANS WHO LOVE THEM:
A Message from SAFe’s Executive Director

When we speak of our core values, the guiding principles that have made it possible for SAFe Rescue to overcome the challenges of 2020, I hope you see yourself reflected. As a member of the SAFe community, your compassion, optimism, respect and empathy run through all we do.

Emily Sprong, Executive Director

In last year’s annual report, we introduced SAFe’s organizational values of compassion, community, optimism, respect, and excellence. Throughout 2020, these values guided us through countless challenges and unknowns. They were the common thread woven through each innovation and adaptation. During a year when many nonprofits and businesses had to shrink, your support empowered SAFe to have an even greater impact on both cats and the people who love them, long into the future.

Before the pandemic, we identified two main goals to help guide SAFe’s growth and meet the evolving needs of both cats and their humans:

1. Build capacity to serve more felines with special medical needs by conducting medical and surgical procedures in-house.

2. Increase owner retention by offering more services to help keep cats in homes.

Together with you, during this last year SAFe Rescue made huge steps towards meeting these goals, faster than I ever imagined we could. The innovation, creativity, flexibility and dedication of our entire community working together has made progress possible, even in harrowing times.

We are grateful for all of you who are volunteering and fostering in new ways, taking a chance on contact free adoptions, showing up for virtual fundraisers, and stepping up to support each other through immeasurable challenges and stressors. In the New Programs section of this report you can read about how your kindness is helping to build a safety net to keep pets and families together, and making onsite surgery a reality.

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Emily Sprong, Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE!

GiveBIG: MAY 4-5

During these challenging times, need in our community is greater than ever. Together, we can save cats and support the humans who love them. Please mark your calendar for May 4 & 5 and help spread the mews!

NINE LIVES GALA: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25

We can’t wait to enjoy a life-saving evening with you! Last year’s virtual Gala was an unforgettable community event. We loved seeing everyone’s Zoom backgrounds and the furry friends in attendance!

This year, audience favorite Pat Cashman will be back as event emcee, and we’re planning another exciting, fun-filled online gala. RSVPs will begin in June. Mark your calendars, and we’ll see you on September 25th! (In person event elements may take place depending on public health and safety guidelines.)

GIVING TUESDAY: NOVEMBER 30

Every act of generosity counts… And the kittens are counting on us!

Photos by Pixel Cat Photography, The Furrtographer, Kathy Jones, and Sarah Chappell
Design by Shirley Chen
**NEW PROGRAMS at SAFe Rescue**

**Onsite Surgery Suite**

SAFe Rescue used to bring cats to partner clinics for spay/neuter, but COVID-19 drastically limited the number of veterinary appointments available locally. In 2020, our long-held dream of performing surgeries onsite suddenly became an emergency need!

Thankfully, this caring community stepped up to help. With support from donors like you and from the Banfield Foundation, in just a few short weeks, the Medical Team created a surgical suite.

Since then, the Medical Team has altered over **500** cats onsite, and counting. Performing these surgeries is making it possible for SAFe to open up more availability at local clinics and to create much-needed veterinary capacity in our area for other organizations and for individual pet owners.

**Stay SAFe Pet Pantry**

Like their human families, companion animals are also impacted by Washington state’s growing food insecurity during COVID-19. When community members become unable to afford the cost of food for their companion animals, everyone involved suffers. Humans face the heartbreaking decision to surrender their animals, animals lose loving homes, and local shelters risk becoming overwhelmed with intake.

Families should not have to choose between themselves and their pets, between caring for their beloved companion animals and meeting their own basic needs! To support local pet owners, we created the Stay SAFe Pet Pantry in 2020. Located outside the front door of the Adoption Center, this pantry has grown to serve over **50** households each week. Members of the community who have extra pet food and supplies can drop them off at the pantry, and we continually restock the shelves with food and litter from the Rescue’s supplies as well.

**By limiting population through spay and neuter, we can work together to achieve our goal that every cat can have a loving home.**

Kim Morgan, Veterinary Care Manager

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**FINANCIALS**

You are keeping SAFe Rescue’s mission going strong! Adoption fees funded less than **20%** of SAFe Rescue’s work in 2020: your generosity is what’s making it possible to help cats and the humans who love them during this time of unprecedented need.

**2020 EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th><strong>%</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$653,416</strong></td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td><strong>$90,293</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td><strong>$114,104</strong></td>
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**2020 INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donations</th>
<th><strong>$210,619</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoption fees</td>
<td><strong>$154,144</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants**</td>
<td><strong>$99,500</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine Lives Gala, net revenue*</td>
<td><strong>$97,518</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>GiveBIG</td>
<td><strong>$91,412</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Workplace giving &amp; matching</td>
<td><strong>$78,902</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Giving Tuesday</td>
<td><strong>$52,377</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Sales, net revenue</td>
<td><strong>$17,572</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td><strong>$5,188</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td><strong>$2,915</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL*** | **$857,813** |

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**Thank you for putting food out. We would have had to rehome our cat and dog if it were not for you.**

Pantry User

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**My 13-year-old kitty, Livvy, was diagnosed with lymphoma. She’s currently undergoing chemo. Treatment is expensive, and it’s hard to know that there are so many cats out there who aren’t able to get the care they need to prolong their lives. I feel lucky to be able to provide extra care for Livvy. I hope this donation helps some other kitties with surgery, medicine, and shelter to live longer, healthier lives.**

Sandra, SAFe Rescue Donor