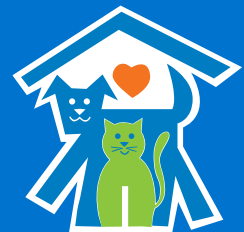


ARIZONA ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE
Annual Impact Report

2021

50 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES



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

AAWL.ORG

EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

As our 50th year comes to an end, I would like to take a moment to share how important your support has been to the thousands of vulnerable animals we have saved in the last five decades. Without you – the AAWL community of adopters, volunteers, donors, and pet owners – we would not be able to deliver our promise to provide love, care, and protection to the animals entrusted to us.

Over the years, AAWL has made life-saving progress in rural communities thanks to our Rural Rescue program, saving over 6,200 animals since 2015. In urban communities like Maricopa County, where pet owners from diverse communities have growing needs, we've expanded low-cost vaccine clinics, veterinary care, and behavioral support over the past decade to help reduce the number of animals that come into the shelter system altogether. Through programs like the Medical Miracle Fund and AAWL Cares, we have given vulnerable animals a second chance at life and provided needy families with resources to care for their pets.

Our organization continues to evolve with the hopes of dramatically improving the quality of life and health outcomes for animals throughout the state and saving the lives of 100,000 more dogs and cats in the coming decades.

We are working towards a future where we become the premier training facility for behaviorally challenged animals, so they can spend hours outside of their kennels engaging in enrichment activities that help them meet their needs and learn good behaviors.

A future where we bring our veterinary science programs into Title 1 schools and create a pipeline of veterinarians from diverse communities who want to give back to AAWL by working at our low-cost clinic.

A future where we double the number of foster families, volunteers, and adopters by serving people of color, people without homes, seniors, and other marginalized groups who do heroic things for their pets every day.

And finally, a future where we form strategic partnerships to get to zero euthanasia rates in rural parts of the state by delivering low-cost vaccines and spay-neuter services and by eliminating barriers to veterinary care so that no struggling pet owner ever has to surrender their animal because they cannot afford to care for it.

AAWL was created 50 years ago to save the lives of animals – and we are proud to rise to this challenge every day as you will learn from the stories in this report. With your continued generosity, we can provide an even brighter future for all the animals in our care.

With gratitude,

Alex Navidad

Alessandra Navidad, CEO



AT THE HEART OF AAWL

Creating families is at the heart of what we do at AAWL. In the last 50 years, we have helped over 100,000 animals find their forever homes and get a second chance at life. This year alone we have had over 3,000 adoptions between our Main Shelter and our Chandler Adoption Center. There are so many heartwarming adoption stories to share from this past year. Here are a couple of our favorites:



A little rough around the edges from years in the harsh desert landscape and FIV+ after being attacked by another cat, Hank was still a charmer from the moment he arrived at AAWL. He was so ready to find his forever home and after a month at the shelter his new family came to adopt him! Hank now spends his days watching over “his kids.” Playing with toy cars? Coloring and stickers? Not without Hank. Naptime in princess sheets? Hank must be tucked in with “his girl.” It’s the life you always deserved, Hank, and we’re proud to have been a part of your journey!

HANK



Jessica was not looking for a dog when she met Starsky. A friend’s wife, who volunteers at AAWL, mentioned a sweet dog who was starting to break down after months of living at the shelter. Starsky was restless in his kennel and was acting out, much like a teenager may do. Many potential adopters saw this and decided that Starsky was a bad dog. When Jessica saw Starsky, she didn’t see him as an angry hooligan, but as a good boy in need of some love, patience, and space to call his own. She brought him home for a slumber party to see how he fit in with her family. Starsky immediately made himself at home, claiming the couch and the family as his own. He hasn’t left Jessica’s side ever since.

STARSKY

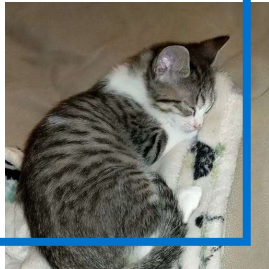
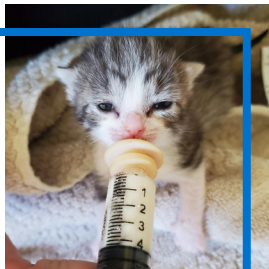


3,742 DOGS AND CATS LIVES SAVED

1,391 ADOPTIONS FROM CHANDLER ADOPTION CENTER

MAXIMIZING THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS

As we reflect on how AAWL was able to get where it is today, it is truly because of our dedicated volunteers and foster families. This past year, volunteers stepped up while we have been understaffed to help with transporting animals, counseling adopters, and supporting our medical and animal care teams, and our foster families continued to care for hundreds of kittens, puppies, and animals with medical needs until they were ready to find their forever homes. They are the foundation of AAWL, and we are forever grateful for their commitment and passion to this organization. The lives we have saved would not have been possible without them.



POT ROAST

Caring for abandoned kittens can be physically and emotionally taxing as bottle feedings need to happen every couple of hours. Our dedicated foster families take in hundreds of kittens every year to nurse them back to health so that they can have the lives they truly deserve. Last spring, a kind Samaritan brought in two-month-old kittens to our front desk. Their umbilical cords were still attached, and they were in rough shape after being without their mother for days. The kittens needed around-the-clock care if they had any chance of surviving. One of our fosters brought the pair home to hopefully nurse them back to health until they were old enough to be put up for adoption. Unfortunately, one of the kittens passed away just a few days later. But the other kitten, who was named Pot Roast, thrived in her foster mom's care and just eight weeks later this chunky girl found her forever home!

A DAY IN THE CLINIC

Our devoted volunteers not only help us with our endless laundry and our Rural Rescue runs, but they also support our medical team in the clinic throughout the week. Their support in the clinic ensures that our operations run smoothly and that all the animals that come through our clinic doors are provided with the care they need.

Animals, like Jack, a two-month-old puppy, who had trouble coming out of anesthesia after being neutered, would not be alive today were it not for our quick-thinking volunteers. Two of our experienced volunteers, Mike and Nekki, were helping in recovery while one of our veterinarians performed surgery. When Jack came into recovery and our volunteers were unable to find a pulse, they called over our lead vet tech, who then quickly called code. After a few intense minutes, our vet team was able to revive Jack and his vitals returned to normal. Just days later, Jack had made a full recovery and was adopted by his forever family! Jack's happy ending wouldn't have been possible without their quick actions.



36,000+ Volunteer Hours Were Logged

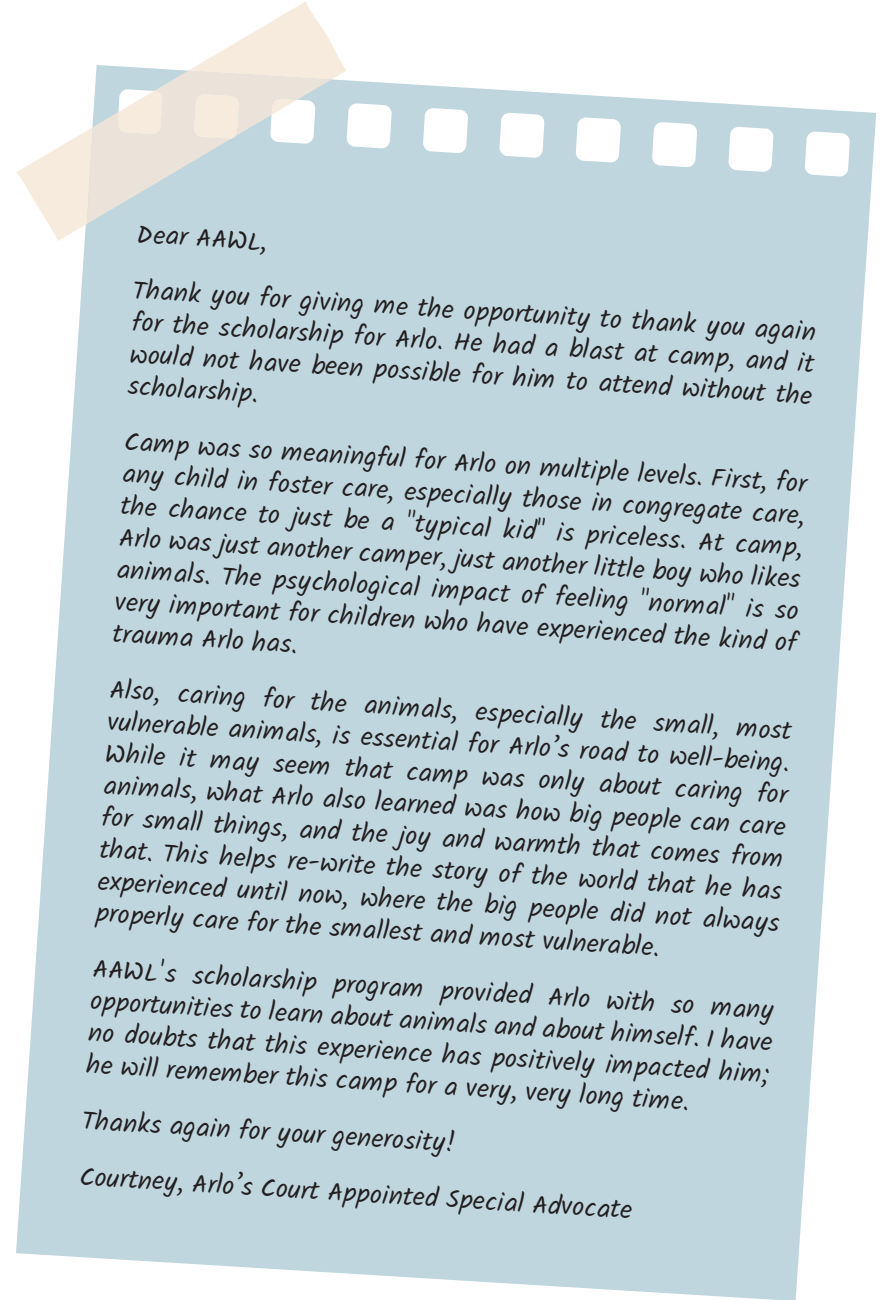
357 Individual Volunteers in 2021

\$468,000 Was Saved in Payroll Costs

1,200+ Kittens & Puppies Went Through Foster Care

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ANIMAL ADVOCATES

Since AAWL's educational programs began almost 20 years ago, our focus has always been to educate the next generation on how to be respectful and compassionate to all animals and be advocates for them in our community. Our summer camps may have looked a little different this year without our exotic animals, but this new curriculum provided our campers with an opportunity to learn how to properly care for companion animals and how to safely interact with them. We were also fortunate enough to receive grant funding from the Arizona Community Foundation to provide scholarship opportunities to children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend one of our camps.



180

Kids Attended One of Our Camp Offerings

17

Campers Were Provided with a Scholarship Opportunity

*names changed for privacy reasons.

SAVING LIVES IS WHAT WE DO BEST

For nearly 20 years, AAWL has been committed to providing above and beyond medical care to every animal who enters our doors. Since hiring our first full-time shelter vet in 2003, our medical department continues to grow and find new ways to better serve the animals in our community. From our low-cost public vet clinic to our lifesaving Medical Miracle Fund, our medical programs save thousands of animals every year. Here are just a few of their stories.



PEBBLES MEDICAL MIRACLE FUND

Pebbles has already gone through a lot in her short life. After surviving Parvo with her four siblings at just a couple months old, Pebbles developed a cough and seemed to tire easily. As all her siblings went off to Chandler to be adopted, Pebbles was left behind as our medical team tried to figure out what was causing her symptoms. After visiting a specialist, it was soon discovered Pebbles had a heart condition that caused her heart to bulge out, which caused her exhaustion. At the time she was too young to undergo surgery to repair her condition, so she went into a foster home until she was strong enough. She was finally able to have her surgery in August thanks to our Medical Miracle Fund and she came through with flying colors. After a few more months of recovery, Pebbles finally found her forever home.



MARY LOU MEDICAL MIRACLE FUND

Struggling to breathe as her lungs filled with fluid, Mary Lou spent days fighting to stay alive as she battled pneumonia in our clinic. After days of wondering if she would make it through the night, she finally turned a corner and slowly started to respond to medication. Once Mary Lou stabilized and more testing was done, she was diagnosed with Cushing's Disease, which is most likely why her pneumonia was so severe. Cushing's Disease is a serious health condition in which the adrenal glands overproduce cortisol in the body and can be life-threatening. Mary Lou is now recovering in a foster home while our team works with specialists to find a treatment plan that will allow her to live a full life with her future forever family.



2,412

Life-Saving
Vaccines Provided



580

Lives Saved In
Our Infirmary



1,183

Exams Done At
MD PetCare



2,800

Surgeries
Performed



AAWL CARES WINNIE

Winnie had severe periodontal disease, causing his teeth to rot. His owner, Suzy, took him to her local vet and was told that it would cost thousands of dollars to remove his teeth. Suzy could not afford to pay for him to get the care he needed. Determined to make it work, Suzy saved money wherever she could, but it was not enough. She knew Winnie was in pain and was worried she was running out of options, until she finally reached AAWL. Suzy made an appointment for Winnie to have his teeth removed and it was completely paid for with our AAWL Cares Grant. Many times, when owners are faced with expensive veterinary bills, they are forced to surrender their pet to the shelter in hopes of their pet getting the care they need, even if it means that they have to say goodbye. With AAWL Cares, we can keep pets with their families, providing an alternative to surrendering to the shelter or even worse, euthanasia. Today, Winnie is a new dog. He runs and plays like a puppy and is living pain-free with his mom, thanks to AAWL.



MEDICAL MIRACLE FUND JOSIE

Four-month-old Josie had a Grade VI heart murmur, which is the most severe type of heart murmur. As the heart beats it pumps blood throughout the body. When there is a disturbance in blood flow, you can hear the irregular heartbeat with a stethoscope. Grade VI heart murmurs are very loud, can be felt through the chest, and occur on both sides of the heart - not just one. Heart murmurs are typically signs of an issue with the heart. In Josie's case, she had a blocked heart valve. Gone untreated, she would die. Josie's only chance of survival laid in the hands of a surgeon and a risky surgery. Luckily, the surgery was successful, and Josie went into foster care to recover. A few months later, Josie was adopted and recently celebrated her first birthday. While Josie must be careful not to overexert herself, she is able to live a normal life thanks to this surgery and our Medical Miracle Fund.

REACHING BEYOND THE...

Our Rural Rescue program is about more than just bringing homeless animals back to our shelter to be put up for adoption. It's about providing small rescues with the support and tools they need to make a bigger impact in their community.

Every month, our team travels thousands of miles to visit our rural partners to bring them supplies, share shelter practices and protocols, and transport dozens of animals back to Phoenix to find their furever families. Together, we will work toward a better future for thousands of vulnerable animals.



GRUFFIE

In April, we joined the Banfield Foundation at a spay/neuter and vaccine clinic on the Ramah Navajo Nation in New Mexico. Many rural areas across Arizona do not have veterinarians nearby, which leaves many families without access to routine vet care for their pets. With the help of our partners, we were able to provide 165 vaccines, heartworm prevention, and spay/neuter surgeries to the pets of the Ramah Navajo Tribe. Afterward, we transported 35 homeless pets back to AAWL, where many received medical care before they found their furever homes. One of these animals was Gruffie, whose leg was bound in a cast, barely hanging on by a single ligament.

What seems to have started out as a deep soft tissue wound became more and more severe. His bone and muscle were completely exposed after the wound became infected and the surrounding skin died. While it was too late to save Gruffie's leg, by removing it we could save Gruffie's life.

INDIA

Our team had driven 180 miles to one of our Rural Rescue partners, and had just begun the long trip home when their cell phone rang. It was our partner calling and asking for us to return to help transport an urgent medical case back to Phoenix. With only one vet in the area and a limited budget for medical care, they needed us. Without a second thought, our team delicately turned our transport truck around and drove back to bring sweet India back to our medical team in Phoenix. Our vet determined she had a broken leg and a large abscess on her back. India's leg was stabilized and she rested comfortably in a foster home until she was ready for adoption.



...WALLS OF OUR SHELTER



OKIE

Okie was suffering from a painful allergic reaction when he arrived at AAWL from one of our partners. His hair was patchy and his paws were swollen and bloody from his severe allergies. Our partner knew that they wouldn't be able to provide Okie with the medical care he needed, but they knew we could with the help of our Medical Miracle Fund. After several visits with a specialty dermatologist and months of foster care, Okie was finally on the mend and ready to find his forever home. But it turns out he was already there, his foster family just made it official.

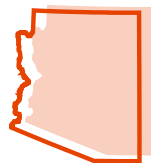
MERCEDES

This past summer as fires raged in northern Arizona and many families were being forced to evacuate their homes, some of our partners opened up their shelters to pets in need of temporary housing. As a result, they had to find homes for the vulnerable animals currently in their care. Our team raced to help provide them much-needed supplies and to bring animals back to our shelter, including Mercedes, a malnourished month-old kitten. Our medical team determined Mercedes was severely underweight and would need around-the-clock care until she was at a safe and healthy size. After nearly a month in foster care, Mercedes was ready to find her forever home, and was adopted soon after she arrived at our Chandler Adoption Center.



TYR

At just one-month-old, Tyr seemed to have gone through unspeakable pain and suffering. When Tyr arrived at AAWL from one of our Rural Rescue partners, his tiny foot was broken and the bones were exposed. We don't know what happened to Tyr's foot before he came into our care. We believe he may have had something attached to his foot that cut off blood circulation, killing the limb. Despite everything, he was the friendliest, happiest little furball. If Tyr were at a different shelter without the funds and resources to help him, he would have been euthanized, but our team knew we could give Tyr the life he deserved. Once Tyr weighed enough to receive surgery safely, we removed his leg. Finally, Tyr could move and play like a regular cat. He spent some time in a foster home before his foster mom fell in love and decided to make him a permanent part of their family.



25

Rural Rescue Partners
Across the Southwest



125

Rural Rescue
Transports



42,384

Miles
Driven



1,648

Lives Saved
in 2021



9,611

Pounds of
Food Donated



775

Pounds of
Litter Donated



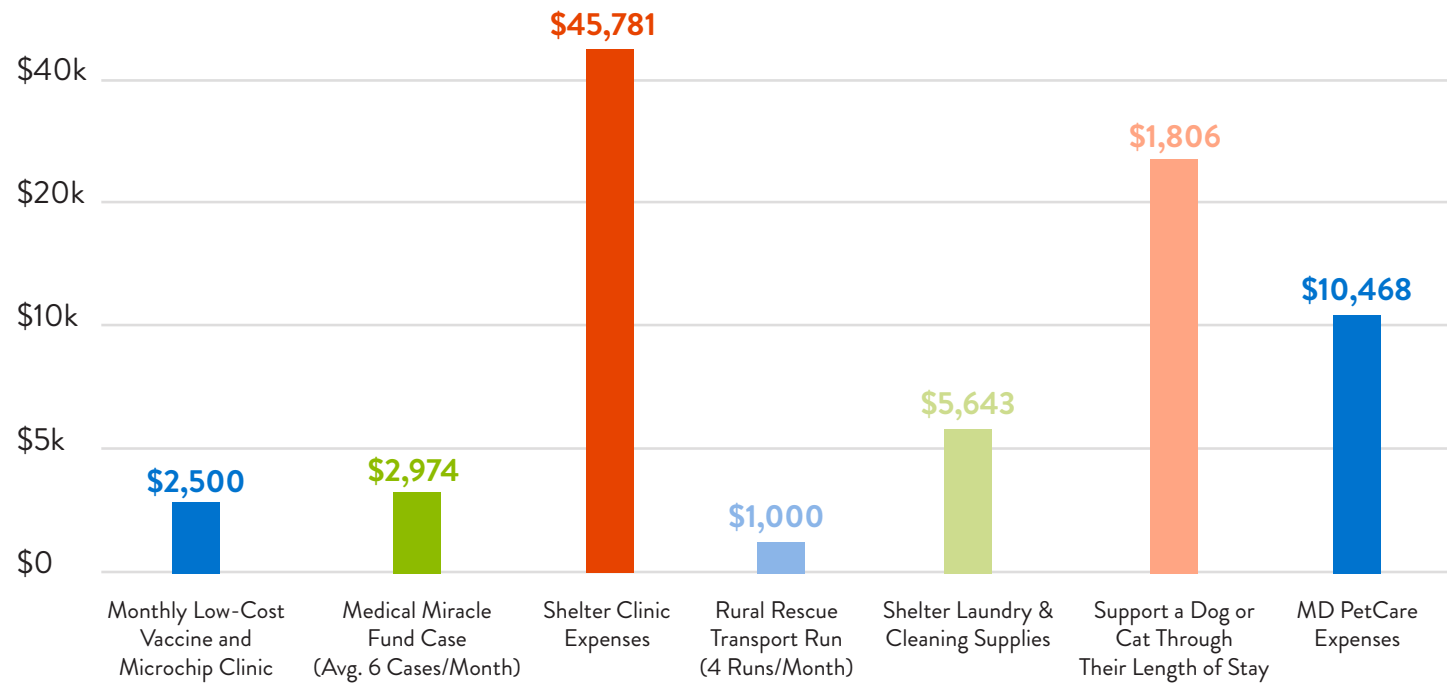
675

Pounds of Towels &
Blankets Donated

YOUR GENEROSITY SUPPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

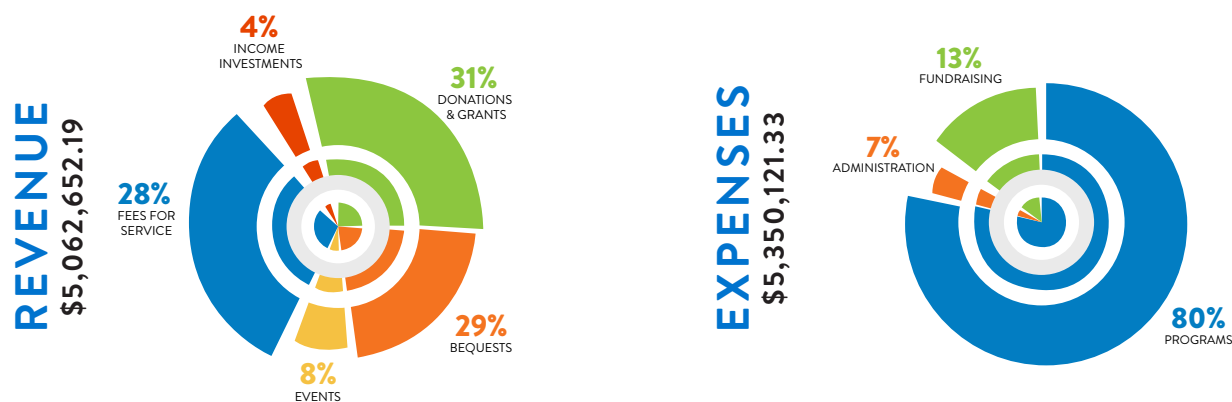
AAWL wouldn't be able to do our lifesaving work without your generosity. Here's a snapshot of non-personnel costs every month to run our shelter and all our programs.



AAWL FINANCIALS

AAWL has a financial obligation to ensure that all donations and community funding we receive directly supports our lifesaving programs.

Please note that these are projected numbers and are not audited for 2021. If you would like to review audited numbers please visit aawl.org.



○ MAKE A ONE-TIME OR MONTHLY DONATION ○ GIVE THROUGH YOUR WILL ○ GIFT OF STOCK

Help make a difference in the life of a homeless animal. With your support we can provide them with their last chance at a second chance.

Learn more at aawl.org/50years

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AAWL'S IMPACT IS POSSIBLE THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS

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

25 N. 40th St., Phoenix, AZ 85034

UPCOMING EVENTS

Design for Dogs February 25

Walk to Save Animals November 5

Vaccine Clinics

Jan 15 | Feb 19 | March 19 | April 16 | May 21
June 18 | July 16 | Aug 20 | Sept 17 | Oct 15
Nov 19 | Dec 17

To make a donation:
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aracelycruz@aawl.org
aawl.org/50Years
Tax ID: 23-7149453

