



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**Giselle**  
adopted december 2024



# A Message from the Director of Development

As we reflect on 2024, we are reminded not only of the lives saved and the love shared—but also of the strength, resilience, and dedication that carried us through one of the most challenging years in our history.



Last year, Homeward Pet navigated a difficult fundraising landscape, shaped by the challenges created by the presidential election, widespread layoffs, and economic uncertainty.

At the same time, we recognized that our organization needed internal attention—careful, thoughtful stewardship to support our mission and our people. To meet that moment, we welcomed Susan Trabucchi as our Interim Executive Director.

Susan has been instrumental in leading transformational change throughout the shelter. Under Susan’s guidance, we reconnected with our core values and our people. Her leadership is already making Homeward Pet more efficient, more accountable, and above all, a better place—for our staff, our volunteers, and our animals.

Despite the headwinds, your support ensured we continued to save lives—providing shelter, healing, and hope to nearly 1,500 cats and dogs last year. The stories of transformation you’ll find in this report are your impact in action.

As we continue into 2025, we’re not just hopeful—we’re energized. This year marks Homeward Pet’s 35th anniversary of service to our community. We remain so proud of our evolution, proud of all we’ve accomplished, and honored to have played a role in every animal’s personal journey on their way home. We entered this milestone year stronger, more focused, and more committed than ever to our mission.

As we begin this new chapter—stronger, more united, and more determined than ever—we do so with deep gratitude for your partnership. Thank you for believing in us. Thank you for walking this journey with us - we couldn’t do it without you. Not only are we changing lives, we’re saving lives. Together. Thank you for standing with us through it all.

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MK'.

Mitra Karami  
Director of Development

## Board of Directors

Peter Bergler  
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Vice President

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Stacy Fultz  
Glen Hoagland  
Joel Jensen  
Terra Leonetti

## Key Staff

Susan Trabucchi  
Interim Executive Director

Mitra Karami  
Director of Development

Joan Stejskal  
Director of Finance

Jenny Black  
Director of Programs

Peggy Noll  
Director of Community  
Engagement



**Buddy**  
adopted february 2024



**With your support, Homeward Pet has helped over 39,000 pets find their forever homes over the past 35 years.**

**Fruity Pebbles**  
adopted november 2024



Homeward Pet's mission is to transform the lives of cats and dogs in need through compassionate medical care, positive behavior training, and successful adoption while creating a more humane community.

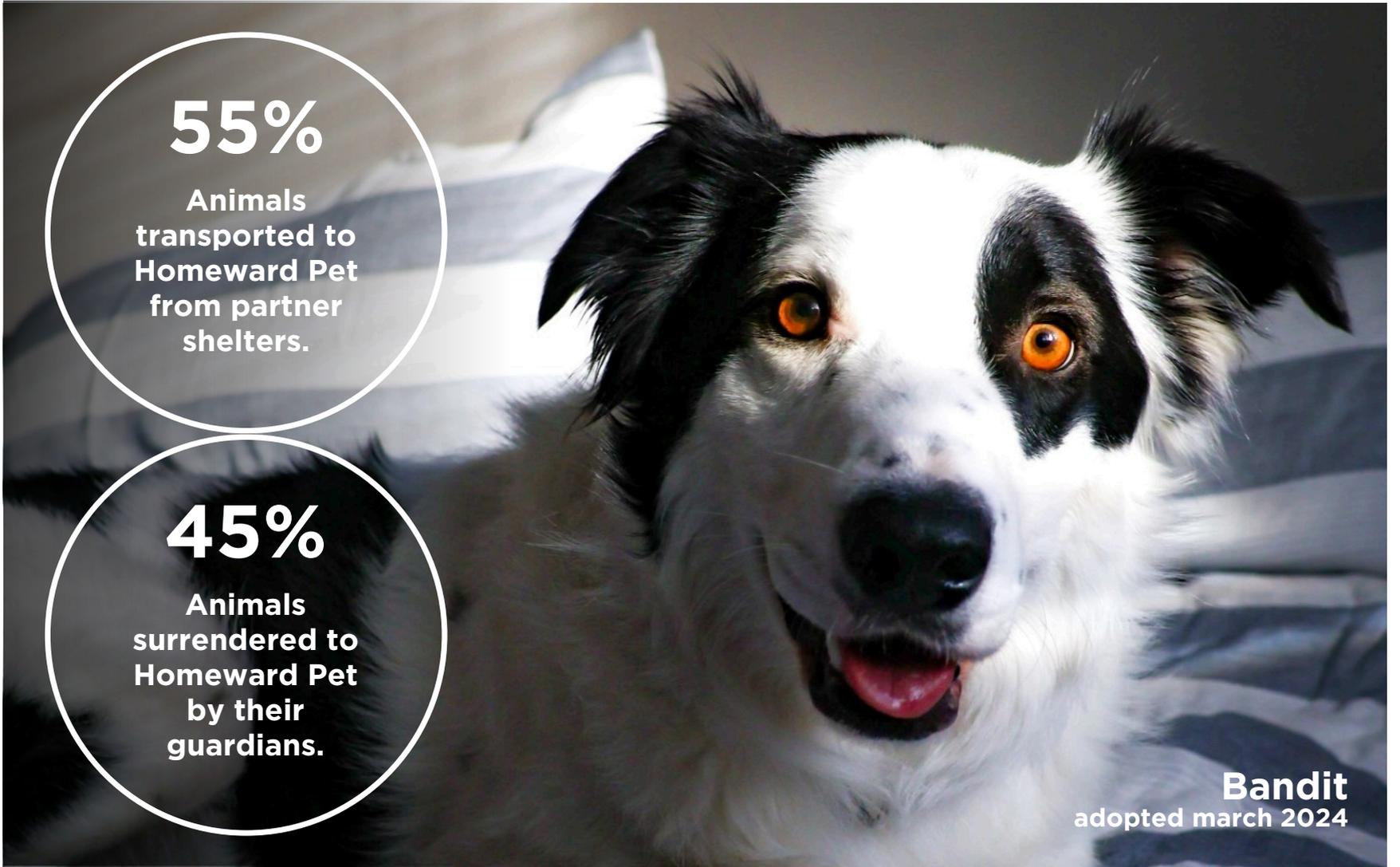


**55%**

Animals transported to Homeward Pet from partner shelters.

**45%**

Animals surrendered to Homeward Pet by their guardians.



**Bandit**  
adopted march 2024

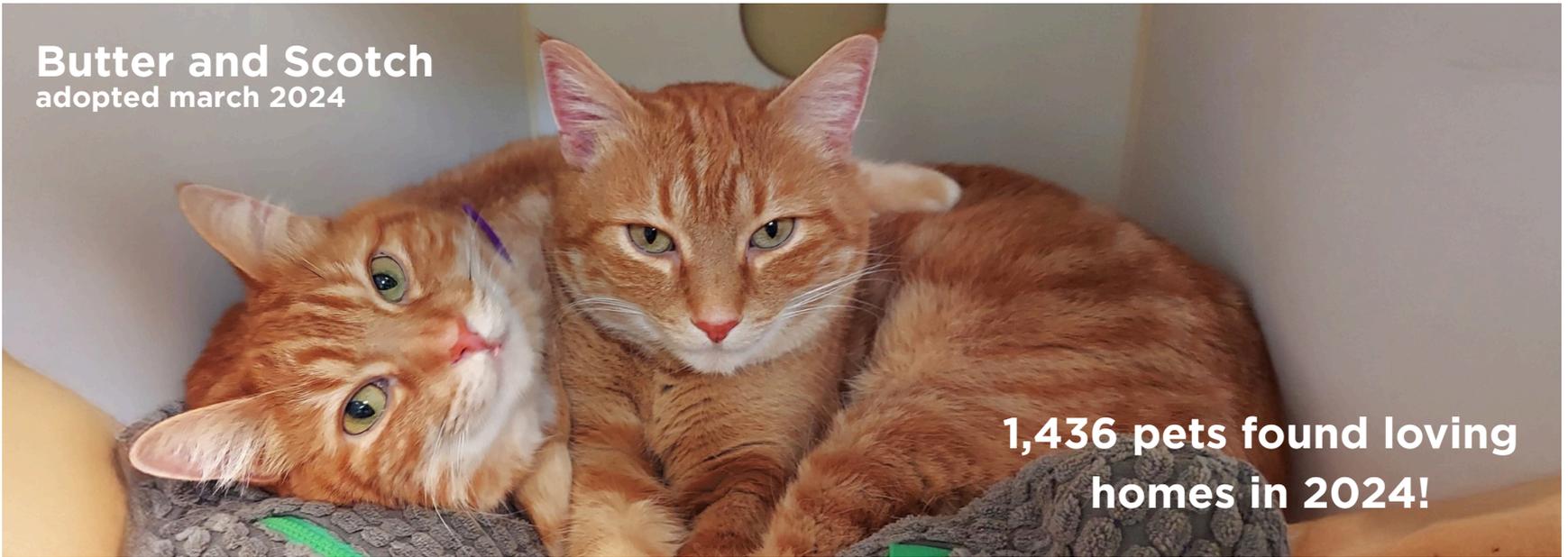
“Our partnership with Homeward Pet has been an incredible asset to our community and the animals we serve. Thanks to our collaboration, we’ve been able to significantly increase the number of animals that find loving homes. Your support has not only provided much-needed resources but has also fostered a sense of unity and shared purpose. Together, we’ve managed to enhance the well-being of countless animals and create a more compassionate community. The way we work so well together has truly shown the community what a true collaboration in animal welfare looks like.”

Lori Clemente, President | ARRF Animal Rescue

**Workplace giving is an easy and impactful way to support causes you care about. By setting up automatic donations through your employer, you can make consistent contributions that add up to lasting change. Many companies even match employee donations, doubling (or even tripling!) your impact. It’s a simple, powerful way to give back—without having to think twice.**

**Check with your HR department today to see if your workplace offers a giving program!**

**Butter and Scotch**  
adopted march 2024



**1,436 pets found loving homes in 2024!**



**227 dogs**



**95 puppies**



**821 cats**



**293 kittens**

## Adoption Program

Our goal is to match adopters and pets based on lifestyle, experience, and the animals' needs. We practice reduced barrier adoptions to make adopting a pet easier and to increase the number of animals adopted. Our Adopter Support Program helps with the transition of an adopted animal to their new home. Adopters receive follow up communication providing resources on essentials like training, animal care, vet services and more!

**Homeward Pet does not euthanize healthy or treatable animals.**

**Cats and dogs whose acute injury, illness or behavior offer them a poor quality of life are humanely euthanized as a last resort, after all other avenues are extensively explored.**

Be a champion for shelter animals all year long by joining Homeward Pet's Monthly Giving Program! Your ongoing support provides consistent, reliable funding that helps us care for dogs and cats in need—every single day. With your monthly gift, you're giving second chances, safe shelter, and brighter futures. It's easy, impactful, and makes a lasting difference.

Visit [homewardpet.org/monthly-gift](https://homewardpet.org/monthly-gift) for more information.



**Lasso**  
adopted august 2024

- 32,142 Followers on social media
- 308 Attendees at the 2024 There's No Place Like Home 5k
- 278 Fur Ball Auction and Dinner 2024 Attendees
- 26,196 Recipients of our monthly Pupdate eNewsletter



**Jonesy**  
adopted june 2024

## Your Support in Action

- 5.44%** Homeward Pet's return rate in 2024
- 127** The number of adopters provided with behavior support after adoption
- 144** The number of pets helped through free behavior consultations
- 533** Pets who went to foster
- 282** The number of animals helped through Home to Home in 2024

We are often the go-to shelter for dogs and cats with significant challenges. Every year, more cats and dogs arrive at the shelter under-socialized or lacking essential training. Our behavior programs help cats and dogs overcome these challenges, leading to successful adoptions and lower return rates.



**Patrick**  
adopted July 2024

Patrick came to us in March of 2024 after being found on the streets in Yakima. He had been seen for weeks, begging for food from anyone who passed him by.

When he arrived at the shelter, he was completely shut down. He refused to leave his kennel, opting to hide out of sight, not even leaving his bed to eat. Staff spent weeks trying to earn his trust.

After two months he was placed in a foster home, where for the first four weeks he still opted to hide in a bedroom as much as possible. When exposed to anything new, he would startle and run or freeze and tremble, completely inconsolable.

After almost two months in foster, we noticed enough positive changes that we placed him up for adoption.

It took almost four months but, in July, a sweet family took a chance on him. Now, Patrick is living an incredible life where he gets to go on hikes, explore the dog park, and even celebrate his birthday!

**224**

**Cats received training from our Cat Behavior Team in 2024.**

In June of 2024, Ziggy arrived at the shelter hissing and growling at everyone through his carrier, clearly overly-stressed. Staff did the best they could caring for him safely, while ensuring they weren't putting themselves or Ziggy at risk.

We knew caring for Ziggy would be a challenge. Not only did he come with a history of unexplained aggression in the home, but he also had a history of seizures, and quite a few painful teeth that urgently needed to be removed. Luckily, one of our foster parents stepped in to take him home, hoping a quiet space and extra treats may just be the key to winning over Ziggy's heart.

Surprising us all, it took Ziggy approximately 12 hours to decide he was comfortable in a cozy blanket on the foster's lap.

He spent two months proving that he was indeed a perfect boy who just didn't love the shelter environment (and maybe just communicated that a bit too dramatically). He was adopted by a loving family in August.



**Ziggy**  
adopted August 2024

**99**

**Dogs received training from our Dog Behavior Team in 2024.**



# 74

Cats and dogs received specialized medical procedures and ongoing care in 2024

**Nedge**

adopted april 2024

Whoopi's Fund for Special Needs Animals covers the cost of major surgeries, important diagnostic tools like x-rays and ultrasounds, expensive medications, exceptional treatments and emergency vet care for Homeward Pet cats and dogs.

## 396

 Procedures were provided for animals requiring elevated care in 2024

### 29

Extensive dentals and mouth repairs performed.



### 1,165

Consultations, labwork and tests conducted.



### 283

Surgeries completed to create bright futures.



### 247

Treatments, medications and special diets provided.



Jemmi arrived at Homeward Pet in November 2024, an urgent surrender due to severe medical issues her owner could not afford.

Our clinic immediately got to work to determine the cause. A severe tooth abscess that had been left untreated and resulted in a painful hole in the side of her sweet little face.

Thanks to your support, Jemmi was provided with specialized dental surgery and found a loving home.

Lobster was returned to us at 14 years old in need of love and support. After her initial exam, our clinic team determined she needed extensive medical treatment to prepare her for adoption - dental work, mammary mass removal, an ulcerated eye removal, and chronic ear issues resolved. Her skin was covered with untreated rashes that were raw and itchy, her hair loss was extensive, and she was now untrusting of human contact.

Lobster was given the medical attention she needed to feel her best and enjoy the rest of her life pain-free.

After being returned to Homeward Pet two times in her life, she's finally found her forever home.



Cordelia arrived at Homeward Pet extremely nervous, underweight, she had an ear infection, and nails growing into her pads, and mats all around her tail. After her intake exam, she was diagnosed with hyperthyroidism. We were determined to find the best way to help her without causing any further distress.

Because of your generosity, HPAC was able to provide Cordelia with an expensive, one-time injection that completely resolved her issue without subjecting her to distressing ongoing treatments.

After 4 months in foster care, Cordelia was adopted by her foster parent, and is now enjoying a life free from pain.



## Home to Home

Shelters are strange and unfamiliar places for any pet. To help mitigate this challenge, Homeward Pet utilizes the Home To Home direct adoption platform to help owners list their own pet up for adoption on our website while they keep the pet in their own home. This allows pet owners to find an adopter and eliminates the need to place them in a shelter. 282 pets benefited from this program in 2024.



## Pet Retention

To help animals stay in their homes, we offer resources and assistance to help pet owners with a variety of roadblocks. From behavior challenges to adapting to a new baby in the home to unexpected medical needs, we have the resources to better equip pet owners with the skills and knowledge to handle difficult situations that may arise, with the goal of pet retention.

**In order to tackle pet homelessness we must work to prevent it in the first place.**

**Our Community Outreach Programs offer pet food and supplies to help keep beloved pets in their homes. Our Free & Low-Cost Spay and Neuter Programs helps reduce pet overpopulation by eliminating the risk of unplanned litters.**

## Outreach Programs



### Public Spay & Neuter Clinic

Homeward Pet hosts Public Spay & Neuter Clinic days every month, providing our community with access to low cost spay & neuter surgeries at a reduced cost based on income - helping keep pets in homes and reducing pet overpopulation.



### Homeward Vet

Our Homeward Vet program provides active duty and veterans with fee waived adoptions in honor of their military service.



### Last Litter Program

The Last Litter Program offers free spay surgeries for cats and dogs brought to our facility with adoptable litters. 212 puppies and kittens and 92 dogs and cats were helped through this program in 2024.



### Sponsored Clinic Days

Sponsored Clinic Days allow Homeward Pet to offer spay and neuter surgeries, vaccines, and microchipping free of charge to reduced income families in our community.

Homeward Pet's Pet Food Bank and distribution program helps bridge the gap in resources often faced by struggling families. Every week, Homeward Pet redistributes essential pet food and supplies to partner rescues and area food banks—helping stop pet homelessness before it starts.

**Harley**  
adopted June 2024



**155,227**

Pounds of pet food and supplies redistributed to 24 partners in 2024

**1,300**

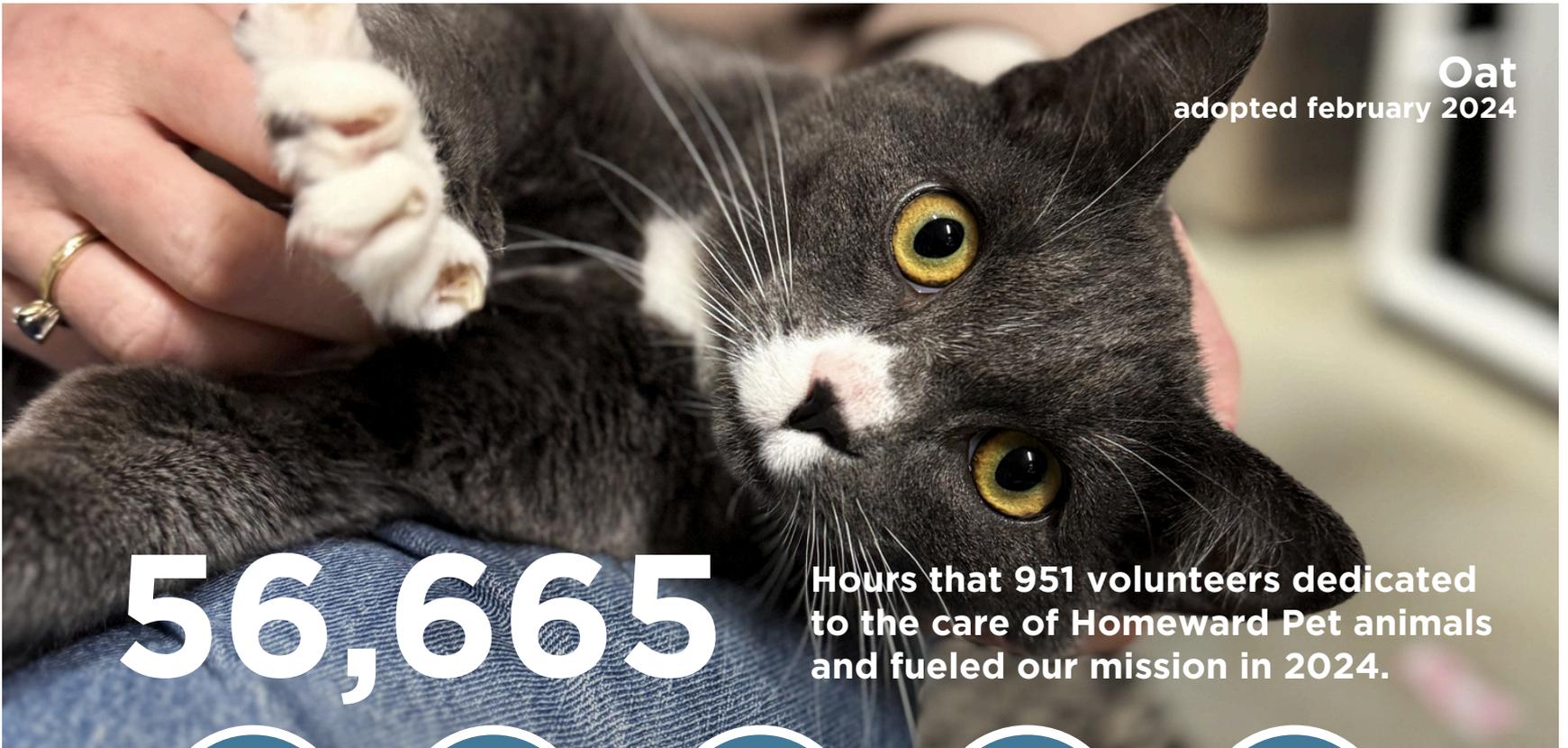
Family pets assisted by the Homeward Pet Food Bank each week in 2024



Homeward Pet has been a key partner to Edmonds Food Bank. Our customers sometimes have a pet as their only true connection or family member, and often have had to choose between feeding themselves or feeding their pets. Partnering with HPAC ensures that our customers don't have to make tough decisions between feeding themselves or their pets and are able to pick up food for themselves and their pets when visiting our food bank. We are so grateful for this continued partnership and for the ability to feed every member of our customer's families.



Casey Davis, Executive Director | Edmonds Food Bank



Oat  
adopted february 2024

# 56,665

Hours that 951 volunteers dedicated to the care of Homeward Pet animals and fueled our mission in 2024.



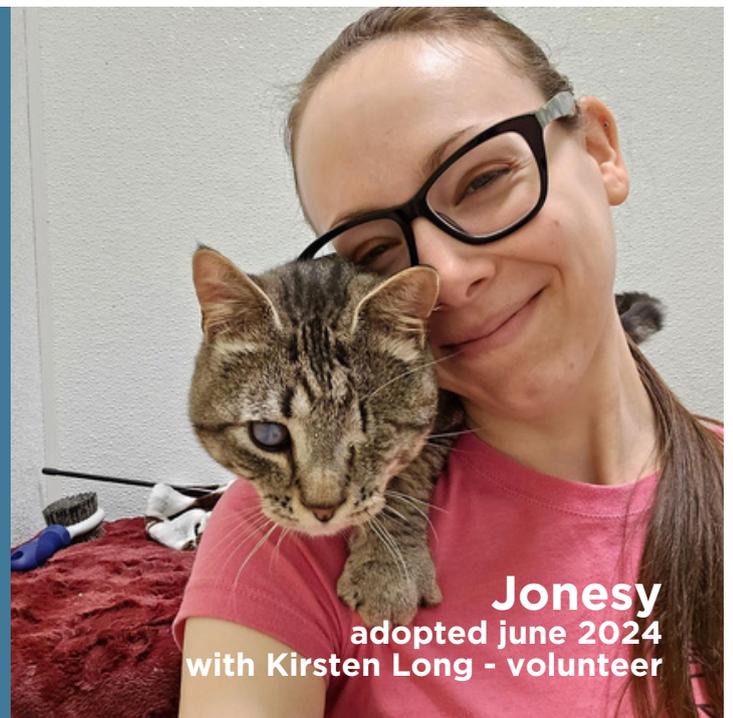
Volunteers are a vital part of our workforce. They take on a variety of important roles, including dog walkers and feeders, kennel cleaners, cat socializers, facilities attendants, behavior support, fosters, clinic assistants and receptionists.

“For 19 years, volunteering for Homeward Pet has been the highlight of my week. I started volunteering for a school project, but fell in love with it so much that I continued to do so even after school.

Providing care and cuddles for countless cats and kittens has always been such a delight. As a veterinary assistant for 12 years, my experience enables me to help staff with minor medical cases on occasion too - administering medications, giving subcutaneous fluids, checking a glucose on a diabetic cat and other treatments.

I will continue to volunteer at Homeward Pet for as long as I remain in Washington!

Kirsten Long, Homeward Pet Volunteer



Jonesy  
adopted june 2024  
with Kirsten Long - volunteer

Many volunteer positions go beyond everyday essential care, helping the animals in our care live healthier, get ample exercise, and find the right homes quicker. Volunteers perform specialized services in the shelter as well as caring for foster cats and dogs in their homes.



## Kennel Enrichment Volunteers

Provide cats and dogs with music, scents, playdates, puzzles and toys, extra playtime and more to keep bodies active and minds stimulated. This helps animals become more social, be less stressed, and allows their personalities to shine.



## Photography Volunteers

Come in regularly to capture the funny, quirky and sweet characteristics of our incoming animals through pictures. These professional-quality photos are posted to our website and social media to bring more attention to our animals.



## Behavior Team Volunteers

Work with animals to develop positive behaviors, inside and outside their kennels, multiple times a week. This helps Homeward Pet reduce returns and set animals up for success in their new homes.



## Foster Volunteers

Give kennel breaks, care for puppies and kittens too young to be at the shelter and provide a space for animals to recover from surgery. We even occasionally have hospice volunteers who grant animals dignity and comfort during their final days.

## In Loving Memory of Peggy Barnish

1938 - 2025

In 1990, a quiet but powerful revolution in animal welfare began in a modest facility on the Eastside of Seattle. Its architect was Peggy Barnish—a woman with a fierce compassion for animals and a visionary belief that every adoptable pet deserves a second chance.

That vision became Hooterville Pet Safehaus, the first no-kill shelter in Washington State. A groundbreaking effort that continues today as Homeward Pet Adoption Center.

Peggy was far ahead of her time. At a moment when overcrowded shelters routinely euthanized animals to manage capacity, she insisted there was a better way.

She believed that euthanasia should never be a matter of convenience, but a last resort used only to end suffering from terminal illness or irreparable injury. This founding principle still guides every decision we make today.

Her passion for animal welfare not only saved tens of thousands of lives but also shaped how we care for animals across the region. She pioneered the now common practice of catch/spay-neuter/release to humanely manage feral cat populations, long before it became a widely accepted approach.

Peggy's legacy continues to echo through every adoption, every life saved, and every family made whole by a new four-legged friend. Her belief in compassion without compromise laid the foundation for the vibrant, life-saving work we do today at Homeward Pet.

As we look back on another year of transformative outcomes for animals in need, we honor the woman who made it all possible. Peggy Barnish didn't just build a shelter—she built a movement.

Thank you, Peggy. We carry your vision forward, every single day.



## Ways to Give Now and Save

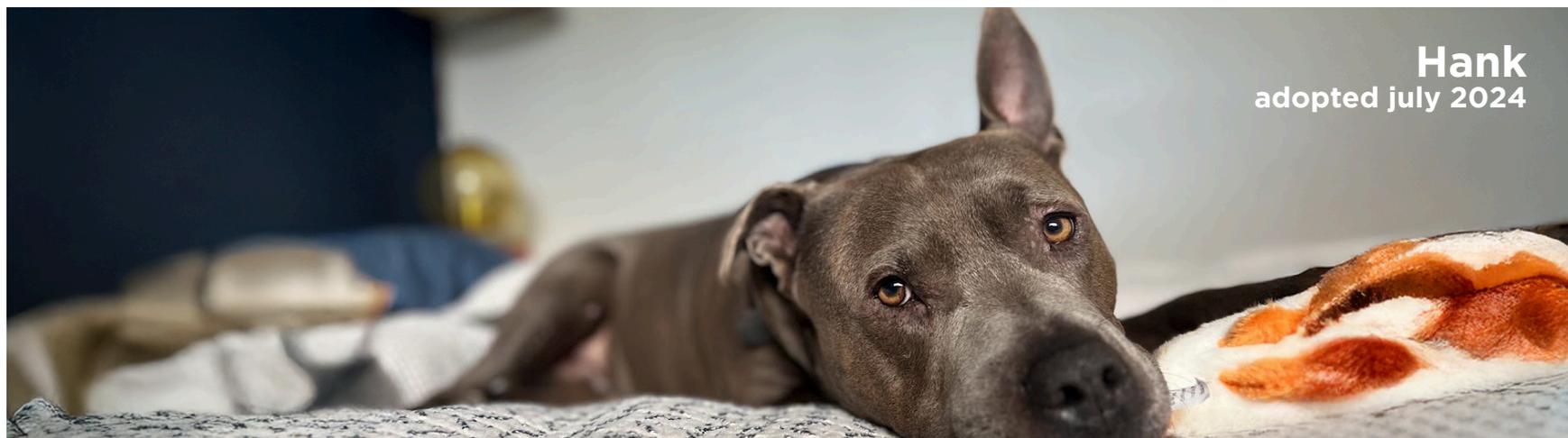
When making a gift to Homeward Pet, we encourage you to consider your upcoming financial transactions to help you determine the best assets to give. Check with your financial or tax advisor to assess how these ideas may apply to your circumstances.

### Cash (Gifts by Check or Credit Card)

- Will you itemize your taxes this year? Assess whether this gift, combined with other charitable gifts over the year, allows you to count it as an itemized deduction. If not, you may want to consider "bundling" your gifts and combining two years of charitable gifts into the same tax year to see if this larger amount of gifts allows you to itemize on your return.
- Keep track of your adjusted gross income. You can use the tax deduction for cash gifts to Homeward Pet to offset up to 60% of your adjusted gross income. You can carry-forward any unused balance for up to an additional five years.

### Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA)

- If you are age 72 or older and hold an IRA, the amount of your gift from your IRA to Homeward Pet will reduce your Required Minimum Distribution and avoid being counted as income. This approach gives you the equivalent benefit of a tax deduction even if you don't itemize.
- If you are age 70 or older and hold an IRA, you can make a gift to Homeward Pet without incurring any taxable income. Again, the IRA distribution will not be counted as income.
- Keep track of your IRA gifts. You are limited to giving no more than \$100,000 per year to receive the above benefits.



## Appreciated Stock

- Give appreciated stock that you have held for over one year. If you transfer appreciated stock (that you have held for more than one year) to Homeward Pet, you will not pay taxes on the increase in the stock's value. In contrast, if you sell the stock and give the proceeds to Homeward Pet, you will be required to pay capital gains taxes on the increase in the stock's value.
- Keep track of your adjusted gross income. You can use the tax deduction for stock gifts to Homeward Pet to offset up to 30% of your adjusted gross income in one year. You can carry-forward any unused balance for up to five additional years.

## Real Estate

- Gifts of real estate have the same benefits as gifts of stock.
- You can give a partial interest of your real estate to Homeward Pet in the same manner that you could give a certain number of shares of the stock.



## Estate Gifts

Leaving a bequest gift to Homeward Pet in your estate is a powerful way to make a lasting impact for the cause you care about—without affecting your finances today. By including Homeward Pet in your will or trust, you create a legacy that ensures your values live on, helping future generations and sustaining vital programs for years to come.

### Sample Bequest Language:

I give \$\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_%) from my estate to Homeward Pet Adoption Center a IRC 5010(3) organization with tax identification number 91-1526803, currently located at 13132 NE 177th Place NE Woodinville, Washington 98072.

I intend my gift to be used immediately (or held as an endowment, spending the accumulated income each year) to support Homeward Pet Adoption Center at the discretion of Homeward Pet Adoption Center's Board of Trustees (or for the following purposes \_\_\_\_\_). If my intended use is no longer practical or relevant at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, I request that these funds be applied to the closest related use, as determined by the Board of Trustees.

**Please contact Homeward Pet to help you include Homeward Pet in your estate plan in the most meaningful way. You can reach Mitra Karami, Director of Development at [mitra@homewardpet.org](mailto:mitra@homewardpet.org) or 425-488-4444.**



### Jefferson (now Jeffrey) - adopted November 2023

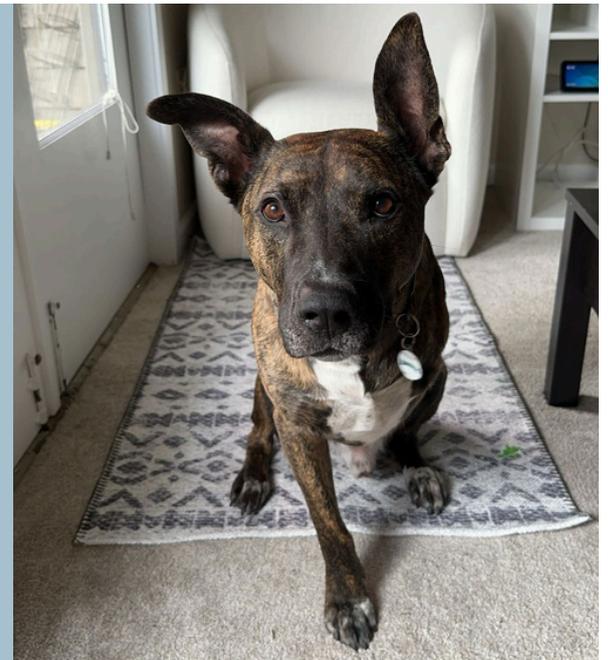
"Last April my mom adopted Jeffrey from your wonderful rescue. I am sending an update to let you know he is doing great and is possibly the most spoiled kitty there is. He has access to my moms warm lap, down covered bed, cozy window seat and his own pillow on the couch 24/7. He just had his vet visit and all his blood work came back looking very good. He is such a talker and loves everyone who comes in the room to visit my mom. He never runs and hides but instead comes right up to greet you. We couldn't have found a better match for my mom. Thanks for all you do,  
~ Gina"

### Buddy (now Obi) - adopted November 2023

I adopted three legged Buddy last year. His name is now Obi and I couldn't be more grateful to Homeward Pet for connecting us.

Obi has settled into his home so well. We have an 8 month old nephew that he is absolutely OBSESSED with and loves to lick and follow around the house. He has the goofiest personality that has really shined in the past 16 months. He is always down for an adventure but is also happy sharing the couch with his humans.

Obi has brought so much joy to our lives and we can't imagine life without him. Please let everyone at the shelter who knew him know that he is enjoying being smothered with love and play everyday.  
~ Calie "



### Guardian Angel Kennel Sponsor

Become a Guardian Angel Kennel Sponsor and directly impact the lives of animals waiting for their second chance. Your sponsorship helps underwrite the daily costs of housing, nourishing, and providing medical care for every dog or cat residing in that kennel—ensuring they receive the comfort, care, and healing they need while they wait for a loving home.

Sponsorships are available for a duration of either 6 or 12 months and come with a customized plaque hung outside of a kennel in our cat or dog room.

Contact Alora Knapp at [alora@homewardpet.org](mailto:alora@homewardpet.org) to become a kennel sponsor today!



**Marina**

Joined Homeward Pet  
August 2023

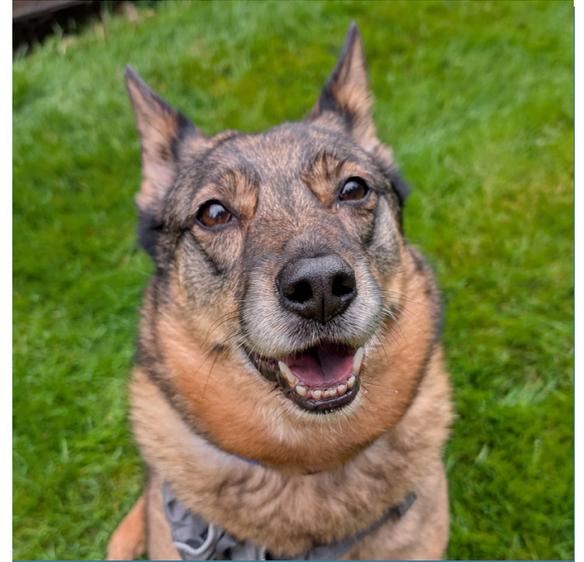
Active, Silly, Dog-Friendly



**Bobby**

Joined Homeward Pet  
January 2024

Smart, Calm, Loving



**Kaia Bear**

Joined Homeward Pet  
October 2024

Timid, Outdoorsy, Cuddly

A number of animals arrived in 2023 and 2024 whose stay with Homeward Pet has spanned into 2025. They will be cared for for as long as it takes to find them a home - without a time limit on their stay.

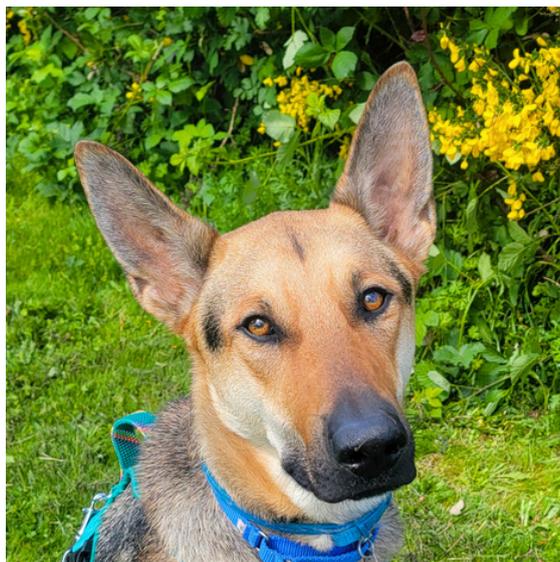
It is our fervent wish that we will be celebrating the adoptions of the faces on this page in our 2025 Impact Report. Visit our website today to make an appointment to meet them!



**Ruckus & Mayhem**

Joined Homeward Pet  
November 2024

Shy, Young, Playful



**Ace**

Joined Homeward Pet  
December 2024

Smart, Strong, Handsome



**Chinook**

Joined Homeward Pet  
December 2024

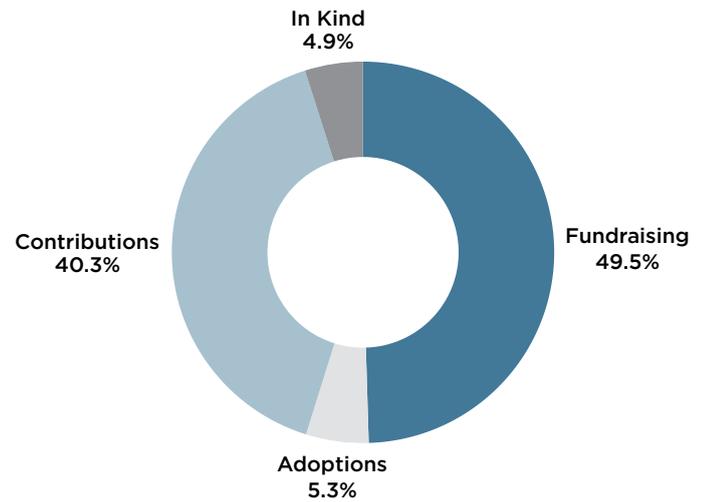
Spunky, Senior, Gentle



**Valentina**  
adopted october 2024

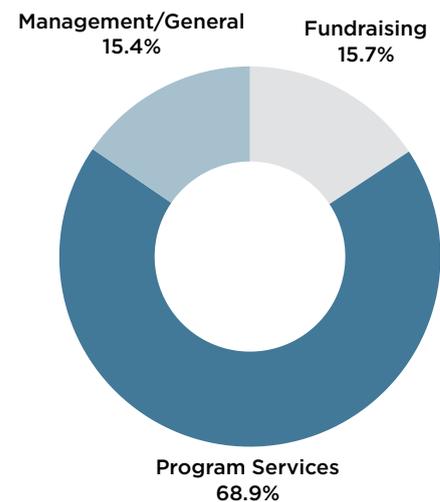
## Revenue for 2024

● Contributions	\$1,137,956
● Fundraising	\$1,399,385
● Adoptions	\$149,727
● In-kind	\$138,682
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,825,750</b>



## Expenses for 2024

● Program Services	\$1,808,254
● Fundraising	\$412,176
● Management & General	\$405,587
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,626,017</b>



Platinum  
Transparency  
2025

Candid.

Thank you for your generous support of our lifesaving work!



**Momma Mia**  
adopted January 2024

