



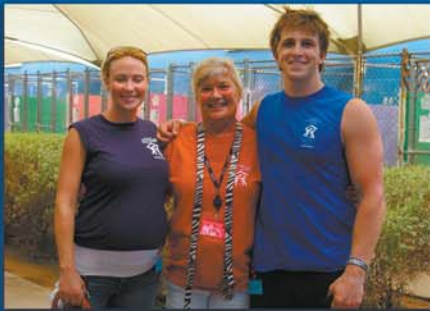
ARIZONA ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE & SPCA  
ARIZONA'S OLDEST & LARGEST NO-KILL SHELTER



Every Picture Tells a Story

2009 Annual Report

# But, the Story Begins With YOU...



Donors ♥ Fosters ♥ Volunteers ♥ Staff ♥ ...and YOU!

# Those Who Care About the Animals.

## BECAUSE OF YOU ... WE SAVED MORE LIVES

But there is so much more to do!



It's difficult to sum up an entire year in one brief letter. I could talk in-depth about the great work our team has done in rescuing,

rehabilitating, treating and finding new homes for more than 2,400 animals this year. That's WAY more than we had projected, a 10% increase over last year!! (And last year was 30% more than the year before!)

While I love to brag about our accomplishments, and all the great people who work here — our dedicated and hard-working volunteers, our supporters and donors who make it all possible — I feel strongly that we still aren't

doing enough. Not when hundreds of animals, many of them with minor, very treatable, health issues, are being euthanized every week in our community because of lack of space and resources. We have to work even harder to save even more of these precious lives!

We know how to save lives — we know how to medically treat, provide quality temporary housing and care and successfully place dogs, cats, puppies and kittens in loving homes. And those

efforts were recognized this year when our organization was named AZ Central's Best Animal Shelter 2009. But, we have exceeded our physical capacity to increase the numbers of animals that we are able to serve and save. Yes, we could increase adoptions by expanding our foster program, find more off-site adoption venues and work even harder, but it's not going to make the kind of difference necessary to dramatically reduce the unnecessary deaths of

thousands of innocent animals.

It's time to expand, increase our capacity and welcome hundreds more homeless animals into our safe haven. What does that mean? It means we need more kennels, a bigger cattery and YOU.

YOU are the champion who is saving lives with every dollar you donate, every animal you adopt or foster, every event that you attend, every time you refer a friend to us, every time you volunteer or attend a training course and every time you let us know of the difference we have made in your life. Thank you for everything you've done ... and will do ... to give loveable pets a second chance. Now, let's get busy!

Judith A. Gardner  
President and CEO

The truth is that none of this would be possible without YOU. Without your gift of money and time, there is no shelter, there are no medical services or mobile clinic, there are no dog walkers at 6 a.m. every morning and all through the day, and there are no warm arms consoling a new, frightened animal that was saved from certain death.

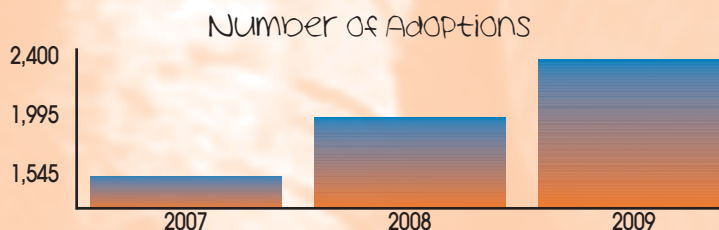
## THANKS TO YOU

We are 20% over our adoption goals ... and running out of space

We set a goal of 2,009 adoptions in 2009, but we far exceeded that goal, thanks to the hard work and support of our board, staff, volunteers and donors. By the end of 2009, we will have adopted over 2,400 animals into new, loving and forever homes!

We did "more with less" this past year and tried to do everything possible to save as many lives as we could. However, we are

at our maximum capacity and, in order to keep improving and rescuing more innocent animals, we need to expand. That means your donations are more important than ever. Please use the enclosed envelope to help us help save lives — no donation is too small and every dollar is carefully allocated toward meeting our most pressing needs.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Norma J. Ory, Co-President**  
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Voted AZCentral.com's  
Best Animal Shelter 2009



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ARIZONA'S OLDEST & LARGEST NO-KILL SHELTER

30 North 40th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85034  
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We need your help now more than ever.

# Adoption Stories

Saving just one dog or cat won't change the world, but it will surely change the world for that one dog or cat.



## VAN GOGH

Around the beginning of March 2009, Maricopa County Animal Care and Control put out a plea for an organization to step up and save a Tibetan Mastiff that had been there since February 13th. His right ear was almost torn off and he



had a massive infection that was not healing. AAWL & SPCA decided they were willing to commit the significant resources it would take to help save him.

My husband and I had seen his picture that was sent out by County and knew this boy was meant for us. We contacted AAWL and let them know that he had a home as soon as we could adopt him. By the way, we found out then that they aptly named him van Gogh.

We actually had a friend, Erin, who had been a volunteer at AAWL for five years or more and she had sung their praises forever. Seeing van Gogh and their commitment to him, we realized this was clearly a sign that if they could take on this boy in this condition, we needed to try to help give something back. Both Bob and I attended classes to become volunteers and we signed up for foster classes so that we could bring our boy home sooner. We saw such love and caring in the staff. He had numerous surgeries to reattach his ear, medications for the severe infections he had in his wounds and had to wear an

E collar to protect his ear, even though his neck was full of sores.

On April 1st, we were able to bring van Gogh home as a foster. He was still undergoing significant treatment and returned to the clinic for his exams week-

ly. Van Gogh loved going back to the clinic and seeing all the people who had done so much to help him. About 5 weeks later we were able to officially adopt him, and he has been a Blessing in our lives.

We will be eternally grateful to this wonderful organization that is not only a shelter for those in need, but provides medical care, behavioral evaluation and training so adoptions are successful.

This has been the most rewarding experience either of us has had. Not only is van Gogh a significant part of our family, but we are able to have a small part in loving and helping the "furry kids" rescued by AAWL & SPCA. We watch the website daily and celebrate the adoptions, calling each other and Erin to shout "guess who got adopted today"?

God Bless all of the staff and volunteers at AAWL. You all make an incredible difference in the lives of multiple animals and people! You sure did for us. Van Gogh sends a big sloppy kiss to each and every one of you!

Billie and Bob Lent

## MAGGIE AND TOMMIE

In November, 2008 I lost my beloved friend Sage (Cocker Spaniel) at age 15. My house was very sad and lonely. I mentioned to my daughter in Austin, TX that I just could not imagine getting another dog, it just would not feel right. I said I need two cats to add some fun and love back to this home.

The next day she sent me a picture of Maggie and Tommie. I knew that Sage had sent them to me and I loved them immediately. After Christmas my daughter Melissa and I went to pick them up. I was a nervous wreck because I had not had cats for 30 years.

Tommie was very comfortable and started checking out everything when we got home. Maggie scampered

from the kennel and was afraid for a few weeks, but she has now become my little Diva. I have taken over 600 pictures of them and everyone says how beautiful they are. I can't believe they stayed in the shelter for so long. I guess they were just waiting for me.

I had a wonderful experience adopting from AAWL & SPCA. Everyone was so great and also available for me when I

had questions and concerns. Thanks for bringing love back into my home. Rest assured these darlings are spoiled and have every cat luxury money can buy. They are healthy and happy and bring so much laughter and love to my life. Thank you so much.

Sharon Huber



You helped us surpass last year's adoption results. 2,400 homeless pets found new loving homes in 2009.



## MISS DAISY!

After a couple losses of loved ones, and an unexpected move to Arizona, I was feeling depleted and empty. After several attempts at finding the right dog, to no avail, I came across AAWL & SPCA. Wow! What a difference. You mean to tell me that there are behavior staff and adoption counselors to help make the right match? Count me in!

I had a tall list of expectations for the right dog for me, and wasn't having much luck finding the 'perfect' one. Then, a fantastic adoption counselor guided me to Daisy. Daisy matched all of my criteria, and exceeded my expectations by miles.

Miss Daisy has filled that empty void, and actually helped me "get a life" again.



We have taken advantage of the many training programs AAWL has to offer. Daisy has completed basic obedience, and Canine Good Citizen Training. We took a break from the 'structure' of obedience to have a little fun with AAWL's Mutts in Motion agility class. Daisy is eager to continue her

training when AAWL rolls out a therapy dog class in the fall.

Daisy is an extremely happy girl. She always has a smile, and is eager to please. The two of us are always out and about, getting into mischief. People often stop me to admire this beautiful girl, and are so impressed with how good and well behaved she is.

Daisy continues to blossom every day, and is the constant joy and companion I truly needed. It doesn't get any better than this.

Thank you AAWL, for helping me find my perfect match!

Gail and Miss Daisy

## MADDIE'S FUND



The Pet Rescue Foundation

AAWL & SPCA is the lead agency for Maddie's Projects in Maricopa County.

# Foster Stories

## WHY I LOVE TO VOLUNTEER AND FOSTER

It has been a little over three years now since I started volunteering with Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA. After volunteering in the cattery for about a year and seeing all of the cats and kittens coming in, I could not help but want to do more. It is so fulfilling to be a foster family.

Words cannot express how it feels to open your home to help save the lives of such wonderful creatures. The way an animal looks into your



eyes. You are the whole world to them. There is no greater feeling than unconditional love. For a brief moment in time they are part of our family. I know

I help save lives and provide a loving foundation for other families. Foster kitties keep our family entertained and provide stimulation for our older cats. Fostering is absolutely a joy in our lives.

Laura Shekia

## WHY DO YOU FOSTER?

"Why do you foster?" I foster because of milky breath, sleepy sighs, warm bodies, round tummies, tiny toes. I foster to experience playful discovery, trusting eyes and happy tails.

"How can you give them back?" To make room for Whisper, Cricket, Paddington, Yogi and the thousands of others waiting for a chance.

"Do you wonder what happens to them?" I know exactly what hap-

pens to them when there are no fosters.

"Do you think they wonder why you didn't keep them?" Their fosters are only a blink of memory as they go on to hear hopes, dreams, tears and laughter in fulfillment of their own destiny to save a human.

Try it; fostering could be the best experience of your life! It is mine.

Susan VanWarmer



75 foster families cared for almost 1,300 underage or recovering animals in 2009.

# Education Stories

We educate to help prevent cruelty to animals by providing safe and humane interactions with companion animals and to teach responsible pet ownership, including which animals make good pets and which do not. Children and teens learn about communication, respect and responsibility while building skills in an environment of kindness & compassion.



## FOR TEENS

Our Teen Tracks program is designed for kids ages 13-17 who love animals and might be thinking of future careers working in the animal welfare field. After passing the application and interview process, teens are put through a rigorous program of training that includes animal behavior, husbandry, handling skills and career based workshops. They are then required to work a minimum number of service hours at our Adoption Center and Education Campus.



Teen Volunteer of the Year  
ALEXA WILLIAMS

recent group of 50 is Alexa Williams, a junior at Desert Vista High School. Alexa has been in Teen Tracks since 2006 and helps the staff each weekend, in addition to being a foster parent and volunteering almost 40 hours a week during summer camp. At last year's "Walk to Save Animals", Alexa raised over \$1,000 in donations. This year, Alexa was named the 2009 Teen Volunteer of the Year. Teens like Alexa have bright futures ahead of them and, if they choose, could become the Animal Welfare leaders of tomorrow.

One of the outstanding teens from the

## PENNIES FOR PUPPIES

AAWL & SPCA's "Home School Thursdays" offer instruction to help children become better animal caregivers, animal advocates and leaders in the community.

Daniel O'Keeffe, a 13 year old student who regularly attends our home school classes, decided for his homework assignment he would construct a money jar out of recycled materials, make it look like a puppy, and collect spare change from friends and



family to help the homeless animals at AAWL & SPCA. In no time at all, Daniel had collected over \$20.00. When he returned to class the next week, he proudly presented the money he had collected. To our surprise, he asked to have the money jar back... he was not done!

He is still collecting spare change, and he is committed to making a difference in the lives of helpless dogs and cats.

## CAMP VET

June, 2009 was the inauguration of an all new summer camp program called "Camp Vet". This wildly popular program is designed to introduce children, ages 12-14, to the world of veterinary medicine.

Kids who attended the camp experi-

enced surgery observation, organ dissection, suturing, pet first aid and guidance on proper animal care. Campers also had the privilege and unique opportunity of meeting veterinarians from the Phoenix Zoo, as well as observing AAWL & SPCA's vets in action.



## PAWS N' CLAWS KIDS CLUB

Paws N' Claws Kids Club makes a difference for animals and children! Young people often think "what can I do... I'm just a kid."

One of the most powerful tools we have for preventing cruelty to animals is education. It is important to plant the seeds of kindness in children early, and to nurture their development as the child grows. Children not only need to learn what they shouldn't do, but also what they can and should do.



By joining AAWL & SPCA's "Paws N' Claws Kids Club", children ages 6-12 can make a difference for animals of all kinds. We encourage members to reach out and do something good for animals. Once a month, Kids Club members get together and work on a project or learn a new animal lesson with our education staff. Members are taught kindness, compassion and proper treatment of all living things.

AAWL & SPCA feel that programs such as this are vital for creating good foundations for our future animal caregivers.



AAWL & SPCA's Education Department provided workshops, classes and camps to 2,330 children, ages 3-17 in 2009.

# Volunteer Stories

"If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain. If I can ease one life the aching, or cool one pain, or help one fainting robin unto his nest again, I shall not live in vain." -Emily Dickinson

## WHY I VOLUNTEER FOR AAWL & SPCA

When AAWL was started by Amanda Blake (Miss Kitty) in 1971, I was a coed at ASU and an Arcadia resident and remember very well the people involved. AAWL was a new concept in Arizona at that time. AAWL goes into Maricopa County Animal Care & Control and the Arizona Humane Society to save the animals that otherwise would be destroyed simply because of time and space constraints.

Personally, I have worked with various organizations throughout my life and have found AAWL & SPCA, its staff and volunteers, to be one of the most compassionate, organized group of animal caretakers I have had the privilege to associate with. At AAWL the welfare of an animal always comes first! So much happens behind the scenes that the public



is not aware of. The cleanliness of the shelter and medical care provided the dogs and cats is exemplary.

AAWL is consistently improving how we can benefit our homeless cats and dogs. That is my biggest motivation as a volunteer - to get the animals from a shelter environment into a safe and loving forever home. AAWL & SPCA afford the tools to do this through their organization and progressive thinking. Personally, I have found that volunteering for AAWL & SPCA is extremely emotionally rewarding, not to mention the great exercise I get! If you are compassionate about helping animals, please consider volunteering for Arizona's oldest no-kill and most progressive rescue organization - The Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA.

Debbie Whitcomb

## GIVING BACK

We adopted our wonderful kitten, Sam, from AAWL & SPCA and I was so impressed with how well they cared for the animals. We were especially grateful to Sam's foster family. They did an amazing job taking care of her, and we want them to know that all the love and attention they poured into her has enriched not only Sam's life but ours as well.



After adopting Sam, I knew that I wanted to become a volunteer and give something back to honor the wonderful gift I had received. Every time I enter the cattery lobby, I think of Sam, and how lucky we are that the AAWL was there for her, just as it is for so many other animals in need.

Elizabeth Pericles

## MEDTRONIC VOLUNTEERS

A growing number of companies are encouraging employees to volunteer at the Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA, including one larger group we had this year, Medtronics, who volunteered at the shelter on October 30, 2009, where 17 volunteers painted our cattery. Volunteers from the group provided all of the paint and



supplies for the much needed project which was organized by Anna Malin, an AAWL Volunteer. The day was spent prepping and painting and ended on a high note with an impromptu puppy play party. AAWL & SPCA welcomes group volunteer projects and appreciates the support to help with larger projects within the organization.



## A BOY SCOUT

Boy Scout Scott Muenta from Troop 328 works on Eagle Project at AAWL

Scott Muenta, a Troop 328 Boy Scout, selected the Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA to do his Eagle Project. Scott and several volunteers from his troop obtained donations from Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart and Petco and installed turf & gravel, donated play pools, water bowls and food lids, sanded and refurbished benches and donated another sitting bench for the play yard. This yard is

used to give dogs being held in quarantine, before being placed up for adoption, a place to have time out of their kennels.



More than 400 active volunteers donated more than 250,000 hours of their time in 2009.

# Medical Clinic Stories

"I hope to make people realize how totally helpless animals are, how dependent on us, trusting as a child must that we will be kind and take care of their needs . . . They are an obligation put on us, a responsibility we have no right to neglect, nor to violate by cruelty." -James Herriot



## MOBILE CLINIC

Thanks to YOU, our wonderful supporters, we were able to raise the money needed to purchase and outfit a mobile clinic which is now on the road, helping provide other animal rescue groups with low-cost spay/neuter surgeries. We also offer a low-

cost vaccine and microchip clinic to the public several times each month. This addition to our fleet has brought in much-needed revenue while helping protect many animals in our community.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY came to us as a little kitten with a big problem. A compassionate community member came to our shelter holding this tiny cat begging for someone to help them. They had seen this kitten thrown out of the window of a moving car. Our medical team rushed the kitten back to the clinic and started treating her immediately. Both of her back legs were broken and her paws had been



shredded when she tried to stop herself from tumbling down the road. We were not sure she was going to make it, but she pulled through with flying colors. We named her Happy Birthday because even though we knew she was a few months old when we got her, we were able to save her life and give her a new beginning, so we say her life really started the day she came to AAWL & SPCA.

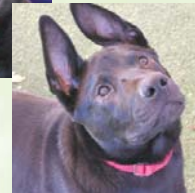
## NUGGET

NUGGET was a puppy we rescued from MCACC early in 2009. He had to have surgery on both eyes and had to wear a cone until his eyes healed, which took quite a while. The poor puppy grew to twice his size while wearing the cone and with stitches in both eyes. But he was a happy boy who just wanted to run around and play. Due to wearing the cone for so long, Nugget's ears stood straight up after it was removed and sometimes they even crossed! It was a happy day when Nugget found his new, loving family and, even if his ears are a

little funny, his eyes are as good as new.



Nugget Before



Nugget After

## KENDAL

KENDAL was only a month old when she came to AAWL & SPCA after being found shivering in the middle of the road on an early morning in March. It was immediately determined that she was one sick girl. Upon further testing, Kendal was diagnosed with Parvovirus. In most organizations this would be an immediate death sentence, but not at AAWL & SPCA. Kendal was admitted to the Infirmary where she was given continuous fluids and a number of different medications for approximately 10 days. Due to the amazing dedication of our medical team, Kendal recovered! She was adopted by a loving family in late April.



## PRINGLE

PRINGLE was a cute little black dog that had a serious problem with fistulas in his mouth. He was operated on twice at AAWL & SPCA by both vets several weeks apart. However, his mouth wasn't healing and it was very painful for him. We determined his only hope was to go to a canine dental specialist, which was estimated to cost between \$1500 and \$2500. We reached out to our wonderful supporters and you came through. Within 24 hours we had the money needed to do

the surgery. Pringle is recovering well and is very happy in the care of a wonderful foster parent.



Our clinic and infirmary treated 370 cats and 250 dogs in 2009 due to our amazing veterinarian services.

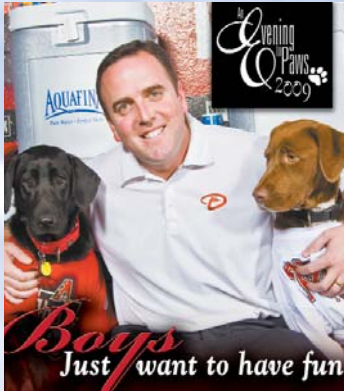


# Fundraising Stories

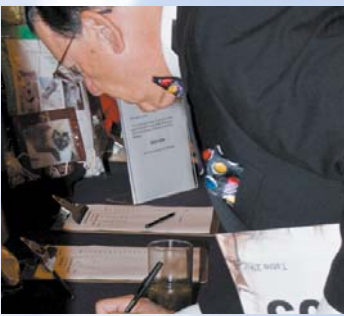
Your contribution to The Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA goes straight to work helping thousands of animals through outreach and rescue programs in our community. Saving lives and providing healing . . . your gift today makes all these good things possible.

## EVENING TO PAWS

Our annual black-tie event was held at the Scottsdale Hilton. Dedicated to the community, the Diamondbacks stepped up this year and helped make the event a smashing success with Derrick Hall and Daron Sutton serving as hosts. Attended by about 400 guests, and sponsored by PetSmart, the evening included a wonderful dinner and dancing.



Mark your calendars! The next ETP will be held March 6th at the Scottsdale Hilton.



## WALK TO SAVE ANIMALS

Our second largest event was held at Tempe Town Lake on Saturday, November 14th. America's Got Talent



contestant, Pam Martin and her dog Spy, entertained the audience along with the Alumni parade and a Doggie Dating Game. More than 1,000 people, most with their dogs, turned out for a great day.



## CASH AND SUPPLY DRIVES

Our wonderful supporters - YOU - helped raise cash and supplies this year in record numbers. Some of the companies that held drives were:

Scottsdale Insurance  
Progressive Insurance  
ASU Responsible Management Class  
TLC House & Pet Sitting  
ASU Gammage

AJ's Fine Foods  
John Klamm's Cabaret Dance Studio  
Compliments Retail Store  
Dirty Dogg Saloon  
Sleepy Dog Saloon & Brewery

In addition, many individuals, including many kids, raised money to help the animals in lieu of birthday and wedding gifts.



## BEQUESTS

We were honored to receive many bequests this year, including a major gift from a former volunteer, Ruth Martin. Her legacy, born out of her love for cats, will save hundreds of lives and was critical to our ability to increase the numbers of animals helped in 2009. We also introduced a new "Angels for Animals" program with workshops to help people learn about Pet Estate Planning.

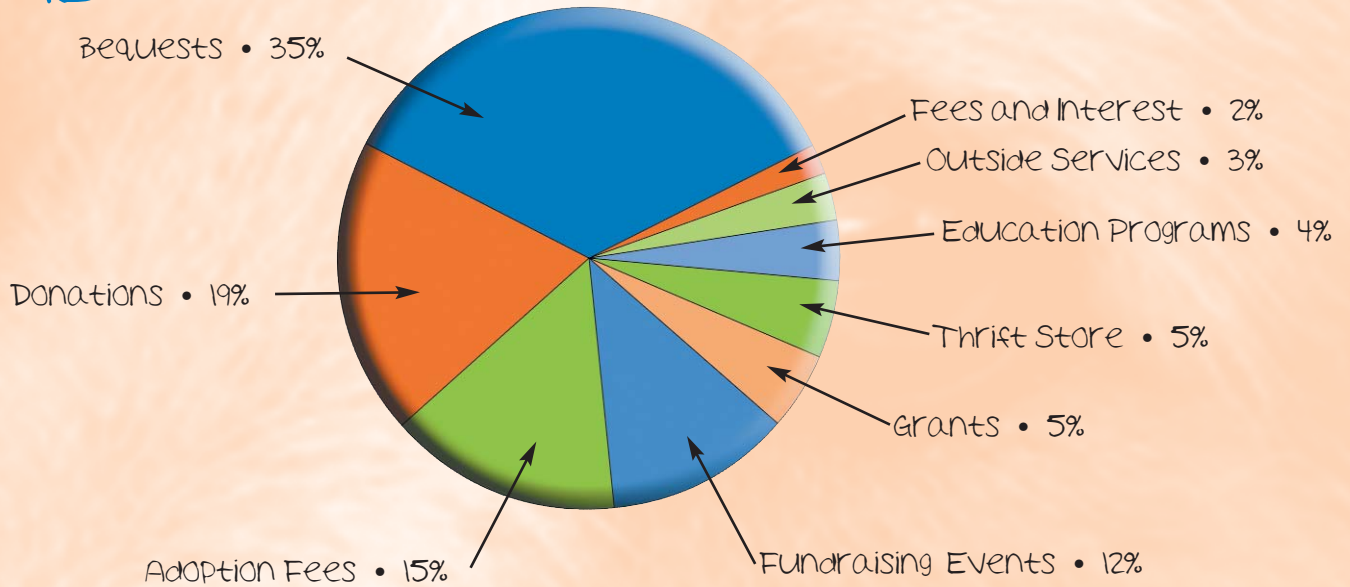


Donations decreased by almost 20% in 2009 due to the economy.

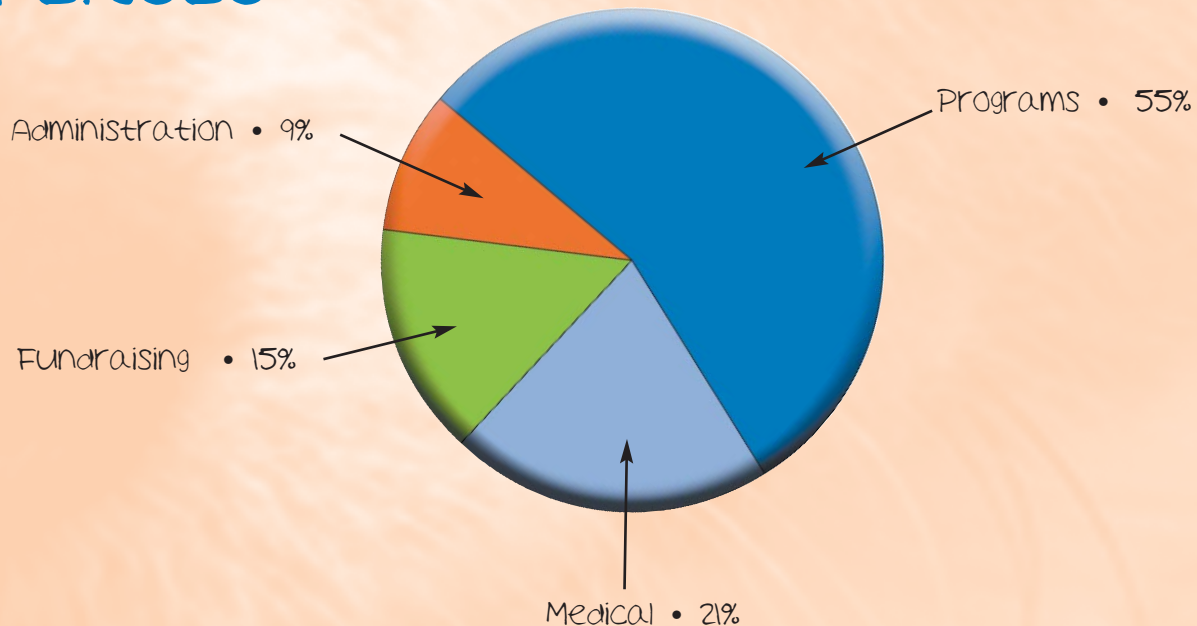
# YOUR DOLLARS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

A full 76% of your donated dollars goes directly to saving lives!

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



The total annual budget in 2009 was \$2.3 million.

# The Animals Need YOU Now!

Your contribution ensures that we can continue our lifesaving work.

## WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF SHELTER SPACE.

Fund a dog kennel for \$500



Fund a cat condo for \$250

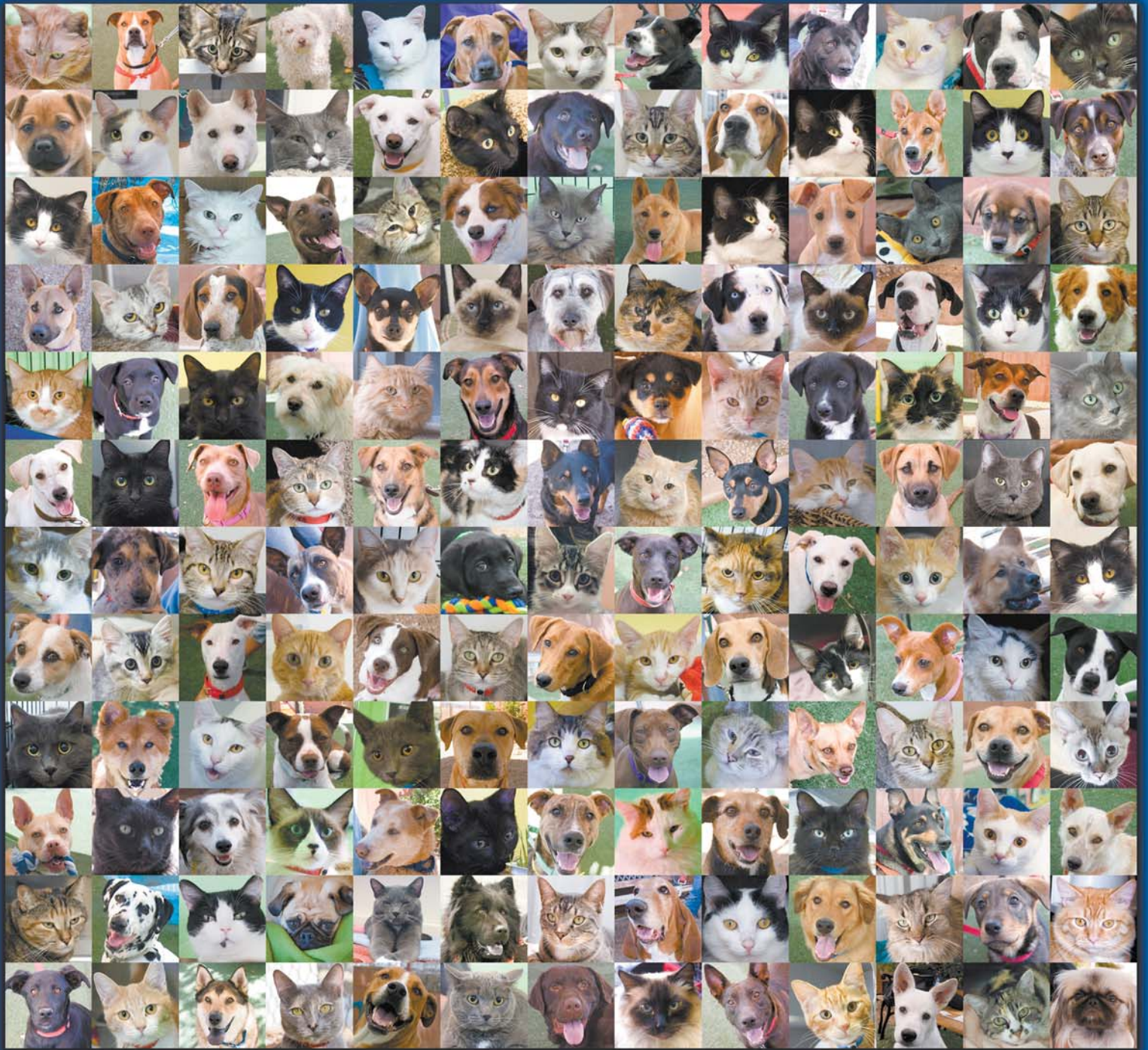


Help us increase our space to save more animals by donating today!

You can donate by using the enclosed envelope, or online at [www.aaw.org](http://www.aaw.org). WE all thank you!



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ARIZONA'S OLDEST & LARGEST NO-KILL SHELTER



Picture Me No Longer Homeless

[www.aawl.org](http://www.aawl.org)