

ARIZONA  
ANIMAL WELFARE  
LEAGUE AND SPCA



# 1,914 Adoptions Made in 2008



## 2008 Annual Report

The Arizona Animal Welfare League and SPCA is the Oldest and Largest No-Kill Shelter

Help Us  
Reach Our Goal  
of 2009 Adoptions  
in 2009

Did You Know?

\* AAWL is Funded Solely Through Donations and Grants.



# Our Mission

The mission of the Arizona Animal Welfare League and SPCA is to provide excellent care, protection and loving compassion for the life of the animals entrusted to us and to take a leadership role in promoting humane values for the benefit of all animals and people.

## Board of Directors

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**Shannon Boyer**  
Director of Operations

**Michelle Myers**  
Director of Education

**Ana Bentancur**  
Director of Volunteer Program &  
Special Events

## An Exciting Year of Hard Work & Accomplishments

This has been an exciting year full of challenges, hard work, a few heartbreaks and many success stories. We are on track to complete almost 2,000 successful adoptions this year, a 30% increase over 2007!

We survived many challenges including a busy spring kitten and puppy season, an outbreak of ringworm in the cattery (which most shelters euthanize for), and a huge increase in the number of animals surrendered or abandoned due to home foreclosures and the downturn of the economy. Our wonderful medical staff, led by our awesome vet, Dr. Kit Slocum, performed many miracles that saved lives and helped hundreds of animals that were sick or injured.

A major addition in 2008 was the hiring of a Certified Animal Behavior Consultant, Dr. Crista Coppola, to teach our staff and volunteers how to evaluate and work with animals that previously might have been considered "unadoptable". This helped us rescue and rehabilitate more animals.

Thanks to our donors, we installed new awnings and misters over kennels B, C and D to help keep the animals, staff/volunteers and potential adopters comfortable during the hot summer, new industrial washers and dryers to efficiently clean the mountains of bedding and made some improvements to the adoption center and clinic.

Next year will bring even more challenges and more exciting opportunities. Our major project for the beginning of the year is to change our entrance to make our facilities more accessible to potential adopters. Called the "40th Street Project", we are now fundraising to make this long-time dream a reality.

Without your support, and that of our volunteers, supporters, dedicated staff and Board, we would not be able to save the many lives we do each year. Thank you for everything you do to give loveable pets a second chance through the AAWL/SPCA.

*Judith A. Gardner*

Judith A. Gardner  
President and CEO



# Volunteering

Volunteer orientation meetings were attended by more than 300 new volunteers this year, joining the 300-400 volunteers already in the program!

## Volunteers Have Contributed More Than 240,000 Hours of Their Time in 2008!

Without the help of hard-working and dedicated volunteers, AAWL/SPCA could never save as many lives as we do each year. Volunteer opportunities include everything from working in our Thrift Shop, doing office work or laundry, cleaning and feeding, cuddling and walking, adoptions and event staffing, preparing for our annual Walk to Save Animals and Evening to Paws and a myriad of other helpful tasks. If we had to pay staff to do all of the chores contributed by our volunteers, we would have to raise much more money than we currently do.

### Volunteer Groups

We've been fortunate to have the help of several volunteer groups from local companies this year. Not only have they donated employees' time, but often bring with them much needed supplies and materials. Many of those who come with a group end up joining our volunteer program . . . . another wonderful benefit! Some of the groups that have helped this year include:

Charles Schwab

Ashton Tiffany, LLC

American Express

Starbucks

M&I Bank

Shamrock Foods

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Arizona





# Foster Program

Our wonderful foster families helped us nurture a record number of dogs, cats, puppies and kittens in order to help them grow or heal so they could be adopted into their forever homes.

## How Your Donations Help Animals

Your donations help to pay for food and medical services for the animals in our Foster Program. Each animal receives vaccinations, spay/neuter surgeries, microchips and any other medical treatments they may need while they are in the care of our Foster families.

## 65 Foster Families Saved 1,141 Lives in 2008!

Next year we hope to grow our Foster Program even bigger! The more cats, dogs, puppies and kittens we can send into foster homes, the more lives we can save.

We plan to train our foster parents to adopt their little foster "kids" to new families right from their homes, rather than making the animals go through the stress of having to come back to the shelter to await adoption. Many shelters across the country are successfully following this practice and greatly increasing their adoption numbers.

### Animals in Foster Program

	2006	2007	2008
CATS	63	112	73
KITTENS	669	649	752
DOGS	41	97	149
PUPPIES	109	187	167
TOTALS	882	1,045	1,141



# Education

Our goal is to educate the next generation of children to become responsible, compassionate and respectful pet owners.

## More than 1,300 Children and Teens Attended at Least One of Our Education Programs in 2008

AAWL/SPCA greatly expanded our Education programs this year. Our "Animal Ed-ventures" programs are for children as young as 3 and as old as 17, from "Puppy Preschool" to "Teen Tracks". Our Education programs also help to provide additional funding to support our shelter operations. Many of our teens become volunteers and even staff members when they reach the required age of 18.

### Teen Tracks - Tomorrow's Leaders of the Pack

This project-based program is designed for teens 13-17 who love animals and may be interested in future careers in veterinary science or other animal-related fields. Teens participate in at least six weekend shifts during their 13 week course. They receive in-depth training in animal body language and animal handling skills, assist with daily care and adoptions of the animals, observe and assist shelter veterinarian and clinic staff, participate in guest presentations and education field trips and help lead other education programs held at the shelter. More than 90 teens participated in the program this year.

### Girl Scout Workshops

Girl Scouts love earning their animal badges at AAWL/SPCA. They can choose from Animal Fun for Daisies, Brownie Animal Try-Its, Junior Pet Care, or Special Interest Projects. Almost 400 scouts have participated in these workshops in 2008.



### Education Programs

Our Education Programs raised more than \$100,000 in 2008 to help offset some of our general operating costs. We appreciate the grants we received from the Phoenix Kiwanis, the Arizona Community Foundation and Banfield Charitable Trust to support our Education Programs in 2008. Other Programs include:

- Paws N' Claws Kid Club
- Puppy Preschool
- Homeschool Thursdays
- Dog, Cat and Critter Care
- Ruffin' It Two
- Birthday Parties

### "Camp Ruffin' It"

Our "hands-on", 10 week summer camp is designed for children ages 9-12 to teach them what it is like to care for animals. The kids learn training techniques, how to handle a wide variety of animals and learn about health care from the shelter's veterinarian. Almost 300 kids attended camp in 2008.





# Medical Clinic & Infirmary

The team in our medical clinic, led by our veterinarian Dr. Kit Slocum, provides medical treatments, including major surgeries, that most shelters simply cannot afford to do. After their initial treatments, they are sent to our infirmary where our caring staff nurtures them back to health regardless of how long it takes.

## The Infirmary

The AAWL/SPCA Infirmary, built in 2004, thanks to a generous grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, served more than 320 cats and 298 dogs since January, 2008.

The two most common illnesses in dogs are Bordetella, which requires a 5-7 day recovery and Parvovirus, which can take from 7-14 days to treat.

This year, we treated more than 100 cats for Ringworm, a difficult but self-limiting fungus which takes 6-8 weeks to treat. AAWL/SPCA is one of the few rescue organizations that takes on the very high expense of treating for Ringworm rather than euthanizing for it. In addition, upper respiratory infection, Calicivirus, refusing to eat and fever are common ailments in cats and require a week or more in the Infirmary during treatment and recovery.

## The AAWL/SPCA Medical Team Performed More Than 1,700 Spay/Neuter Surgeries in 2008

### Medical Clinic

Although spay/neuter surgeries are the most common form of medical procedure in any shelter, AAWL/SPCA goes "above and beyond" any other rescue organization in providing extraordinary medical treatment and care, thanks to the financial support we receive from individual donors, grants and other forms of support.

The team completed more than 75 dental procedures on shelter animals, as well as other medical procedures, including X-rays and other surgeries, on 145 cats and dogs in our care.

### Examples of Extraordinary Medical Care

Pi, was an Affenpinscher puppy with a fractured femur that was pinned and wired by Dr. Kit. He is now fully recovered and was adopted into a great home.

Hunter, a Golden Retriever who required IV antibiotics, a blood transfusion and other supportive care for more than 10 days. Although it was "touch-and-go" for awhile, Hunter is now fine and with his new forever family.

Cady was a dog with a tumor. We were asked by a partner rescue group for help. Cady was treated with IV chemotherapy drugs and the tumor was resolved.

Allie was an adult cat with head trauma and required an eye enucleation - she was adopted. Orion was a cat with many bladder stones which were surgically removed. He is also purring and happy in his new home.

This is a small example of just a few of the hundreds of animals treated in our medical clinic each year.



# Fundraising

Fundraising activities are on-going throughout the year and include everything from donation boxes at business establishments to our premier black-tie event. Volunteers play an important role in helping with the myriad tasks involved in all aspects of fundraising.



## AAWL Events Raised \$500,000...and Everyone Had a Rousing Good Time!

### Evening To Paws 2008



One of our two major annual fundraisers, Evening to Paws was a fantastic event at the Scottsdale Hilton with almost 400 guests in attendance. Our Master of Ceremonies, Cory McCloskey from Channel 10, entertained the crowd and also served as our auctioneer for our live auction. The Silent Auction was fabulous with great items for everyone. We raised more than \$300,000 that evening, giving us the opportunity to help more animals.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:  
2009 ETP IS MARCH 7TH AT THE SCOTTSDALE HILTON!**

### Thrift Store

Our Thrift Store, at 1945 W. Dunlap, has fabulous finds which include designer clothing, lamps, bedding, appliances, costume jewelry, books and dog beds and toys.

Our Thrift Store brought in more than \$90,000 in 2008 to help the animals!



### Walk To Save Animals 2008



More than 1,500 animal lovers turned out for our annual "Walk to Save Animals" at Tempe Town Lake, helping us raise almost \$100,000. These valuable donations are spent on taking care of the animals, providing food, medical treatment and helping them make that perfect match with their forever family.





# Adoptions

At least once a week a team of staff members visit local county facilities to select animals that need to be rescued from potential euthanasia because of a shortage of staff and funds.



## Maddie's Fund

AAWL/SPCA is the lead agency for Maddie's Projects in Maricopa County, which is funded by Maddie's Fund, the Pet Rescue Foundation. The goal of Maddie's Projects is to end the euthanasia of all healthy and treatable animals in Maricopa County shelters. Adoption subsidies provided by Maddie's Fund help to offset some of the expenses that are not covered by the relatively low adoption fees charged to the public.

Other collaborations include working with Maricopa Animal Care and Control, other Maddie's partners, the Alliance for Companion Animals, the Humane Society, as well as many other rescue groups, toward the mutual goal of eliminating the deaths of healthy animals in the shelter system.

## AAWL/SPCA Found Homes for 1,914 Cats and Dogs in 2008 - A 30% Increase Over 2007!

AAWL/SPCA is fortunate, thanks to our many supporters, to have the facility and resources to work with each animal, including those that need medical and behavioral treatment, and to provide the necessary care for them until they can find their "forever" home.

### Behavior Team

This year, more than 90 dogs and 45 cats have been saved specifically because of our trained behavior staff's dedication to modification of certain behaviors.

The dogs had issues ranging from under-socialization to resource guarding. The team also works with staff and volunteers to provide behavior enrichment through yard buddies and play groups, K-9 Head Start, office and lobby fostering and specific protocols tailored to the needs of each individual animal. Cats sometimes require litter box re-training and handling desensitization protocols. In addition, developing report cards for each animal, providing adopters with help through our Behavior Helpline, offering "puppy parties" for new adopters and improving training programs for volunteers and staff, all have led to successful adoptions.

### Off-Site Adoption Events

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, we are able to participate in many off-site events which help increase the exposure of the animals to more potential adopters. This year, the PetSmart stores at Tempe Marketplace and Baseline and 24th Street allowed us to bring animals on weekends and, thanks to a great team of volunteer handlers, we made many great matches. In addition, we participate in PAC911 events and we try to take advantage of every opportunity we can find to increase adoptions.

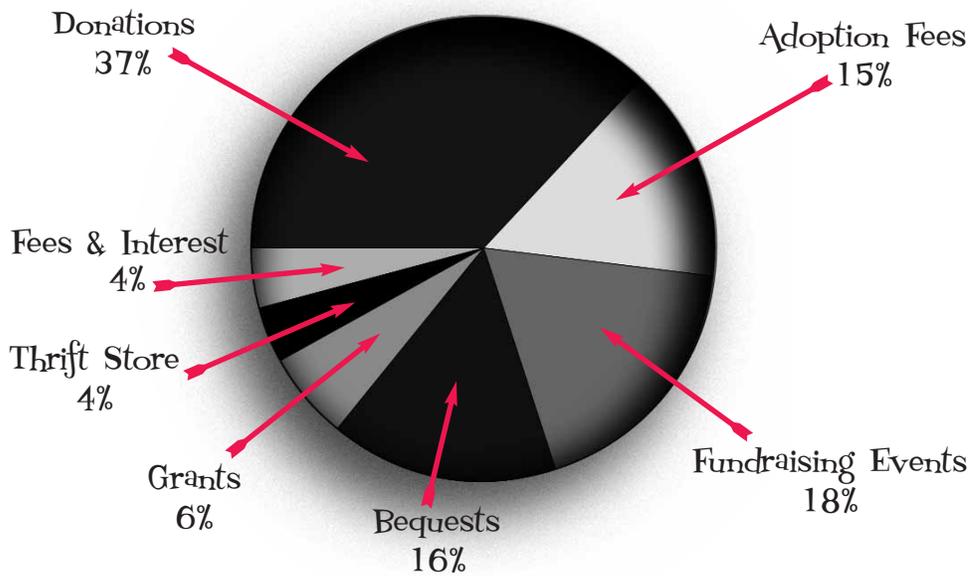


# Your Dollars Make a Difference

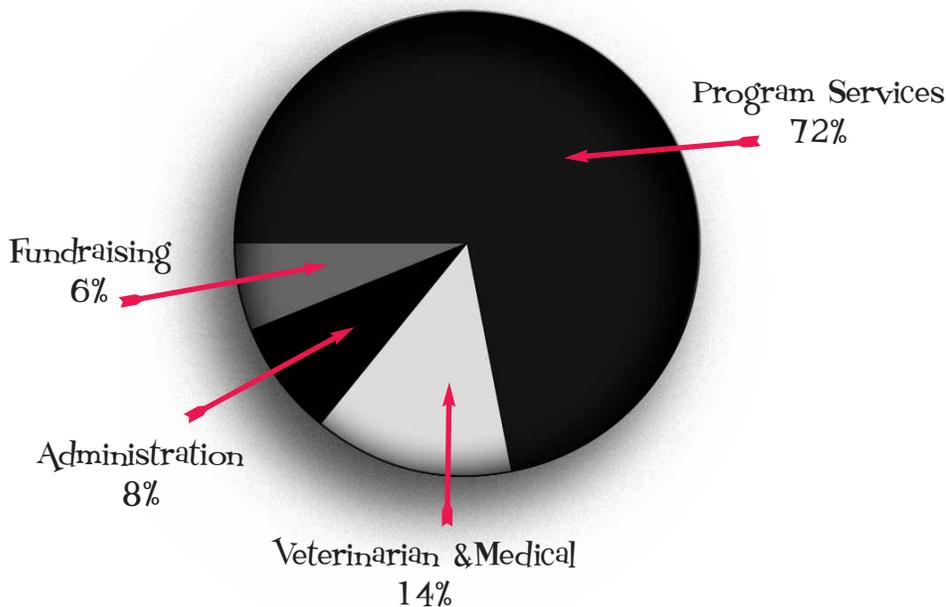


86% of Your Donations  
Go Directly to Saving Lives!

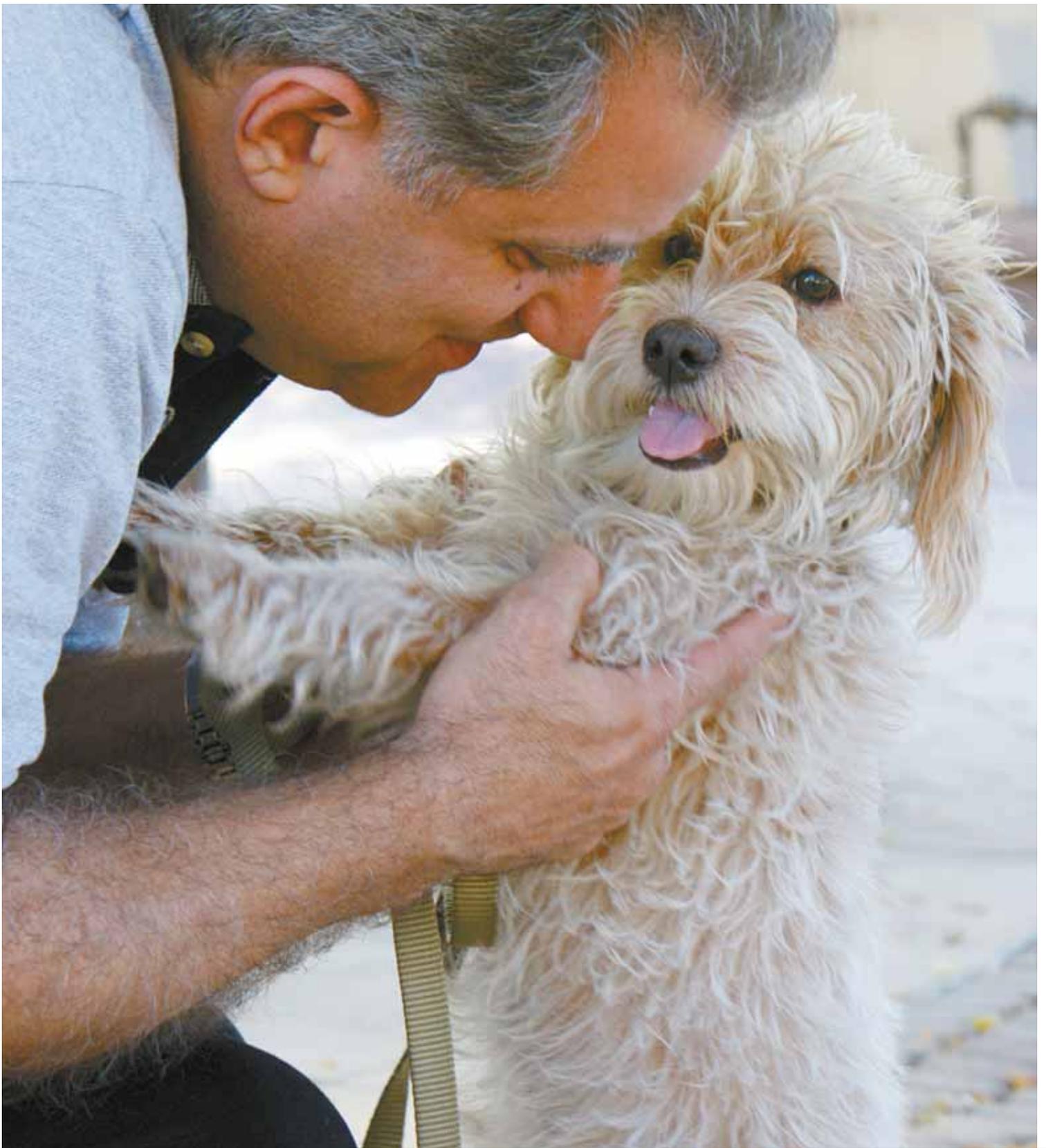
## Income



## Expenses



More than two-thirds of our income is from donations supporting our \$2 million annual budget.



Happy Endings by AAWL / SPCA  
Thank You!



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