



Whiskers

2021

ANNUAL

REPORT



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Whiskers officially began taking in cats for rescue in April of 2018. Since that day, Whiskers has endeavored to become a resource for our community by actively advocating for the health and wellbeing of all cats. When I was considering taking on the challenge of starting a rescue, it was daunting. Yet, I saw an overwhelming need from which I could not turn away - the cats who needed more than the current standard of care available through most rescue groups and animal shelters; older cats who needed expensive health care to live out their golden years free of pain, the injured who might be saved with a surgical procedure and/or a safe place to recover, and the sick who needed in-depth diagnostics to search for a remedy and restore them to health.

It was my dream to create a rescue organization and a team who could be the heroes for these cats. There have been many tears of both grief and happiness shed since April 2018, every tear an expression of love. The people who saw merit in my dream have become part of the fabric of Whiskers. The good fortune to have many generous, caring individuals has made it possible to intervene on behalf of 563 high-risk cats as of year-end 2021.

Without access to world-class veterinarians and the latest in testing methods, many Whiskers cats would have gone undiagnosed and suffered instead of being lifted out of pain and into happy, pain-free lives. The veterinary clinics that work with Whiskers to provide care at discounted rates makes helping more cats possible. Their support, expertise, and partnership are an essential thread of our success. Our foster caregivers are invaluable: without safe, appropriate spaces for cats to heal and grow, we could not help more than a handful of cats. Every volunteer who is willing to take a bit of the load to make it all happen is an absolute treasure that I cherish beyond words. The people who have reached into their pockets and donated to help, a little or a lot, tie it all together. The harsh reality is that rescuing a life costs money. Every person playing a role and contributing what they can to create the Whiskers tapestry is immensely appreciated.

Please join me in celebrating our accomplishments thus far. This report is representative of the beginning of Whiskers' success story. Together we can save them.

Jessica Vigos
Founder & Executive Director
June 2022



OUR PERFORMANCE

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to minimize the euthanasia of high-risk pets in Utah.

The following actions help us achieve this goal:

- Rescuing high-risk pets from Utah shelter partners. We cater to seniors, medical cases, and special needs animals.*
- Keeping pets in homes by providing education, resources and promoting spay & neuter programs.*
- Providing veterinary care to animals initially not considered "highly" adoptable and bringing them back to health for adoption.*

To Our Donors

We are 100% donation funded. We are using Facebook and PayPal giving platforms for donations as well as various smaller opportunities such as Amazon Smile, Smith's and Chewy. We have three larger donors who have helped sustain our program through turbulent times by making large or committed quarterly donations. These donations have continued to be a huge base of support for our cats. We are always looking for larger gift donors to help provide a more reliable base of sustainability. All of our donors make an impact! Whether donating to a work giving fund, a monthly donation, or a one-time donation, it has enabled us to forever change the lives of the cats in our care.

Strategic Highlights

We have worked hard to build a reputation for the work we do, utilizing social media, events, and our website. Whiskers was selected to participate in a tech competition by a company called 48 in 48, where tech-driven participants compete to build a website to drive donations and visibility. The new site is beautiful! Thanks to 48 in 48 we will soon be launching our innovative design to give donors, adoptive homes, and the community a direct view to the impact we make and the lives we forever change. June 2021, we added a terrific administrative team including a web administrator. Kenan Karalic has been a hero in making our current website function better and doing priceless work behind the scenes. We are excited to see what the newly organized fundraising team can do to manage donor relations, grant writing and fundraising initiatives.



Whiskers and our wonderful donors give cats like Tucker, a shy friend, the opportunity to thrive in foster homes where they feel safe.

Providing Tucker's dental care had an enormous impact on the way he felt! Being pain-free is a huge factor in cats being able to groom, play and interact with their environment.

Operating Highlights

- In 2021, Whiskers built three enclosures at headquarters with the skill and help of our donors & great friends. These nice enclosures help provide a space for longer-term residents and those with special needs.
- We also added the Petco at Farmington Station as another partner in addition to the long-term partnership with Petco in Bountiful. This has increased our adoptions and visibility in the community as this location provides more foot traffic & visibility.

486

**ADOPTIONS
SINCE 2018**

123

**ADOPTIONS
2021**



BEHIND THE SCENES

Other Important Statistics

- Because of foster homes, our cats are given the time they need to heal both mentally & physically.
- It is not uncommon for Whiskers to take in cats who are nearing the end of their lives. We pride ourselves on the care that we give to our hospice kitties. Showing these cats the love and compassion that they deserve; giving them more time through dedicated care, ensuring they leave this earth with dignity, regardless of the amount of time they have left, is both heartbreaking and heartwarming.
- In addition to adoptable, indoor cats, Whiskers also helps countless community cats by providing food and medical care.

48

ACTIVE FOSTER
HOMES 2021

29

HOSPICE CATS
SINCE 2018

96

COMMUNITY
CATS
SINCE 2018

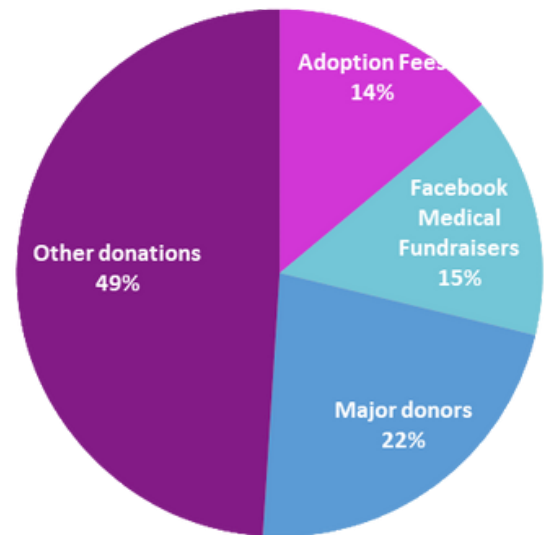


OUR LATEST NUMBERS

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Recognizing our most supportive donors:

- Anonymous annual donor \$10,000 gift
- Ellen Bloedel and Katherine Brown
- Solange P. De Olivera
- Ana P. Bezerra
- M. Holmberg
- Matthews Family
- Doree Tateoka
- Melody Gritton



We are grateful for each and every donation! In 2021, we were able to generate **\$69,573** to save lives and provide high-quality veterinary care. Whiskers generated an additional **\$13,191** in adoption fees.

LOOKING AHEAD

*Being older does not mean
you matter less, it doesn't
mean you should be
discarded or abandoned.*

*It means you deserve the best,
the comfiest, the kindest and
most compassionate home that
sees the true beauty in you.*

(Pictured Selva, 15 years old)

We continue to change attitudes and beliefs surrounding all cat topics. We work diligently promoting spaying & neutering. We inform our community on the effects of declawing and appropriate care of those previously declawed, breaking barriers for special needs and senior animals by teaching others what their care requires. We advocate for better treatment of our feline friends both under-socialized, living outside and those pet cats living indoors. With your support, we can continue to help the perfectly imperfect, keep owned cats in their homes, and be leaders in demonstrating what gentle and compassionate care looks like.

Board Members

- Melody Gritton
- Julie Davis
- Ryan Tate
- Nicole Hellstrom

Advisory

- Dr. Lindi Kopecko, DVM

